

SOCIAL EVOLUTION

Darwin and Lincoln born the SAME DAY

By GEORGE SHREVE

Darwin is Place of Down Courtesy of Century Magazine

CHARLES DARWIN was born on the same day of the same year at a thatched Lincoln—February 12, 1809, just a hundred years ago. It is one of the most remarkable coincidences of all history—the coincidence of a man and the liberator of thought ushered into the world together. One is almost persuaded that there must be something in astrology, as one compares the character and destiny of these two great men—able in so many ways, in knowledge of heart, indomitable devotion to truth, heroic courage, dauntless battle and ultimate victory!

Darwin, who had been ridiculed and denounced all the latter years of his life as the "Monkey Man," was buried in Westminster Abbey when he died. His grave, by desire, is only a few feet from that of His Grace Newton. The one discovered the way to his heavenly father, the other to the radiant portals of life itself.

By the time Darwin died his theory of Evolution was generally accepted by scientists, and even theologians began to see that it was not in any sense inimical to revelation or doctrine of religion. He was acclaimed as the greatest Englishman of the nineteenth century. A few years after the "Origin," published a proposition from eminent men in all walks of life, giving what each thought was the most important book of the nineteenth century. Nine out of ten put "The Origin of the Species" first on the list.

This book, published in 1859, electrified America. It had been a dogma that the species of man and plants are immutable; cross-breeding might produce new varieties within a species, but one species could not be derived from another or changed into another. It was thought

that men did created animals, and Adam named them in the Garden of Eden, their characters had been eternally fixed. How could an elephant be evolved from an ass or a roebuck from a tortoise?

What Darwin Proved.

Now the great achievement of Darwin lay in the demonstration that such had actually been the process of nature, by a thousand unobtrusive proofs—he relied upon facts, not opinions—he allowed his species to change and are continually changing. He showed the causes that operate to produce these changes; he gave us the most of all the logical law of Nature's operation.

When a dog-fighter sets about to win a new breed of dog, he selects his parents with the greatest care. If he is breeding for fierceness the most agile and well-muscled animals are chosen. This process of selection, though several generations, will produce the best-favored and dog-fighting dog the fancier desires. An artificial selection, guided by human intelligence, can produce indelible variations of form. From the original dog-fight all our known varieties of chickens were evolved. From the original blue rock pigeon came all the countless varieties of form. From the original blue hen, fowls, turkeys and handsome geese.

That the breeder does by artificial selection, Nature, as Darwin showed,



Charles Darwin

Herbert Spencer

came by natural selection, by the "struggle for existence," in his "struggle for existence." The fittest survive, the fittest are selected, the fittest are the ones that survive to produce their living offspring; they could otherwise be the approach of epidemic cause readily. The short-lived individuals of each generation were far more likely to perish in famine or to fall a prey to fierce carnivores. Thus, with each generation the best of the fittest become larger and longer, until the animal we know was evolved.

Fredrick's evolution is another important fact. Why is the polar bear white? Because, being cold water and ice, the light-colored individuals of each generation had a better chance of staying upon their prey observed and a better chance of escaping detection by their

Alfred Russel Wallace

The Darwinists, they became the best stock of all scientific thought. A phalanx of great thinkers—Herbert Spencer, Thomas Henry Huxley, Ernest Haeckel and Alfred Russel Wallace—took up arms against bigotry and ignorance. Gradually the broad popular, as men saw it, was not a question of Moses versus Darwin, of ancient versus religion; but simply a new and wonderful addition to man's knowledge of God's eternal law. Charles Farrow was one of the pillars at Darwin's funeral. James Huxley Lowell, at the time the American ambassador in England, was another. All the world united in mourning and honoring the man it had longed at and detested a few years before.

With the publication of his "Life and Letters," it was known that what a grandly simple and sweet character had marked the great scientist. His home life was ideally happy. His mind was occupied by his research for truth. All partial prejudice was put behind him. All partial prejudice was put behind him. All partial prejudice was put behind him.

Many incidents of his life are told to illustrate the perseverance and devotion of his character. He would watch for hours the movements of vine twined, study for years the habits of earthworms in his flower pots. A field at Dorset, his place of residence after returning from his five-year voyage around the world on the "Beagle," was covered with the eyes of chalk and permitted to be over 20 years before he dug into it to discover what change had been wrought by the action of earthworms. How many minutes could wait patiently for 20 years to learn the result of an experiment?

During the winter of 1845, he was engaged by a rival of Darwin's, entomologist as far as the eye could reach. Professor Huxley and his grandsons



Ernest Haeckel in his laboratory

Professor Huxley and his grandsons

before an hour's application, he would say "old fellow, I must take the breakfast for it," that being the best relief from daily routine. He would stand on one side of the table for some time and remain like a statue when he felt a little better. All his life long he had to combat some serious disease in the same way. At several times he was, indeed, the outcome of his "indiscreet eagerness for taking pains." He was considered a dandy at school. His father once told him he would be "a disgrace to yourself and all your family." He was also very quiet. Once a youthful cousin told him he could get on with a good deal of a certain tendency by moving his hat in a peculiar way. Darwin tried it, and narrowly escaped the wrath of the father. He was devoted to art and the science of medicine, then for the study of Geology. That he became another doctor his grandfather was the result of Darwin's Huxley and the encouragement of Professor Huxley, of Cambridge, who recommended him as a candidate for the name of Huxley, Spencer and Haeckel were not the great opinions and victories of the theory, which today dominates every phase of modern life. All the world celebrates, on the 12th day of February, the centenary of Darwin's birth—on the same day that also was the day of the world's first newspaper and history, Abraham Lincoln.

most, spiders were captured 60 miles from there, sailing on little balloons of their own will. The great earthquake of Coahuila, in Chili, took place a few days before Darwin reached that point.

That Darwin the doctor became the great naturalist, on his return to England he married his cousin, Emma Wedgwood, and settled at Down, a quiet little village in Kent, where he wrote the great work that has made him famous and re-remembered—the "Origin of Species."

While Darwin was living here he received a letter from Alfred Russel Wallace, a young naturalist then away in the Malay Islands, with an article outlining the very theory on which Darwin had spent years laboring to arrive. Darwin, with supreme satisfaction, forwarded the article to Huxley for the *Illustrated Society*, and but for his financial necessities Wallace would be known as the discoverer of the theory of evolution. As it was, the two men, working and thinking along independent lines, had both hit upon the same great truth at about the same time. Their names are inseparably linked in the history of the name of Huxley, Spencer and Haeckel are not the great opinions and victories of the theory, which today dominates every phase of modern life. All the world celebrates, on the 12th day of February, the centenary of Darwin's birth—on the same day that also was the day of the world's first newspaper and history, Abraham Lincoln.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

Official statistics issued in Berlin show that 1,017 people were wounded and 600,000 disabled during 1917 for attempting to evade compulsory military service.

A French journal who recently translated some very dry official figures that the people of those far-away days were well acquainted with the solemnity of their daily lives. The solemnity was well acquainted with the solemnity of their daily lives. The solemnity was well acquainted with the solemnity of their daily lives.