

But we would retire to our own deserted islands with the accumulated knowledge of thousands of years, so far as we have acquired it, at our disposal. And we would in a few days once again start doing things—manufacturing fish-hooks, and trying to make better ones; spearing fish; studying the subject of flotation, and making and then improving our boats; the only hope would lie in the fact that if the islands were really deserted, our discoveries would die with us. In a short time the one-time student might be spurred on to make a trustworthy vessel to take him to an island which was not *quite* so deserted; and we might be regretting that we could not listen-in to a ball-by-ball description of a test match, accompanied by a bottle of something iced from the electric refrigerator.

We have always been studying and applying science; we always will. There is no doubt that this study has given us great possibilities of increased health, happiness, and comfort, if we care to use its discoveries rationally, and do not employ them to kill one another or cause unhappiness.

The kitten has not grown into a tiger; the scientist is still as useful and faithful a servant of mankind as ever he was, and probably just as disinterested. It is the intelligent person who misuses or exploits wrongly the discoveries of the scientist who is and has been the menace or nuisance, and requires to be dealt with severely. When the cat kills a rat, encourage it with a pat and some cream; when your small boy, then, places the dead rat in your bed, don't spank the cat.

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### THE EARLY HOME OF MAN.

Most people are familiar with the general ideas underlying the theory of evolution, and acknowledge that, judging by the evidence available, unsatisfactory though it may be, there sprang in successive periods from the common primate stock branches which today are recognised in the new world monkeys, the old world monkeys, apes, and men.

There have apparently been many attempts in the development of man before *homo sapiens* came on the scene and developed to the stage that is us, modern man. Those earlier types have gone, are extinct.

Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, a distinguished anthropologist, in a recent lecture considered the evidence as to where man had first evolved and differentiated himself from the ape stock of today. He considers that the best proposition yet put forward is that man arose in Central Asia from ground apes driven from their forests by the upheavals of the Himalayas.

"Men" had come and "men" had gone, and the *homo sapiens* stage had been reached long before the crossing to Australia from Asia was made by the forefathers of our aborigines; we can make no claim at all, on account of the geological age of our continent, to have been the cradle of the human race.

Sir Arthur Woodward considers that the discoveries of fossil mammals in the caves of Palestine and of Syria show that Asia and North Africa were much more closely connected during the earlier half of the Pleistocene period than they since have been, and that a similarity between the remains of Pleistocene mammals of Africa and Europe is probably due to the fact that they also have a common source in Asia.