

grand receptive intelligences like his, because in one or two points the conclusion which Wallace came to appears to us to be hasty. Medicine combines with the scientific world in deploring the loss of a leader, and in acknowledging the debt of the world to a pioneer in the interpretation of the universe.

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#### ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE.

THE death of Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace occurred, at the ripe age of 90, on Friday of last week, Nov. 7th. He will for ever be remembered by his association with the great alteration in all our scientific standpoints brought about by the establishment of the modern doctrines of evolution. As is well known, Wallace enunciated the theory of natural selection at the very time when Darwin, after 20 years of solid work, had arrived at similar conclusions, though after more profound and wide-ranging investigations. The attitude of the two philosophers was marked by the greatest generosity to each other; and when the world elected, and elected quite rightly, to give to Darwin the chief credit, Wallace's acknowledgment of the justice of the verdict was complete. The statement that has been made in many places lately that the work of Wallace was put aside and that he himself was unduly neglected does not bear investigation. He was not a candidate for the Fellowship of the Royal Society until quite late in his career, but that body elected him as soon as the usual formalities were complied with, and he was the recipient of one of their most important medals. Wallace was an individual and romantic thinker, but his intuition did not always serve him as well in his attempts to solve other problems as it had when he had jumped at the correct explanation of the processes and changes in organic life. Some of his writings, while they displayed independent judgment, were not marked by the discrimination that might have been expected from so famous a man, and his attitude towards one phase of scientific medicine was unfortunate. But it would be wrong to be blind to the value of