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Mr. Wallace and Reichenbach's Odyle

As Mr. Wallace has attempted (presumably with Mr. Crookes's editorial concurrence) to rehabilitate, in the July number of the *Quarterly Journal of Science*, the Odyle-doctrine of Baron Reichenbach, I think it well to state that I yesterday availed myself of an opportunity of personally asking my friend

Prof. Hoffmann, of Berlin, whether that doctrine any longer finds support among scientific men in Germany. *His reply was a most emphatic negative*; the doctrine, he said, being one which no man of science with whom he is acquainted would think worthy of the slightest attention. Yet in Mr. Wallace's judgment (*query* in Mr. Crookes's also?) the unanimous verdict of the scientific world of Germany, to say nothing of England, is a prejudiced one; only Mr. W. and his spiritualistic allies appreciating correctly the real force of the evidence originally advanced by Reichenbach, and confirmed by those trustworthy (?) authorities, Drs. Ashburner and Gregory.

In thus setting his own judgment on a question which lies altogether outside the scientific domain which he has made his own, against the unanimous verdict of the eminent physicists and physiologists who have carefully "tried" the Od-force and "found it wanting," and in rebuking myself and those who think with me for our incredulity, does not Mr. Wallace put himself somewhat in the attitude of his old opponent, John Hampden, who thinks everybody either a fool or a knave who maintains the earth to be round?

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