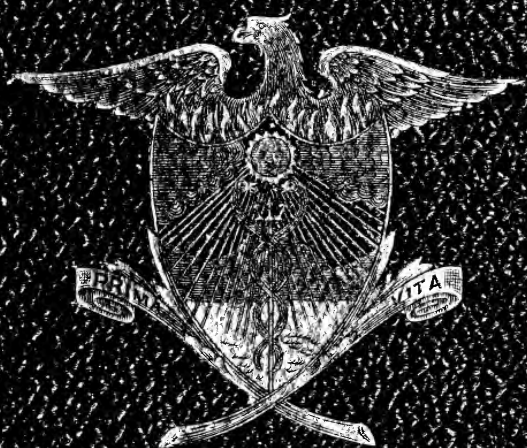


An Essay



On Creation

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An essay on creation

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Jose M. McEwen

THEOLOGICAL

AN ESSAY
ON
CREATION

COMPREHENDING THE
BEGINNING, COURSE, AND END
OF TIME

BY
✓
JOSEPH W. McEWEN, M.D.



PHILADELPHIA. NEW YORK. CHICAGO
THE F. A. DAVIS COMPANY, PUBLISHERS

1900

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INTRODUCTION.

BEFORE submitting this essay to the public, I wish to notice the fact that there is a popular theory antagonizing science with revelation, thereby setting up an incompatibility which is difficult to reconcile.

Now, if these premises are well taken, it must be conceded that religion is a matter of personal belief, while philosophy is an established fact, because the operations of nature are self-evident and inconfutable.

The existence of God, or a supreme exponent possessing unlimited power, coupled with all the attributes necessary to combine perpetuity and supremacy, is the conviction of every true scientist; on this faith he rests the strongest evidence of natural development.

Believing the true God to be a power which holds every operation of nature in the hollow of His hand, guiding and directing their consummation through cycles of all

ages and even beyond, to a period when time will meet and unite with eternity.

On these conditions, and with the proofs and deductions set forth, I now submit the rest to impartial scrutiny for a verdict.

CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN OF THE PLANET.

WHEN contemplating nature's methods of consummation, it seems physically possible that there should be concomitant means of bringing about all results, no matter how complicated they may appear. Undoubtedly a first cause must precede first life; consequently reason ought to be adequate to a solution of primary construction of a planet like the one we now inhabit, when bringing into account the millions of other planets which have preceded ours, and have for numberless years been spinning their course through space at such a rapid rate; it would appear reasonable that there must necessarily be a great amount of stray gases left in their wake.

The nearest conception of space expressed would be vacuum unbounded; notwithstanding that this infinite expanse is not absolutely void, its representatives

are so remote from each other that the distance is almost immeasurable, but to the light of vision they would seem countless. It is reasonable to conjecture that each individual planet is surrounded by an atmosphere of gaseous compounds corresponding to its bigness or bulk, a part of which is continually being detached and left to stray and float about undisturbed, but cannot in any way be returned to the original source, conclusively must be left to remain and further accumulate until by attraction and cohesion they begin to individualize as a distinct body; this being once established, the accumulation must be very rapid until a vast dimension may be attained.

By chemical action, brought about by the contact of different characteristic gases which are most likely to be conglomerated, also by the force of attraction and repulsion, caused by currents accessory to the influence of other already developed bodies in the course of their circuit, must of necessity develop a most tempestuous commotion, resulting in a series of electrical

explosions, which would materialize these aeriform fluids, and develop substance which naturally must gravitate to a center, forming a nucleus, giving birth to a globe of molten, seething matter, to be momentarily increased by further explosions from friction, brought about by constant disturbance of the fluids, which on the outer or more remote limits are exceedingly ethereal and intensely frigid. These gases through a natural circulatory process are driven in contact with the glowing heat of the meteoric mass, then through chemical changes, again are forced back into the surrounding strata, producing a continuous round of circulation; this action continually going on for a period of millions of years could transform these liquids by a gradual procedure to a more solid mass, and through the cycles of time would most likely consume all the surrounding pabulum, and in the course of events commence to cool down and form into solids; also by the admixture of the outer cold strata with the superheated currents near the surface should eventually produce other chemical reactions, sufficient

to generate immense volumes of aqueous vapors; these, by expansion, must be carried into the surrounding and more remote atmosphere, there to be condensed and changed into water, facilitating a rapid cooling down, until by spontaneous evolution the globe would become so tempered as to produce a condition precursory to receiving the influence of that great life-inspiring Power at Whose touch, as by a magical flash, universal vitality burst into an ocean of counterpart living sparks, which set in motion the whole system of life-power, mysteriously ushering in the dawn of primeval parentage.

There is but little doubt that comets are nothing short of planets in the incipient stage of development, which in the fullness of time will take their places in the ranks of the celestial multitude, adding other links to that unending chain which bounds the incomprehensible limit of space.

CHAPTER II.

LIFE DEVELOPMENT.

THE springing into existence of the primary spark of vitality formed the basis, or foundation, which supports all the varied forms of organic substances. This one touch of nature electrified, animated, created, and initiated every form of life with as much accuracy as the artist's camera stamps the image by the rays of the same first cause. This universal act was performed by a most reasonable and accountable process. Heat and light acting upon and tempering water to a certain condition, causing the nascent state, eventually, as by magic, produced the germs which were subsequently requisite to reproduce every form of vitality; consequently establishing, in the twinkling of an eye, the whole of the great fact of First Parentage, all else being the result of time, place, and circumstance.

After the first germ is established through the creative process, it follows that development produces a natural store-house for future germination. Fecundation and propagation are the first acts of progressive identity. Each separate germ subsequently forms the basis of a distinct species, or class, and no philosophy can prove that nature diverges from its course; but reason plainly points out that the original germ tends throughout the course of time to the unerring result, which result must follow after the primary cause without deviation.

The atom which nature designs to produce (the genus Homo), develops that certain species. The original of a lion grows into a race that must identically follow. The same rule carries out in relation to a fish, a fowl, a tree, or a plant. Locality—with certain degrees of atmospheric influence—tends towards facilitating the growth of the numerous varieties of vital productions; we have ample proofs of these: millions of undeveloped germs that pervade space are capable, under proper conditions, of growing into every conceivable form of

either animate or inanimate life, subject to their original design.

Each day brings forth advances, and will continue to do so throughout the period of ages, and progression must march onward until perfection bursts the bubble and time will be no more.

Everything within the bounds of comprehension must have an initiation and consequently a termination, or a beginning and an ending. As soon as animation sprang forth, it would eventually follow that life must terminate,—vitality not being self-supporting, and the planet being, as yet, devoid of organic remains. The consequence is that destruction must precede propagation, which conclusively proves that the first animations were of a very ephemeral character, the stronger forms absorbing the weaker, and, at best, the space of life must have been of exceedingly short duration; but each repetition brings forth advancement of prolongation and the strengthening and lengthening of the vital forces as time marches onward towards the period where mind and matter, coupled with reason

and intellect, become the factors in the progress of time's mechanism.

