



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## WHAT IS AN ANIMAL ?

EDITOR OF THE "SCHOOL REVIEW."

Recently, while teaching biology in a secondary school, I received some rather curious answers to the question,—“What is your idea of an animal?”—a question I put to the class at the time of the first meeting. They all showed a decided uncertainty as to the scope of the term “animal,” a tendency not uncommon in older people. For I remember a person once insisting, referring to lobsters, star-fish, clams, and the like, that “they were not animals, they were *fishes*. Some of the answers received are almost equal in originality to, and are perhaps fully as scientific as the famous old definition of man, “a two-legged animal without feathers.”

For example take these. How far from gratifying the logical conclusion! “An animal is a beast.” “An animal is a human being.” In the next we have suggested the theory of degeneration. It states that “an animal is an inferior species of man.”

The following need no comment :

“An animal is a living creature having hands or feet or both.”

“An animal is a creature having four limbs and *a complete anatomy*.”

“An animal is a combination of flesh and bones *and is supposed to be an inhabitant of the earth*.”

“An animal is something with four feet and *possesses a brain of no consequence*.”

“An animal is a living creature that is not stationary. Something that has to hunt for its food.”

Here is one that is especially curious. Is not the doctrine of theosophy involved? “An animal, in my idea, is considered only a different specimen of humanity, different from persons in that it is dumb and differently shaped.”

Here are two others: “An animal is a thing with life, that is larger than an insect and is not human.” “An animal is an object having life, movement and intelligence. Nearly all have seven senses, tasting, feeling, smelling, seeing, hearing, common sense and nonsense.” Finally this one: “An animal is a being created with life belonging to the animal kingdom.” Who would say that this was wrong?

F. COLBY-LUCAS