

ARE WE GROWING WINGS?

A student has sent us the following clipping from the *Kansas City Post* and we feel that it deserves some comment; it is interesting as being in line with the Rosicrucian Teachings on certain points.

War has completed man's conquest of the air.

This has brought to the fore a scientific theory that man may some day fly with his own wings, without the aid of machines.

This would be the logical last step in the age-old dream of conquering the air.

May science so manipulate the human embryo as to recreate the power of flight possessed by his amphibian progenitors in the evolutionary story of creation?

At least one distinguished scientist believes this fantastic conception not at all impossible.

He is Dr. George C. Shinji, Japanese biologist for years connected with the University of Missouri and now carrying on an amazing set of experiments for the University of California.

Having already demonstrated in thousands of cases that the growth or absence of wings in insects may be positively determined, he cites man's common belief in winged angels as a logical support for the theory that he, too, may thus navigate the skies.

In more than 10,000 experiments with rose aphids, or green plant lice, Dr. Shinji has been able to produce winged or non-winged insects through a process of feeding after the incubation period.

If the aphid is given alcohol, vinegar, baking powder, or the salts of alkali, it becomes a wingless creature.

By feeding the same embryo on Epsom salts, sugar, or magnesium, it invariably develops a pair of robust wings

"In the same manner," says Dr. Shinji, "fish and certain fowls have been varied to winged or wingless species."

"My experiments with aphids, as well as those of Prof. W. T. Clarke and Mr. J. D. Neills, have absolutely proven that the growth of wings depends upon the kind of food supplied to the insect within a certain period after birth.

"Our experiments, while more or less elemental, indicate that the same process may be applied to higher forms of life with similar results, and I see no reason why they can't be carried up the scale even to the human being."

Myth and accepted story of evolutionary creation are curiously harmonious in lending validity to Dr. Shinji's startling predictions.

There was Icarus, of Greek legend, who, aspiring to soar the skies, constructed a pair of wings and attached them to his shoulders with wax. Putting their yearning and despair of conquering the ether into this Icarian adventure, they said he fell when the sun melted the wax.

There is the common type dream of flying, which almost every young person has in various forms. A dim memory, science says, of antediluvian days when the progenitors of man breasted the winds.

There is the amazing adventure of the men who fought the sky battles during this war—men whose instinct for soaring and balance seemed far to exceed any mere technical training.

And there is the biological presumption, based on the fact that every human has in his body rudiments of organs formerly used but now atrophied through eons of disuse.

Perhaps, speculate Shinji and other biologists, there is some rudiment of human wing that may develop when the secret shall have been fully revealed.

“At any rate,” asserts the Japanese investigator, “if new plants can be developed by scientific crossing of species, and animal life can be directed by feeding and selection, it is far from absurd to believe that these same processes can be applied to the highest forms of animal life.

“Wings for man—why not? Perhaps he will some day be able to fly without the use of planes.”

There are, as said, several interesting points in this article. First, we may note that Dr. Shinji states that when he gave the aphids with which he experimented, alcohol, they developed into wingless creatures, doomed to drag themselves laboriously over the surface of the earth, but when they were fed on sugar they grew wings wherewith to soar the sky. In our *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, and elsewhere, we have shown how flesh foods and alcohol were introduced into the human dietary by the divine hierarchs who guide our evolution for the precise purpose of destroying our spiritual vision and powers, and to make us forget our divine descent, so that we would apply ourselves to learn the lessons of the material world with our whole heart and soul. As bondsmen of Bacchus we have become of the earth, earthy to a greater degree than contemplated, and it is a difficult task to raise us out of the mire of materialism now that the time is drawing near for us to retrieve our loss and develop finer faculties and greater powers than those we possessed in bygone ages.

We have stated that sugar is the new food which will conquer alcohol and aid us in cultivating the individuality sacrificed to the god of the grape, who has so long enslaved the spirit of man by the spirit of wine, which is fermented outside the human body; hence, a strange spirit, inimical to man. The spirit of sugar, on the other hand, is subject to the human spirit in whose body domain it is fermented, and therefore we have said that sugar is a safe stimulant and source of strength. It has been amply demonstrated in recent years that sugar takes the place of spirits as a stimulant but has none of the bad effects of liquor; hence it is coming into more general use year after year.

It is also demonstrable that the nations that use the largest amount of sugar per capita are the most altruistic and advanced. Sugar is decomposing the fetters of materialism and making us more inclined towards idealism and spirituality. Thus the gross and coarse elements of the physical body are disappearing. We are becoming more refined, and the ethers that permeate the dense body are freer to vibrate. This renders us more sensitive to psychic vibrations and paves the way for liberation of the soul body, composed of the two higher ethers. When that point is reached, man can and does fly, for this finer body is not subject to gravitation, neither is it sensitive to cold or heat. We shall feel perfectly comfortable whether we elect to fly to the North Pole, or descend into the crater of a volcano, or explore the mysteries of the ocean depths. Then the speed of an aeroplane will also seem like a snail's pace, for the spirit then moves with the speed of electricity; that is to say, it can circle the globe in a minute or less; nor can it be hurt by collision, for etheric forms pass through one another readily without losing consciousness or identity. This will probably sound like a fairy tale to the uninformed, but it is an absolute fact, tested and tried by thousands of level-headed people every day for many years, and the

number is fast increasing, so that we may expect any day to see it established as a so-called "scientific fact" that man can and does fly faster without wings than he does now with the aeroplane. "The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof, but knoweth not whence it cometh or whither it goeth. So is everyone that is born of the spirit."