

# BULLETIN

*of the*

NATIONAL LABORATORY  
*of*  
PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

---

## *Regurgitation and the Duncan Mediumship*

*by*

*Harry Price*

*Honorary Director of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research*

*With 44 Illustrations*

---

LONDON

Published by the Council at the Rooms of the National  
Laboratory of Psychical Research, 13D, Roland  
Gardens, South Kensington, S.W.7

1931

PRICE 5/- NET

FOREIGN \$1.25 NET



# *The National Laboratory of Psychical Research*

*13d Roland Gardens, South Kensington*

*London, S.W. 7*

## **HONORARY PRESIDENT:**

**THE LORD SANDS, K.C., LL.D., Etc.**

## **ACTING PRESIDENT:**

**H. G. BOIS, Esq.**

## **INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL:**

Dr. R. J. Tillyard, F.R.S. (Canberra, Australia, Vice-President), Dr. Eugène Osty (Paris, Vice-President), Professor Dr. Hans Driesch (Leipzig, Vice-President), Professor Dr. Hans Thirring (Vienna, Vice-President), Professor Dr. Chr. Winther (Copenhagen, Vice-President), Miss May C. Walker, Miss Marguerite W. Crookes, M.A. (Auckland, N.Z.), Professor A. M. Low, D.Sc., Mr. E. W. Janson, M.A., Mr. A. W. Trethewy, M.A., Mr. Joseph De Wyckoff (American S.P.R.), Mr. Roy Holmyard (Cincinnati, U.S.A.), M. René Sudre (Paris), Colonel R. G. Berry (Belfast), Kapitan F. Kogelnik (Braunau-am-Inn, Austria), Dr. Paul Süner (Berlin), Dr. W. H. C. Tenhaeff (Utrecht), Dr. Baron Alfred Winterstein (Vienna).

To the above, the following persons have been added, forming, with the Council, a permanent London group available for participating in experimental work: Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Mrs. Clarice Richards, Mrs. Harold Cock, Mr. John Evelyn, Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., Professor Dr. J. C. Flügel, Mr. C. E. M. Joad, M.A., Mr. I. C. Gröndahl, Captain H. W. Seton-Karr, Captain the Hon. Victor Cochran Baillie, Professor Dr. William McDougall, F.R.S., Professor D. F. Fraser-Harris, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.E., Mr. William Bacon, B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., M.I.Chem.E., Mr. Will Goldston, Mr. H. E. Dennis, Mr. Alex. L. Dribell.

Foreign members of the International Research Council include: Fräulein Dr. Gerda Walther (München), Professor Dr. T. K. Oesterreich (Tübingen), Dr. A. von Mohr (Göttingen), Mr. Hereward Carrington (New York), Dr. Erich Bohn (Breslau), Dr. Th. Wereide (Oslo), Professor Dr. D. Walter (Graz), Professor Dr. F. Haslinger (Graz), Professor Dr. Giovanni Pioli (Milan), Dr. Emilio Servadio (Rome), Dr. A. Tanagras (Athens), Professor Dr. Eugen Bleuler (Zürich), Professor Dr. Francis G. Benedict (Boston, Mass.), Dr. William B. Johnston (Giverny-par-Vernon, France), Professor Dr. Nils von Hofsten (Uppsala), Professor Dr. W. P. Gowland (Dunedin, N.Z.), Professor Dr. C. Schröder (Berlin), Mr. Charles W. Hyland (Johannesburg), Herr Ottokar Fischer (Vienna), Mme. Dr. Silva Rodrigues (S. Paulo, Brazil), Fräulein Jeanette Walloschek (Bielsko, Poland), Dr. Lidio Cipriani (Florence University).

## **HONORARY DIRECTOR:**

**HARRY PRICE, Esq.**

## **HONORARY TREASURER:**

**MRS. A. PEEL GOLDNEY**

## **HONORARY SOLICITOR:**

**JAMES S. JONES, Esq.**

## **SECRETARY:**

**Miss ETHEL BEENHAM**

Telephone: Kensington 6016 (or Pulborough 21)

Registered Address for Telegrams, Cables and Marconigrams:

'Teleplasm, London.'





MRS. VICTORIA HELEN DUNCAN  
Aged 32½ years

*Frontispiece*]



# *Regurgitation and the Duncan Mediumship*

by  
*Harry Price*

Founder and Honorary Director, National Laboratory of  
Psychical Research; Founder and Honorary Editor, *British  
Journal of Psychical Research*; Formerly Foreign Research  
Officer, American Society for Psychical Research; Honorary  
Vice-President, Magicians' Club, London; Member of the  
London Society for Psychical Research; Ex-Member of the  
Council of the London Spiritualist Alliance, etc.

*With impressions of the 'Phenomena' by Professor Dr. William  
McDougall, F.R.S., Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., and  
Professor D. F. Fraser-Harris, M.D., D.Sc.*

*With 44 Illustrations*

LONDON

Published by the Council at the Rooms of the National  
Laboratory of Psychical Research, 13D, Roland  
Gardens, South Kensington, S.W.7

1931



# Registration and the Mortgage

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

MADE AND PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN  
AT GAINSBOROUGH PRESS, ST. ALBANS,  
BY FISHER, KNIGHT AND CO., LTD.



## PREFACE

THE Council of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research has pleasure in submitting to its Members an account of a series of experiments conducted with Mrs. Henry Duncan.

The Report has been left in the form in which it was prepared from day to day, the chronological order best illustrating our reaction to the various events as they occurred. This arrangement has the added advantage that a greater degree of accuracy can be maintained owing to the fact that everything was recorded a few hours after it happened, when details of the incident were fresh in our memories.

The question was raised as to whether this Report should be published. But the Council of the National Laboratory considered that it would be failing in its duty to both its Members and the public if it suppressed the results of our experiments. Another reason that made it imperative that we should put on record this account of our experiences with the Duncans is because the case is unique in the annals of psychical research. To the medical historian especially the 'mediumship' presents several facets of extraordinary interest, while the biologist and physiologist will find many details worthy of their attention.

