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A get-together dinner of all the college men in this vicinity who have been connected with or interested in the Christian Associations of their college will be held at the Boston Y. M. C. A. on Huntington Avenue at 6:30 o'clock on December 14. Letters of in-

**Freshmen Quintet Outscores Varsity
in Short Well Played Practice Game**

Yesterday afternoon the varsity and freshman teams went through a hard practice session, the varsity men being scrimmaged with a team of freshmen picked by Coach Hitchcock. In the short scrimmage practice, the one marked feature was the great improvement shown by the freshmen players. During the last few practices the freshmen have been steadily showing better form, and yesterday and team, the first

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December 14, 1922

LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Page Three

Some Dynamic Factors of Social Evolution

By Paul A. Ryan '23

If one were to attempt to depict with a minimum of words, the basic viewpoint differentiating the social sciences of the Nineteenth from those of the Twentieth Century, it might be sketched by the two words pessimism and optimism.

Now of course comparisons are still odious and generalities are frequently quite meaningless, but the fact remains that through all the welter and storm of controversy precipitated by the "Origin of Species" the most strident note, the most pronounced motif, was a violent and basic reaction against the pessimistic materialism embodied in the works of Huxley and Spencer, the great propagandists of Darwinism. This reaction manifested itself in many and diverse ways, ranging from the pronouncement of the Anglican Bishop who described the creation of Adam, the first man, as occurring on three o'clock of a Friday afternoon in the year 4004 B. C., to the stately bulwarks of philosophical thought reared by Newman in defense of the Old Faith. But all were agreed in denouncing the undue emphasis placed upon man's kinship with the dust. And after the passing of several decades, dawns the realization that man's physical evolution is but half the story in the great history of mankind's progress.

This new attitude towards evolution is evidenced by many things. Ignoring for the moment such freak phenomena as William Jennings Bryan, who, having been melliflously wrong on everything he ever championed, continued to be vociferously wrong on the question of evolution, there remains the great body of interested, if uninformed persons of the sort who flock to hear lectures on the revolt against Darwinism.

Now one trouble with the attempt to popularize a subject such as evolution is that the facts and their meanings are almost sure to be perverted and misunderstood. The attempt to popularize such things as history or science, with any degree of truth and precision is very difficult if not well nigh impossible, as H. G. Wells proved conclusively with his "Outline of History," and bids fair to repeat with his "Story of the World." Almost the only thing to be really popularized and yet preserved in its intellectual purity, was Christian theology, and this feat was not accomplished without some slight aid from the heresy courts and the Inquisition, things which, although they may fall with a strange sound upon twentieth century ears, did nevertheless, in those pregnant years of civilization's reshaping, at least give truth some fighting chance against the formless horde of popular errors and superstitions.

However, at the present time it seems to be pretty well conceded that Darwin's views on evolution were approximately correct. It was only his reasons for holding those views that were wrong. So that when some popular orator announces with great gusto that Darwinism is discredited, what he means, or should mean, is not that the evolutionary hypothesis is untenable, but that Darwin's theory of natural selection has little basis in fact.

In this connection it must be remembered that Darwin's views on evolution were by no means

peculiar to, nor did they originate with, himself. The ancient Greeks having speculated upon everything in general, it is not surprising that they should have formed more or less elaborate theories to account for man's origin. But the tragedy of Greek scientific thought is that it was thought, and very little else, purely theoretical and unconcerned with the physics of things. How different might have been the course of History had there been a Novum Organon on Archimedes' five foot shelf.

These same Greek speculations were revived, along with other aspects of Greek thought, by the early Fathers of the Christian Church, St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in the fifth century, having an elaborate thesis on evolution to his credit. The same subject formed a frequent topic for debate in the Mediaeval Universities, Thomas Aquinas, in whose writings is crystallized the Aristotelian-Scholastic philosophy, holding what would be considered today as very advanced views on the subject of evolution. It is quite true that these theories and speculations concerning man's origin were purely hypothetical and had no basis in fact, for the good and sufficient reason that there were as yet no facts upon which to base them, as the highly complex sciences of paleontology and embryology of today, were almost completely unknown as late as the Eighteenth Century.

To Darwin goes the credit, and rightly so, of having established the evolutionary hypothesis upon a firm basis of fact, a credit which is in no way minimized by the fact that many of the particular theories which he deduced from the facts, such as natural selection and survival of the fittest, were wrong. Newton is still regarded as the founder of modern mechanics and physics although some of his ideas on light and gravitation seem surprisingly naïve since the advent of Dr. Einstein.

Notwithstanding the apparently firm basis upon which the evolutionary hypothesis rests, it has long been realized that man, in his physical characteristics, has changed little if at all since the dawn of history, and that the race, considered as a whole, has emerged from savagery and barbarism with man in his present physical state. It is quite true that innumerable attempts have been made to reconstruct prehistoric man, his habits and mode of life, but as Chesterton remarks, if there is one thing certain about prehistoric man, it is that he was prehistoric.

The dawn of the historic period found the physical evolution of man practically complete, but with man himself in a state of savagery and barbarism. When man first began to accumulate and transmit to his children the rudiments of knowledge and progress marks the beginning of social evolution.

It is quite true, as Mendel has shown mathematically from his biological researches, that this social evolution is to a great extent governed and conditioned by the influences of heredity, as no amount of training can transform a moron into anything but a moron, but in the main, the progress of the

(Continued on Page 10)

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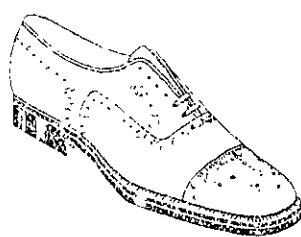
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Two of the officers of the Am. A. S. Radio Society at the smoker and dinner of the Class of 1923, which was held last Friday evening at the Algonquin Club.

J. K. Clapp '23, Vice-President of the society, gave a summary of the development of wireless telegraphy up to the time when amateurs began to experiment with radio. Secretary J. A. Stratton gave a talk which was a continuation of the subject. He outlined the development of amateur radio, taking the society's station 1XM as typical of an amateur station.

The radio receiving demonstration staged at the dinner by these men was made with a new type of receiver, which receives on a small loop instead of an aerial and ground. One stage of radio frequency amplification, a detector, and one stage of audio frequency amplification are used in this set, which was loaned for the occasion by Mr. F. C. Bowditch '21.

not taken on the trip. It is not feasible to take all the men on the trip because of the expense and it is hoped that those who are not taken will remain on the clubs after Christmas. It is expected that the clubs will make a New York trip and a Central Massachusetts trip later in the year.

The program for the concerts on the trip is as follows:

1. Battleship Connecticut... Banjo Club
2. Invictus... Glee Club
3. Canadian Capers (Banjo Duet) Cook and Becker
4. Moonlight Fancies... Mandolin Club
5. A Little Harmony... Quartet Burkholder, Decker, Thomas, and Wilkins
6. Rastus on Parade... Banjo Club
7. Mystery... K. C. Kingsley
8. Sweet and Low... Glee Club
9. Uncle Moon... Glee Club
9. Xylophone Solo (You Tell 'em Ivories)... G. P. Rupert
10. Serenade... Mandolin Club
11. Copper Moon... Glee Club
12. Road to Mandalay... Glee Club
13. Popular Selections... Jazz Band
13. Stein Song... Combined Clubs