said that he saw the same cadgers come day after day. Again, it has been found that the popular character of this class is such that the lower classes expect to be fed on the spot, and the appearance of a public soup-kitchen can be simulated, has made this an easy mode of obtaining money under false pretences. The plan adopted is to issue sensational appeals, and to furnish food to such persons as may happen to some provided with subscribers' tickets, but the majority of those who subscribe do not trouble themselves to give the money in the way in which the money is wanted, nor does the subscriber take any interest in the conduct of the concern. It is clear that under the present system there is great waste, and that one soup-kitchen can do the work which is now done by four or five.

Count Rumford proposed, many years ago, what seems the proper mode of relief, the establishment of cooking depots like those of Mr. Corbett at Glasgow, the success of which is so great that as much as 10,000l. the net profits, have entirely been devoted to charitable objects. It is to be regretted that the Working Men's Dinner Association, established to provide self-supporting kitchens, had not answered. As it is in St. George's-in-the-East, 30,000 meals had been sold, and at Poplar as many as 6,000. It will astonish our readers to learn that the soup-kitchen was opened at Poplar.

The Amount of Relief Provided.

The last report of the Leicester-squares Soup Kitchen, now moved to Ham-yard, Great Windmill-street, states that in 1868 280,019 meals were given away during the preceding twelve months. At the Model Soup Kitchen, in the Euston-road, 160,000 persons were relieved, and 600 more had plum-pudding, bread and tea distributed to them on Christmas-day. There is a Samaritan Fund for assisting existing soup-kitchens, &c., which has an establishment in the Goswell-road, Bayswater. In 1869 27,134 meals were given, consisting of bread, cheese, and soup, besides assistance in money and clothing to the most deserving by the Society for the Suppression of Mendicity. The Playhouse-yard Asylum distributed 134,162 rations of bread between the 1st of January and 15th of April in 1869, and the Hackney Free Dormitory Association professed to provide shelter and food nightly for 600 persons; while the Providence-row Night Refuge advertisements that "from the commencement 180,000 nights' lodgings, with suppers and breakfasts, have been given to the honest and deserving poor without any distinction of religion, whilst at present the number is 1,800 a week." Last year the South London Night Refuge for houseless men and women returned and fed with bread and coffee 35,128 persons. In St. Giles's, Mr. George Hatton, in connection with his Christian mission there, has gratuitously distributed 10,000 quarts of soup with bread. In Endell-street, St. Giles's, the Presbyterianhave established a mission. At the Invalid Kitchen of the Bedford Institute, last year, 33,000 meat dinners with rice, 720 pies of beef-tea, and 620 dinners with soup, were distributed to the sick. And at the infants' school connected with the place from 60 to 120 little ones were fattened on soup and pudding. At the St. Andrew's Mission, Limehouse, 10,747 children's dinners were provided — 8,961 breakfasts given. At the Golden-lane Mission and Ragged-school 24,000 meals were given during the last three years. Close by the Rev. Reuben May conducted the Goswell-street Mission. Between the 1st of October, 1869, and April, 1870, fifty-eight dinner-rooms were opened for longer or shorter periods in the most impoverished districts of the metropolis by the Dissenting Children's Society, and 147,888 dinners were supplied. The Ragged-schools, to the number of 200, do as much as they can in this way. In six only of the East London schools meals were given during the last winter. The price of the tickets is half the cost of the meal. In Earl-street, Lisson-grove, there is another institution of the kind, in which last year 4,143 dinners were given. At both children as well as adults share in the beneficent provided. Similar establishments on a smaller scale exist in Ebury-street, Salem-road, Bayswater. At St. Mary's Kitchen, Market-street, Edgeware-road, no payments were required. In Addington-road 1,140 persons were given to, 1,160 persons. There is the children's dining-house and soup-kitchen, at Paddington-street, Marylebone, and a Poplar invalid and children's institution for London, and, by novelty in the way of industrial kitchens, the objects of which are to instruct the girls of the national school in economical cookery, and to fit them for service, and to help the sick and distressed among the neighbouring poor by supplying them with well-cooked provisions at a cheap rate. It appears altogether there are eighty such soup-kitchens at voluntary expense in addition to the operations of the Poor-law. Surely people ought not to die of starvation in the metropolis. Surely also there of the bread, little waste of charitable relief. Since writing the above we see a similar feeling expressed in other quarters. The Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Regressing Mendicity propose an application to the committee of the Houseless Poor Asylum earnestly requesting them to consider whether the present state of that institution is not calculated to discourage the out-of-door and demoralisation in the metropolis by attracting to it persons of idle, mendicant habits, and encouraging them to continue that course of life; and whether, by furnishing them with lodging and food, without exacting any labour, it does not counterc the object which the Legislature has in view in providing for the better regulation of the criminal classes.

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THE DESCENT OF MAN.

