

SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE PROBLEM OF EVOLUTION¹

THE exchange of professors between the Sorbonne and Harvard University for the first time brings to Cambridge a professor of science. In a certain way I come in return for the visits which Professor M. Bôcher and Professor W. M. Davis have already made to the faculty of sciences at Paris. All my predecessors belonged to our faculty of letters. All have brought back a recollection of the hearty welcome which they received, and what they told me contributed largely in inducing me to accept the mission which was offered to me. I had the assurance of good-will and generous sympathy from my colleagues as well as from my pupils.

In the beginning I must excuse myself for not being able to express myself, at least for the present, in English. The most important point in teaching is clearness in expressing thoughts. By speaking to you in my own language I hope to succeed much better in a difficult subject and for that reason to obtain forgiveness for the effort which, to my great regret, I occasion you.

The purpose of the exchange between the two universities is to convey to the one the methods of teaching employed in the other. I have the honor to occupy at the University of Paris a chair of biology especially devoted to the study of the evolution of organic beings. It is then to the present state of this great problem that the lectures

¹ An introductory lecture in a course offered by M. M. Caullery as exchange professor at Harvard University, February 24, 1916. Translated from the French by Mrs. C. H. Grandgent.