

If we take a third cross-section, namely, at the present day, we find the same diversity as heretofore, but, just as in sections of a developing embryo, the several components are beginning to be more sharply differentiated. The Neo-Darwinians are more thorough-going selectionists than Darwin was, and the Neo-Lamarckians have added breadth and subtlety to Lamarckism. There are still a few who try to put back the hands of the intellectual clock; but the vast majority would agree with Wallace (1889), that "Darwin did his work so well that 'descent with modification' is now universally accepted as the order of nature in the organic world". By its applicability to many different orders of fact, and its continual fruitfulness in research, the evolution-concept justifies itself more and more completely as a *modal* interpretation of the world around us, and is fast becoming organic in all our thinking. At the same time, while conviction has deepened, the early dogmatism has disappeared, for the consistent evolutionist recognizes that he and his interpretation, like the world which he studies, are within the sweep of the evolution process, have been evolved, and are still evolving. Therefore he is far from claiming finality of interpretation, for that would be a self-contradiction.

But while the *fact* of evolution forces itself upon us, certainty in regard to the *factors* seems as far off as ever. When we remember the complexity of the problem and the relative youthfulness of serious ætiology, the recognition of uncertainties is seen as a symptom rather of progress than of any disruption, or perhaps as analogous to that histolysis which often precedes organic metamorphosis. And, we would reiterate, the uncertainties affect the *method* of evolution—its causes, its factors—in nowise the stability of the general idea.

Among the steps of importance which have been taken of recent years, the following appear outstanding:

Some Re- (a) Weismann's supplement to Darwinism;  
cent Steps. (b) Bateson's study of variation; (c) the  
statistical studies of Weldon, Pearson, and others; (d)  
the inquiry into modes of Isolation; and (e) the theory  
of "organic selection".