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"The Relations of Exercise, and the Common Theory of Development, Inferred exclusively upon Darwin's Facts. By T. Warren O'Neill, member of the Philosophical Soc. J. B. Lippincott & Co. 64 pp.

### A PHILADELPHIA LAWYER'S VIEWS OF DARWINISM.

WITHOUT pronouncing upon the merits of the question at issue between Mr. Darwin and his reviewers in general, we can confidently say of this legal critic that he is far inferior to the English naturalist, both in rhetorical tact and in logical knowledge. To say the least, it is very impudent to attempt a refutation of Darwinism by bringing railing accusation against the author of the system. But we find Mr. O'Neill (where at the worst nothing more than faulty logic could be alleged) charging Mr. Darwin with resorting to "a most clever trick" (p. 108) of assuming a "child-like and blind complacency, from which has ensued to him a reputation for candor," but decides that he is ever candid except where compelled to be so (p. 104). He speaks of Mr. Darwin's hypothesis concerning the benefit of cross-fertilization as a "masterpiece of ignorance," and a "senseless generalization" (p. 111). Mr. Darwin's logical incompetence affords Mr. O'Neill "inexhaustible amusement" (p. 103), and repeatedly the "crux of the John Bull," according to our author, in something or other that Mr. Darwin does not understand (pp. 107, 140). See further equally offensive remarks on pages 106, 119, 169, 209, 410.

On directing attention to the argument of this critic we find that Mr. Darwin is really berated for his naivete, and ridiculed for his modesty, by an author who confessedly takes all his facts from the book he traduces, and who, from beginning to end, misconceives the argument he is attacking. Mr. Darwin cautiously propounds an hypothesis to explain an immense body of incontrovertible facts. Mr. O'Neill dogmatically thrusts upon the smallest possible stock of facts.

For example, Mr. Darwin is a practical naturalist. As such he has thrust upon him in the study of plants and animals a vast number of facts to be classified and explained. There is the arrangement of species in clusters, like planets and their satellites; the persistent anatomical similarity in all species of the same class, even to the existence of the useless rudiments of abortive organs, together with the uniformity of embryological development; the growing difficulties of classification through the discrepancy of intermediate forms; and the distribution of species in space as though dispersed from a common center, and in time as though they were genetically connected. The essence of Mr. Darwin's theory of the derivative origin of species, to explain these facts, is its own proof. But two classes of facts among others interpose objections. First, hybrids are sterile; second, close interbreeding tends to sterility. Mr. Darwin frankly and fully states all the grounds for these objections, and then proceeds to show that their bearing against his theory has been over-estimated; pleading that the cause of the sterility of hybrids is unknown, and may

