

---

**Historical Aspects of Organic Evolution.** *Philip G. Fothergill.* Philosophical Library, New York. 1953. xvii+427 pp. \$6.00.

This book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the development of the idea of organic evolution, from the ancients to about 1900; the many writers of this period, with their theories and controversies, are discussed in some detail. The second part deals with "the chief modern causal theories of evolution and their relation to formal genetics"; it contains a fairly detailed account of cytogenetics, and a discussion of the causal theories advanced during the first forty years of the twentieth century. The book concludes with an appendix, a comprehensive bibliography, and an index. There is quite a bit of quoted material, and numerous references to the bibliography. The few figures are diagrammatic, illustrating chiefly genetic and cytogenetic phenomena.

The author has presented a very complete and relatively unbiased account of the development of one of the most important biological concepts. The book will be of considerable value to students, teachers, and biologists generally, in that it will help them understand how the evolution concept has developed. It does not adequately present the current concepts of how evolution takes place, as the contributions and developments of the last decade are not mentioned; of the more than 800 entries in the bibliography the latest is 1946, and there are only seven entries later than 1942.

DONALD J. BORROR