We said that Mr. Darwin's argument in this book depends largely upon the proposition that there is no difference in kind, some except in degree, between the animal which was the first to assume an erect position and that of the lower animals. He admits that the difference in intelligence is enormous, even if we compare the mind of one of the lowest savages, who has no words to express any number higher than four, and who uses no abstract terms for the commonest objects or affections, with that of the most highly organised ape. But he urges that between the naked savage who dashes his hands on the rocks for dropping a basket of sea-urchins and a Howard or Clarkson the interval is also immense, as likewise is that between a barbarian unacquainted with any abstract terms and a Newton or a Shakespeare. It is one of the most marked characteristics of Mr. Darwin that he never disguises the futility of any point in his reasoning if he feels it to be feeble. He honestly states facts which seem to tell against himself, and adds no falsely in the manner which a politician would do, to prevent them from having their full effect upon the mind of the reader. Nay, we are disposed to grant that he does not press certain considerations which favour his general view so far as, with Mr. Wallace's help, he might have done. He brings forward quite calmly the old and common statement that, whereas man is continually improving and perfecting, the bearer builds his dam as well as a man does on a scale of intelligence, but our bird-nesting expeditions taught us long ago that some birds understood the arts of nest-building and nest-hiding better than others, and we believe education to play a part in the history of all the higher animals.

Wonder and Curiosity.

Animals manifestly enjoy excitement and suffer from ennui as may be seen with dogs, horses, and even with Rhesus monkeys. All animals feel wonder, and many exhibit curiosity. They sometimes suffer from this latter quality, as when the hunter plays antics, and thus attracts them. I have witnessed this with a monkey and a dog, and so it is with the wary chamois, and with some kind of wild ducks. Brehm gives a curious account of the insatiable drows which his monkey exhibited towards snakes; but their curiosity was so great that they could not desist from occasionally sating their horror in a most human fashion—by lifting up the lid of the box in which the snake was kept, his surprise was so much felt upon his account, that I took a sufficient pole and called upon the monkey house, and the most curious spectacles that I ever beheld. Three species of Ceropithecus were the most alarming; they dashed about their cages, and uttered sharp
vigor and order of danger, which were understood by the other monkeys. A few young monkeys and one old Ambleke baboon alone took no notice of the snake. I then placed the stuffed specimens on a table, and observed their behavior. After a time all the monkeys collected round it in a large circle, and, staring intensely, presented a most ludicrous appearance. They became extremely excited, writhing and curling in the most grotesque fashion. As time went on, the monkeys became more and more excited, and finally, when the snake was shifted from one side to the other, they rushed madly about the room, uttering a series of screams and shrieks. It was a most remarkable sight, and one which I shall never forget.

When the snake was finally removed, the monkeys continued tol with excitement for some time. They seemed to be in a state of nervous excitement, and would not allow anyone to touch them. Finally, after a time, they calmed down and returned to their usual habits.

We shall next discuss the behavior of the Ambleke baboons, which were the next group of animals to be observed. These animals were less excitable than the monkeys, and seemed to be more tolerant of the snake's presence. They would occasionally move away from the snake, but would then return after a short time.

The behavior of these animals is interesting, as it shows the way in which animals can be conditioned to accept strange objects. In this case, the snake was treated as a stimulus, and the animals responded in a predictable manner.

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March 17, 1871.

feel any anxiety from the impossibility of determining at what precise period in this development of the individual, from the first trace of the minute germinal vesicle to the child either before or after birth, man becomes an immortal being; and there is no greater cause for anxiety than if the period in the gradually assuming organic scale cannot possibly be determined.

I am aware that the conclusions arrived at in this work will be denounced by some as highly irreligious; but he who thus denounces them is bound to show why it is more irreligious to explain the origin of men as a distinct species by descent from some lower form, through the laws of variation and natural selection, than to explain the birth of the individual through the laws of organic reproduction. The birth both of the species and of the individual are equally parts of that grand sequence of events, which our nitsch refuse to accept as the result of blind chance. The understanding revolts at such a conclusion, whether or not we are able to believe that every slight variation of structure, the union of each pair in marriage, the dissemination of each seed, and other such events, have all been ordained for some special purpose.

Mr. Darwin attaches very great importance, in connection with the evolution of man, to what he calls sexual selection. By choosing and often by fighting for the most comely and intelligent women, savage tribes have, he thinks, greatly promoted their advance to higher conditions of life. On this large department of the subject we cannot enter, and, indeed, its discussion is not well fitted for the pages of widely-read periodicals, but we are strongly inclined to think that Mr. Darwin has fallen into the error into which those who have a pet idea are always liable to fall, namely, that of overrating its importance. We cannot believe that sexual selection has effected so much as Mr. Darwin imparts to it.

We may interest our scientific readers by stating that Mr. Darwin, in endeavouring to trace the line of descent of the vertebrate animals, follows Professor Haeckel in regarding the lancelet or amphioxus as the probable link between the vertebrate and invertebrate kingdoms, and adopts Goedria's daring and ingenious conjecture that the affinities of the lancelet conduct us to the Ascidians, which hardly appear like animals, and consist of a simple tough, leathery sack, with two small projecting orifices. According to these naturalists, there was, throughout this vast series, not one instance of "overlapping." The evolution took place by means of occasional variations, each so minute as to be hardly observable. Of these variations, perhaps one in a thousand has been preserved, either in the existing creation or in the geological record, but every instance of variation was necessary. The manual, according to Darwin, was produced by the bird, the bird by the reptile, the reptile by the amphibian, the amphibian by the fish. This order of succession was ineluctably necessary. But no words seem clear enough to explain this necessity, or what it implies, to persons unacquainted with the principles of biological succession; and some of our readers have imagined that, in saying that no Darwinian could believe in the possibility of a fish producing a bird, we denied that Mr. Darwin believes that birds are descended from fishes. Evolution involves infinite gradation, but no overleaping.