

Erasmus Darwin's Philosophy of the Human Mind.
Erasmus Darwin. By Ernst Krause. With
Preliminary Notice by Charles Darwin.
London: John Murray.

"In the February number, 1879, of a well-known German scientific journal, *Krause*, Ernst Krause published a sketch of Erasmus Darwin, the author of 'Zoonomia,' 'Human Gardens,' and other works. This article has the merit of a contribution to the history of the descent theory, and Dr Krause has kindly allowed my brother Erasmus and myself to have a translation made of it for publication in this country." The sketch of the grandfather's scientific labours, of which the present notice is a translation, is in every respect admirably done; but, read along with the preliminary notice by Charles Darwin, we have the "philosophical, poetical, physician, naturalist, philosopher, and poet" of last century before us, as we wish, which leaves nothing to be desired. When Dr Krause treats of the scientific side of Erasmus Darwin's career, we have in the grandfather's notice a filling up which will be marvelled not only at the many-sidedness of the distinguished Doctor of a hundred years ago, and the wonderful "progressive" character of his almost to divination, that he displayed in the domain of biology," we are struck with the wonderful likeness, in every respect, between him and the illustrious biologist of the present day. Looked at in the light of Dr Krause's sketch and Charles Darwin's notice, old Erasmus stands hand and shoulder over the scientific men of his time. We are not surprised that, when a distinguished German endeavoured to make his countryman acquainted with one of England's great men of a bygone age, his grandsons, availing themselves of that sketch, and supplementing it from materials at their disposal, desired that his own countrymen of the present day should also be reminded of him, and his works. We doubt not the reading public will fully appreciate the service done by the German author, and Charles Darwin in the volume under notice, for if the Darwin of the present day has made his mark, the Darwin of last century made his also in a not less conspicuous and remarkable way. We commend the volume heartily. C. D. M.

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