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SKETCH OF HUXLEY.

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As a boy, Huxley had a strong desire to become a mechanical engineer, but this youthful wish was not to be realized, notwithstanding the peculiar aptitude he showed for solving mechanical problems. Force of circumstances led him to the medical profession, where, for a time, he studied in an aimless, indefinite way. In his altogether too meagre autobiography he says that for some years his time and mind were occupied in desultory reading, and it was not till he came in personal contact with Wharton Jones at Charing Cross Hospital that he realized his own powers. He decided at that time to be a biologist—a physiologist, if possible. But the two foremost men in physiology of that time had studied that branch of science from sheer love of it, and were obliged to earn a bare living in ophthalmic surgery.

So Huxley turned his mind to morphology for the present, and fortunately for the world of science that he did so. His contemporaries were good observers but rash speculators, and it fell to Huxley to eliminate speculation, in his endeavor to bring morphology in line with the advance of the other exact sciences.