

occurred in 1914 and this might seem to the whale to establish a certain periodicity, though he might wonder what it was at this time of year that would occasionally cause such a disruption of passenger liner schedules. He would find that *this disruption* lasted about half as long again as the previous one. Perhaps he would now make a hypothesis that similar disruptions could be expected every 18 years, beginning in the fall, and increasing in length as time went on.

After 1945 normal traffic would begin again, but it would soon be seen that the number of passenger ships was steadily declining. All the whale's efforts to forecast the future on the basis of the great number of observations made during a period of 40 years would prove completely useless in the jet age. A new factor had arisen of which he could not even have dreamed. His attempt to determine the previous history of passenger crossings on the basis of his observations during these 40 years would also have been completely wrong. As a matter of fact, before the year 1492 there would have been no passenger ships to Europe at all.

#### A GREAT HAZARD

This illustration shows the great hazard of taking present circumstances and using them to make a statement as to what must have happened in the past, particularly if there is the possibility of factors entering in of which we know nothing and in relation to which we have no access to the relevant data. Yet this is exactly what the evolutionist does when he tells us that every type of plant and animal in existence today has developed through natural causes from one original simple type and that even this original simple type came into existence by purely natural processes. He is simply making a theory about past history which he claims to base upon present scientific observation.

Present observations or experiments may be useful for making a guess as to past events, but can never be conclusive in such areas. It should be recognized that the theory of evolution is an attempt to construct past history--a task that can never be performed with complete certainty unless eyewitness evidence is available. As we have seen, such evidence is completely lacking.