Miss Cook, alone; and I found this [illegible] was tied in a way that put effort and assistance on her part out of the question. On the same evening she was lifted on the table several times, having been previously tied firmly to her chair. Hands and faces were also felt and seen. One face was perfectly black. I can confidently direct the attention of investigators to the advantage to be derived from a sitting with this young lady. J. R. PURDON, M.B.

Sandown, Isle of Wight, Sept. 11th.

SIR,—On the evening of the 4th inst. I was unexpectedly favoured with a private *seance* with Miss Florence Cook, of Hackney, and having obtained permission to publish the particulars, perhaps you will kindly spare me a few lines to record the same in the widely circulated columns of your newspaper.

Through the co-operation of a number of Miss Cook's friends, she has just had presented to her a cabinet and set of musical instruments, and also, for experimental purposes, a dark lantern, which has been specially constructed to admit of the light being readily regulated, &c. The cabinet is fitted into a recess in the wall, the dimensions being 7 ft. 6 ins. × 3 ft. 1 in. × 1 ft. 9½ ins.; it has two doors, 5 ft. 6 ins. high, which, when opened, expose the whole of the interior to view. Above the two doors is a panelling, in the centre of which is an opening one foot square. One of the doors is fitted with sliding bolts at the top and bottom, and the other with a lock and key, locking from the outside. The instruments consist of a guitar, concertina, tambourine, and a harmonica.

The medium having seated herself in the cabinet on a chair, with the instruments, two paper speaking tubes, and a length of rope placed on the floor, I bolted and locked the doors, and then took my seat of observation with Mrs. Cook, her two youngest daughters Kate and Edie, her son Donald, and their servant Mary. The lantern was placed in my charge, the lights was turned off, and by the sounds of rushing of the rope we conjectured that the medium was being secured. Katie King very soon made her presence known by speaking with the direct voice to us, and in a few minutes I was instructed to turn on the light and examine the medium, when I found her securely and effectively fastened at the two wrists, with her body bound to the chair. On reclosing the doors and resuming my seat, the various instruments were then played upon, and we noticed that the concertina and harmonica were freely played at the same time. In a short time the guitar, followed by the tambourine and concertina respectively, were handed out at the opening. Katie King then told us to sing, and said she would entrance her medium so as to be able to show us something good. While she was entrancing Miss Cook we sang, and Katie King soon appeared at the opening, requesting me to totally shut off all light, when she permitted Mrs. Cook to feel her face and hand, and, on being requested, kissed Mrs. Cook's hand. Immediately afterwards Katie King called me, when I placed my hand at the opening and was at once grasped by her, and Katie thus guided my hand over her features, enabling me to trace the outlines; she thrice kissed my hand at my request, and permitted me to examine the back portion of her head, which appeared to be but imperfectly formed. She also allowed me to feel the covering with which she binds her head and face, and it appeared to be of coarse texture. In Katie King's clasp of my hand I noticed a peculiar characteristic difference to that of the medium. The temperature both of the face and hand was cool but pleasant, while the surface of the same was quite dry. The atmosphere was this evening very oppressive, lightning being prevalent. Mary was also permitted to feel Katie's face and hand, and the three of us remarked the absence of breath from either the lips or nostrils. We were then instructed to rouse the medium, and the sitting was accordingly suspended. I then turned the light on, and, opening the cabinet, discovered the medium entranced. On her recovering consciousness, I carefully examined the fastenings, and [illegible] genuine, are not only commonly produced under good conditions, but, in many instances, surpassed in their almost astounding nature through the mediumship of these gentlemen. I have not only thus obtained, at my own residence, in their presence, both jointly and separately, various degrees of spirit photograph manifestations, but almost every other phase of their extraordinary mediumship. One of the most perfect manifestations occurred at my house on Sunday week, when Mr. Williams paid me a visit. An inner room, about six feet by ten feet, lighted by a large square of ruby-coloured glass, contains a large cupboard, which we had before successfully used as an improvised cabinet for the materialisation of spirit forms. This room we resorted to on this occasion, and a chair was placed inside the cupboard for the medium. We closed both the door of the cupboard and of this "dark room," and waited on the opposite side or end. Soon the voice of "Katie King" was heard, telling us to keep quite still, and not to attempt to touch her, if she walked out of the "cabinet," until she gave us permission. In a few minutes the cupboard door was pushed open from within, and the materialised spirit form appeared standing on the threshold and talking to us. We were, however, told to try again later in the day, when there would be more power. Accordingly, about four or five o'clock, we again placed the medium in the "cabinet," and Katie, this time, walked out and stood before us, lifting up a portion of her turban from her face, and showing us her features. Katie has a decidedly handsome face, with a thoughtful, spiritualised expression, an olive complexion, and is most unmistakably Oriental. Her raiment was brilliantly white and flowing, bordered by an apparent embroidery, but which, she explained, was woven into the robe, and formed part of the spiritual garment. She said, "See, these are the robes I wear in the spheres; they are spiritual, although now materialised." We could see their soft texture, and one of us was permitted to touch a portion. Whilst Katie was thus talking, she moved her limbs about so that we might see the flowing and waving folds of the spirit robes, which were the only things in the diffused bright red light which did not partake of the pink tint given to the light fabrics. So bright were the spirit garments that the scene forcibly reminded me at the time of the description of the Transfiguration on the Mount, where the garments of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were apparently whiter than fuller's earth could white them.

