Friday, May 4, 1906.

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 Everyday 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:—

Discussion and Correspondence:—

Special Articles:—

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.

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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