

**DARWINISM AND HUMAN
LIFE: THE SOUTH AFRICAN
LECTURES FOR 1909**

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Darwinism and human life: the South African lectures for 1909 by J. Arthur Thomson

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J. ARTHUR THOMSON

**DARWINISM AND HUMAN
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DARWINISM AND HUMAN LIFE

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LECTURES FOR 1909

BY

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DEDICATION

This short course of lectures on a great theme is a centenary tribute to Charles Darwin, but I wish also to ask the many friends who made me no stranger in their country—men and women of diverse opinions, at one however in their evolutionist outlook and in their good-will—to lay it on the threshold of United South Africa. Quod bonum, felix faustumque sit!

PREFACE

IN 1908 the Lecture Committee of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science did me the honour of inviting me to give the "South African Lectures" for 1909, and suggested that, in view of Darwin's Centenary, the subject of the course should be *Darwinism*. It was the chief aim of the lectures to explain the gist of Darwinism—what problems Darwin set himself to solve, and what solutions he arrived at, and to indicate what progress has been made as regards the problems of Organic Evolution since Darwin's day—what has been added to Darwinism, what, if anything, has been taken away, and, especially, what is now being reconsidered. An endeavour—necessarily straitened by the limits of the course—was also made to suggest how Darwinism touches everyday life, in farm and garden, in city and empire.

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