

MEETING OF THE BIOLOGICAL CLUB.

ORTON HALL, May 1, 1905.

The club was called to order by the President, Prof. Hine. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The program for the evening consisted of an address on "The Present Status of Darwinism," by Prof. Edward L. Rice of the Ohio Wesleyan University. Prof. Rice gave a brief review of Darwin's work and the conditions under which "The Origin of Species" was published. Darwin really gave us nothing new in his theory but he gave the actual data for evolution, and it was for this reason that his work attracted so much attention. Formerly the struggle was between science and religion, but now it is between scientists as to the method of evolution. Ultra-Darwinians go far beyond Darwin with the theory of natural selection and many, as Weisman and Haeckel, deny Lamark's theory entirely. Whether it is inheritance or environment that makes the arm of the blacksmith's son strong and that of the preacher's boy weak is the important question. A recent article in the *American Field Journal* by Redfield of Chicago, on the evolution of the setter may possibly have some bearing on this subject. In tracing the history of the offspring of two male dogs it was found that the offspring of the one which had been used constantly in the field appeared seven times in champion trials. Offspring of the brother of this dog, which had been kept for stud purposes only, did not occur among the champion dogs. It is the general verdict of breeders that horses and dogs give better offspring if not kept for stud purposes only.

Prof. Rice mentioned several of the objections which had been raised against the theory of natural selection and attempted to show that these might not all be entirely valid.

In a summary, Prof. Rice stated that he believed that many laws were operative in producing the results of evolution. In regard to their effectiveness he believed that they would stand in about the following order: Darwin's and DeVries' theories first, Romanes second, and sexual selection and environmental influences of less importance.

Mr. Henriksen, Prof. Landacre, Miss Wilson, and Prof. Schaffner took part in the discussion which followed.

J. H. Gourley and Miss Caroline Carmack were elected to membership. The club then adjourned.

FRANK M. SURFACE, *Sec'y.*