

THE WONDERFUL CENTURY.

In this enlarged edition of Mr. Wallace's book on the progress of knowledge during the nineteenth century, the author has considerably extended and revised most of the sections, more especially those dealing with chemistry, electricity, and astronomy. He divides the book into two parts: the first and largest being a good and intelligible account of the advances that have been made in theoretical and applied science since the year A.D. 1800, and he abundantly justifies his contention that greater progress has been made during the nineteenth century than in the eighteen hundred preceding years of our era.

This section of the book is excellently conceived and well executed. In parts it reads like a fairy tale, and it may be heartily commended to any one who desires to get a general sketch of the wonderful discoveries of recent times. These are outlined in simple language, which can be understood by those who have not had the advantage of a technical training.

As a sort of *per contra* set off to these successes of the century the latter part of this book is a lamentation over the failures of the age, in the front rank of which he puts the neglect of phrenology and of psychical research. He has in this edition deleted the chapter against vaccination, and had he excised the two just named as well, it would have been an additional improvement. The other evils he deplors are militarism, greed, and the plunder of the earth. While all must feel deep sympathy with his earnestness in denouncing the rampant militarism of the day, and the causes which lead to the miserable state of so many of the poor, the remedies which he proposes in his final chapter will doubtless be regarded by most readers as those of a visionary rather than as those of a practical philanthropist.