It is seldom that psychic investigators have the opportunity of examining such an interesting case as that of the Scotch materializing medium, and we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Duncan for placing their services at the disposal of the Laboratory and for so cheerfully submitting to the many tests and examinations that we thought necessary. I only regret that we found it impossible to accept the manifestations as anything but normal, though decidedly unusual. The fact that the Duncans so freely offered their services to us will, I fear, increase the disappointment they must feel at our inability to endorse the 'phenomena'.

The chief interest in the experiments is, I think, a medical one. Cases of regurgitation on record are so few that this report of our experiences can hardly fail to interest medical science and especially the psychologist. From the point of view of the psychical researcher, the case is so extraordinary that it is likely to become a classic in the annals of mediumship.

The Duncan mediumship is also valuable as illustrating the difficulties with which investigators are faced. As the reader will discover, modern scientific psychical research necessitates a great technical knowledge in many branches of science and the use of instruments and apparatus which must astound the layman. But the reader will realize that all this was vital in order to enable us to form an opinion as to the origin of the interesting manifestations which we witnessed.

The uninformed critic will perhaps wonder why we did not seize the various alleged psychic formations as they appeared. Well, in any case, we could have 'grabbed' only once—and that would have ended the experiments: which would not have been an investigation at all. But by



## PREFACE

careful analysis and deduction, and the photographing of the effects as they were produced, we have discovered much more than would have been the case had we seized the first piece of 'cheese cloth' that came to our hand. It is the tyro who 'grabs'—the trained investigator sees the case through to its interesting conclusion.

There is also another reason why we do not 'grab'. It is an inflexible law at the National Laboratory that nothing is done without the knowledge and consent of the medium, and we will never depart from this rigid rule. Every medium who places himself in our hands will receive a square deal and will be treated with extreme kindness and courtesy. In any case, mediumship is often a battle of wits, and it is not always the investigator who scores.

Lest it be thought that the National Laboratory is established solely to report negative findings, it must be emphasized that the Laboratory is established solely because the Council is convinced that psychic phenomena are a reality—though rare. It would be the height of folly to maintain a costly organization in order to prove to the world that fraud exists. Of course, fraud exists everywhere. The National Laboratory was founded in order to demonstrate to the public, if possible, that psychic phenomena are *real*. We have endorsed the mediumship of some psychics (*e.g.*, Rudi Schneider<sup>1</sup>) who have successfully survived our rigid *control*—the only true test of physical mediumship.

As illustrating the costly nature of these investigations, I will mention that we have expended upon the Duncan experiments (apart from the publishing of this Report) more than £100, of which sum the medium's husband received £48 17s. od. We do not begrudge this money, which we consider has been well invested in the interests of the public.

In conclusion, the Council desires to thank all those who devoted their time and energy to the investigation, and it is especially grateful to those distinguished scientists who, often at much inconvenience to themselves, assisted in the elucidation of this extraordinary case.

H.P.

July, 1931.

<sup>1</sup>See: *Rudi Schneider: A Scientific Examination of his Mediumship*, by Harry Price, London, Methuen, 1930.

PREFACE  
LIST  
NOT  
A N  
FIR  
THE  
NOT  
SEC  
NOT  
PRE

THE  
NOT  
SOM  
A C

FOU  
NO  
AN  
FIR  
NO  
TE  
AN  
MR  
MR  
CO

A.  
B.  
C.  
D.  
E.  
F.  
G.  
IN



## CONTENTS

|  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| PREFACE . . . . .  | 3    |
| LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS . . . . .  | 7    |
| NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS . . . . .   | 9    |
| A NOTE <i>re</i> MRS. DUNCAN . . . . .   | II   |
| FIRST SÉANCE, MONDAY, MAY 4TH, 1931 . . . . .                                  | 13   |
| THE SÉANCE-ROOM . . . . .  | 14   |
| NOTES, COMMENTS, AND IMPRESSIONS OF FIRST SÉANCE . . . . .                     | 20   |
| SECOND SÉANCE, THURSDAY, MAY 14TH, 1931 . . . . .                              | 27   |
| NOTES ON THE SECOND SÉANCE . . . . .   | 35   |
| PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE STEREOGRAMS TAKEN AT THE SECOND SÉANCE . . . . .      | 37   |
| THIRD SÉANCE, THURSDAY, MAY 21ST, 1931 . . . . .                               | 39   |
| NOTES ON THE THIRD SÉANCE . . . . .  | 45   |
| SOME FAMOUS REGURGITATORS . . . . .  | 48   |
| A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FOUR STEREOGRAMS TAKEN AT THIRD SÉANCE . . . . . | 51   |
| FOURTH SÉANCE, THURSDAY, MAY 28TH, 1931 . . . . .                              | 55   |
| NOTES ON THE FOURTH SÉANCE . . . . .   | 65   |
| AN ANALYSIS OF THE STEREOGRAMS SECURED AT FOURTH SÉANCE . . . . .              | 67   |
| FIFTH SÉANCE, THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH, 1931 . . . . .                               | 69   |
| NOTES ON THE FIFTH SÉANCE . . . . .  | 73   |
| TELEPLASMIC WOOD PULP . . . . .  | 75   |
| ANALYST'S REPORT ON THE PAPER 'TELEPLASM' . . . . .                            | 78   |
| MR. DUNCAN EXPLAINS . . . . .  | 79   |
| MR. DUNCAN RECEIVES AN OFFER . . . . .   | 81   |
| CONCLUSION . . . . .   | 83   |

