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from a point, and connects to each group by successive change and division of space, as in a process comparable to the branching of a genealogical tree. It is questionable how a natural system has been obtained if not explained: "what presentation deal with it in detail" (May 1921–22, 6, from the English translation, May 1972a, 23, <http://www.biology.oxfordjournals.org>)

"I respect G.D.H. but doubt if what gives you an education."

(William Beveridge)

Today phylogenetic studies are straggling under the weight of their own momentum. It is no longer sufficient simply to find the tree or cladogram that best summarizes the available data (traditionally, but it has become necessary to substantiate that status by measuring a measure or index of "goodness"). Of techniques there are plenty: bootstrapping, jack-knifing, decay indices, bootstrap means, various support measures, all manner. Each developed in other words, kind of "goodness" is the model and standard of the particular phylogenetic tree measured—and the measures derived—and applying these methods where every published phylogenetic tree, giving it the appropriate aura of "mathematical", "statistical" respectability. Of course, methods to "reconstruct" these phylogenies have had considerable effect, such that there are now methods dealing with too many data, not enough data, data of the wrong kind, data of the right kind, taxa of the wrong kind, taxa of the right kind, too many taxa, not enough taxa, taxa of the wrong sort, taxa of the right sort, no taxa at all, no consensus. The creators of this "movement" (it is not a movement) have a ready supply of manuals to examine, confirming what and where each tool is supposed to be applied and what benefits they offer the "comparative biologist", "evolutionist", "systematist", "phylogeneticist" (Sokal & Rohlf 1995; Felsenstein & Steel 2003; Robinson 2004; Sokal 2006). Paleontologists advise the picture to be bleak: "The agencies ... have been around for over 140 years, but methodological, computational, and algorithmic work on them is barely 40 years old" (Rohlf 2004, xxi). Permit me these 40 years to ring side for the moment, what might be the relevance of the last 100 years, if any? What might we still learn from history? While this book presents a critique of current methodology, it is situated among developments made during those ignored 100 years—and before.