Darwin in the Drawing-room.

It is almost a gift, for some reasons for which the author might not care much, that Mr. Darwin's new work has come to us with the London season. His treatises are universally read, but his works are more interesting than novels, and his books are, in fact, as much requested at the circulating libraries as the requisites in the pocket of a gentleman. We are not able to talk a little on the descent of man, and, although the peculiar philosophy of the origin of species might be too much for them, they converse at dinner, the men at the top of society, with the doctrine of the theory in their heads for conversational use. It is after all only natural that so universal a concern should be experienced about the productions of a man so much in the public eye, as Darwin is in every- viewing his views. Society picked up its ears literally when it was informed that we have a renaissance of our natural history of existence in certain formations of remote epochs; the subject every day is being told of the connection between the nectar- tating sensation and a similar movement constantly indulged in by Jacko. But we imagine the new work on expression must be still more attractive to polite circles. Here, for instance, we are instructed in the profound doctrines of The Sulk, considered from the stoic and meek point of view; and the history of the expression, which is which, is hitherto regarded. It may be well said we knew not indeed what we did when we posted. Our gestures for a boot-jack or the glance may cruelly tell an author who possesses a touch of the alligator about it; our vision be suggestive to a Darwinian student of the laughing jackal. And then to mothers what beards and nostril movements of speculation are opened by Mr. Darwin's contribution to our stock of knowledge. The various shades of expression on the countenance of a baby man is commonly familiar to the famous nod of Lord Burleigh. The old myth that when a child smiled in its cradle asleep an angel was whispering to it is more ruthlessly upset by the famous opus, man was considered to be a laughing nurse, who attributed smiling in the cradle to infantile dyspepsia. And then the playfulness of our young people and their connexions and unconscious smiles are fully discussed. The author has not merely pleased at, should now remind us of the habit of cube and whope. Why will some individuals insist on show- ing their teeth? And are we acquainted with the fall historical steps by which the expression of the smile acquired the meaning we perceive in Mr. Darwin's book how astonishingly ignorant we are on these matters. We may, indeed, assume that we comprehend them on the surface, but we are still at a loss to explain the meaning, the "smile shoulder" now flourishing, if such a phrase may be employed in a London drawing-room, was cultivated ages upon ages back in the forest.

We are not, as it may be perceived, treating Mr. Darwin's volume seriously. It is beyond question that to thousands of readers it will appear in a somewhat absurd light, and so far we confess we believe no harm can be done by it. But a little learning, especially a very little, is a danger- ous thing, and drawing-room Darwinian occasionally declaiming generals into materialists is a contemptible instead of a comic description. For this the author of the "Origin of Species" is not perhaps responsible. If persons unintellectually or intellectuellement perceive them, he cannot help their case. But we might not enter thus early a mild protest against Darwin at dinner and Darwin at tea? It is now the rage among the people in general, and among the people in general, the same fact that a quality book is a useful book, and a wonderful book is made of it when its facts and theories are imperfectly recollected and incompletely stated. Its, after all, easily understood, a doctrine to prove that, as the Master of the Freemasons, the notions of Sir Charles Bell. We dare not say what ladies ought to read or ought not to read on this subject, but we may venture to hint that they should read Mr. Darwin's book, as long as Darwin is to be a boudoir favourite, so ought his oppo- nent. Both sides should have a hearing. Under such circumstances a universal course of anatomy and physiology is, besides, an acquaintance with these studies the termino- logical of Mr. Darwin must often appear obscure.