

WEeping.—Mr. Darwin, in his new book about the expression of our emotions, treats of weeping at considerable length. Infants, he says, do not shed tears until they are about four months old. "It would appear as if the lacrymal glands required some practice in the individual before they are easily excited into action, in somewhat the same manner as various inherited consensual movements and tastes require some exercise before they are fixed and perfected. This is all the more likely with a habit like weeping, which must have been acquired since the period when man branched off from the common progenitor of the genus Homo, and of the non-weeping anthropomorphous apes." With reference to sobbing, he says,—“The respiratory movements are partly voluntary and partly involuntary, and I apprehend that sobbing is at least in part due to children having some power to command, after early infancy, their vocal organs, and to stop their screams, but from having less power over their respiratory muscles, these continue for a time to act in an involuntary or spasmodic manner, after having been brought into violent action.”