## APPENDICES

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| A.—THE MICROSCOPIC ANATOMY OF THE ALBUMINOID TYPE OF DUNCAN 'TELEPLASM' . . . . .                           | 87            |
| B.—VERBATIM REPORT OF MEETING BETWEEN MR. HENRY DUNCAN AND THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL LABORATORY . . . . . | 96            |
| C.—LIST OF SITTERS . . . . .  | 105           |
| D.—DR. X'S REPORT ON HIS EXAMINATION OF MEDIUM AT FIFTH SÉANCE . . . . .                                    | 106           |
| E.—IMPRESSIONS OF TWO SÉANCES WITH MRS. DUNCAN BY PROFESSOR D. F. FRASER-HARRIS, M.D., D.Sc. . . . .        | 108           |
| F.—IMPRESSIONS OF TWO SÉANCES WITH MRS. DUNCAN BY PROFESSOR DR. WILLIAM McDUGALL, F.R.S. . . . .            | III           |
| G.—IMPRESSIONS OF THREE SÉANCES WITH MRS. DUNCAN BY DR. WILLIAM BROWN, F.R.C.P. . . . .                     | II2           |
| INDEX . . . . .   | II3           |
| SET OF THIRTEEN STEREOGRAMS, TO BE VIEWED BY MEANS OF A STEREOSCOPE . . . . .                               | <i>At end</i> |



## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

|       |   |                     |
|-------|---|---------------------|
|       | Mrs. Victoria Helen Duncan, aged 32½ years  | <i>Frontispiece</i> |
| PLATE |   | <i>Facing Page</i>  |
| I.    | Laboratory (south) of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, showing some of the apparatus used in the investigation of the Duncan mediumship   | 16                  |
| II.   | Séance-room of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, where all the experiments with Mrs. Duncan were conducted. Cabinet, arm-chair, settee, etc., are visible  | 16                  |
| III.  | Half of Stereogram 1, showing trail of cheese cloth held by mouth and poked in right nostril. Note lower end is formed into loop  | 24                  |
| IV.   | Half of Stereogram 2, showing strip of cheese cloth bunched in lap. Note torn end, <i>a</i> .   | 24                  |
| V.    | Half of Stereogram 3, showing trail of cheese cloth tucked into ear, upper end supported by bandage   | 24                  |
| VI.   | Half of Stereogram 4, showing selvedge of cheese cloth, <i>a</i>  | 24                  |
| VII.  | Half of Stereogram 5, showing many rents in cheese cloth strip: also warp and weft strongly marked. Note selvedge, <i>a</i> , and fold or crease marks, <i>b</i> . Compare Stereogram 12, and control photograph, Plate VIII. | 32                  |
| VIII. | Control photograph to Stereogram 5 (Plate VII), consisting of six feet of Woolworth's cheese cloth. Note selvedge, <i>a</i> ; rents, etc., <i>b</i> . Compare with Stereogram 5   | 32                  |
| IX.   | Showing how easily a piece of cheese cloth (six feet long, thirty inches wide, and weighing 1½ ounces), can be rolled into small compass and placed in the mouth  | 40                  |
| X.    | Engraved cartoon <i>re</i> Mary Toft, the 'Guildford Rabbit Breeder' (1726), who deceived many medical men by concealing live rabbits in the vaginal passage  | 40                  |
| XI.   | Half of Stereogram 6, showing safety-pin, <i>a</i> , and rubber surgical glove, <i>b</i>  | 48                  |
| XII.  | Half of Stereogram 7, showing rubber surgical glove turned upwards. Note safety-pin, <i>a</i> ; selvedge of stuff, <i>b</i> , and puffed cheeks of medium   | 48                  |
| XIII. | Enlarged portions of Stereograms 6 and 7, showing safety-pins, <i>b</i> and <i>d</i> . Note torn end, <i>a</i> ; sheen on rubber surgical glove, <i>c</i> ; and selvedge of loose end, <i>e</i>                               | 56                  |
| XIV.  | Half of Stereogram 8, showing lateral view of rubber surgical glove. Note loop in stuff, <i>a</i> , and selvedge and rents in loose end, <i>b</i>   | 56                  |



| PLATE  | Facing Page |
|--|-------------|
| XV. Half of Stereogram 9, showing cheese cloth strip bunched round mouth and twisted tail between legs . . .   | 64          |
| XVI. Engraving of Blaise de Manfré, aged 72, famous regurgitator, by Hollar, 1651 . . .  | 64          |
| XVII. Engraving of Floram Marchand, ' <i>Le Grand Boyeur de Tours</i> ', a famous regurgitator, who flourished in 1650, from <i>The Falacie of the Great Water-Drinker Discovered</i> (Plate XVIII) . . .  | 72          |
| XVIII. Title-page of <i>The Falacie of the Great Water-Drinker Discovered</i> , 1650, the regurgitator's <i>vade mecum</i> . . .   | 72          |
| XIX. Half of Stereogram 10, showing girl's head wrapped in cheese cloth. Compare with Stereogram 11 . . .  | 80          |
| XX. Half of Stereogram 11, showing girl's head wrapped in cheese cloth. Note loop in stuff, <i>a</i> . Compare Stereogram 10 . . .   | 80          |
| XXI. Half of Stereogram 12, showing rents in cheese cloth. Note selvedge, <i>a</i> ; and torn strip, <i>b</i> . Compare Stereogram 5 . . .   | 80          |
| XXII. Enlarged portion of Stereogram 12, showing rents in cheese cloth, warp and weft, etc. Note selvedge, <i>a</i> . . .  | 88          |
| XXIII. Half of Stereogram 13, showing strip of cheese cloth. Note loop, <i>a</i> ; rents, <i>b</i> ; and frayed edge, <i>c</i> . . .   | 88          |
| XXIV. Enlarged portions of Stereograms 5 and 13, showing rents in cheese cloth, warp and weft, etc. Note frayed edge, <i>a</i> , and crease or fold mark, <i>b</i> . . .   | 96          |
| XXV. Radiograph of medium's head, taken at Fourth Séance, May 28th, 1931 . . .   | 96          |
| XXVI. Piece of 'teleplasm' (enlarged), consisting of ordinary paper, secured from Mrs. Duncan at Fifth Séance. See photomicrographs, Plate XXVII, and analyst's report . . .   | 104         |
| XXVII. Photomicrographs (x 120) of <i>A</i> , the paper 'teleplasm' secured from Mrs. Duncan on June 4th, 1931, and <i>B</i> , control mixture of 60% chemical and 40% mechanical wood pulp. The fibres, medullary rays, etc., are identical in both photographs . . . | 104         |
| Stereogram 1 (Second Séance) . . .   | At end      |
| Stereogram 2 (Second Séance) . . .   | " "         |
| Stereogram 3 (Second Séance) . . .   | " "         |
| Stereogram 4 (Second Séance) . . .   | " "         |
| Stereogram 5 (Second Séance) . . .   | " "         |
| Control Stereogram (Woolworth's cheese cloth) to Stereogram 5 . . .  | " "         |
| Stereogram 6 (Third Séance) . . .  | " "         |
| Stereogram 7 (Third Séance) . . .  | " "         |
| Stereogram 8 (Third Séance) . . .  | " "         |
| Stereogram 11 (Fourth Séance) . . .  | " "         |
| Stereogram 12 (Fourth Séance) . . .  | " "         |
| Stereogram 13 (Fourth Séance) . . .  | " "         |
| Stereogram of paper 'Teleplasm' (Fifth Séance) . . .   | " "         |



## NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS

ALL the photographs (with the exception of the Frontispiece) are the copyright of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research and must not be reproduced without permission.

Every photograph published in this Report is absolutely untouched and is reproduced direct from the original negative. Stereograms, enlargements, or blocks have not been retouched in any way.

The photographs have lost something in the process of reproduction and the reader is cordially invited to visit the Rooms of the National Laboratory and view the original stereograms in a suitable instrument, inspect the direct enlargements, examine the microscopic slides of 'teleplasm', handle the stuff itself, see the cheese cloth, hear the dictaphone record of 'Albert's' voice, etc.

It does not necessarily follow that because a photograph is enlarged, the details in it are plainer. The contrary is often the case, because not only is the image itself magnified, but the silver grains in the emulsion with which the negative is coated are likewise enlarged and sometimes this produces a granular effect, obscuring the finer details. For example, the glint on the rubber gloves, and the safety-pins appear much plainer in the small original stereograms than they do in the enlargements reproduced in this Report. These enlargements are best viewed about a yard away from the reader's eyes.

Another loss of detail is incurred in the process (half-tone) blocks with which this Report is illustrated. The screen marks or rulings (reproduced as black and white dots) all help to obscure the finer details.

Finally, it must be reiterated that the original stereograms, when viewed through a suitable instrument, are *three dimensional*—an advantage which it is to be regretted cannot be shared with the reader, who sees merely a two dimensional picture.

But for those who care to go to the expense of purchasing a stereoscope (the cheap American type costs only a very few shillings) there has been included in this volume a series of thirteen stereograms, reproduced from the originals, which will give a much more realistic impression of the various 'phenomena'.



## A NOTE RE MRS. DUNCAN

MRS. VICTORIA HELEN DUNCAN (*née* Macfarlane) was born in Callander, Perthshire, Scotland, on November 25th, 1898, so that she is just (May, 1931) 32½ years old. The Duncans' home is in Dundee.

Mr. Duncan informed me that his wife has been mediumistic since she was a child. Tactile clairvoyance ('psychometry'), clairvoyance, clair-audience, telekinesis, and—later—materializations have, it is stated, been witnessed at different times.

Mrs. Duncan suffers from very bad health. She has been in hospitals several times and still receives medical attention. Although only 32 years of age, she weighs 17 stone 4 ounces—a weight that varies a little from one to one-and-a-half pounds. She measures 57 inches round the chest and 54 inches round the hips. She is 5 feet 6 inches in height. Mrs. Duncan has had nine children, three of whom died in early infancy.

Of the various 'controls' alleged to manifest through Mrs. Duncan 'Albert Stewart' is the chief. He is stated to have been a native of Dundee, afterwards emigrating to Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, where he died in the year 1909. His occupation, we are told, was that of a pattern maker.

'Albert' says that he converses by means of a 'voice box' which, Mr. Duncan states, has been seen in the form of a pair of pendulous lips which moved just as if they were speaking. Nothing of the sort has been seen in London. 'Peggy Hazeldine' is the name of a child control alleged to manifest through Mrs. Duncan.

Mr. Henry Duncan is a cabinet maker by trade, is 32 years old, and—he informed me—gave up his work in order that he could develop his wife's mediumship. He usually forms one of the circle during the *séances*.

I first learnt of the Duncan mediumship in the pages of *Light*.<sup>1</sup> When I heard that the Duncans intended coming south I made a mental resolution that I would get in touch with them. I had already read some details of the alleged phenomena and the fact that Mrs. Duncan's manifestations were produced in such a good light whetted my curiosity and rather impressed me. I was delighted when I knew that they were coming to London.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>For October 19th, 1929, p. 495.

<sup>2</sup>Since this Report was completed, Major C. H. Mowbray has informed me that many months ago he investigated the Duncans in Scotland and came to the conclusion that all the effects he witnessed were normally produced. His adverse report was placed in the hands of the London spiritualists at the time. In spite of his report, between forty and fifty *séances* were afterwards held by the spiritualists.

During the month of September, 1931, it was learnt that four 'mediums' have been guilty of producing fraudulent phenomena. Charles Albert Beare, a 'certificated' clairvoyant and trumpet medium has confessed (*Daily Express*, September 18th, 1931) that his mediumship was fraudulent.

Mr. Dennis Bradley has completely exposed George Valiantine (who was closely associated with the 'Margery' cross-correspondence tests), an American trumpet medium who produced fraudulent thumb-prints (*Daily Express*, September 21st, 1931); and Craig and George Falconer, Glasgow photographic mediums, have been convicted of producing fraudulent spirit photographs at Johannesburg, South Africa, and each fined £150 and costs. (*Light*, October 2nd, 1931, p.478.) All these mediums have consistently refused to be tested at the National Laboratory.