Although no direct unfolding of the mysteries of the past through revelation by tangible evidences is possible, yet the light of reason is fully capable of following out, link by link, the concatenations of circumstance, until a chain of evidence may be unraveled, without a single break, to the point where the condition of things waved the magic wand, producing first life, or creating, as it were, a new element, which subsequently set into motion the great vital process. The union or selection of the fellow-germs, and the blending together of two atoms of the same class, are the processes of fecundation and fructification—results that must of necessity be universal, in order to assure propagation of the different classes of organic life. These processes, once established, repeat themselves, and increase by the convolutions of time, but carry out the same identity, until a full development is fairly established.

If each separate class of germs did not accurately maintain its own specific order,

or class, the result would be an absolute conglomeration, producing nothing short of monstrosities, as well as frustrating the original purpose.

CHAPTER III.

COMMINGLE OF COUNTERPART GERMS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE DEVELOPMENT.

FROM the foregoing—it being one of the self-evident facts that the combination of germs is necessary to produce a single species—it must conclusively follow that, after all the rudimental germs were called into existence, it was requisite that each separate class should select its own fellow before the process of germination of the respective classes could possibly commence a progressive action. They also must be in a condition conducive to the encouragement of development in order that each separate atom of what is to mature into the future representation of vitality may attain its progressive action. Germs of different

species might meet and pass each other for the period of a thousand years without producing any result; but, as soon as the counterparts of the same order and class come in contact they immediately blend, vitalize, and commence to germinate into what is to form the basis of each distinct race. Each in turn, and through the course of time, selects its fellow-germ, until all the varieties, both of animal and vegetable life, create themselves through the same process.

Research has most conclusively demonstrated the fact that all organic substance is the result of contact or mingling of microscopic germs, which subsequently, through a vitalizing transition, advance towards maturity and pass through their existence, strictly adhering to the original identity, but approaching nearer the perfection of complete development, firmly laying a foundation on which must rest the secret, as well as the solution, of the great problem of First Life.

Life, animate as well as inanimate, is an act of constant interchange—of demanding

and supplying. The destructive waste from one form of vitality is the source of sustenance to another; while the one is receiving, the other is exhausting, acting and reacting with a precision equal to the rising and going down of the sun; one period of the diurnal changes favoring one, the other another operation, while all are being benefited by the transposition and rotation of this kaleidoscope of nature's most admirable process. The refuse of animal life supports vegetation, while, in turn, the products of vegetation principally support the animal, acting on the principle of giving and taking, thereby augmenting by the law of reciprocity, and tending, through a sure but gradual movement, toward a final progressive development; advancing, circle by circle, through the continuation of the space of time since the initiation of the primary spark of vitality, and by a successive onward march toward the completion of the present stage of organism, clearly solving the many mysteries and knotted problems of progressive life. The foregoing self-evident circumstances unquestionably

prove that organic creation, subject to the original cause, was the creation of itself.

CHAPTER IV.

APPROXIMATION OF TIME SINCE THE INITIA- TION OF FIRST LIFE.

IT is feasible, by arithmetical calculations, to place within the grasp of human comprehension an approximation of the space of time elapsed since the accumulation of organic deposit commenced to overlay the original or primary rocks. In the initiatory period of development the process of deposit was of exceedingly slow growth. However, later on, the action must of necessity advance by almost a geometrical progression, in order to accomplish such extraordinary results as the present phase of geological proportions now present to the vision of reason.

The following calculation, although far within the most reasonable facts, will suffice to place before the thoughtful intellect evidence plain enough to be comprehensively grasped and fully understood,—that this

planet which we now occupy has been spinning onward in its course for millions of years, even since first life was a factor of its mechanism,—for example, we may rationally presume that within the space of ten years organic residuum might accumulate to the extent of one-thirtieth of an inch over the entire surface of the globe. Thirty multiplied by twelve, the number of inches to one foot, produces three hundred and sixty thirtieths; this, multiplied by ten, gives a period of three thousand six hundred years to complete one foot of organic deposit at the present stage of development, and allowing one thousand feet of surface deposit—which will come far short of the actual condition of things—this, multiplied by three thousand six hundred, yields, in plain figures, three million six hundred thousand years, which, within all reasonable bounds, may, in perfect safety, owing to the backward result of even arithmetical retrogression, be multiplied by thirty-three and one-third, which would bring the product up to the enormous number of one hundred and twenty-five

millions of years, and which is clearly within the scope of reason, based on the most substantial and inconfutable data. This gigantic problem proves itself by the presence of organic deposit resulting from maturity and decay, or succession of life and death, and carries within it the evidence of immortality, which must and will continue to work out the progression of life through the ages of all time.

CHAPTER V.

CLASS LIFE DEVELOPMENT.

THE distinctive development in animal as well as vegetable life is influenced to a very great extent by the action of climate. Animals of the lower order of vitality adapt themselves, in a great measure, to the necessities and demands of their natural wants, it being beyond doubt that the great end and first law of life is the inherent prompting towards sustenance, preservation, comfort, and protection.

In high latitudes animals not in possession of reason are provided by nature with suitable coverings to preserve warmth, and also with physical powers to withstand the influences of atmospheric vicissitudes, although, after fortifying against the rigors of winter, they gradually dispose of the superfluous covering as the coldness becomes sufficiently tempered by milder currents of summer air. This change adjusts

itself by a natural evolution of circumstance and without any absolute will-power of the recipient. On the other hand, animals possessing a greater degree of discriminating power and mental ability,—as, for example, mankind,—provide shelter, supply heat, and temper the atmosphere, by the power of reason, to the genial warmth of a perpetual spring-time, proving that one grade of animation makes provisions, while another grade is provided for; showing, however, that in both cases they are prompted by the same cause, viz.: the dictations of nature, which have to be supplied either by natural adaptation or intellectual sagacity. Zoological science distinctly points out the various methods of alimentation, by making in each and every case a distinctive organic construction to harmonize with the different methods of obtaining sustenance, and with a clearness not to be misunderstood by the most casual observer.

The general outlining, as well as the special construction of the different organs of the body, substantially reveal each separate method of obtaining subsistence, and

also show the progress of vitality, as marked out through the traces of time, with sufficient strength to verify the fact that the first principle of animate life is the attainment of self-sustenance and individual support sufficient to carry out their identities to the limit of maturity. This being consummated, nature's act is complete; but the repetition must continue by the same regular process, carrying out the productive and reproductive evidence, and showing that everything moves in the same direction and tends towards the same end, demonstrating the fact that First Life was the outcropping of an incidental condition of circumstances.

