

Some recent scientific works which have been issued from the press deserve just a passing comment from my pen. First and foremost, I suppose, should be Darwin's new book on the movements of plants, but although this has caused a stir, probably it will not be found so wonderful as some earlier volumes from the same writer. I may just say that the chief "movement" to which Dr. Darwin refers is that of "circumnutation," in which he shows how highly sensitive to external influences is the growing tip of the roots of plants. The botanist who reads this treatise thoughtfully will come to the conclusion that it is a very remarkable proof of the research and knowledge of the present era. "Insect Variety" is a book that will repay even a casual reader, while the entomologist will find much in it ~~absolutely~~ absolutely new and startling. The author of it exhibits great learning and must have had a wide range of reading and observation. "Plant Life" is an unpretending volume, but it has much that will help to enlighten the amateur collector, and its style is such as will be sure to rivet the attention. There are chapters upon the microscopic plants, fertilization, remarkable plants, mosses, etc.; all of which are abundantly and well illustrated, and prove that the matter has emanated from a reliable source. "Steam, and the Steam Engine" is the title of a work by Henry Evans, LL.D., and is a new and revised edition of one of Collins' series. It deals with all kinds of steam engines, and in a comprehensive way explains the latest improvements in this branch of mechanical science. E. CLIFFORD.