

# SCIENCE

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## ON RECENT PROGRESS TOWARD THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS IN HYDRODYNAMICS.

IN this paper I shall not attempt to give an exhaustive account of the progress which has been made in hydrodynamics of recent years. Such an account, though possibly useful for purposes of reference, would be tedious and unsuitable for reading before an audience. I shall, therefore, try to give some idea of the general lines on which research has been carried on, laying stress on the more important discoveries and avoiding, as far as possible, mere technical details.

The choice of the period to be selected is not difficult. In 1846 Professor Stokes presented a report on the condition of hydrodynamics at that time, and this was continued by Professor Hicks in 1881–1882. Both these papers are printed in the reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In the *Mathematische Annalen* for 1887 Mr. A. E. H. Love gave a summary of our knowledge of Vortex Motion, and Hicks practically carried this to the present day in his presidential address before Section A of the British Association in 1896. Professor Darwin's article on Tides in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* carries our knowledge of that subject to 1888. Hence I shall take the progress made in the general subject since 1882; the work on Tides will be taken from 1888