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PATRICK GEDDES & J. ARTHUR THOMSON

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OF MODERN KNOWLEDGE

No. 14

Editors:

HERBERT FISHER, M.A., F.R.S.
PROF. GILBERT MURRAY, Litt.D.,
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PROF. J. ARTHUR THOMSON, M.A.
PROF. WILLIAM T. BREWSTER, M.A.

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EVOLUTION

BY

PATRICK GEDDES

PROFESSOR OF BOTANY, ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

AND

J. ARTHUR THOMSON

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF NATURAL HISTORY, ABERDEEN
UNIVERSITY

Joint Authors of "The Evolution of Sex," etc.



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CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	vii
I EVIDENCES OF EVOLUTION FROM EXPLORES AND PALEONTOLOGIST	15
II EVIDENCES OF EVOLUTION FROM ANATOMIST, EMBRYOLOGIST AND PHYSIOLOGIST	40
III GREAT STEPS IN EVOLUTION	67
IV VARIATION AND HEREDITY	112
V SELECTION	143
VI ORGANISM, FUNCTION AND ENVIRONMENT	183
VII EVOLUTION THEORIES IN THEIR SOCIAL ORIGINS AND INTER-ACTIONS	217
VIII THE EVOLUTION PROCESS ONCE MORE REINTER- PRETED	233
BIBLIOGRAPHY	249

INTRODUCTION

DESPITE the many and wide differences so obvious in every community—of age and sex, of regional origins and historic groupings, of occupations and interests, of experience and intelligence, efficiency and originality, of education, manners and morals, of wealth and rank, and so on—each generation has more in common than its individuals may realize. Layman and cleric, pressman and prime minister, message-boy and millionaire respond not merely to their respective call-bells, nor in common to the peal of general rejoicing, to the tolling of sorrow; but through their minds there vibrates also a certain unison, a response, though it may be more or less unconscious, to the key-notes of their age. How this unison underlies the apparent differences is easily seen on differing intellectual levels. The boy in the train buys *Tit-Bits*, but the man in the villa takes in the new *Britannica*; the specialist concentrates upon the "Proceedings" of his learned society, while the university principal reviews his "Calendar" of all the studies: so far they seem widely apart. But, after all, their differences are only of degree and not of kind;