

Isotopical

In that future world the cockroaches
likely grow larger. Mice and other furry
creatures develop strange growths
at early ages, die prematurely—not,
however, before giving birth to another
generation of deformed offspring.
The same could be true for those
who wear feathers, though
eggshells may some years before
have already become too thin, or
too thick, to give birth at all.

Thus some species disappear,
even whole groups of organisms.
But there is compensation
because the rate of mutation—which
constitutes the wellspring of speciation—
is greater than ever causing new varieties
to arise more frequently.

Still we, the human beings, are
unique as our offspring, aware
of the history, are able to imagine
that it might have been different.
And some will imagine, daily, when—
following the pollen count
on the weather forecast—they listen
to a report about current levels
of various isotopes in the atmosphere.

Steve Bloom
April 2010