## THE DUNCAN MEDIUMSHIP

FIRST SÉANCE, MONDAY, MAY 4TH, 1931

MR. AND MRS. DUNCAN arrived in London during the latter part of 1930 for a series of demonstration sittings with the spiritualists who afterwards (on March 9th, 1931) engaged them for a number of months. I had an hour's chat with the medium and her husband before they returned to Dundee. I suggested that when the arrangement with the spiritualists was terminated, the National Laboratory would like to conduct some scientific experiments with them. They cordially agreed: I found the Duncans very pleasant and intelligent, with a distinct bias towards the scientific method of investigation.

The Duncans visited London again early in 1931 in order to fulfil their contract with the spiritualists and, at their request, on Monday, April 27th, I had another long talk with them. They were not particularly satisfied with their London visit and kindly offered to give the Council of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research a demonstration sitting. This was not to be a rigid test—merely a friendly demonstration under laboratory conditions in a properly equipped *séance*-room. The Duncans visited the Laboratory on the afternoon of April 27th and expressed their satisfaction with the general arrangements. They also stated that the 'atmosphere' of the place was congenial to them. [Plate I.]

The friendly *séance* was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on the evening of Monday, May 4th. No conditions were imposed upon us, and any suggestions I made were readily agreed to. I informed Mr. Duncan that we should publish a report of our experiments.

The medium and her husband arrived punctually at 7.30 p.m., and were introduced to a number of our Research Council who were present, including Professor Dr. William McDougall, F.R.S., the distinguished psychologist, who was spending a long vacation in England after his strenuous work at Duke University, U.S.A.

*Fore control.*—At her own suggestion, Mrs. Duncan offered to strip entirely nude and subject herself to any examination. This she did in my office in the presence of Mrs. A. Peel Goldney, a member of the National Laboratory Research Council (who has worked in a large midwifery hospital), Professor McDougall, and the present writer. Mr. Duncan was not in the room during the examination.

Mrs. Duncan was thoroughly examined externally, and Professor McDougall (who holds a medical degree) very carefully examined her throat, mouth, and teeth. Everything appeared normal. Mrs. Goldney combed her (bobbed) hair in order to see that nothing was concealed there. No vaginal inspection was made, though I understood that the medium would have permitted this, had we expressed the desire. But I thought it would have



been rather out of keeping with a 'friendly' *séance* had we subjected the medium to this not very pleasant operation.

Having thoroughly examined the medium's body externally, we dressed her in a pair of black sateen knickers, a coat (like a man's) made of the same material, and a pair of black stockings. These garments belonged to the medium, and were brought in case we had no similar clothes large enough. All these articles were minutely examined, turned inside out, and held up to the light. They were exactly what they purported to be. The medium donned them in our presence, consumed a glass of water, and was led into the *séance*-room by Professor McDougall and myself. The sitters (including Mr. Duncan) had already taken their places. We led her to the 'cabinet', placed her in an arm-chair in the recess, closed the curtains, and in fifteen seconds the medium was apparently asleep and quietly snoring.

### THE *SÉANCE*-ROOM

The *séance*-room of the new premises of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research was chosen on account of its large size. It measures 22 feet 7 inches long by 15 feet 7 inches wide by 9 feet 9 inches in height. It has two doors, one leading into a workshop, the second giving access to the entrance hall of the Laboratory. Both of these doors can be locked and sealed.

One of the recesses formed by the chimney-piece has been extended, on the ceiling, by means of a semi-circular rail and from this rail is suspended by means of small pulleys (roller bearings) a pair of red plush curtains weighing 14 pounds. This forms the traditional 'cabinet', roomy and comfortable, in which a person can sit in an arm-chair, the curtains completely concealing him. The measurements of the cabinet are: Width, 6 feet 3 inches; height, 9 feet 9 inches; depth, 3 feet 3 inches; depth of sides, 2 feet.

The floor of the *séance*-room (in common with the other rooms of the Laboratory) is covered with  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch natural cork carpet, which is a bad conductor of heat, thus keeping the room at an equable temperature. The cork is pleasant to the feet, clean, and is a good background for anything that may form there.

The lighting arrangements are somewhat elaborate and many varieties of illumination are provided for. Ultra-violet and infra-red installations are available and X-ray apparatus is at hand, if necessary.

The normal white lighting of the room is by means of a central pendant holding two 100-watt bulbs. By the turn of a switch, these can be converted into a bright ruby illumination supplied by two 25-watt red bulbs. This is useful for photographic work during a *séance*.

The illumination of a *séance* can be accomplished in many ways, and by various flood lights including coloured filters or screens in special 'lanterns' or inverted ceiling lights constructed by the Wratten Division of Messrs. Kodak, Ltd. The entire series of Wratten filters or 'safelights' are employed in two sizes, 12 inches by 10 inches and 10 inches by 8 inches. The most commonly used are: Series 0, pale orange; series 1, deep orange; series 2, deep red; series 3, a special 'neutral' light, a combination of orange and green tints, as used extensively for panchromatic or autochrome



photographic plates. By using a 60-watt new gas-filled electric bulb with each of these flood lights and filters, it has been possible to keep constant and to standardize the lighting of a *séance*, so that the exact illumination can be duplicated by other investigators. All of these lights are controlled by rheostats or dimmers. Six lighting plugs and two power plugs are available for the various lamps and instruments. The *séance*-room contains a fireplace permanently blocked by a metal plate and a large gas fire. A large window at one end of the room can be covered by an opaque black spring blind, the edges of which are masked by a felt-lined 'box' which entirely surrounds the window. These spring roller blinds are used extensively for X-ray work in large hospitals. The system is an ideal one for a *séance*-room which can be properly darkened in a few seconds.

A number of photographic cameras, dictaphones, time clock, etc., are at hand for recording purposes and a large cabinet gramophone supplies music as required. Bookcases line the walls of the room, which contains also the usual chairs, table, etc. A special teak note-taker's table, on pentagraph rubber wheels, supports a dictaphone, rheostats, luminous watch for timing, etc. Thermographs, barographs, and other instruments are installed for recording the meteorological conditions.

