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A text-book entitled "Introduction to the Sciences" was issued recently to Queensland school children. The section devoted to Biology contains a small chapter on Evolution. Statements in this chapter have given rise to a controversy in the Press and on television. The resultant publicity has reflected itself in discussions going on in the Public Forum.

This pamphlet examines those statements in the text-book which imply the evolution of man. As such, it will also serve to answer, in a convenient form, the questions being raised in the Forum.

The Theory

The theory of evolution requires that there be a continuous line of 'Men' representing different stages of evolution. "Introduction to the Sciences" lists 5 different types of Man:

1. Fossil remains from Africa
2. Java Man
3. Peking Man
4. Neanderthal Man
5. Cro-Magnon Man

One assumes, from the heading of the relevant chapter, that all these types have figured in the evolution of modern man. At first glance this seems also to be what is actually claimed. But closer attention to the wording reveals that no such explicit assertion has been made; neither Neanderthal Man nor Cro-Magnon Man are claimed as having figured in the evolution of modern man. The former is, in effect, an aberrant line. Why was this not made quite clear? What purpose has their inclusion served other than to cloud the issue and falsify the case?

The method of presentation gives rise to further misleading impressions. Of the 3 remaining 'steps' in man's evolution listed in the text-book let us closely scrutinise the one designated as 'Java Man.'

"Java Man"

The title 'Man' represents nothing more than a gratuitous assumption. A more correct title would be "the Java relics" or "the Java bones." Students of Logic will note that the term 'Man' assumes as proved that which requires to be proved, namely, that the bones found are really those of a man.

But do they not teach Logic in our High Schools any more?

Discovery of the Java bones: The full quantity of fossil material recovered and the times and places of discovery are as follows:—

one tooth	—	September, 1891
skull cap	—	October, 1891 (about 1yd. from tooth)
thigh bone	—	August, 1892 (about 50 feet from skull cap)
second tooth	—	(?) 1892 (about 10 feet from skull cap)

These relics were discovered at Trinil in Java by a man named Dubois. Vast quantities of fossil material of other animals were found on the same site. A third tooth found was attributed to a different animal. With the alleged later discoveries in other parts of Java from 1936 onwards, we need not be concerned here.

Condition of bones: They were completely fossilized. In the skull portion, the bones of the cranial vault were so fused that the sutures were no longer distinguishable. The thigh -bone weighed almost double the weight of a thigh-bone of modern man of the same size.

Assumptions: On the basis of this collection, the text-book has assumed:

1. That the bones, as selected, all belonged to the one animal or person.
2. That this one, to whom they belonged, was in fact a Man.

I know it is ungentlemanly but I am simply forced to refer to the story of Eoanthropus dawsoni, (known more colloquially as 'Piltdown Man.'). Surely that was an instructive warning to scientists if ever there was one. Prominent scientists such as Smith Woodward, Osborn, Elliot Smith and Sir Arthur Keith had themselves convinced that a jaw of a chimpanzee really belonged to the same owner as the human skull with which it lay 'buried.' Has no one told our schoolchildren of that hoax and of the assurance with which (before the hoax became known), some scientists put forward their assumptions about Piltdown Man and his place in the evolutionary chain?

One scientist who rejected both Piltdown Man and Java Man was Marcellin Boule. Boule was, at one time, a Professor in the Natural History Museum in Paris and a Director of the Institute of Human Palaeontology. He expressed the opinion that the bones found in Java were those of a large Ape. He cited comparable instances. As to the various parts, he considered the skull cap and teeth to be quite definitely Ape. Of the thigh bone it has been stated by a scientist on the staff of the British Museum that "it is not completely human, the lower end especially being reminiscent of a Gibbon." In view of these expressions of opinion by men of considerable qualifications how can it be proclaimed that these relics are those of a Man? or Ape Man? Let the scientists agree among themselves before the State proclaims this new dogma, resurrecting from the dead a piece of skull and two teeth and calling it 'Java Man.'

Illustrated ignorance: "Introduction to the Sciences" gives illustrations of Java Man, Peking Man, and so on. These illustrations reflect nothing more real than the artist's imagination. As it applies to the Java bones, Boule has made it quite clear in his book "Fossil Men" that absolutely no data exists for the reconstruction of –

1. The base of the skull
2. Any part of the face
3. Any part of the apparatus of the lower jaw.

Java man is faceless, jawless, and without a base to his skull. He also suffers the disability of having no spine. Any illustrations which go beyond this can only be illustrations of ignorance.

Knowledge and Opinion

The distinction between knowledge and opinion is fundamental to the progress of education. In the small section of "Introduction to the Sciences" which deals with the evolution of man, personal opinions have been misrepresented as factual knowledge. This should – and I hope it will – bring down upon the heads of those responsible the accumulated wrath of the philosophy departments of all our modern Universities. Let us not put back the clock three thousand years!