he emphatically is to vaccination, enforced or voluntary, to interest on money, to all inheritance and testamentary disposition of property. He scorned as utterly uncritical the modern scientific determinations of centres of psychological function in the cortex of the brain—not merely the work of Flourens, but also the later attempts of Broca, Munk, and others; and in this he is not so far from the general opinion of students of the subject, who have at the most yielded but a hesitating and provisional as­ sent to any attempt to characterize the distinctive functions of the different regions of the brain. On the other hand, he warmly espouses the old phrenological theory of Gall and the bumps of the travelling lecturers of the forties. These paradoxes are defended by him with all the conviction of his reason, and more. He believes in all that he believes down to the very soles of his boots; and his arguments are mostly so surprisingly strong that some one of his works, say his "Studies, Scientific and Social," ought to be made the basis of a course of lectures on logic. Happy would be the university which should find itself equipped with a professor of logic really capable of dealing with his text.

As to Darwin's encomium, it does not stand alone. John Stuart Mill, Herbert Spencer, SirNormanLockyer,Huxley, John Fiske, Chauncey Wright—in short, almost everybody whose judgment concerning the logic of science had any particular value—have ranked Wallace among the past masters in scientific argumentation; yet his narrow training has rendered him an easy mark for whatsoever evil spirit there may be, personal or not, that beguiles men into sophistries, confusions, and rash assumptions, and it perhaps goes far to explain his willingness to serve as an instructor of the public on original lines in such a vast curriculum of subjects. He tells us (ii., 29) that he has "a positive distaste for all forms of anatomical and physiological experiment," and that he never even saw a dissection; nevertheless, biologists attach great weight to his conclusions about the distribution of animals, the classification of the races of mankind, etc. He has to have translations made for him from the German—and Malay, which he speaks fluently, will hardly be reckoned as an equivalent; but many a naturalist of good sense would doubly enjoy the privilege if he could exchange all his knowledge of German for half of Wallace's acumen in balancing scientific evidences. Wallace is an Oxford D.C.L., as well as an LL.D.; in this exceptional case the degree of D.C.L. really effected something, namely, it showed exceptional ability. Wallace himself, his scientific knowledge, even a university which is above all else orthodox, which would shiver at the bare idea of being parodox, or so much as par­ clitic to parody, perceived that to "honor" Wallace in show would be to honor herself in deed. Bearing all these things in mind, it is not surprising that he was a dull line in his life, and couldn't if he tried, his very tables and diagrams being as entertaining as they are valuably in­ structive, our reviewer, we will answer for him, was not a little curious to read this autobiography and to discover what schooling of childhood and man had produced this con­ glomerate personality.

In 1823, George IV. being King of Eng­ land, Louis XVIII. of France, on the eighth day of the year, Alfred Russel Wallace was born two miles from the north bank of the Severn, at Usk, on the river Usk. He was named after a Mr. Richard Russell, and we learn that the reason why he always spells his middle name with one I is that, after the christening, the parish clerk, who was no great speller, so wrote it in the regis­ ter! No more inexplicable case of "spelling by chance," and it has lasted for eight­ty-three years—is told of in the spiritual­ istic chapter, although Home and Stanton Moses figure there. He came of virtuous Church-of-England middle-class stock, not at all sordid or vulgar. His father, having gained enough Latin to practice his profession of attorney, and, by his ignor­ ance of law and business, gradually sank into extreme poverty. When Alfred was about six, the family moved to Hertford, and, after a year or two of teaching by his father, he went to the public grammar school, where he learned nothing but the nomenclature of geography, chiefly of Eng­ lish towns, and above all the Latin gram­ mar; and this is the only schooling (in the narrow sense) that he ever had. The vestiges of some knowledge of Latin still app­ ear in his sentences, especially in constructions that are bat in a language in which the order of succession of the words is the only clue,* as well as in the frequency of "I and brother Will­ liam," "I and my wife," "I and Mr. Mit­ ten" (vol. i., pp. 246, 247, 251, 237, 239; ii., 49, 61, 238), though in the accusative it is "my brother and me" (i., 256). More than once in this book he deplores an in­ capacity for language which he attributes to himself. But, as to this, it is necessary to distinguish between a natural incapacity and early want of facility due to early self-communions not having been such as to exercise one's faculty. We take leave to doubt any lack in him of the faculty it­ self, for the few facts at our disposal rather point the other way. Thus, his de­ scription of his school life shows that he was anything but industrious; yet he gained enough Latin to pick out the sense of the Æneid, and no doubt to parse the sentences. Later he found it "very easy" to learn Malay; and although that language is, as he says, of the simplest construc­ tion, especially the dialect of Sumbatra, with which he presumably began, yet it may be doubted whether any grown man whose capacity for language was decidedly defective would have been so particularly struck with the facility of the task of learning it. So, during his sojourn in great libraries, and in church services; he enlarges upon the beauty of this ancient tongue, which is quite noticeable for its various modifica­ tions of its words, and he praises the elo­ cution of the preacher in a way that Im­ pressed the assistant to follow the speech, word for word, though it was only a Sunday recrea­ tion for him. But the evidence we most rely upon is his own remarkably lucid, easy, and harmonious style of writing; re­ markable, we mean, in comparison with other English authors. The reviewer never received any instruction in rhetoric. With little opportunity to compare his own

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For example: "Before leaving Singapore I wrote a long letter to my old fellow-traveller and com­panion, Henry Walter Bates, then collecting on the upper Amazon, almost wholly devoted to ento­ mology and especially giving my impressions of the comparative richness of the two countries."
Feb. 22, 1906

The Nation.

performances with those of other unprac-
cificated writers, he would at first naturally
judge of his own talent by the effort it cost
him to express his ideas, although this
force was often broken down by the long habit
of routine. His self-estimation was furth
further influenced, no doubt, by the grade-numbers
that two itinerant phonologists had as
signed to his bumps of language.