Evidently vitalization being a physical action produced by the process of heat tempering water to a certain condition—that condition being once established, under similar circumstances must continue to reproduce similar results, thereby establishing a subsequent law.

There are innumerable circumstances which serve to prove the fact that life is a natural result produced by nature's own generative power, through an immutable

law and by a comprehensive process, though it conclusively follows that the primary constituents must be present at every moment, in order that a continuation may be perpetuated—withdraw these prime factors, and the whole vital system will suffer immediate dissolution.

Heat, light, and water tend to life, but cold antagonizes it. The universe is governed by a great circulatory process, vitality, of course, forming no exception. The greatest representative down to the most diminutive atom carries out the same principle and is governed by the same law.

As soon as cold dominates heat to the extent of obstructing the circulatory process, the result is destruction of that special representative; or, if even a portion of the animal or plant be affected by cold to the extent of occlusion, the result is the destruction of the part so affected, demonstrating the principle that the opposite of life carries out its precision to the very line of demarcation.

The portion of the globe which is exempt from the blighting effect of cold is

strikingly marked in relation to the character of its productions. The general offspring of the soil is exceedingly soft, thrifty, and succulent; especially so with the annual varieties. However, the seasons are distinctly divided into humid and parched, necessitating a demand upon nature's protecting power in favor of the perennial varieties against lack of moisture,—*e.g.*, tropical trees are provided with hard fibre, close texture, slow growth, and torpid circulation, as well as large, deep penetrating roots, which afford resistance to a long continuation of the heated period, while the annual varieties pass away with the moist atmosphere, to be reproduced on its return. Thus it is seen that the absence of moisture is a sure cause of the suspension of vitality. This has been previously cited in the example of the deserts of Egypt, where everything lies a barren waste until by moisture the slumbering germs are resurrected—germs that without this influence would have slept on forever.

From the foregoing it seems that sufficient weight of evidence is given to bear

ample testimony in favor of the premises, and further multiplying would only serve to weaken instead of to strengthen the conclusion. This conclusion granted, one of the inkiest clouds of darkness is magically transformed into a tower of crystal spray, reflecting images of revelation from each atom of its silvery mass, and virtually proving that the Creator works by a fixed law, and not by mere chance.

CHAPTER VI.

NATURE'S METHODS OF PROTECTION AND DEFENSE.

ALL varieties of life have their methods of defense and preservation ; all have their respective means of resisting the incursions of their natural enemies. The natural enemies of each class of vitality are the counter-classes that look for subsistence from the destruction of another form of life, to which, otherwise, they must succumb.

Thus it follows that the course of nature is a succession of preying and of being preyed upon. It also follows, in order that any form of life may be extended to a great length of time, that it must necessarily possess power of superiority. The ephemeral and defenseless order of animation is swept out of existence for the purpose of supplying aliment for a superior vitality. The great secret of longevity is comprehended in the one power of resistance, and in this

respect the human species in particular has pre-eminent superiority, having ability to resist the discomforts of heat and cold, as well as the attacks of all natural enemies, looking upon them with careless complacency, fully assured that their weapons are but as harmless arrows, easily diverted by human intelligence, and reduced simply to known but governed enemies. This power of reason also, in a great measure, controls accidents, external violence, and liability to injury.

There still remains, however, a most destructive enemy of life—one which so far has been, to a remarkable degree, comparatively speaking, overlooked, viz.: vitality in the form of microscopic life; and the subsequent object of this work will mainly consist in an attempt to apply the foregoing facts, with the view to alleviate disease, as well as to extend the natural period of life—also, to point out methods to be pursued, through channels of research, to prevent the liability to microscopic animalcular disease. Notwithstanding the fact that the philosophers of ancient times were in complete

darkness as to the true cause of so much of their discomfort, they, nevertheless, struggled against it with comparative success.

CHAPTER VII.

NATURE'S DEFENSE AGAINST DISEASE.

THE profound philosophers of ancient times were so impressed with the necessity of strict obedience to rules of health that they ordained a goddess to preside over regulations pertaining especially to this subject. The foremost and supreme command was strict obedience to the laws of cleanliness and purification, although at that time science had developed no revelation, disclosing the fact that life is one of the principal enemies of life, the whole of space being pervaded by myriads of living germs. Everything teems with life; water, air, food, even the odor exhaled from fragrant blossoms—all are no less than impresses of vital sparks upon the sensory nerves, which may develop elements of destruction, if permitted to mature within the structure of the body, thus furnishing evidence of the fact that dis-

ease or perverted action of the system, in numerous cases, is only the result of a colonization of microscopic vitality in the different organs, which, if allowed to continue undisturbed, would soon show evidence of disease in the part so attacked.

The fact of the existence of life needs no further proof of requirement for its subsistence; consequently constructive vitality is necessary for the development of other life forms. In pursuance of the foregoing it follows that no vital growth can possibly progress without demand and supply. It would be easy to comprehend the reality of an inability to erect a structure without material to construct with; so it is equally as impossible for vitality to progress without sustenance.

It only remains now to solve the great mystery of natural progress, actual growth, character, and means of development.

Life and death are incompatible; hence, conclusively, we can immediately grasp the fact that dead matter cannot construct or even enter into the construction of vital growth.

Food for the building up of living matter must be vitalized before it is fit for assimilation; eventually nourishment must undergo a vivifying process before it could possibly form a part in the structure of living tissue or be appropriated as available supply.

This reasoning goes to substantiate a theory disclosed through microscopic research, which is that vital construction is produced by means of cell development, these cells deriving their support through the action of circulation, but must primarily be supplied by alimentation.

If it were possible to strengthen the microscope far beyond its present power it would doubtless reveal facts sufficient to demonstrate that every cell is inhabited by myriads of vital sparks, and that organic existence is a mass of life-germs equal to the bulk of each individual representative.

It being conceded beyond hesitancy that vital pabulum must be received in the form of life, and not as dead or decaying material; also that the circulatory process distributes

those vitalized atoms over the whole mechanism, thereby developing growth as well as supplying natural destructive waste.

This process is clearly demonstrated through the action which is known to take place after food is taken into the receptacle of advanced animal life and retained for a certain period to undergo digestion or otherwise to be prepared for assimilation. This is, in reality, the incubating process; after the completion of this action the vitalized particles are separated from the dead or refuse matter. The former are received into the nutrient vessels to be mixed with the blood or life fluid for the purpose of building up cell growth, the latter being disposed of as refuse matter and carried out of the system through the alimentary tract, thus proving that digestion is the process of vitalizing nourishment, also that any portion of food taken into the stomach which fails to be capable of vitalization must be discarded as effete matter.

Should any useless material accidentally be taken up and mixed with vital aliment, it has to be separated from the circulation by

means of the different glands and be carried off as refuse.

