

CHARLES DARWIN'S POCKET COMPASS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In a recent letter from an old Australian friend, residing at Pambula, near Sydney (New South Wales), I received the following account of an historic, not to say highly interesting, relic belonging to the late Charles Darwin—viz., his pocket compass, used during the voyage of his Majesty's ship Beagle. My friend found it in the possession of one of the descendants of the Beagle Expedition, living at Pambula, whose father had been Darwin's assistant in stuffing birds and preparing his other specimens.

The instrument is a combined compass and universal sun-dial. The latitude arc is divided to 2deg. divisions only, and the hour circle to 15min., while the compass shows only the cardinal points. The style is vertical to the hour circle which is hinged for latitude adjustment.

The instrument, when not in use, folds into a rough wooden case, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. by 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in., which shows signs of much wear.

My friend presented the compass to the Linnean Society of Sydney, and received their cordial thanks.

Yours very truly,

ALFRED CORRIE, Fleet-Surgeon.

Junior United Service Club, Oct. 19.

Witness My Hand and Seal of Office at the City of New York, this 10th day of May, 1906.