REVIEWS

SPIRITUALISM AND SCIENCE.*

WHEN two men of a certain degree of scientific eminence, like Messrs. Crookes and Wallace, actually define any case as a case of Spiritualism, it is more than usually desirable to enquire into the nature of the definition, in order to ascertain whether it is altogether a case of Spiritualism, as well as a case of Science. For it is clear, that none can call himself a scientific man, who has not the feeling of this necessity which has prompted us painfully and conscientiously, and with much weariness and toil, to write the present small volume, and to join ourselves to the writer of the most of the most amazing books that it has ever been our misfortune to be compelled to peruse. Closing the second of them, we are left with a suspicion that a shade less than the majority of those which crowd their pages, we have not been spirited back some five hundred years, as the mere comfort of a conjuring entertainment, and are told in the third, fourth, and fifth-hand versions of a few ghost stories. We see this in the next chapter we do find Professor Home's "Incidents of My Life," as though it were a ghost that poor Mr. Golding's "medium" only goes away badly wondering how Media can for instance make such hopeless simpletons as to believe in their super—or extra—naturally powers: while as for their grossly unscientific methods, we have the word of a gentleman whose veracity is absolutely and sufficiently strong to support a statement as this, and to act as an oracle to those who know not better, that people, at the very least the intellectual equals of Messrs. Wallace and Crookes, have, the word added, "clairvoyant," reading through pasteboard, &c., in a manner utterly do they outrage common sense. Inasmuch, however, as Mr. Wallace's is the larger and more equal function of the petitio principii, which would be accepted as valid by every judge, and the contract with the, by the bye, we are struck with the fact that when a portion of the dress of Mrs. S. C. Hall, of Sergeant Cox, and Mr. Forester, did the "spirit-writing" trick (ENGLISH MECHANIC, Vol. XIX., p. 199) to show how utterly baseless such an assertion is. We will pass on then to what he says about certain "medias," and, firstly, Mr. Marshall, of whose integrity Mr. Wallace seems quite assured. What, however, says Dr. Edmonds, as for me, as if Wallace himself? "I sat next to Mr. Marshall, and felt her strike the foot of the table with her toe in an agony of conviction that she was at work, and in a state of solemn perturbation, and in the full conviction that they were conversing with the "spirits" of departed."

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"Anticipating, however, a discussion of the "Out-of-force, Animal Magnetism, and Clairvoyance," where a series of wild asser­tions are made without the faintest hint that any of the alleged marvels to which they relate have ever been explained or refuted. We are not assuming that the witnesses are charlatans, though we have been told how some clairvoyant of Dr. Gregory's read mottoes in closed in nuts, or "Medium" or Clairvoyant who would read its number without breaking the seal—and that, of course, the challenge was never accepted. We will pass on then to what he says about certain "medias," and, firstly, Mr. Marshall, of whose integrity Mr. Wallace seems quite assured. What, however, says Dr. Edmonds, as for me, as if Wallace himself? "I sat next to Mr. Marshall, and felt her strike the foot of the table with her toe in an agony of conviction that she was at work, and in a state of solemn perturbation, and in the full conviction that they were conversing with the "spirits" of departed."

And who, does the reader conceive, who is to proportion the dead men who are quoted as supporting his views, and who are "found to be drenched with lime after the Manchester fashion!" We are told, too, how Sir Henry Irving described his friend Mrs. S. C. Hall, of Sergeant Cox, and Mr. Crookes (of whom we shall have something to say presently) as "those poor sappers and miners of Dr. Edmonds), and of Dr. Sexton! If report speaks truly of this last-named gentleman, he would be more than of Dr. Sexton! If report speaks truly of this last-named gentleman, he would be more than
“Spirit photographs” introduces us to a mass of wild nonsensical assertions as to circumstances in which "Katie" was present. He is pretty obvious in a great variety of ways, while the “Summary of Physical Phenomena” simply reiterates succinctly what the author imagines he has proved by merely mentioning it. He is a popular and ever increasing, and it could only be tedious to the reader to reproduce it. Moreover, our very rapidly falling in a state of nervousness, it is evident to notice Mr. Crookes and his contributions to the question.

Mr. Crookes’ work opens with an exordium, of the result of a very brilliant trick with the board of evidence, has been most seriously diminished by an offer made in these columns by "Anti Humbug" to repeat, for a wager of £50, Home’s own Mr. Crookes is. He avails himself of this opportunity of impartiality; and that the second chapter will be found in its entirety, engravings and all, on p. 403, et seq., of our own XIIth Vol. and p. 65 of our XIVth; while on p. 433 of Vol. XII he avails himself of this opportunity of Home’s very clever trick with the board of evidence which I have just obtained induces me to notice Mr. Crookes and his contributions to the question.

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