Each individual organ of the whole body has its office or function to perform in order to keep up the process of development. If these natural operations were not beset by the numerous accidents that life is subjected to, existence might be prolonged to an almost unlimited period. This conclusive reasoning shows that the body or the single individual is a hive containing millions of billions of vital sparks which have to be fed and supported each day to keep in motion the machinery of a solitary representative of advanced life.

How vividly the image must appear when it breaks upon the retina of the mind, displaying a portrayal of immutable laws and self-evident conclusions in abundance, to dissolve the clouds which separate the workings of the Creator from the eyes of the creature!

CHAPTER VIII.

DESTRUCTIVE VITALITY.

REASON appears to have conclusively elucidated the great mystery of animate existence by distinctly proving life to be a mass of vital sparks. It also appears from self-evident circumstances that each separate individual is the exponent of a combination of an incompatible constituency or opposing forces which are perpetually antagonizing each other. The legitimate power we may class as health; the opposite is piratical and constantly in search of opportunities to make aggressive advancements towards procuring possession of the different organs of the body for the purpose of appropriating them to their own use. This is destructive vitality or disease, which will now be taken into careful consideration.

Conceding mankind far in advance of all other life forms, it is reasonable to infer that progression may advance until a final

point may be reached where mind will control matter to such a degree that the mortal may possibly achieve immortality.

The initiatory steps to make an approach to such an end must be by a universal combination of forces so as to combat the secret and invisible enemies that pervade every portal of life's avenues, and to bar the gates against their ingress. This can only be accomplished through vigilance and legislative restrictions. In these rest the only available means necessary to remove the cause and prevent the otherwise inevitable result. All forms of disease can, in a great measure, be met by efficacious means and reasonable precautions.

By baffling the cause we defeat the purpose. If in this comparatively conclusive reasoning we can locate the bane of life, it will be less difficult to provide an antidote which there is no reason to doubt will come in due form through the perfecting of time's revolutions. Now there are three different open portals by which disease or antagonistic vitality can easily assail the system: first, by the lungs; second, through the ali-

mentary tract; and, third, by contact with the skin or outer covering of the body.

It is most important, in the first place, to guard the gates to the approach of each of these avenues with sentinels possessing an absolute knowledge of the character of the enemy to be repelled, and doubtless the great engine necessary to conduct the vanguard will be the microscope, strengthened with power to discriminate the character of each individual foe to be combated.

When the capacity and ability of an enemy is forestalled, victory is but a secondary consideration. However, if the invading force gets possession of the system, then specifics and panaceas are uncertain dependencies—too often a forlorn hope. No counteracting remedy is adequate to dispose many of the diseases which otherwise could be averted by prophylactic means.

The author of the adage "An ounce of prevention is of more value than a pound of cure" unconsciously proclaimed a prophecy more potential than anything which has ever before emanated from the lips of any one, either human or divine, when we

pause to consider the value of fortifying against the encroachment of destructive vitality with a full knowledge of the devastation which must follow in its wake if allowed to pursue an undisturbed course. The prediction stands out like a pillar of fire, illuminating the pathway leading to safety. Notwithstanding withal, it is astonishing to realize that it is possible for intelligence to sleep with death stalking around unopposed while its willing victims complacently slumber on, dream, and behold visions of safety until the last vital spark is consumed by the great destroyer.

If mortals still close their eyes and permit the enemy to continue its undisturbed way, there is no likelihood of ever being able to stay its progress.

There are numerous remedies suggesting themselves to reasonable minds which could be arrived at with little difficulty; however, legislation is the first necessary step to take towards the abatement of disease by contact. We are already in possession of laws prohibitory of the ingress of infection from outside influence, but have no protection

from the scattering of it by social intercourse. There are no restrictions placed on individuals of families who have the most virulent maladies in their households from going to places of general business, getting into public conveyances, or attending theatres or churches. The church is, in the superlative degree, the hot-bed where contagion is disseminated and propagated, more especially in Catholic churches, where services are almost perpetually going on, and all classes and every grade, from the haunts of squalor to the halls of magnificence, are admitted on the same basis and subjected to the same atmosphere. The lady from the palace of luxury bows down side by side with the beggar from the dens of filth and degradation. With such a *régime* as this, can contagion ever be stopped or disease abolished?

These are some of the many defects which must be overcome by legal restrictions. The most obstinate minded will undoubtedly perceive at a glance the propriety of modifying the present state of sanitary regulations and urge a more restrictive

means prohibiting the indiscriminate mingling of humanity.

With the present stage of progress in science, assisted and abetted by wholesome legal enactments, there are no grounds for apprehension that, in a very short period hence, disease will be baffled and death fettered to such an extent that the course of mortal sojourn on earth may be consummated and extolled to so near a state of perfect security as to render it nothing more than a voyage of prospective emancipation tranquilly subsiding into a restful repose preparatory to awakening to the realization of that immortal existence which instinct so emphatically promises to mankind.

CHAPTER IX.

AIR NOT LIFE SUPPORTING.

THE ocean of fluid surrounding the earth and extending for several miles into space, and which is recognized and spoken of as air would not, within itself, be life supporting as pure air, but by the admixture of moisture or humidity it is so rendered, when tempered by sufficient heat, which not only gives warmth, but, through expansion and contraction, produces currents, establishing the circulatory process, so absolutely essential for the purification of all fluids. Without this constant motion destruction would result to every form of vitality. Thus, the same reasoning leads to the same conclusion, that life is dependent upon the original cause, viz. : the sun and the ocean.

These great motive powers keep up the circulatory process ; suspend this action, and

the inevitable result must follow. This mechanism of nature is of most wonderful precision and perfection, and in nowise likely to get out of order. The action of the sun absorbs the moisture from the ocean, and the air acts as a vehicle to suspend it and to carry it through space, while attraction and chemical action cause the currents, thereby producing circulation and condensation, forming clouds to be discharged later in the form of rain, fertilizing the soil, while the superabundance is conducted through the natural channels back to the original source, to be purified and returned through the same process.

It is manifest that this principle of circulation in nature must be carried out in the operations of every-day life. If moisture be allowed to remain at rest it very soon becomes a mass of corruption, developing germs of vitality and producing poisonous effects within the limits of its reach. Also, without ventilation the most spacious apartments become non-tenable, showing that nature's laws must be obeyed or life will be the forfeit.

Pneumatology and hydrodynamics conjointly show that through the commingling of fluids a generating power is imparted, giving birth to the elements which furnish support for subsequent vitality, and also reveal more clearly the natural development of heat.

