

## DISEASE AND DEATH

It is very easy to forget how wonderfully efficient and amazingly intricate a mechanism the human body is, particularly when disease troubles us, or death stares us in the face. These are facts of life which seem almost inconsistent with the marvelous effectiveness of the instrumentality that God has created. There is a mystery here that can hardly be understood apart from the revelation that God has given in Genesis 1 to 3, where He presents the solution. First He tells how He created the universe and man, and saw that everything He had made was good; then He tells how man sinned and brought death and misery into the world. Disease, disintegration and death, as well as man's inner conflicts and tensions, have resulted from man's sin and rebellion against God.

God created a beautiful world with a marvelous variety of types of life, and all so formed as to work together in wonderful harmony. When man turned against God and thus allowed sin to enter the world, this harmony was destroyed. As a result God placed a curse upon the animal creation. Since the fall of man the balance of nature involves not only wonderful cooperation and interrelation, but also violence and destruction. Christians believe that all this will be changed when the Lord returns and removes the curse from the earth.

Even though the results of sin show themselves in turmoil and weakness at many points within the animal creation, it is still possible to see the amazing beauty of the structure that God has made. It is fascinating to study the interrelation of many different types of plants and animals. Some creatures that are utterly different from one another are found to be dependent upon each other for existence, and to be marvelously suited to one another's needs. Thus in the case of many plants, if the species is to be continued, it is necessary that pollen be transferred from the plants of one gender to those of another. If this were wholly dependent on the action of the wind, comparatively little of the pollen would reach the place where it is needed, and the species would soon die out. God has created various types of flying insects and birds, able to suck the nectar from the plant and thus receive their necessary subsistence, and while doing so conveying on their bodies from one plant to another the pollen that is so necessary for procreation of the plant.

If one can imagine that all the marvelous intricacy of the natural world came into existence through random mutations, he must have a tremendous ability for accepting what is inherently extremely improbable.

## FROM SIMPLE TO COMPLEX

It is an essential part of the theory of evolution that all life has developed from one very simple start. This was easy to believe in the days of Charles Darwin when tiny *creatures*, barely visible through a microscope, seemed to be simplicity itself in comparison with the complex structures of the higher animals and plants. More recently the science of biochemistry has developed, and the structure and inner workings of these so-called simple forms of life have been examined. It has been found that no type of life is really simple. Even the simplest of life known, very small plants or animals consisting merely of a single cell, have been found to have a complex structure with a nucleus and a cell wall, and to have the capacity for performing extremely complicated chemical processes. In fact, some of the very simplest types of life have as many as one hundred enzymes within their single cell, acting

together as a unit to hasten the performance of very intricate chemical processes. It requires about as much credulity to believe that the so-called simplest forms of life came into existence by pure chance as to believe it about the so-called advanced animals.

Every type of life, even the simplest, includes many very complicated molecules, some of them containing one thousand or more atoms, arranged in a complicated structure. It has been calculated that if merely one of the various macromolecules included in every type of life were to be formed simply by a chance combination, it would require more than four billion years for the process.

Yet the formation of these intricate molecules is only a tiny first step in the making of life. A leading scientist said recently: "The macromolecule to cell transition is a jump of fantastic dimensions which lies beyond the range of testable hypothesis. In this area all is conjecture." The great number of steps that would have to be taken to form the simplest sort of life by pure accident is fantastically great and fantastically difficult. If one can believe that all this happened by chance he can believe anything.

## HOW DID THE UNIVERSE BEGIN?

If one is not to believe that God created the many types of plants and animals there is no other theory possible except that they developed by an evolutionary process from simple to complex. All of it must have started, however, with existing matter. Where did this matter come from? The Bible says that God created it. There is no scientific theory to place in contradiction to this. It must have been created at some time by One who was powerful enough to do so.

The Bible does not say that there has been no development. We do not know what may have occurred in the course of the history of God's universe. It does say that God created plants and animals according to their kind. The Bible does not state how many kinds there are, whether a dozen or two million. God created definite kinds, and these kinds cannot develop beyond the borders that He established. God made man as a separate creation, using many of the factors and patterns already used in the animal creation.

In the end it boils down to the simple question: Did the universe come out of nowhere, with no meaning to it at all? Is it just a series of accidents, with no explanation of how it was started? If we are to believe that there is a God who had any part in starting it, it is no more difficult to believe that He had just as much part as the Bible declares He had. The vital question concerning evolution is this: Do we believe in God's existence or not? If we do not believe in God's existence, there is no alternative except the theory of evolution, but it is a theory which is irrational, which is not supported by solid evidence, a theory which leads to nothing but belief that one is part of an irrational universe moving by pure accident no one knows where.

## THE PROFESSOR'S AUTOMOBILE

In 1968 a noted professor at one of the leading universities in the western hemisphere published a book on evolution. In its first chapter he described in rather satirical language the attitude of those who feel it necessary, in explaining the origin of different types of life, to bring in the assistance of "a deity or some other type of supernatural agency." He then proceeded to give an illustration which, superficially viewed, drove home the point he had in mind, but which, if carefully examined, clearly