

In 1871 he published a book which he entitled, The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex. This is the second most famous of Darwin's books. Although it is usually designated by the abbreviated title, The Descent of Man, only the first third of the book is devoted to the attempt to show that man is descended from a line of animal ancestors, while its larger portion presents a mass of evidence in support of another evolutionary force, which he called "Sexual Selection." This suggestion, to which Darwin devoted so many pages, has not been widely accepted. A recent textbook on evolution dismisses it with the words: "Some positive evidence in favor of the theory has been obtained but it is very scant."

#### ARE ACQUIRED CHARACTERISTICS TRANSMITTED?

Professor August Weismann (1834-1913) has been called "the first original evolutionist after Darwin." His outstanding contribution was the theory of the continuity of the germ plasm, according to which all organisms contain in their germ cells a special heredity substance which cannot be formed anew but is transmitted unchanged from individuals of one generation to those of the next. He insisted that though the germ plasm influences the development of every part of the organism, it is itself not subject to modification by the environment. Since he energetically opposed the doctrine of inheritance of acquired characteristics, previously taken for granted, his views were much controverted by so-called "orthodox Darwinians," particularly in England.

In other regards Weismann was an ardent supporter of Darwin and desired to uphold Darwin's basic theory of the survival of the fittest. He proposed a theory of heredity based on the idea that when the reproductive qualities of the two parents are combined there is a struggle within the germ cell, with many different qualities fighting for survival, and thus determining the character of the next generation. A recent evolutionary textbook declares: "His hypothesis