It is a generally accepted theory that the sun is not a heat furnishing source, but a heat producer through natural operations. The denser atmospheric fluid in close proximity to the surface is kept in active motion by the presence of the sun's rays producing chemical changes, together with mechanical co-action, which cause great friction, thereby producing heat more rapidly than at a remote distance or greater elevation. After air becomes rarefied and devoid of moisture it is no longer capable of producing heat, but is frigid and non-life-preserving, showing that heat is furnished by action, and not by distribution. This conclusion carries within it proof that the primary elements conjointly combine to produce even the first requisites of life. These facts prove that the operations of nature are performed with

a nicety of precision and with most wholesome results, while they also convey with every act an admonition which must be faithfully observed, otherwise nature's penalty is sure to follow. More than half of the discomforts of life would be escaped if this course were carried out and strictly adhered to. Just as soon as the animate life wars against the elements it may expect to be vanquished—its destruction is inevitable.

Were science applied to searching after the causes of maladies which fasten upon the system it would be doubly effective,—*e.g.*, if a band of marauders were known to be approaching a certain locality for the purpose of obtaining booty, it would be much more politic to institute means of repulsion than to be searching out remedies for the alleviation of possible damages likely to be received at the hands of such an enemy. A well-planned defence is more effective than all the generalship that can be brought to bear upon the field of action; and so it is with disease; if the cause be searched for, and proper remedies used to

baffle its progress, the victory is complete and a panacea is not required. Prophylactic measures universally yield rich results.

CHAPTER X.

A RÉSUMÉ OF VITALIZATION.

HAVING arrived at a point where it becomes necessary to speak individually of the primary sources of life, we note, in short, that which has been attempted to be proven in detail, so as to comprehend, in a few words, the substance of the object of this work.

Guided by reason and the dictates of supreme laws, we are forced to acknowledge that whenever there is an effect there must be a cause: consequently, knowing life to exist, it follows that it must have had a source, and, reasoning from effect, no rational cause presents itself short of the period when heat and moisture, combined, developed the event of germinal production.

The essentials of life are light, heat, moisture, and motion. The sun furnishes light, and its rays, acting through chemical and mechanical means, produce heat, induc-

ing currents, and thereby establishing motion and circulation. The ocean furnishes an inexhaustible supply of moisture, as well as affords a great reservoir for renovation and purification, and from this maternal source springs all the nourishment which goes to the support of every atom of vitality that exists on the face of this planet.

From the most careful reasoning, supported by the laws of natural philosophy and substantiated by the strongest circumstantial evidence that it is possible to bring to bear on the subject to be proven, all clearly point to the same conclusion that life is the result of a natural process produced through an action of the sun's rays upon the waters of the ocean, and from this cause establishing first parentage. Each successive development is the perfecting of time's untiring revolutions, which more than likely will go on producing and reproducing wonders forever.

Now the inevitable consummation of life is death, which may manifest itself in two distinct forms, viz.: normal and abnormal. Normal death is that condition where all

the vital parts have respectively wasted their powers and terminate with a restful satisfaction, having reached the attainment of nature's purpose. Abnormal death is the dissolution of vitality as the result of accident or disease, which affects one or more of the organs of the body essential to the continuation of life, and in consequence demands the sacrifice of the whole system—hence the dread of this form of death. By far the most prolific cause of this source of dissolution is the result of disease generated through microscopic animalcular encroachment. As soon as science provides a remedy for the destruction of microscopic vitality, or a preventive to bar the progress of minute animal propagation, it will have achieved the crowning act, enabling mankind to assume possession of power to control and extend the limit of life to the true period of maturity, as well as to mark out the approach toward the terminal point as a journey possessed of pleasurable prospects, beautified with all the visionary imaginations by which advanced intelligence embellishes the unknown realms, and which

are hoped and looked for, but only to be possessed after death resolves the mortal into immortality. Such an advancement of science would rob death of all its horrors, and endow it as a legacy possessed of the magical charm of a tableau of the golden sunset on the placid waters of an undisturbed sea.

CHAPTER XI.

ORIGIN OF MINERALS.

IN stepping from vital productions to mineral formations it only requires additional links to complete the chain which leads on to a completion of nature's consummation.

Owing to the great importance which the carbonaceous deposits occupy in the economy of life, they will be given primary consideration. While viewing the various strata comprising the earth's crust, it is almost bewildering to the comprehension how to dispose of such a ponderous problem. Notwithstanding, when we revert to the fact, there are conclusive evidences proving the space of time since the process of deposit commenced to be far beyond a hundred millions of years it affords the intellect greater scope to grasp the realities that present themselves for investigation. In the first place, I purpose to offer reasons showing the cause of

origin of the vast fields or deposits recognized by geologists as coal, or nearly pure carbon. It is almost beyond cavil, from proofs deduced through the closest microscopic research, that coal is the refuse deposit from vegetable growth, this stratum being similar throughout all sections of the globe. These carbon deposits, almost without exception, are found in the form of fields or flats showing a few degrees of slope which is designated by miners as the "dip" of the mines and is evidence that at the commencement the formations were on a nearly level plain, clearly indicating that it is the accumulation of centuries of repetition of growth similar to that known to be produced from swamps or marshes in the course of a thousand or more years. The water, constantly filtering through this rooty deposit, acts against a destructive waste and favors a continuous growth, making a semi-solid mass of carbonaceous generating material. When this surface equilibrium is disturbed by undulations of gases pent up in subterranean vaults and set in motion by volcanic disturbance the drainage through

this natural process is cut off and sufficient obstructions are developed to cause these plains to be submerged, producing lakes, and consigning the carbon deposits to sleep beneath their waters for other thousands of years, meanwhile to be enveloped by the refuse deposits or destructive waste of animal life, giving birth to rocks of carbonated lime or mixed concretion as the circumstances may bring about in a further development, and which must continue to amass until another reaction bursts the confines of the waters, restoring solid surface to be again exposed to the accumulation of mixed refuse, each change working out a period of time's wonderful progress.

CHAPTER XII.

FORMATIONS OF GAS AND OIL.

IN taking another step still deeper into the mysteries of earth's creative power, the afore-mentioned facts go far towards facilitating farther research. Having rationally accounted for solid carbons, they in turn become the basis which may produce, through a chemical change, new results, viz.: gas and oil, which are known to abound so extensively within the deeper recesses of the earth and which are doubtless the causes of the many changes constantly taking place beneath the surface. It has been demonstrated, through the sinking of very deep shafts for the purpose of mining, that at these great depths the earth becomes so superheated as to render it impossible to go beyond certain limits, giving sure data and furnishing good reasons for the belief that beneath these known limits the heat is increased sufficiently to extract

and distil the solid carbons and dissolve them into the form of gas. This conversion into gas causes the displacement of a vast mass of solid matter, and thereby develops caverns and subterranean vaults. The process, being continued from century to century, must of necessity open out vast areas of space, which are filled only by these natural gases. This action goes on until incomputable billions of cubic feet are excavated or consumed.

