

DARWIN'S BAROMETER

The British Association has recently received on loan from the Royal Society the barometer used by Charles Darwin during the voyage of the Beagle, and it is now exhibited among the other relics of Darwin in Down House, his home in Kent. The barometer, made originally by the firm of Newton, has been restored by Messrs. Negretti and Zambra, with the advice of the Meteorological Office, the scales have been re-engraved, and it is now in working order as Darwin had it. The instrument is of the straight type, contained in a wooden case 3ft. long, with a thermometer near the base. The barometer scale reads down to 18.2in., and this was suitable for use up to fairly high altitudes, and Darwin is known to have carried it when ashore during the voyage. A double mercury cistern and locking arrangement is provided to allow of carrying the instrument without disturbance.