The first who seems to have fully grasped the Darwinian problem from this point of view is Mr Francis Galton,[1] who in a series of papers, and notably in his well-known works on 'Hereditary Genius' (1869) and on 'Inheritance' (1889), made a beginning in the statistical treatment of the phenomena of Variation. The novel point of view which was thus introduced into natural science was perhaps somewhat obscured by its immediate application to a most difficult and unique problem, which can hardly be discussed without importing what may be called a sentimental bias. This was the question of the connection through descent of those rare occurrences in human nature which we term genius. Mental phenomena had been almost entirely passed over[2] by Darwin. The results which Mr Galton arrives at, so far as the phenomena of genius are concerned, are of minor importance compared with the general methods which he introduced or suggested for dealing with statistics of heredity. In these he combined the ideas of Quetelet with that remarkable

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Galton.

[1] Mr Francis Galton (born 1822, a grandson of Erasmus Darwin) had, like his celebrated cousin, begun his career as a medical student, and then become a well-known traveller and explorer. Subsequently he devoted himself to meteorology, where he drew attention to the existence and theory of anti-cyclones. His first publication, referring not to physical but to human statistics, appeared in 'Macmillan's Magazine' in 1865, in the shape of two articles on "Hereditary Talent and Character." Here he introduced the "theory of hereditary genius," which was "usually scouted." He rightly claims "to be the first to treat the subject in a statistical manner, to arrive at numerical results, and to introduce the 'law of deviation from an average' into discussions on heredity" (Preface to 'Hereditary Genius,' published one year after Darwin's great work in which was put forward the hypothesis of Pangenesis).

[2] As stated by Darwin himself. See 'Animals and Plants under Domestication' (1868), vol. ii. p. 353.