These gases by great pressure are forced through every fissure and crevice of the rocks that confine them in place, and thus work their way nearer to the surface into a cooler temperature which causes condensation, thereby giving birth to the carbon oils so extensively extracted from the substrata of the earth, and which now fill so important a place among its mineral products.

CHAPTER XIII.

PURE CARBON, OR THE DIAMOND.

THE principal carbon formations having been considered, it remains only to discuss the pure form, which is the rarest of nature's productions. It is known to be more compact as well as to possess the power of reducing every other mineral substance, while resisting the action of all, demonstrating the impossibility of producing the rounded pebble form of these gems by any process of wear, since it is well known that nothing but diamond cuts diamond. This fact renders it necessary to look beyond all known causes for this development. From an acute microscopical scrutiny it is found that pure carbon is composed of thin layers, showing that its growth has been by accumulative progressive action.

Diamonds usually are found in close proximity to volcanoes or in volcanic countries. They are universally found possessing the same peculiarity as to shape, showing that the formation is similar no matter in what region of the earth's surface they may be produced.

It has also been proven that pure carbon, notwithstanding its wonderful durability and power of resistance, can without difficulty be consumed by the action of heat, showing that heat readily disintegrates and resolves it into the original component gases and proving that it is the compactness of adhesion which gives to it such impenetrability. It is also the unalloyed personification of purity. In it appear no spots, specks, nor blemishes which are likely to present themselves and combine with all other productions. It appears to be the solitary exception to that which otherwise is a universal rule.

From reasonable and tangible evidence the atmosphere remote from the surface is both ethereal and frigid — judging beyond experiment it would naturally lead to a con-

clusion that at a very great distance from the surface space would become almost a complete vacuum.

It is a known circumstance that volcanoes become, at times, convulsed, belching forth volumes of fire and smoke, as well as clouds of superheated gases, generated by the consuming carbon mass within the depths of the earth and by the force behind, driven far above the regions, where in any likelihood there would be atmospheric resistance, and into a temperature far below anything known, but which no doubt would be certainly sufficient to immediately chill the carbon gas forming filmy clouds, which by a natural process are condensed and reduced to nucleuses, to revolve about and increase until by their weight and force of attraction they are brought to the surface in form similar to hailstones, but in substance pure, clear, unalloyed carbon, thus reasonably disclosing the fact that diamonds are generated in the core of the earth and subsequently elevated beyond the reach of contamination for gestation and birth, developing through a natural process into a miracle of perfection

before returning to earth a clear, pure, sparkling gem.

CHAPTER XIV.

METALLIC MINERAL FORMATIONS.

IN treating of metals the necessity is involved, in the first place, of seeking out the origin of mineral productive development.

It is shown from the most careful chemical analysis that all mineral products are a combination of specific gases with a base. This being the case, it naturally follows that under favorable conditions they may be self-producing. This problem proves itself more clearly from the fact that heat, properly combined and applied, is adequate to the reduction of all minerals to original bases, by evolving the constituent gases, showing that these mineral developments must have been originally the offspring of a specific action, brought about by a natural combining of predominating constituents.

As the surface-soil, in a great measure, must be in a productive condition before it can yield a specified order of plants, and must contain the elements, including heat and moisture, before any result can be looked for—so, also, in like manner, it is essential for the substrata to be possessed of certain conditions in order to develop mineral growth.

The continuous action of heat going on in the deep recesses of the earth renders practicable this synthetical outcome of metamorphic transition by freeing the required gases, which then unite with their respective bases. For example, the combining of certain gases with a natural base gives birth to metallic producing substances known as mineral ores, viz.: iron, lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold, which are, by the well-known smelting process, reduced to pure metals.

Although many metals are found in a state of comparative purity, through a natural process of reducing ores to the pure product, yet this change is evidently the result of volcanic action, and also indicates

that these precious metals are produced from the very deep strata of the earth; for instance, when the gold-bearing ores are subjected to the liquefying effect of volcanic heat, the gold, as well as other molten masses, is thrown out by the eruptive explosion, to cool, forming vast crystalline rocks, known as gold-bearing quartz, while the small drops which form and are thrown out with the ashes and found in scales or globules, recognized as scale and shotted gold, are, by the action of water, carried over the surface and along the beds of rivers and procured by diverting the course and washing the alluvium—this is known as placer gold, although it must of necessity get its birth through the original chemical action before being able to yield this specific result.

All metallic products follow out about the same natural law, each having its distinctive inductive procedure tending to its separate growth, and all being produced under different conditions, but clearly adhering to the principles of a fixed law, which neither yields nor is broken throughout the many and mysterious operations of nature,

and indicating that everything is guided by an unerring hand.

CHAPTER XV.

PHYSICAL SURFACE CONSTRUCTION.

By scanning the broad expanse of nature's chart it is unmistakably apparent that the earth's crust has at intervals undergone wonderful geographical changes. The fossils in different formations serve as characters to fully explain the numerous transmutations which time's operations have wrought.

The pampas of the south and the broad prairies of the north, on the continent of America, furnish evidence that at some period in time's past history they were the beds of vast oceans, yielding the element of subsistence to numerous tribes of animal life, which under no possibility could exist out of the water, thus showing that portions of this earth's crust, where at one time, beneath the rolling billows sported the whale, the dolphin, and the vicious shark, afterward afforded a retreat for the bison and the antelope, and now produce the

means of sustenance to millions of mankind.

The sandy desert plains of Asia and Africa give more recent evidence of the subsidence of the waters, which periodically deluged the surface of the globe. This forms another link in the chain of evidence, which it is possible to trace out unbroken until its completion.

Another geological mystery presents itself for solution in the indisputable evidence that portions of the earth's surface within the regions of the temperate and tropical zones clearly show traces of a past period of perpetual ice, which, according to their present altitude, would be a physical impossibility. We also have proofs in fossils of tropical plants and animals exhumed from glaciers, of mountain regions which are and have been crowned with perpetual snow for an unknown period.

These circumstances lead to the sure conclusion that this condition of things owes its origin to the sinking and rising of the surface of the earth, which has already been shown to be one of the essential events of

nature's process following the great destruction of substrata through heat action, and thereby opening up leagues of cavernous space, which in time must be filled in from the surface.

The crust of the earth gradually weakens and suddenly gives way, to be precipitated into the immeasurable depths, transposing lofty mountains to occupy the places of the bed of the seas, while in turn from ocean depths the mountain ranges rise, which slept securely, undisturbed while silent centuries passed by, and now stand as immovable sentinels, proclaiming the edict of the flood, "thus far shalt thou go and no farther."

Each operation, though wonderful in all its proportions, is nothing more than the fulfillment of a law of natural philosophy. This view of things fully elucidates all geological problems, which otherwise would still remain enshrined in mystery.

