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THE PROBLEM OF THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES AS IT APPEARED TO DARWIN IN 1859 AND AS IT APPEARS TO US TO-DAY¹

The first of these objects, that is, the establishment of a belief in descent with modification, was always held by my father to be the more important of the two; for I once heard him say, if a recollection of about fifty years' standing may be trusted, that "after all, evolution is the great thing, not natural selection."—LEONARD DARWIN, "Organic Evolution," pp. 1, 2.

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This twenty- to one hundred-fold disparity in our knowledge simply intensifies our admiration for the courage of Darwin in boldly substituting a natural for a supernatural conception of the origin of species. It is true that Darwin's most influential authority was not the current zoology and paleon-

¹ Read at the opening of Section D (Zoology) of the British Association, at the Oxford meeting, August 5, 1926. This is the fourth of a series of papers on the origin of species, the first having appeared in *Nature*, June 13 and 20, 1925, under the title, "The Origin of Species as Revealed by Paleontology." The fifth, under the title, "The Origin of Species, V: Speciation and Mutation," will appear in the *American Naturalist*.

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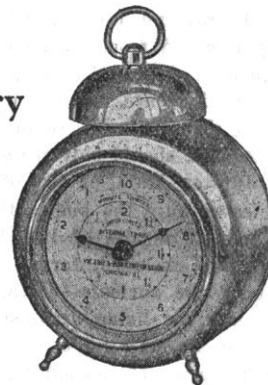
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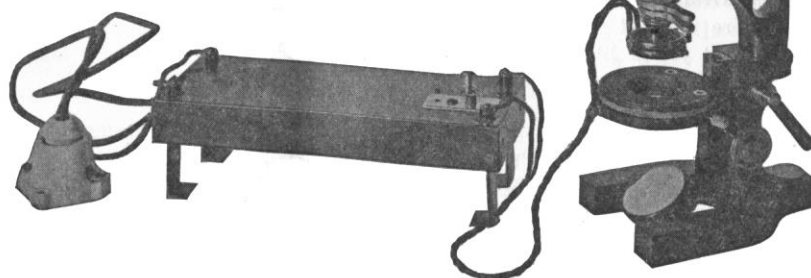
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