

## ETHICS AND BIOLOGY: THE DARWINIAN REVOLUTION

The Darwinian revolution, which transformed all of the biological and sociological disciplines, exerted a profound effect on ethics. It reoriented in from idealism and dogmatism to biologism (a variety of materialism) and empiricism. This biologicistic <sup>and empiricist</sup> reorientation of ethics was not contained within the borders of Western Europe but reached remote countries such as Argentina. Thus my father Augusto (1915) and his brother Carlos Octavio (1919) conceived of the moral law as being primarily "the vital imperative", and dreamed of a scientific ethics, while their common friend Ingenieros (1917) sketched a "functional morality" without dogmas. All three stressed the mutability of morality in the course of history but, whereas my uncle leaned towards social Darwinism, his brother and Ingenieros saw ~~in~~ socialism <sup>at</sup> the end of the dark moral tunnel. Interestingly enough, both Ingenieros and

my father imagined a moral revolution that would not only liberate man from dogma (particularly Christian dogma) but would reinforce social solidarity. This social dimension was of course alien to the Stoic morality, which on the other hand enjoined<sup>o</sup><sub>^</sub> people to live according to nature.