

*The Evolution of Sex.* By Professor PATRICK GEDDES and J. ARTHUR THOMSON. 104 Illustrations. Pp. 315 and Index. London: Walter Scott: 1889.

THIS, the first volume of the Contemporary Science Series, edited by Havelock Ellis, is a credit to Edinburgh. The authors are well known, and the independence and originality of their thought have combined to produce a remarkably readable and suggestive thesis. It strikes one, however, in reading the volume, that it is almost too deep for the class of readers to which it is given, and although the small type is evidently meant to be skipped by general readers, one cannot help thinking that it might have been better had the authors written for scientists and not for the general public. It is highly probable that scientists will find many points in this book which they will criticise, but no one can read it without gaining benefit, and without finding much which will be of advantage in focussing their ideas with regard to the evolution of sex. No book which we know indicates as clearly and definitely as this all which has been written upon the subject in question, and the authors have done well in detailing the literature which they have utilized in compiling the volume. We can strongly recommend it, as it is the outcome, not only of original research, but of thoughtful study.

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*Evolution and Disease.* By J. BLAND SUTTON. With 136 Illustrations. London: Walter Scott: 1890.

DR SUTTON'S volume forms the fifth of the Contemporary Science Series edited by Havelock Ellis, and it is intended for general readers. This notwithstanding, professional men will be able to find a considerable amount of valuable and curious information which is otherwise only to be obtained by prolonged research in many books. They will also find much of interest in the chapters on atavism, the cause of disease, tumours, and cancers, as well as on the transmission of malformations and acquired defects, and on the anatomical peculiarities of the teeth in relation to injury and disease. As the author states, the subject is a novel one, but facts clearly prove "that disease is controlled by the same laws which regulate biological processes in general." It is apt to be too often forgotten that abnormal conditions in man may be normal conditions in other animals. To take an instance our author gives. "The inside of our cheeks has a soft lining known as mucous membrane. In very rare instances children have been born with tufts of hair growing in this situation. Such a condition is truly abnormal. A physiological type for such a phenomenon is found in the mouths of rodent mammals; the inside of the cheeks of rabbits, hares, porcupines, and the like, present naturally patches of hairy skin." It is probable that this book will stimulate inquiry, which will prove to be of much use to both physicians and surgeons.