

PSYCHOLOGICAL CURIOSITIES OF CREDULITY.

As Mr. Wallace, without invalidating any one of my facts, has now reaffirmed yet more strongly the charge which he brought against me in Mr. Crookes's journal, I beg to be allowed very briefly to restate my defence.

The evidence in favour of clairvoyance (contained in the Academic Report of 1830), in which Mr. Wallace not only has himself full faith, but requires me and every one else to have the same, was condemned as untrustworthy by the two contemporary tribunals to which it was submitted,—the French Academy of Medicine, and the *rédacteurs* of the 'Dictionnaire de Médecine.' The former, after full investigation by a second and a third Commission (1837-40), deliberately reversed the judgment of its first, as having been obtained by fraud and chicanery; and formally pronounced the evidence for the "higher phenomena" of mesmerism to be "null and void." The latter, on the same grounds, substituted for the article written by one of their most distinguished contributors for the first edition of their Dictionary another in the precisely opposite sense.

My crime, in Mr. Wallace's eyes, is that I stated that the subject of clairvoyance was "first thoroughly sifted" by those later investigations on which the Academy itself relied; and that I passed by (1) the earlier Report, which was never adopted by the Academy, and was finally rejected by it as worthless, and (2) the article of M. Rostan, which was for the same reason ejected from the Dictionary for which it had been written. I appeal from his judgment to that of the readers of the *Athenæum*.

WILLIAM B. CARPENTER.