I could relate many other beautiful and extraordinary manifestations which occurred on that afternoon, but I am sure your space forbids.

Trusting you will find room in the forthcoming edition of your interesting journal for this hasty letter, I am, &c.,

HENRY E. RUSSELL.

Kingston-on-Thames, 9 Sept. 1872.

SIR,—At a private *seance* held at the house of Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, Brixton, after the room was darkened, and a cabinet improvised for the medium (Mr. Williams), a handbell, some paper tubes, and two phosphorus bottles were placed upon the table. Each of us, eight in number, took our seats around it, having all hands in contact. We commenced by singing a hymn. Before its completion, a tube was raised from the table and put over one of the bottles. The voice of "John King" requested us to take one of the bottles out of the room, and the other off the table. He then desired a light to be struck, and the medium to be tied within the cabinet, as "Katie" intended to show herself. A light was struck, and Mr. Fitzgerald tied Mr. Williams, as we thought, secure. We then re-seated ourselves in a circle a little apart from the table, keeping hold of each other's hands, and again singing a hymn, in which John joined. The spirit-lights then became visible, and we could perceive the bell, which was ringing, performing wonderful evolutions on the ceiling above [illegible] Teddy Williams

He said he knew none of the persons at the séance, but intimated that his purpose was to counteract the influence of untruthful spirits, who frequently visited our circle.

I wrote to the parish authorities of Pembroke Dock, to test the truth of his assertion, and received a letter dated the 3rd of July last, from Mr. Quarterman Vicars, churchwarden, in which he tells me that, on making inquiry of some of the oldest inhabitants of that locality, he found one that recollected such a person as Samuel Levi, watchmaker and silversmith, who lived at Pembroke about the year 1795, as stated.

JAMES JUDD.

310, Icknield-street West, Birmingham.

INSTINCT.

SIR,—I am surprised that so accurate a man as my friend Mr. H. G. Atkinson should have so misunderstood my meaning as to say that I "deny to the lower animals their instincts," and "strive to make facts square with my theories,"—and further that my "denial of the existence of such powers is as futile as it is in utter defiance of fact." Now will it be believed that I have never denied the existence of instinct; I have, it is true, denied that it has been proved that birds build their nests by instinct, and have maintained that a consideration of all the facts is, in this case, entirely opposed to that view; and I suppose Mr. Atkinson himself would admit that each case of supposed instinct is to be judged by itself, according to the facts of that case. I have also expressed my belief that much of the supposed instinct of the lower animals can be explained by initiation and observation, and the peculiar organisation which necessitates certain movements, and renders certain actions pleasurable. In my short essay on "Instinct in Men and Animals," published in my "Contributions to the Theory of Natural Selection," I maintain that the senses and mental powers of the lower animals are probably so different from ours, and are so little known, that we cannot safely arrive at conclusions drawn from a comparison of their actions with ours; but that among the higher animals, where there is a closer resemblance in senses and mental powers to ourselves, the facts which I throughout appeal to, do not prove instinct. I maintain that experiments on instinct have not been sufficiently carried on, and I conclude, not that there is no such thing as instinct, but that it should not be accepted as proved in any particular case "until all other possible modes of explanation have been exhausted." Having thus expressed myself, I do not like being accused of the positive and dogmatic "denials of instinct," which Mr. Atkinson imputes to me. I am open to conviction by facts, and I may remark that at the British Association meeting at Brighton, a valuable paper was read by Mr. Spalding relating a series of experiments on newly-hatched chickens, which go to show that many simple actions, involving appreciation of form and distance, are well performed without experience; but we have as yet no experiments to show that the exceedingly complex actions involved in the higher instincts can be so performed.

ALFRED R. WALLACE.

M. THIERS A SPIRITUALIST.—The Paris correspondent of the *Echo* of Aug. 28 says:—"M. de Lavelan, the Prefect of the Department of the Vienne, furnishes us with the following authentic details:—A few weeks ago M. Thiers did me the honour to inform me that he was occupied with a special work, independent of his other labours. 'I should be glad,' he exclaimed in a tone of noble indignation, 'to confound materialism, which is a folly as well as a peril. There is a fine book to be made on this subject, and I have as yet only written the half of it. Certainly I devote myself with my whole heart to the liberation of the territory and the reorganisation of the country, but at times I cannot help regretting my peaceable and cherished studies. For twelve years I have been engaged in this work; during all that time I have [illegible]