The series of man's progenitors clearly shows this state of things. The sharks of the present day are still very like the primary fish, which are among the most ancient vertebrate progenitors of man, and the lowest amphibians of the present day (the gilled salamanders and salamanders) are very like the amphibians which first developed themselves out of fishes. So, too, the later ancestors of man, the Monotremata and Marsupials, the most ancient mammals, are at the same time the most imperfect animals of the class which still exist. The laws of inheritance and adaptation known to us are completely sufficient to explain this exceedingly important and interesting phenomenon, which may be briefly designated as the *parallelism of individual, of palæontological, and of systematic development*, and of their respective *progress* and *differentiation*. No opponent of the Theory of Descent has been able to give an explanation of this extremely wonderful fact, whereas it is perfectly explained, according to the Theory of Descent, by the laws of Inheritance and Adaptation.

If we examine this parallelism of the three organic series of development more accurately, we have to add the following special distinctions. *Ontogeny*, or the history of the individual development of every organism (embryology and metamorphology), presents us with a simple *unbranching* or graduated chain of forms; and so it is with that *portion of phylogeny* which comprises the palæontological history of development of the *direct ancestors* of every individual organism. But *the whole of phylogeny*—which meets us in the *natural system* of every organic tribe or phylum, and which is concerned with the investigation of the palæontological development *of all* the branches of