

SCIENCE

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.*

ADDRESS TO THE ZOOLOGICAL SECTION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECTION.

A VERY brief study of the proceedings of this Section in bygone years will show that Presidents have exercised a very wide choice in the selection of subjects. At the last meeting of the Association in this city, in 1870, the Biological Section had as its President the late Prof. Rolleston, a man whose remarkable personality made a deep impression upon all who came under his influence, as I have the strongest reason for remembering, inasmuch as he was my first teacher in zoology, and I attended his lectures when but little over seventeen. His address was most characteristic, glancing over a great variety of subjects, literary as well as scientific, and abounding in quotations from several languages, living and dead. A very different style of address was that delivered by the distinguished zoologist who presided over the meeting. Prof. Huxley took as his subject 'The History of the Rise and Progress of a Single Biological Doctrine.'

Of these two types I selected the latter as my example, and especially desired to attempt the discussion, however inadequate, of some difficulty which confronts the zoologist at the very outset, when he begins to reason from the facts around him

* Liverpool, 1896.