

be true, and three deductions which are now also known to be true. They may be enumerated as follows:

1. Organisms produce a far greater number of reproductive cells than ever gave rise to mature individuals.
2. The numbers of Individuals in species remain more or less constant.
3. Therefore there must be a high rate of mortality.
4. The individuals in a species are not all identical, but show variation in all characters.
5. Therefore some variants will succeed better and others less well in the competition for survival, and the parents of the next generation will be naturally selected from among those members of the species that show variation in the direction of more effective adaptation to the conditions of their environment.
6. Hereditary resemblance between parent and offspring is a fact.
7. Therefore subsequent generations will maintain and improve on the degree of adaptation realized by their parents by gradual change."

-- Sir Gavin de Beer, *A Handbook on Evolution* (London: Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History), 1964), pp. 10-11.

## B. Definitions of Evolutionism

"Evolution" is a biological concept referring to the origin and development of living things. "Evolutionism" is a philosophical concept referring to the extension and application of the process of evolution to all of reality.

Evolution is a biological process whereas Evolutionism is a philosophical world-view.

Evolutionism should not be confused with some form of "Theistic Evolution," in which the entire physical universe (or some part of it) is evolving under the guidance of God. Evolutionism is naturalistic or materialistic in its view of the nature of ultimate reality, and excludes any notion of God or the supernatural from its world-view.

The following six statements summarize Evolutionism:

1. Either matter is eternal, or it has simply, of itself, come into being.
2. The complex structure of the physical universe has evolved from the simple unorganized condition of primal matter.
3. Living material has evolved from nonliving matter.
4. All living things -- whether monerans, protists, plants, or animals -- have evolved from the simplest living things.
5. Man has evolved from animals.
6. Each of the above processes took place by means of the random operation of previously existing natural forces.

"All phenomena have a historical aspect. From the condensation of nebulae to the development of the infant in the womb, from the formation of the earth as a planet to the making of a political decision, they are all processes in time; and they are all interrelated as partial processes within the single universal process of reality. All reality, in fact, is evolution, in the perfectly