CHAPTER XVI.

PHILOSOPHY OF MATTER.

HAVING thus far gone through with many of the phases of organic transformations, there appears to be a universal physical testimony bearing out the conclusion that no supernatural revelation or divine inspiration can be looked for to cast light on the subject under consideration, but a solution of the problem must be gathered from a close perusal of the book of nature, the pages of which extend over the length and breadth of the earth, stamped in distinct hieroglyphical imprints so plain and with such precision as to be deciphered by all nations of the globe.

No confounding of tongues nor misconstruction of language could have power to obliterate a single syllable from one of the many leaves of this great book containing more than one hundred and twenty-five millions of pages, each one of these noting

accurately the annual transactions of time's intricate work since the ushering in of the fact of first life, and from these all deductions lead to one and the same conclusion, viz.: that out of the two original sources come every spark of nature's offspring.

And now admitting the facts set forth to be sufficiently well founded, their principles must propagate other truths, and, furthermore, disclose new wonders, and so continue their onward march until that period arrives when the billows of time break against the shores of eternity and burst into curling vapors, to be dissolved and lost in the mysterious regions of boundless space, consummating nature's allotted task and also bringing about the fulfillment of the great prophecy that all material substances shall be destroyed, and even time itself must terminate. Notwithstanding that appalling and sublime *finale*, it would not within itself necessarily result in final destruction. The disintegrated atoms could by natural reaction combine again through the process of attraction and adhesion, thereby reconstructing the lost world, as well as marking the

advent of a roll of other time, verifying the inspiration of a new heaven and a new earth, to be gladdened by the rising of a new sun to embrace the pure, clear, sparkling waters of a new ocean, and with the same power to again create First Life, thus forming the last link necessary to complete the great chain of events compassing time and eternity.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF MIND AND MATTER.

HAVING heretofore refrained from commenting in any way upon the mental philosophy of animate existence, I hope to be pardoned for venturing a few thoughts in connection with mind and matter.

It seems, through philosophical reasoning, that the soul of man is a concentration of a certain individuality held together by the body of the possessor, forming an identity entirely belonging to that personage, and in no manner connected by any other power, force, or characteristics. There can in nowise be any outside party interest possessed, but it must be in absolute ownership of the custodian—but the expansion and development in a great measure can be assisted by the influence and intermingling of surrounding circumstances. After the dissolution of the mind and body the tan-

gible intercourse is lost to all material communications; apparently the link that binds mind to matter is severed, and absolutely annihilated. All former relationship now stops.

Nevertheless there is an instinctive monition installed in the mind of everyone that points to a future continuation of an individuality which will be perpetuated, endowing each identity with an existence of immortality.

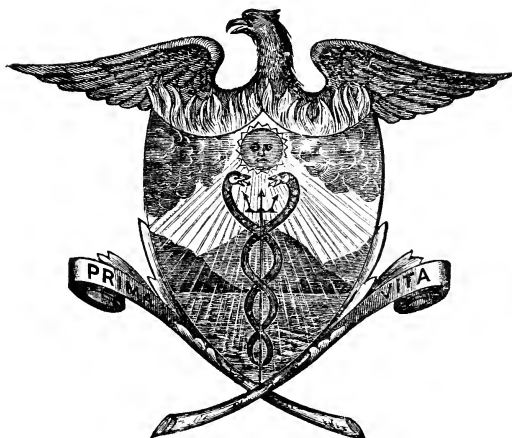
After having thrown off the bonds of corruption, the immortal part is freed from all the cares of mortal existence. Conclusively, the soul now enters the realms of bliss; hence there is no further requirement for intercommunications of the terrestrial and celestial relationship. The mind, being now disenthralled from the fetters of mortality, severs all alliance coincident in any way with its future and perpetual existence.

Unquestionably the most natural deductions to be drawn from the foregoing premises are that the great aim and end of life should be to expand the mind to the greatest possible extent so as to qualify the soul

for a higher sphere beyond the tabernacle of this flesh.

Life, beyond doubt, is a gift in trust from the Great Source of vitality, and the possessor is simply occupying a position of stewardship temporarily.

SUPPLEMENT.



FIRST LIFE.

Through the Creator's power ordained
Spontaneous sparks the life proclaimed
With laws decreed and orders given
The act was done conceived in heaven.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, OR A RELIGION OF THOUGHT.

MORAL PHILOSOPHY is the most feasible faith which is likely to become the basis of a universal following. It bars none from absolute freedom to membership. The only conditions are a full determination to act in accord with righteousness, justice, goodness, and truth; also to disclaim all mythological obligations; but to observe a strict adherence to the one great source of safety, which is comprehended in the combined words: righteousness and justice. This faith has no mystery, no false hope, no hidden device, no unknown land of promise, but possesses all the attributes of the Creator and Disposer of the workings of animate life. No doubt but that the adoption of this plain course would bring about universal happiness to mankind and dispel the desire to choose evil for good, crooked for straight, but rather in-

stall a pleasurable satisfaction in the onward march toward that unending state with which death will consummate the crowning act essential to an immortal existence.

When temporal existence leads up to completion, time will then dissolve and be lost to this special representative, but may be continued through the insertion of another link to that endless chain representing eternity. Every hour fulfills the penalty of myriads of earthly tenants; an act essential to the release of mind from the fetters of matter, the single possible method of freeing the soul to occupy its assignment, which can only be purchased through an expiation for accepting vitalization. The disembodiment of the mind brings new life, new light, as well as a perpetual abiding-place to the regenerate spirit. Tangible evidence, combined with philosophical reasoning, points to a mental expansion befitting to individual classification, showing cause for the thought that there are higher and lower circles of spiritual destiny, notwithstanding each in its respective locality is in full possession of perfect immunity from earthly responsibilities.

However, it would seem that there might be a possibility that very heinous, rebellious, and perverse actions while serving the time of mortal incarceration could provoke an eternal condemnation, thereby completely annihilating that special identity. The act of self-destruction would indicate by direct evidence that the creature has lifted his hand against the edict of the Creator in an attempt to shorten the sentence pronounced upon mortals, verifying the prediction that there is a sin even unto spiritual death. Nevertheless, many dim imprints which gleam through Heaven's portals render sufficient encouragement for mortals to train the mind up to the highest possible grade so as to fit it for a perpetual sojourn. Viewing future hope through this channel, how easy it would be to bear the yoke that couples mind with matter!

After all things being considered, natural philosophy seems clearly and simply to verify the premises that the primary act of vitalization is a consequence essential to the acceptance of death as a condition which must absolutely follow, also showing that the com-

ing in contact of counterpart vital sparks ignites the flame that dooms to final destruction. The spontaneity of life carries within it an inevitable conclusion that life is the awaking power, and death a restoration of final repose.

