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RECENT EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSION

THE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION.—“From the standpoint of right and wrong the teacher in college or elsewhere cannot more justly force his theories upon an unwilling or unsuspecting public than can a religious enthusiast require all men to subscribe to his beliefs. The quack doctor, the religious fanatic, and the poorly balanced teacher of science are similar in that they are alike dangerous, and the general public should consider all with suspicion. Lamprooning earnest religious folks because they refuse to accept all that comes to them in the name of science will not help to develop the very desirable discrimination between the true and the false, but will rather arouse more vigorous antagonism. There is no fundamental basis for conflict between enlightened and sincere churchmen and true scientists. The development of American institutions and ideals and the advancement of the material welfare of the American people have come from the efforts alike of churchmen, statesmen and scientists; and for continued prosperity, it is essential that there be harmony of purpose between these factors. It is the business of the leaders of scientific work and teachers of science to make such a discrimination between fact and theory that all must respect their findings, and to use such care in the presentation of subject matter that no one idea will be given the undue prominence that is provocative of misunderstanding and distrust. Why not make it quite clear that ‘Darwinism,’ whatever that may mean to the individual professor, is not all of evolution? Why not spend more time making clear to college students the facts of observation and experiment upon which the ‘Origin of Species’ was founded? We are confident that more teaching of fundamental facts will lead to a better understanding between scientists and the rest of the world, and to a more hearty support of scientific endeavor.”

F. L. PICKETT, in *Science*.

THE NEW KNOWLEDGE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.—“This morning we are to think of the Fundamentalist controversy which threatens to divide the American churches, as though already they were not sufficiently split and riven.