

He believed in it much less than many a modern embryologist, such as F. M. Balfour or A. Milnes Marshall. His "laws", as amended by Dr. John Beard, are as follows:—

"There is a stage in the development of every vertebrate embryo, during which, and only then, it resembles the embryo of any other vertebrate in a corresponding stage in certain general features. But, while it thus agrees exactly with any other embryo in this stage in characters which are common to all vertebrate animals, it differs from the embryo of any other class in certain special class-features, and also from any other embryo of the same class but of a different order, in other and ordinal characters. Immediately before this stage is reached, it begins to put on generic and specific characters, and thus it then begins to differ from all other embryos in these."

Louis Agassiz made one aspect of the recapitulation idea prominent in his teaching, and gave it clear expression in his famous "Essay on Classification" (1859). He rejected the evolutionist interpretation, but insisted on the correspondence between stages in embryonic development and the grades of differentiation expressed in the classification of living and extinct animals. "It may therefore", he said, "be considered as a general fact, very likely to be more fully illustrated as investigations cover a wider ground, that the phases of development of all living animals correspond to the order of succession of their extinct representatives in past geological times." His not less illustrious son, Alexander Agassiz, confirmed this in his detailed comparison between the fossil series of sea-urchins and the early stages in the development of modern forms. "Comparing the embryonic development with the palæontological one, we find a remarkable similarity."

In his *Facts for Darwin*, Fritz Müller expressed the recapitulation doctrine with great clearness, illustrating it from the life-history of Crustaceans. The larval stages which are often so striking, *e.g.* the common shore-crab, were interpreted as recapitulations of stages in the evolution of the race.