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The year 1885 was an important year for approximation theory, for in that year Weierstrass and Runge announced well-known approximation theorems bearing their names. It is the 1885 theorem of Weierstrass, asserting the density of polynomials in the real variable in the Banach space $C[a, b]$ where $[a, b]$ is a closed interval, that will concern us in this review. Since then several important extensions of the theorem have been obtained by De la Vallé Poussin **[17]**, Bernstein **[5]**, Stone **[15]**, and Whitney **[18]** and others, by stressing one aspect or another of the classical