

RECORD: Anon. 1896. [Obituary] Mrs. Darwin. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (New York), (5 October), p. 6.

REVISION HISTORY: Transcribed by Christine Chua and edited by John van Wyhe 3.2020. RN1.

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Mrs. Darwin.

Science sustained a great loss through the death of Mrs. Darwin, widow of the man who published the evolution theory and won almost the world's consent to it. We say this with confidence because we know nothing about her, and that is the reason why she was a benefit to science. A woman helps her husband either by sharing his work or leaving him to do it himself. The woman who is ignorant of the work her husband is doing, yet who meddles in it, is distinctly a block to his progress and a deterrent to his usefulness. So Mrs. Darwin helped the cause of science by helping the greatest scientist of our day to live peacefully and comfortably, that he might devote his mind to science. Had she been of the small or meddlesome sort, had she put indigestible meals on the table, had she run to him with every trifle of neighbourhood gossip, had she stopped his experiments to listen to a tale of how the kitchen girl had gone out, leaving soap in the dish pan, had she kept him from his books and his chemicals with long arguments as to whether it would be better to buy the family butter from A., who overcharged her last month, yet kept a good stock, or from B., who was honest but sometimes sold things that were not fresh, we might never have had our minds illuminated by the conclusions that have modernised and vitalized biology and opened the door to a freer understanding, therefore use, of the phenomena of nature.

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