I wish to offer a few remarks upon Mr. Wallace's kind and appreciative review of my work on the "Colour-Sense" in *Nature*, vol. xix. p. 501. Mr. Wallace attributes to me "many errors" and inaccuracy as to matters of fact; but I do not think the instances he alleges are sufficient to justify the statement. Had I said in every case what Mr. Wallace makes me say, I should, doubtless, have been misrepresenting facts; but it seems to me that in most of the passages to which he refers he has slightly misconceived my meaning. I should not attempt to oppose so distinguished a naturalist on points of biological inference, but I venture to defend the accuracy of my statements of fact.

1. "*Scissirostrum Pagei* does not 'belong to a family generally dull,' while it is itself decidedly dull-coloured." The first statement will be correct if we place *Scissirostrum* among the brilliant starlings; but Mr. Wallace himself, following Prince
does the same will agree with me that the peacock alone can be

sentence which Mr. Wallace blames the following passage

suggest that these conspicuous colours were themselves protective

caterpillars in every part of the world are conspicuously

is described in the "Malay Archipelago" as "almost entirely

stands what he

sentence which Mr. Wallace blames the following passage

Mr. Wallace himself was the first to

coloured." True; but Mr. Wallace himself was the first to

paragraph I had carefully compared all the living phaiusianidae in

I wished to point out was that in particular

bring out.

any fruit" (p. 192), and I presume, therefore, that it sometimes eats "bright-coloured food."

"The tigers, the zebras, the beautifully-marked antelopes, and the spotted deer and giraffes, which are really among the most brightly-coloured of all mammals, are passed over as less beautifully coloured than the squirrels and monkeys." Now I confess myself simply astounded at the statement that the zebra, of all animals in the world, is brightly coloured—a creature without a tinge of anything but creamy white and black about its body.

Quite apart from the nature of food or surroundings, I call a panda a brightly-coloured mammal; or a mandrill; or a Rhusus monkey; or a Canadian chipmunk; but certainly not a tiger, a zebra, or a giraffe, none of which has a single tinge of scarlet, blue, green, or bright yellow.

No one who knows anything of Mr. Wallace could for one moment imagine him capable of intentionally misrepresenting the humblest opponent in the smallest particular; and I owe him many thanks for much kind and appreciative criticism both on this and several previous occasions. Yet I cannot help thinking that in these instances, and others with which I will not burden your space, he has unconsciously permitted mere differences of opinion unduly to assume the appearance of positive errors in fact.

GRANT ALLEN

1. Scissirostrom Pagei is universally placed in the starling family. Its affinity to Buphaga is very doubtful, while its crinose-tipped tail-coverts are very different from "a tail of vivid crimson" which Mr. Allen gives it (p. 184).

2. I object altogether to founding theories on chance expressions of travellers. It is curious, that in my "Travels on the Amazon" (p. 157) I refer to these same Santarem pastures as follows:—"There were some boggy meadows here, more like those of Europe than one often sees so near the equator, on which were growing pretty, small Melastomas and other flowers. The paths and campos were covered with flowering myrtles, tall Melastomas, and numbers of passion-flowers, convolvulus, and bignonis."

3. I referred to the squirrel, because it was the only example given by Mr. Allen which I could at the moment test.

4. My argument is, that the colours of caterpillars are often as varied, as vivid, and as beautifully arranged as in birds and winged insects. This is not necessary for protection by conspicuosity, for any tint contrasted with foliage, such as black, or white, or tinged with black-and-white, would have sufficed.

5. The "pheasant" question I leave, as Mr. Allen has placed it, for the consideration of naturalists.

6. Here it seems to me Mr. Allen is himself changing his ground. His main argument is that the aesthetic tastes of the higher animals are the same as ours, yet he objects to the elegantly-marked and intensely-contrasted zebra and tiger being called "brightly-coloured." Surely they are more beautiful than the mandrill or the Rhusus; while among animals white is as much a colour as among flowers.

ALFRED R. WALLACE