

searched amount to little in comparison with the whole surface of the land, even if we leave out of account the fact that more than two-thirds of the globe are covered by water.

These deplorable deficiencies of empirical palæontology are balanced on the other side by a growing number of positive facts, which possess an inestimable value in human phylogeny. The most interesting and most important of these is the celebrated fossil *Pithecanthropus erectus*, discovered in Java in 1894 by Dr. Eugène Dubois.* Three years ago this now famous ape-like man provoked an animated discussion at the third International Zoological Congress at Leyden. I may therefore be allowed to say a few words as to its scientific significance. Unfortunately, the fossil remains of this creature are very scanty : the skull-cap, a femur, and two teeth. It is obviously impossible to form

* *Pithecanthropus erectus*. 'Eine menschenähnliche Uebergangsform aus Java' ('A Human-like Transitional Form'). Batavia, 1894.