

# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS.

*The Work of Hugo de Vries and its Importance in the Study of Problems of Evolution.* DR. T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN..... 681

### Scientific Books:—

*Les tremblements de terre:* DR. C. E. DUTTON. *Houston's Electricity in Every-day Life:* DR. SAMUEL SHELDON. *Woods's Mental and Moral Heredity in Royalty:* PROFESSOR EDWARD L. THORNDIKE..... 691

*Scientific Journals and Articles.....* 694

### Societies and Academies:—

*The Geological Society of Washington:* DR. ARTHUR C. SPENCER. *The Torrey Botanical Club:* DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE. *The St. Louis Chemical Society:* C. J. BORGMAYER. 695

### Discussion and Correspondence:—

*A Plan to ensure the Designation of Generic Types:* DR. CH. WARDELL STILES. *Certain Plant Species in their Relation to the Mutation Theory:* WITMER STONE. *Isolation by Choice:* DR. ALFRED C. LANE. *Larval Conger Eels on the Long Island Coast:* L. S. QUACKENBUSH. *Should Our Colleges establish Summer Schools?* DR. ALFRED GOLDSBOROUGH MAYER. *On the Origin of the Small Mounds of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Texas:* DR. ROBT. T. HILL. 700

### Special Articles:—

*The Availability of Celluloid in Illustrating Chromatic Polarization:* LULU B. JOSLIN. *Amœba Blattæ and Amoeboid Motion:* DR. JOHN H. GEROULD. *A Culture Medium for the Zygosporæ of Mucor Stolonifer:* PROFESSOR J. I. HAMAKER. *The Effect of Fertilizers on the Reaction of Soils:* F. P. VEITCH. *Carbonated Milk:* L. L. VAN SLYKE and A. W. BOSWORTH..... 706

### Notes on Organic Chemistry:—

*Preparation of Pure Ethyl Alcohol by Means of Metallic Calcium; Notes on Esterification:* DR. J. BISHOP TINGLE..... 712

### Current Notes on Meteorology:—

*Monthly Weather Review:* PROFESSOR R. DEC. WARD..... 714

*Report of the Advisory Board of the Wistar Institute .....* 715

*The Earthquake at Stanford University.....* 716

*Scientific Notes and News.....* 717

*University and Educational News.....* 720

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

## THE WORK OF HUGO DE VRIES AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE STUDY OF PROBLEMS OF EVOLUTION.<sup>1</sup>

As Professor Osborn, in his 'From the Greeks to Darwin,' has given an account of the development of the theory of evolution in Europe, there is no necessity for me to repeat its history. However, I should like to remark in passing, that the speculations of the oriental philosophers, especially the early Hindoos, have not received in the occident the attention due them, and to express the hope that some scholar will present to us of the occident the results of the thinking of the eastern sages on these problems.

That existing species of animals and plants have been derived from preceding species by natural processes is now universally believed by biologists. The man most potent in establishing this belief on a firm foundation was Darwin. Here it is unnecessary to do more than allude to his doctrine of the struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest by means of natural selection. Although I shall not present the data that he accumulated, I desire

<sup>1</sup> An address delivered before the Biological Society of Washington, on February 3, 1906.