

## DISCUSSION

## THE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION IN ARKANSAS

THERE can be no doubt but that a great effort will be made to induce the Forty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas to enact a law to prohibit the teaching of evolution in tax-supported schools and colleges of Arkansas.

I am giving below a correct copy of a petition which will be presented to the Legislature when it meets in regular session January 1, 1927.

"To the Forty-Sixth General Assembly of the state of Arkansas: We, the undersigned citizens, voters and taxpayers of the State of Arkansas and County of Randolph, believing in the Mosaic account of Creation, and believing the Darwinian theory of the origin of man to be erroneous, false, and misleading, and calculated in its nature to lead men from the truth of God and to instill in the spirit of infidelity;

"Do, therefore, petition your honorable body to enact a law, similar to the 'Tennessee Anti-Evolution Law' with just such changes and modifications as will make it applicable to the state of Arkansas.

*Explanation*

"We believe in Evolution just as far as it goes; we believe in Evolution in the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms.

"We believe Evolution has produced changes in the earth. Its influence is recognized in the development of machinery and in the formation of languages and of governments. It produces many varieties of beautiful and useful things as flowers, apples, etc., of hogs, sheep, cattle, etc. It has no doubt produced varieties of men and of monkeys, but we do not believe that any process of Evolution whatever can produce an apple tree from a mustard seed, a milk cow from a bull frog, or a man from a monkey. Such a belief not only disputes reason and science, but it disputes the decrees of the Most High as recorded by His servant, Moses, in Genesis 1: 11, 1: 24, 1: 26.

"We ask the *Star Herald* and its exchanges to give this petition publicity. To afford ample notice, we ask all publishers in the state to publish this, however it may come to their notice. We hope that the citizens of every county of the state will petition their representatives to support this measure."

Respectfully,

J. Will Henley, Minister Christian Church.  
W. E. Hall, Pastor M. E. Church, South.  
O. A. Greenleaf, Baptist Pastor.  
Jos. Froitzheim, Pastor St. Paul's Catholic Church.  
G. W. Million, County and Probate Judge.  
Rufus A. Mock, County School Superintendent.  
J. W. Brown, M.D.  
Geo. M. Booth, Prosecuting Attorney-Elect.  
W. L. Pope, Ex-Circuit Judge.  
Wm. H. Johnson.

—Pocahontas *Star Herald*

It is indeed unfortunate that a petition like the one above is to be presented to the Arkansas State Legislature at this time as in the next general election an amendment to the constitution will be voted on, which will permit school districts to increase the local school tax from 12 to 18 mills to relieve the high schools of the state, Arkansas' new governor is pledged to support proposed measures which have as their object the relief of the public schools and the colleges and the university, and demands for the passage of anti-evolution laws will retard the progress of Arkansas schools just at a time when people are awakening to the real needs for better educational institutions.

C. BUSH

ALICIA, ARKANSAS

## THE CONCILIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM

A PREVIOUS note<sup>1</sup> called attention to the fact that the bibliography of the Concilium Bibliographicum is incomplete so far as the Oligochaeta are concerned. Other groups are similarly incomplete. The director<sup>2</sup> has explained that the number of cards required by the present rate of publication of biological papers is so large that the cost of subscription will be greater than the appropriations for bibliographic purposes of the subscribing European institutions. As the Concilium apparently can print only as many cards as the majority of its subscribers can afford, a selection must be made, the bases for which Dr. Strohl has explained in the note just mentioned. It is evident of course that the value of any bibliography varies according to its completeness, and while the Concilium is at present making a valuable contribution to the advancement of zoological investigation, its aid to zoologists is not as great as is possible. Those who are especially dependent upon this service for bibliographic information are correspondingly handicapped by its deficiencies. It would be greatly to the advantage of such workers if some scheme could be devised to enable the Concilium to publish its accumulated manuscripts, to make its service complete and to expedite the issue of its cards so as to form a more nearly contemporary announcement of the publication of papers. Such an improved service would undoubtedly attract a greater number of individual subscribers to various groups or subjects. The scheme might take the form of a loan to enable the publication of cards that can not be financed from subscriptions. As the financial situation improves, the accumulated cards will doubtless be taken up by the subscribing institutions. In the meanwhile those institutions and individuals who can afford it will have had the benefit of the more complete bibliography.

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, July 3, 1925.

<sup>2</sup> Strohl, SCIENCE, Feb. 25, 1926.