

## INHERITANCE OF ACQUIRED CHARACTER

### LAMARCK'S THEORY OF ORGANIC EVOLUTION.

Jean Baptiste De Lamarck (1809) a french biologist postulated the theory of inheritance of acquired characters. It was based on the idea that changes acquired or developed by the individuals during their life time are transmitted to their offspring. This means that the changes in the climatic conditions affects the habit, habitata and life processes and therefore the structure of the organisms. For better living organisms need to change and adapt themselves to the changing environmental conditions, therefore they acquire new habits. Accordingly in response to the change in habit certain organs becomes useless with no function. Therefore these gradually disappear. Instead the efficiency of certain other organs is increased due to regular use and they increase in size. Also some of the new organs are initiated. All these reduction and increases in the size of organs are inherited from parents to offspring. The continuous effect of the climatic changes results in the formation of organisms with new characteristics.

FEATURES OF LAMARCKISM : The following are the salient features of Lamarckism :

(1) ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS : - The environmental influences on living organism reside influences