

this tribe—forms a *branching* or tree-shaped developmental series, a veritable pedigree. If we examine and compare the branches of this pedigree, and place them together according to the degree of their differentiation and perfection, we obtain the tree-shaped, branching, *systematic developmental series of comparative anatomy*. Strictly speaking, therefore, the latter is parallel only to a portion of *the whole of phylogeny*, and consequently only partially parallel to ontogeny; for ontogeny itself is parallel only to *a portion* of phylogeny.

Of late years it has been a much-disputed point which of the three great series of development is of most importance to transformism and for our knowledge of the primary relationships. This dispute is superfluous; for, as a rule, all three are of equal value; in individual cases, however, the phylogenetic investigator will have to examine every special case critically to ascertain whether he is to set greater value on the facts of palæontology, of ontogeny, or of comparative anatomy.

All the phenomena of organic development above discussed, especially the threefold genealogical parallelism, and the laws of differentiation and progress, which are evident in each of these three series of organic development, are exceedingly important proofs of the truth of the Theory of Descent. For by it alone can they be explained, whereas its opponents cannot even offer a shadow of an explanation of them. Without the Doctrine of Filiation, the fact of organic development in general cannot be understood. We should, therefore, for this reason alone, be forced to accept Lamarck's Theory of Descent, even if we did not possess Darwin's Theory of Selection.