A special instrument adapted by the Laboratory for *séance* purposes is a time clock which indicates the exact duration of a phenomenon. The system is an electrical one. The movement of a special 24-hour clock is so constructed that a red bulb is caused to glow at regular intervals of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 seconds according to the setting. By the turn of a switch a buzzer or bell can be activated instead of the light. By putting the clock in a convenient position in the line of sight of a person noting the manifestations, the exact duration of a phenomenon can be accurately recorded.

In conclusion I will remark that the *séance*-room is a very substantial brick structure at the back of the Laboratory premises; it is quiet, free from vibration and the only access to the room from the street is by the door leading from the entrance hall. The 'cabinet' is at the end of the room farthest from this door. [See Plate II.]

The doors having been locked and the keys handed to Mr. Bois, the note-taker (the Secretary, Miss Beenham) seated herself at the dictaphone. The other sitters had already arranged themselves in the order indicated in the protocol.

Previous to the medium's entry into the *séance*-room, the white light had been changed for the two 25-watt naked bright-red bulbs which illuminated the room so well that small print could be read. The secretary now turned on to their fullest capacity (60-watt) the 12 inches by 10 inches Wratten pale orange (Series 0) ceiling light, and the 10 inches by 8 inches Wratten flood light, with deep red (Series 2) filter with 60-watt bulb. This red light was suspended immediately above the opening in the curtains, the rays shining directly down upon the spot which was afterwards frequently occupied by the medium in trance. The filter glass of the lantern was exactly 2 feet 6 inches above the head of the medium, when she was standing.

The combined illumination of the orange and red flood lights, when full



on, was such that everything in the large *séance*-room was plainly visible. The books in their cases, the furniture, and every person present could be seen in detail. The inverted pale orange flood light alone illuminated the room fully, the white ceiling reflecting and dispersing the light over the entire room.

But we had the additional illumination of the 10 inches by 8 inches red flood light shining directly down upon the medium and sitters, in semi-circle formation round the cabinet. Thus every person was plainly visible. The sitters were astonished at the extraordinary illumination permitted by the conditions—so very unusual in the case of materializing mediums.

If the reader will turn to the introductory remarks in my report<sup>1</sup> of our experiments with Rudi Schneider, the young Austrian medium, he will notice that I deplored the semi-darkness necessary and stated that 'it is these conditions which compelled us to evolve a technique (such as the electrical control) in order to make up for the deficiency in *séance*-room illumination.' (P. x.)

But in our first sitting with Mrs. Duncan, no such mechanical or electrical control was necessary. Every action by every person was plainly visible. Towards the end of the *séance* the secretary broke the second wax cylinder when placing it on the mandrel of the dictaphone—but there was ample illumination for her to carry on by means of shorthand notes.

All the sitters, with the exception of Mr. Barry Richards and Mr. Duncan, are members of the Research Council of the Laboratory. Mr. Bois was at the extreme left of the circle, in charge of the rheostat regulating the red flood light; the present writer was at the extreme right.

The medium having been led into the cabinet (previously examined) the *séance* commenced. Here is the official protocol, made by dictaphone and shorthand notes during the progress of the sitting:

Both doors to *séance*-room locked—keys given to Mr. Bois.

White light out. Orange and red lights full on. Inside temperature, 58° Fahr.; outside temperature, 52° Fahr. Order of sitters, clockwise: Medium, Mr. Harry Price, Mr. Barry Richards, Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Professor Dr. William McDougall, F.R.S., Captain H. W. Seton-Karr, Mr. Henry Duncan, Captain the Hon. Victor Cochran Baillie, Mrs. A. Peel Goldney, Mr. E. W. Janson, Mrs. Clarice Richards, Mr. H. G. Bois. Medium in cabinet.

8.7. Sitting commenced. Medium in trance within a few seconds. Professor McDougall changed places with Mr. Richards, and is now sitting next to Mr. Price.

Curtains moving, drawn apart. Teleplasm issuing from medium's mouth—dropping down to her lap. Curtains closed again. Medium appeared in centre of curtains—teleplasm plainly visible—went to right of cabinet—showed herself there for a second or so, then appeared at left of cabinet. Teleplasm visible for 42 seconds. Teleplasm coming mostly from the mouth, but also from the nostrils. About 5 feet high. Looks like tissue, trailing on the floor; like a semi-transparent tissue—teleplasm visible for 23 seconds.

Teleplasm visible again. Now it is spread out, like an apron—still

---

<sup>1</sup>Rudi Schneider: *A Scientific Examination of his Mediumship*, London, Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1930.





PLATE I

Laboratory (south) of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, showing some of the apparatus used in the investigation of the Duncan mediumship



