THE SHORTCOMINGS OF A CENTURY.

As the nineteenth century draws to its close, it is getting high time for everybody of importance to express an opinion about it, so that we may decide as to whether it is worth while to commence the twentieth century or not. According to the standpoint of the century's critics, judgments must vary. Some will be enthusiastic over the progress made in converting this country into a vast cinder-heap; while to others the results of industrial and scientific progress must seem a poor substitute for the cloud-capp't towers, the gorgeous palaces and solemn temples of a bygone age of chivalry. The century has had its failures as well as its successes. Even the stoutest Anglo-Saxon must admit that all is not yet for the best in the biggest of all possible empires. So great are the failures, indeed, according to Mr. Russell Wallace—socialist, scientist, spiritualist, phrenologist—that in a book* on the subject he devotes more attention to them than to the successes.

And what are these failures? First, the neglect of