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THE ORIGIN OF MAN FROM A BRACHIATING ANTHROPOID STOCK

By Professor WILLIAM K. GREGORY

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

I. A COMPARISON OF THE LIMBS, HANDS AND FEET OF MAN, ANTHROPOID APES AND PRIMITIVE EOCENE MAMMALS¹

RECENT attacks on the "ape-man theory" by Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn have been misinterpreted by many newspaper writers and preachers to mean that what they choose to call the Darwinian hypothesis of man's origin has been demolished by America's foremost paleontologist, so that many now feel that man's anatomical bonds with the apes may safely be ignored or explained away. It is true that in stressing the wide psychological gulf between man and the apes Professor Osborn did not at first explicitly provide his "Pro-Dawn Man" with any assignable an-

cestors among the lower mammals. But those who prematurely welcomed Professor Osborn to the ranks of the anti-evolutionists seem to have overlooked several striking passages in his recent Des Moines address.² Here he definitely states that he is "not ignoring the overwhelming evidence of a remote community [of] origin between man and the anthropoid apes"; and that he is only "combating the special feature of the Lamarck-Darwin hypothesis that man once passed into highly specialized arboreal adaptations attained by the Miocene apes"; finally, he is "inclined to separate the human stock at a geologically earlier pre-Miocene period of anthropoid evolution." Moreover, Professor Osborn's diagram illustrating his "present theory of the ascent and phylogeny of man" agrees in general with my "family tree of man" (1921, 1924),

¹ Based on papers read before the Charlottesville, Virginia, meeting of the American Association of Anatomists and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, April 18 and 19, 1930.

² SCIENCE, 71: 1-7, January 3, 1930.



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(cf.—Osborne & Harris, Jr. Am. Chem. Soc., 25-IV, 346)

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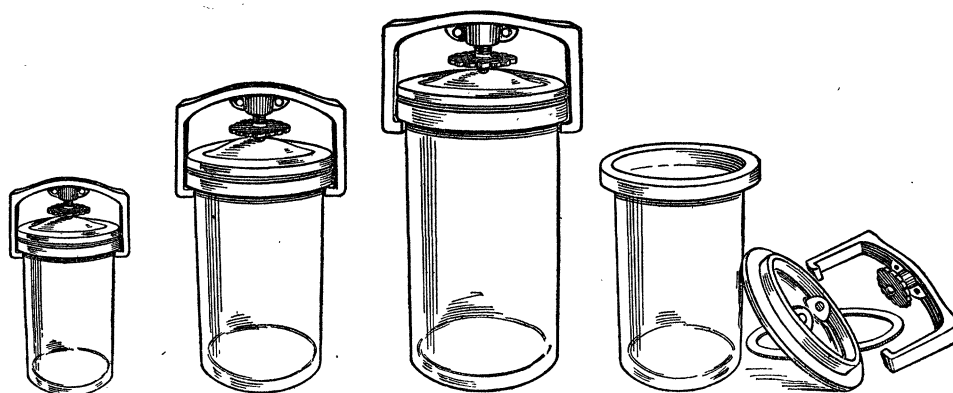
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