Mr. Darwin's Last Book—His Experiments and Discoveries on "Flower Traps."—The London publisher, Mr. John Murray, has just brought out a work by Charles Darwin, entitled "Flower Traps," in which he has recently published several of his investigations on this subject, which is just at present attracting a large share of attention in the scientific world. Mr. Darwin's views and experiments are entirely novel, and are based on the account of his position at the Royal University of Gottingen. In this new work his thorough method of investigation appears to have resulted in excellent advantage.

The number of insectivorous plants is not very large, and more than one-half of Mr. Darwin's new volume is taken up with an account of his experiments upon some species of the Drosera, the "Drosera rotundifolia," or common snap Dragon. During the summer of 1838 Mr. Darwin states that he was surprised by finding how large a number of insects were caught by the leaves of these plants growing upon a heath in Sussex. He tried by chance a dozen plants, bearing fifty to sixty fully expanded leaves, and on sixty-one of these dead insects or remains of insects adhered, and he adds that no doubt many more would have been caught afterwards by these same leaves, and still more next year as yet not expanded. On one plant all six leaves had caught their prey, and on several plants very many leaves had each caught more than a single insect. On one large leaf he found the remains of thirteen insects. Piles of uncaught insects were found beneath the leaves, and Mr. Darwin states that he was satisfied from his own observations of insects without receiving any injury, that advantage, the drosera was excellently adapted for the purpose of catching insects. He concludes that the glands of the Drosera are unsuited for the prevention of insects without receiving any injury, and that the glands absorb the digested matter, as of course, by far the most interesting and remarkable fact we quote from Mr. Darwin as follows:

The gastric juice of animals contains, as well known, an acid or ferment, both of which having the effect of the leaf is consumed by the plant, and the substance of the insects is absorbed by the glands of Drosera before they secrete their proper ferment. That in consequence of the great amount of solid and liquid matter which is absorbed by the leaves of Drosera before they secrete their proper ferment.

The substances digested by Drosera are divided into three classes: 1st, those substances which not only in the presence of an acid on solid material, but also by the presence of some acid, are digested by the glands of Drosera; 2nd, those substances which are digested by the glands of Drosera, but which are not digested by any other substances present; 3rd, those substances which are digested by the glands of Drosera, but which are not digested by any other substances present.

The substances which are digested by Drosera act on the leaves very differently. Some cause much more energetic and rapid digestion, and have been observed to act for a much longer time than others. We are thus led to believe that the leaf is divided into three classes: 1st, those substances which are digested by the glands of Drosera, but which are not digested by any other substances present; 2nd, those substances which are digested by the glands of Drosera, but which are not digested by any other substances present; 3rd, those substances which are digested by the glands of Drosera, but which are not digested by any other substances present.