

The Missing Link Does A Fade-out.

There are no more monkeys in man's ancestral tree. There is no missing link, and the search for him will now be abandoned; the searchers will be put on other trails -- perhaps on the quest of the human soul. "The actual, as well as the ideal environment of the ancestors of man, was not in the warm, forested lowlands of Asia, but in the relatively high, invigorating uplands of a country such as central Asia was in the Miocene or Oligocene time -- a country totally unfitted to any form of anthropoid ape."

Thus Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborne, director of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. It is one more step back towards tradition for Dr. Osborne, and he makes it in the January issue of Human Biology. He paved the way for it in an address to the students of Cornell, in February, 1926; in this address, however, he made no mention of the monkey, but stressed the following "irrefutable facts:"

1. Man as such has been on earth for at least 500,000 years;
2. The human family, or hominidae, has been with us with its own independent history for at least two and a half million years;
3. This family has developed into more or less progressive races;
4. Anatomical and cultural unity proclaim the descent of all the branches of the human race from a single human stock;
5. "Convincing evidence of these outstanding facts of early human history rests on the indestructible flint and stone industry and upon absolutely consistent anatomical evidence clearly interpreted by four generations of expert, conscientious observers drawn from the ranks of laymen, of learned professions and of the clergy, especially of the Catholic Church." (He made particular mention of Louvain.)

Why is Dr. Osborne's testimony important? He has been one of the foremost press agents of the Missing Link; he sponsored the "reconstructed" series of skulls in American Museum of Natural History designed to "prove" man's relationship with the monkey; and the third edition of his "Men of the Old Stone Age," issued in 1921, was advertised as "the most important complete work on human evolution since Darwin's "Descent of Man."

The American scientists are beginning to catch up with their British brethren. At the meeting of the British Academy for the Advancement of Science in 1924 (the year Dr. Osborne says he first began to doubt our monkey ancestry) mechanism met its doom. Before this body (which, in 1874, heard Huxley declare that the primitive nebula contained everything we find in the world today, including the mind of man) the President of the Zoological Section stated that "to an increasing number of biologists life becomes an ultimate natural category, sharing, with matter and energy, our conception of the universe." And Prof. McDougall, of Harvard, President of the Section of Psychology, maintained that "no intelligent discussion of human affairs is possible without the use of such terms as motive, intention, desire, will, responsibility, aspiration, ideal, striving, effort, interest." And we can't have these works without a soul to act them out. Mechanism does not account for life; it does not account for the spiritual side of man; it must go.

We must give Dr. Osborne credit for his honesty. He wants it known that he is making a distinct break with his former school of anthropology. If he and the British Academy keep on they will collapse the 500,000 years theory, and will find themselves back in the Garden of Eden, where man fell from a high estate which he has tried ever since to regain.

PRAYERS: Three sick relatives of students; four special intentions.