

DR. ALFRED R. WALLACE AND SPIRITUALISM.

The following correspondence has appeared in the pages of the 'London Review':—

'THIS WONDERFUL CENTURY.'

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'LONDON REVIEW.'

STR,—Is it blasphemy to suppose there must somewhere be a screw loose in the mechanism of Dr. Alfred R. Wallace's teeming brain? Otherwise, how account for the anomaly presented in his acknowledged belief in Spiritualism and its various manifestations, with the fact that he is bracketed as co-worker with that most direct of scientific thinkers, Dr. Charles Darwin?

As we all know, these nineteenth-century scientists were mutually, though ignorant of it, at work on the same problem, the 'Origin of Species.'

Twenty years Darwin worked before he spoke to the world in fulness of knowledge on this epoch-marking discovery. But as science only deals with positive facts, it seems scarcely credible that the same mind that dealt with such, throughout its amazing history, man's evolutionary ascent through millions of years from his vertebrate ancestor of Creation's dawn, can also accept as positive fact the charlatanism of spiritualistic manifestation.

For what is Modern Spiritualism in its various outcomes but a clumsy parody, at best, of those clever Thaumaturgists of Eastern fame, whose feats of skill we find illustrated in Biblical lore?

King Saul was a long-headed canny fellow, but, like Professor Alfred Wallace, believed in and trembled before the Witch of Endor. If spiritualistic revealings are to be accepted as a sign-manual of this wonderful century's progress, I fear that it is but a sorry witness. Rather must not the widespread belief in Spiritualism be taken as an attestation of the unconquerable impulse of the human mind to solve the so-far-hidden mysteries of the unknown, the probing for revealed facts of the 'Whence and the Whither'?

VINCIT VERITAS.