

As an instance of painstaking labor bestowed by a thoroughly competent hand in respect to both scientific learning and literary skill, we have met with nothing of late to excel the work on the Geographical Distribution of Animals,* by Alfred Russel Wallace, of whose qualities as a descriptive writer the public has had some assurance from his former work, not long since published on the "Malay Archipelago." The present superb production has been brought out by its publishers in a style worthy of its matter, in two beautiful octavo volumes, printed in the best style and beautifully illustrated, in local groups. Mr. Wallace seems to be much more intent upon writing what he knows respecting his subject than upon making an array of his facts for the purpose of sustaining a preconceived theory. Of his scholarship every page gives convincing proof; but he seems to be content to make no ostentatious display of it; and though it is quite evident that he is not without his scientific theories, yet he makes no announcement of them in advance, but leads the reader quietly along among the facts with which he deals, giving the particulars in each case before attempting any generalizations. We have found them most readable books; so plainly and untechnically written that the non-adept in such matters may read with profit, as certainly he will with delight. Such books make real and valuable additions to the literature of the times.

† THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMALS, with a Study of the Relations of Living and Extinct Fauna, as Elucidating the past changes of the Earth's Surface. By Alfred Russel Wallace, author of the "Malay Archipelago," etc. In two volumes, with maps and illustrations. New York, Harper & Brothers. Pp. 503 and 607.