Life is the advent, death the completion of the quickening process, thus consummating one of nature's perfect operations, and showing forth the sublimity of the workings of the Creator.

No power, no force, no device or combined strength would be adequate to reverse a single principle of the machinery of nature's silent progress, even if all the combined momentum of millions of planets that represent the make-up of the universe were brought to bear against the unlimited power of the Creator; it would be as the ability of a single sunbeam to dissolve the mist of impenetrable darkness.

The source of wisdom plans out from eternity and extends to the same limit. Nothing can stand in the way of this power and its operations from the governing of the universe to the creation of an atom; all

must be subject to the same law and be guided by the same hand. Conclusively, the lesson of natural philosophy teaches through instructions, developed by concurrent events, the boundless powers of the Creator and the insignificance of the creature, thus admonishing all of animate life to move in strict obedience with nature's laws; any act of rebellion is a sure prelude to absolute destruction. If rational intelligence was brought in accord with natural methods, most of the ills of life could be averted, and existence on this planet might be changed to a course of peaceful sojourn. Any theory or practice antagonizing the object of nature's process will prove to be a blight and a sure cause of absolute disappointment. Any device or plan against the consummation of natural law is the acceptance of utter defeat. Any voice lifted up against the great first cause is quickly hushed to silent oblivion. Any personality that offers immunity for a transgression of nature's immutable commands will be swept out of existence, but strict obedience to the true principle of life is the solitary method of attaining advancement

toward that goal which instinct promises the mind and impels the soul to strive after. This ultimatum of hope, this consummation of vital anticipation, this resolving of the mortal into immortality are the finish to the last act necessary to separate the gold of purity from the dross of matter. Hence, Phoenix-like, new life rises out of the ashes of destruction. Thus ends the beginning and abolishes time—yet regenerate spirits go on forever.

PROTOBIOLOGY,
OR
ANALYTICAL PHILOSOPHY.

IN conclusion, permit me to say that, having exhausted all deductive methods of arriving at other philosophical conclusions, would suggest to some liberal handed philanthropist to provide a powerful microscope, together with a suitable laboratory for analytical and synthetical manipulations, and in return I will demonstrate in *general* every physical mystery either animate or inanimate coincident with the make-up of this planet.

JOSEPH W. McEWEN.

332 South 19th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

“An Essay on Creation” (F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia), by Joseph W. McEwen, M.D., is the argument of a biologist and student of science for the complete reconciliation of science and revealed religion. He says: “The existence of God, or a supreme exponent possessing unlimited power, coupled with all the attributes necessary to combine perpetuity and supremacy, is the conviction of every true scientist; on this faith we rest the strongest evidence of natural development.” It is in conformity with this reverent belief that Dr. McEwen briefly surveys the field of modern biological and physical science and presents his deductions with perspicuity, fullness of knowledge, and cogency of reason.—*The Press*, Philadelphia, Pa., March 30, 1901.

“An Essay on Creation, Comprising the Beginning, Course, and End of Time.” By Joseph W. McEwen, M.D. Philadelphia, F. A. Davis Company, 1900. Dr. McEwen leads us into a vast subject in this work. It is one which is necessarily and perennially fascinating to thoughtful minds. At many points these abstruse questions touch the wide periphery of medical science and thought. Therefore it need occasion no surprise if from time the subject is approached from a fresh point of view by one whose training has been in the schools and practice of medicine. This book is not large, and is well worth perusal. In brief chapters the author advances from one end to the other of its course in logical continuity.—*The Medical Bulletin*, Philadelphia, Pa., July, 1900.

“An Essay on Creation,” by Joseph W. McEwen, M.D., has been issued by the F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia. It traces the history of matter and life from their origin, and while drawing facts from nature alone, expresses a belief in the existence of life apart from physical accompaniments. To the student of biology the work will especially appeal.—*The Call*, Philadelphia, Pa., October 20, 1900.

The F. A. Davis Publishing Company, Philadelphia, issue "An Essay on Creation, Comprehending the Beginning, Course, and End of Time," by Joseph W. McEwen, M.D. This is a somewhat ambitious attempt to explain the processes of the creation, growth, and final destiny of the universe founded on the idea of an omnipotent Creator who works in the simplest manner to accomplish his ends. Evolution from a germ cell for all that is living and from the effect of gravity and motion on elementary gases for all non-living matter is the process. The thoughts are not new, but they are marshaled in an orderly and concise way. Immortality of the soul is a part of the natural scheme of creation and existence.—*Nebraska State Journal*, October 22, 1900.

In "An Essay on Creation" Dr. Joseph W. McEwen seeks to reconcile religion and certain accepted theories of modern science apparently in conflict with it. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.—*Globe Democrat*, St. Louis, Mo., October 20, 1900.

We have received from the author, Dr. Joseph W. McEwen, a volume containing "An Essay on Creation, Comprehending the Beginning, Course, and End of Time." He states that he is convinced that there is no real conflict between religion and science, and that the true God is a power holding every operation of nature in the hollow of his hand. Dr. McEwen then proceeds to discuss the origin of this planet, life development, nature's defense against disease, etc. He treats, as well, of the origin of minerals, formation of gas and oil, metallic mineral formations, the philosophy of matter, and the relationships of mind and matter. The mind of man is never weary of speculating upon cause and effect and the problems of the present and the future. Therefore, many readers will follow this writer with interest in his wandering through time and space, and will, possibly, arrive at the same conclusions.—*Portland Daily Press*, Portland, Me., November 21, 1900.

"An Essay on Creation." In a book of about seventy pages Dr. Joseph W. McEwen explains the origin of this planet, examines the primal spark of vitality, fixes the minimum time of organic development on the earth at 125 000 000 of years, explicates all the

principal processes of nature, explains the origin of minerals and gas and oil, presents a philosophy of mind and matter, and prophecies of a period when the billows of time will break on the shores of eternity, and burst into curling vapors. It will probably be a long while before any competitor breaks the doctor's record by doing as much as this in sixty pages. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.—*News Letter*, San Francisco, Cal., November 10, 1900.

“An Essay on Creation.” By Joseph W. McEwen, M.D. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, Pa. In the brief compass of this single volume Dr. McEwen unfolds his theory of creation, “Comprehending the Beginning, Course, and End of Time.” He believes in God and evolution, and says that life is a “gift in trust from the great source of vitality, and the possessor is simply occupying a position of stewardship temporarily.”—*Picayune*, New Orleans, La., October 28, 1900.

“An Essay on Creation,” by Joseph W. McEwen, M.D., is an effort to reconcile the antagonizing theories of science with divine revelations. The essay therefore develops an interesting line of reasoning based upon the author's theories of the origin of the planet, development of life, philosophy of matter, and the relation of mind to matter. The book is published by the F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.—*Express*, Los Angeles, Cal., February 27, 1901.

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