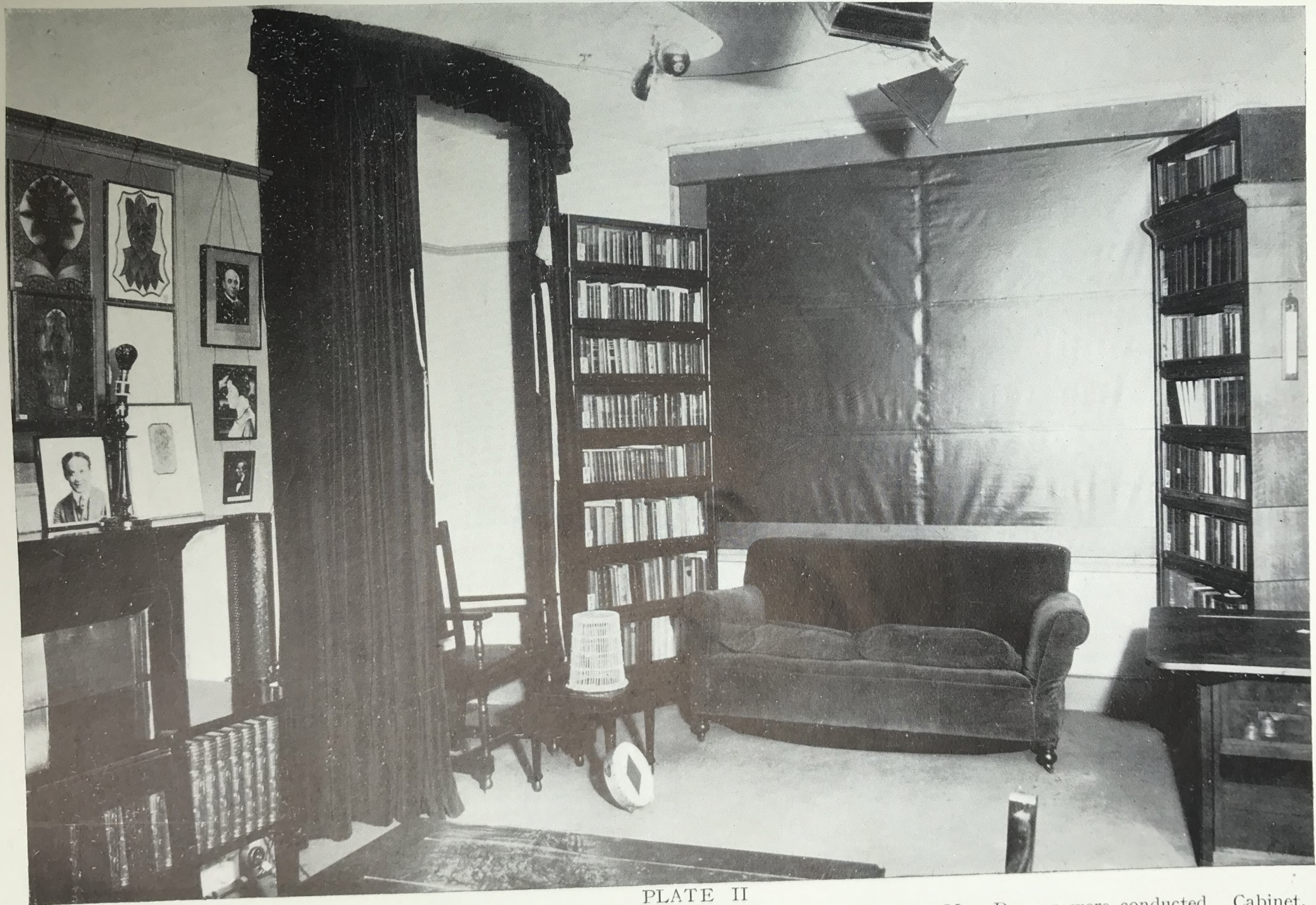


PLATE II

*Séance*-room of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, where all the experiments with Mrs. Duncan were conducted. Cabinet, arm-chair, settee, etc., are visible



coming out of her mouth and her nose—it is bunched on her lap, entwined round her feet and touching the floor. Like a large semi-transparent apron. Medium now in centre of curtains and moving into circle. Teleplasm about 8 feet long—like a long bridal veil. Teleplasm coming out of her nostrils and mouth; seen by all; Mr. Price is standing up beside the medium.

8.17. Medium now coming back to cabinet. Out for 56 seconds. In a light possible to see every book in the room, and every person present plainly visible. Mr. Duncan remarks that the medium has never been known to tread on the teleplasm. Medium in cabinet again. Teleplasm appears to be rapidly disappearing into her mouth, which is in deep shadow. Curtains opening. Teleplasm is coming out again. Coming through the nostrils and mouth.

8.24. Teleplasm coming from the medium's mouth again. Now about 2 feet long. Teleplasm has lengthened and is wrapped round medium's feet and on the floor. Mr. Bois can see the medium all the time. There is a large mass on the floor at the medium's feet.

Teleplasm all over the medium's chair—entwined round and round both arms of the chair and leading up to medium's mouth and nostrils again. Teleplasm more spread out now; about 9 feet long; twined round the chair—medium coming out of the cabinet. Teleplasm spread out more.

8.29. Teleplasm being unwound very rapidly from around the chair.

8.30. Medium now holding Mr. Price's right hand. (Her left hand on Mr. Price's right.)

Teleplasm hanging from the chest, teleplasm bunched up on medium's face—looks as though it is going to fall. The lower end of teleplasm has now fallen and is reaching to her feet. Is hanging in large masses to her feet. Medium returns to the cabinet. Again seated. Breathing very heavily. Closes curtains.

8.35. Albert talking. Curtains moving.

8.40. Curtains opened. Medium enveloped from head to feet as in an enormous shawl—all head covered.

8.41. Albert says he will try and bring little girl out. Mr. Duncan suggests that Albert try and materialize himself by the side of the medium. Albert says: 'Mind your own business!'

8.44. 'Peggy Hazeldine' speaking—says she is coming in a minute—says she hasn't got a frock on yet. Sitters tell her that they have got some nice things for her to play with, tambourine, bells, etc. Circle informed by Mr. Duncan that Peggy often consumes cakes and bon-bons.

8.46. Mr. Bois sees a large mass of teleplasm on medium's lap—hand of medium plainly visible resting on arm of chair. Centre of curtains open—Mr. Price felt something push against his elbow—Albert says it is very difficult—asked if he would like lights lowered, Albert says 'no', he likes working in light—'everybody should work in the light'.

8.53. Medium coming out of cabinet—teleplasm bunched up round her mouth—coming out of right side of cabinet—holding up right hand—teleplasm tied somewhere—Mrs. Goldney says it looks as though it is pinned with small safety-pin. Mr. Barry Richards can also see the pin. Teleplasm jerked off curtains. Mr. Price feeling teleplasm which feels like some sort of tissue—medium back in cabinet. Curtains close. Mr. Duncan says if teleplasm is seen to come from under the curtains it looks exactly like plastic



rubber. Mr. Bois says that for a minute he thought he smelt exactly the smell of latex.

8.55. Mr. Duncan asks Albert to show himself. Albert says that there is nothing there that Mr. Duncan can command, so he must not 'try it on'. Mr. Price asking if Albert will allow 'the lady' to be tied to her chair—Albert says surely he will—and he will let Mr. Price feel the teleplasm.