At the age of fourteen his school days
were over, and, for a few months he joined his eldest brother, who
was a surveyor. Alfred took very kindly
to this business. The alternation of out-
doors and indoor work was greatly to his
taste, and the mathematical ingredient at
tracted him strongly. This is deeply grav
in his correspondence. The disposition he
has shown through life to express himself
in maps and diagrams, together with his
love of regularity and order, may incline
us to think that Wallace is one of the ma
mathematical class of thinkers. Meditation
is dialogue with himself, and, as the
teacher of a learner, he is the
atomical amount of it; and the
most
minute and tireless study of logic only
fortifies this conception. The majority of
men commune with themselves in words.
The physicist, however, thinks of experi-
ences, of doing something and awaiting
results; the mathematician clothes his thought In mental di-
agrams, while the musician thinks
pictures and visual images, and largely in
pictures bits; while the musician thinks
about, and in, tones. Finally, the mate
mathematician clothes his thought in mental di-
agrams, which exhibit regularities and
alogies of abstract forms almost quite
influenced, no doubt, by the grade-numbers
judging of his own talent by the effort it cost
First, naturally
writer, he would at first naturally
judge of his own talent by the effort it cost
he went out. He had gone for no better reason than that
that of his life and a few sovereigns. The trusty
servant was a native picked up on the
island of Malay, a language without abstrac-
tions, comparatively. His only constant
associate and native companion was Dick
he was thirty-one when he went, thirty-nine when he returned.
Those years were passed in intellectual soli
tude. All that time he hardly spoke ex-
mpany real perceptions. A person who from
childhood has habitually made his reflec
tions by experimenting upon mental dia-
agrams, will ordinarily lack the readiness
in conversation that belongs to one who
has always thought In words, and will nat
urally infer that he lacks talent for speech
when he only lacks practice.

Another part of Wallace's education that
must not be altogether forgotten consisted
in his spending nearly a year in a silent and
contriving trade, that of the watch-
cleaner and Jeweller. But circumstances
carried me out the work that would accord
company real perceptions. A person who from
childhood has habitually made his reflec
tions by experimenting upon mental dia-
agrams, will ordinarily lack the readiness
in conversation that belongs to one who
has always thought In words, and will nat
urally infer that he lacks talent for speech
when he only lacks practice.

Returning to England, he found he had
earned an adequate. Let him keep still,
leave mankind to shift for itself, and dis
trust his own potential folly, and a happy
life was before him. Alas! his ignorance
of the world and want of appreciation of
that ignorance were such that ere long
the savings were evaporated, and he found
himself in the desperate condition of having
to live on his pen. Still, even then, he
had better things in store. He was
admirable, carefully concealing his origin
power, he might doubtless have obtain
ed an appointment to a position where
he could give carefully measured vent to his
genius. But, perhaps feeling that he had
not been put into the world for that, he
preferred defending startling hypotheses
that are not of a nature to be verified or
disproved by decisive experiment. The re
sult naturally was to press him more and
more into byways of thought, diverging
constantly further from the sober conser
vatism of worldly interest. Par be it
how he came to develop as he did, since
several of his arguments must derive much
of their weight with the general public
without scientific standing of the author; and two of the most impressive
chapters of the present volumes are cal
culated and partly intended to produce mo
mentous changes of the reader's opinions
largely by force of the confidence he will
have to put in the author's power of elicit
the truth of the matter to
which they relate.

We repeat that Wallace is a great sci
entific reasoner; and of course this im
plies that he is perfectly fair-minded, and
sincerely anxious to do full justice to that
who uses inspiration which he combats.
We may add that, where he differs most
from received opinions, his arguments are
in general the most carefully con
sidered and consequently the strongest.
Certainly, his argument against vaccination, as it is
presented in his 'Studies,' is extremely
rational and in the best style of the 'wonder
ful Century' has been more admired by
lawyers, but its force is too much direct
ed against refuting his opponents rather
than to studying the facts of the case.
The spiritualistic experiences detailed in
the second volume of 'My Life' simply can
not be read by the thoughtful and
weary without producing a strong impression. But
the author admits that the impressive phe
omena come very rarely; and when we
turn to such a book as Arthur Lillie's ac
count of his friend, the Rev. William Stain
ton Moses, who was probably in all re
spects that one of the powerful mediums
who most inspires confidence, and there
see in what an ocean of incredible non
sense the manifestations are swamped, we
ask ourselves whether it is possible for any
body to hold his attention long upon such
dire rubbish without great danger of being
thrown into such an abnormal state of
mind that his testimony may perhaps be
no better than that of a person in an
hypnotic trance. At any rate, it is the
most unwholesome nutriment for the mind,
and we are glad that Mr. Wallace did not
long continue his active interest in it.

To sum up, this is certainly a very en
tertaining book, highly instructive in sev
eral distinct ways. The volumes are very
attractively clothed, and there is an index
of near fifty pages.