

common plan in the mind of God.

"Just because we do not know the function of some part of the body is no reason for stating that it is useless. Some organs that were thought for years to be useless have been found useful in the embryo. If any part functions in the developing animal, even though it may not in the adult, it cannot be called vestigial. Our list of 'useless' structures decreases as our store of knowledge increases.

"Some of these organs . . . might have degenerated from a more perfect condition."

-- Cora A. Reno, *Evolution Fact or Theory* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1953), pp. 69, 66, 67, 43, 50.

The argument from recapitulation may be stated as follows:

If ES, then ER  
If ER, then GR  
ES  
Therefore GR

where:

ES = embryonic similarity  
ER = embryonic recapitulation  
GR = genetic relationship

Of course, the conclusion (ES, therefore GR) is simply a restatement of the principle of homology on the embryonic level of similarity. And the principle of homology, above a certain level of classification, is a postulate an assumption a first principle that is chosen rather than proved and established!

From a creationist stance, the argument from recapitulation may be countered with the following two facet argument:

If ES, then DnM and  
If ES, then DtM  
ES  
Therefore DnM; Therefore DtM

where:

ES = embryonic similarity  
DnM = design with modification  
DtM = descent with modification.

in this argument, some embryonic similarity is explained on the basis of design with modification (God designed, e.g., various vertebrates with a basic design configuration, and modified that configuration for various forms); other embryonic similarity is explained on the basis of descent with modification (some vertebrate embryos are similar because they are genetically related).