

# THE DAILY NEWS,

JUNE 20, 1870.

OUR excellent scientific contemporary, *Nature*, makes a statement which does great credit to the University of Oxford. Among the distinguished men to whom it has paid the tribute of its honorary degree, it has proposed to include at the approaching Commemoration the illustrious naturalist, Mr. DARWIN. Unfortunately, the failing health of that eminent man has compelled him to decline the compliment. Mr. DARWIN has had to run the gauntlet of much sciolistic prejudice. It is now universally acknowledged that his theory is as compatible with a true Theism as any of the counter-hypotheses which preceded it or have been set up in rivalry to it. Whether, in its full scope, it is destined to be established as a law, holding in Natural History the same place which the great discovery of NEWTON holds in Physics, no one can say. Mr. DARWIN himself does not pretend that to this extent his case has yet been made out. But there can be no doubt that it is one of the greatest interpretative hypotheses which have contributed to the advance of science. In giving a clue to research, and affording a thread for the colligation of facts, it has directed and systematised observation and thought in almost every department of knowledge. It ranks among the great and productive intellectual achievements of science. Mr. DARWIN'S patient and unwearied investigations, his reach of knowledge, his capacity of minute accuracy and large generalisation, his single desire for truth, his calm and unruffled temper, and his generous appreciation of the labours of other men, make him a type of the philosophic temper to which opponents not less than disciples may naturally be eager to do honour.