

of a German psychological society asked him earnestly by letter for a photograph of himself, and some time afterwards he received the Proceedings of one of the meetings, in which it appeared that, after public discussion of the shape of his head, one of the speakers had said that he had the bump of reverence developed enough for ten priests. He passed well in the poll, and obtained his first taste for scientific work from friendly personal intercourse with Henslow, the botanist, and Sedgwick, the geologist. He was appointed through Henslow's instrumentality naturalist to the *Beagle* in 1831, and was away from England for nearly five years, his impressions being recorded in "A Naturalist's Voyage round the World." In this work the dawn of his future labours is sufficiently apparent. A few years after his return from this voyage, in the course of which his health became much impaired, he settled at Down, where with his wife and family he remained till death closed the scene on April 19th, 1882. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, accompanied to the grave by many of his oldest friends, and by a large number of interested and mourning spectators.

A point that is particularly worthy of notice in Darwin's life is the relatively short period of the day he devoted to actual work. His son states that after breakfasting alone at about 7.45 he went to work at once, considering the hour and a half between 8 and 9.30 one of his best working times. An interruption for an hour followed, and then he set to work again from 10.30 to 12, by which time he considered his day's work over. The rest of the day was spent in brief exercise, and in having novels, history, and travels read aloud to him. Indeed, novels seem to have had a strong attraction for him, probably affording relaxation of the mind from the tension of severe thought.

Letters, as a rule, are dull reading, if only from their interrupted disconnected character; but we can assure our readers that Darwin's letters are exceptionally interesting. They show the whole process of development of his great theory; how earnestly he brooded over the subject; in how many aspects he viewed it; how desirous he was to obtain information on all points that might serve to illustrate or correct it; how fearful he was that he should weary his most intimate friends, Lyell, Hooker, and Henslow, by constantly reverting to it. They show his naturally lively disposition and his thorough perception of *fan—as*, for example, this postscript in a letter to Lyell "Our ancestor was an animal which breathed water, had a swim bladder, a great swimming tail, an imperfect skull, and undoubtedly was a hermaphrodite. Here is a pleasant genealogy for mankind!" They show at the same time the truth of Bacon's aphorism that reading makes a full man, writing an exact man, and speaking a ready man. Darwin both read and wrote much, but he on several occasions expresses his gratitude to others who replied to criticisms, declaring that they had used arguments he had forgotten, though he had forged them, and that, as in the case of Asa Gray, they knew his works better than he did himself. He did well to keep away from meetings of societies, where his temper and health would alike have been impaired; his adversaries might here have obtained a temporary victory, and he would have deprived himself of the immense advantage of submitting all adverse arguments to the calm and cold consideration of the study, where he could summon up a thousand facts to controvert the views of his opponents or to support his own.

The great work on the "Origin of Species," on which his fame mainly rests, appeared on Nov. 24th, 1859. The number of copies printed was 1250, and all were sold on the first day, when an edition of 3000 was immediately prepared. Copies were sent to Hooker, Lyell, Huxley, Wallace, Agassiz, and many other leading men, and his letters to them and their replies to him are full of interest. More than one of his friends, whilst passing high eulogiums on the manner in

which he had treated his subject, warned him of the storm of criticism that was in store for him. The storm came. The book was greeted in many quarters with an outburst of wrath, scorn, and indignation, which he evidently felt, but bore up manfully against. At this time it was almost impossible for anyone who was thought likely, either by his independence of thought or by his eccentricity, to accept the new theory, to meet his friends at dinner or other social gathering without being asked whether he believed in this new-fangled nonsense, or whether he had made up his mind from what animal he was descended. To those who can recall this period, the change in the public mind which has resulted from the toning effects of familiarity and the influence of authority is very remarkable as well as encouraging.

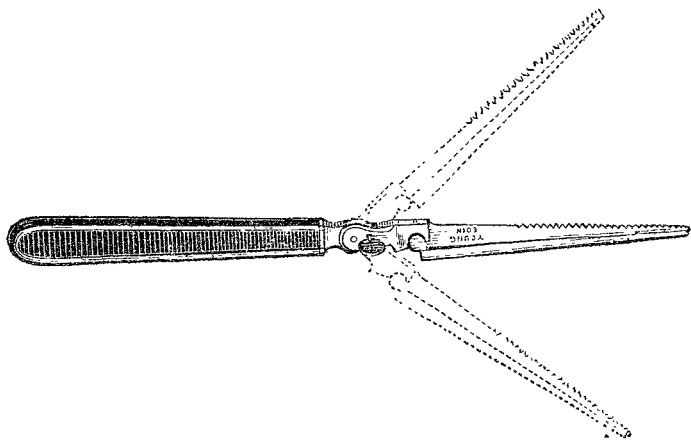
The life of Darwin shows how much may be accomplished by a man of fair but not extraordinary talents, when these are supplemented by great industry and earnest study in some one direction, and the lesson thus taught is within the power of most if not all men to practise. We recommend Mr. Darwin's life of his father to all our readers, and cordially compliment him on the way in which he has fulfilled the task that naturally devolved upon him.

Burroughs' Medical Diary.—We have received a copy of Burroughs' Medical Diary for the coming year, and are able to speak highly of its merits. Convenient in size, well bound, and containing information of special interest to members of the medical profession, it deserves and will doubtless have a large sale. Its appearance is late, and owing to this circumstance its proprietors have decided to make a large reduction from the price originally proposed.

New Inventions.

REVERSIBLE NASAL SAW.

THIS instrument has been designed for the removal of cartilaginous and bony obstructions in the nasal passages. The advantages it possesses are: fineness of the blade, and, by means of a screw at the junction of the blade and the handle, a reversibility which enables the operator to work from above or from below, or at any angle that may be



necessary. The serrated edge extends along from one-half to two-thirds of the blade, so as to avoid injuring the skin at the entrance to the nares. I have hitherto had two sizes made—one for fine, the other for coarser work. The maker is Mr. Young, Forrest-road, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh.

G. HUNTER MACKENZIE.

ST. DALMAS HOSPITAL STRAPPING.

MR. DE ST. DALMAS has submitted to us a sample of his hospital strapping. It is spread on good stout "holland," is very adhesive, and appears to fulfil all the necessary conditions. The plaster is stated to be entirely free from resin, and to be unirritating.