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THE WORK OF HUGO DE VRIES AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE STUDY OF PROBLEMS OF EVOLUTION.

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

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