8.58. Curtains opening—Mr. Price lifting teleplasm up and smelling it as it hangs from medium's mouth—feels damp—has curious musty smell. Sitters ask Albert where Peggy is.

9.1. Mr. Price and Professor McDougall binding Mrs. Duncan to chair with adhesive tape. Her feet bound to legs of chair and her wrists to arms of chair. Both red and orange lights still full on. Medium in deep trance all the time—feet bound tightly hard up against chair.

9.6. Curtains drawn together again—Mr. Price and Professor McDougall are again in their seats.

9.11. Albert says they have made a very good job of the binding—very tight—Mr. Price remarks that Albert's voice is like Mose's of Alexander and Mose. Albert said he thought he said like Moses' voice. Sitters ask Albert if he would like music. Albert says 'Yes'—asked if he would like lights lowered—says 'No'.

9.18. Albert says he is trying to get medium quiet.

9.22. Albert again talking—says Mr. Price is to put his hand through opening of cabinet—he does so—medium's hands exactly as Mr. Price left them—Albert asks has Mr. Price stopped her circulation?—have we a flash-light?—on examination the medium's hands appear to be a little swollen. Adhesive tapes removed.

9.30. Medium's wrists again bound—a little more loosely—all sitters seated in their respective places.

9.31. Curtains drawn together again—lights still full on—medium breathing very deeply—half-snoring.

9.32. Curtains moving slightly—curtains being drawn back—opening slightly—teleplasm on floor—falling in long strand on the floor—twisted in a circular mass—Albert wants sitters to see substance and also hands and feet of medium. Curtains closing.

9.36. Curtains being drawn right in. Mr. Price asks if Albert can show himself—Albert says he will have to disappoint him. Curtains being drawn right away from Mr. Bois—teleplasm showing under curtains which are again opening—medium sitting straight up in her chair—curtains strongly shaken—being pulled towards Mr. Price—Mr. Bois looking through side of cabinet, but cannot see what it is that is pulling the curtains—Mrs. Richards says she wishes she could shake hands with Albert. Albert says that if she had gloves on, she might.

Mr. Bois suggests that if he put his hand inside cabinet, would Albert take hold of it? Albert said that the medium would take hold of it. Mrs. Goldney says, 'But she could not.' Albert said, 'Oh, yes, she could if he put his hand near enough.'

9.41. Curtains being pulled back very strongly indeed. Albert says he is afraid he will have to go.



## THE DUNCAN MEDIUMSHIP

19

9.42. Curtains have stopped moving. Sitters draw curtains back—deep breathing of medium has stopped—the two principal bright red lights switched on—ties binding medium quite intact.

9.42. Medium out of trance. Both doors to *séance*-room unlocked. Sitting ended.

(Signed) ETHEL BEENHAM.



NOTES, COMMENTS, AND IMPRESSIONS OF  
FIRST SÉANCE

Saturday, May 9th, 1931

The whole of the foregoing (with the exception of the actual protocol, which, of course, was compiled during the sitting) has been written a day or so after the *séance*. It is the intention to compile the report of these experiments as we progress and when details are fresh in the minds of the sitters. I am completing these notes on May 9th.

The first query which arises is whether Mr. Duncan's presence is necessary at these *séances*. From the point of view of the production of phenomena, I should say no; but for a psychological reason his presence is invaluable. It gives his wife confidence, and it is reasonable that she should wish to have her natural protector at hand in case of necessity or illness. Also, we are glad to have his help and advice. Owing to the excellent illumination, no mechanical or electrical control was required. But I placed Mr. Duncan between Captain Seton-Karr and Captain Cochran Baillie in order that he could be kept under observation. Actually, he was farthest away from the medium and made no contact with her from the time he entered the Rooms of the Laboratory until they left after the *séance*. We are hoping to experiment with Mrs. Duncan in the absence of her husband, though as the latter is under our constant observation, it is really immaterial whether Mr. Duncan is present or not.

We did not attempt to take the temperature of the cabinet with special thermographs, but the room and outside temperatures are recorded.

We decided not to tie up the medium during the first part of the *séance* in order that she could enjoy complete physical and mental freedom. Everything was new to her, and all the sitters were strangers. It is reasonable to suppose that had we trussed her up into the bargain, a further inhibition would have been placed on her. In the same way, we permitted her to use her own garments as it was convenient for us to do so, but our own one-piece garment is being prepared.

Assuming that a 'medium' is, psychically, as superior to an ordinary person as a Michelangelo is to a house painter, it is reasonable to suppose that the best phenomena are produced when complete physical freedom is allowed. If proper precautions are taken in examining the medium and the *séance*-room, and a light strong enough to witness the action of every person is installed, no physical control should be necessary. In the opinion of the writer, such control *must* inhibit the phenomena to a certain extent. Can the reader imagine Shakespeare dictating his immortal plays trussed up like a fowl? The analogy is not a very good one, but it will serve. But sometimes it is necessary to resort to a rigid physical control, especially with a physical medium. When the illumination is poor, the physical medium must *always* be rigidly controlled.

As a matter of fact, the phenomena ceased when I secured the medium's



wrists to the arm-chair by means of half-inch adhesive surgical tape, and carefully marked the ties and the flesh with a surgeon's blue pencil. I admit I made a good job of it, and when 'Albert' chided me for binding so tightly,<sup>1</sup> the remark was justified: her hands appeared a little swollen. The second attempt (over the first, these ties having been cut with scissors) left the bindings a little slacker. I again marked the ties in a certain way, and at the end of the *séance* they appeared exactly as I had left them. The reader will be interested to hear that it took us nearly half an hour to remove the two sets of bindings from the wrists of the medium. This was accomplished by means of xylol which dissolved the adhesive substance of the tapes.

The reader will see from the protocol that 'teleplasm' (this is a convenient name to call it—at present we do not know what it is) appeared after we had tied up the medium a second time. It likewise disappeared. A long stream of it was produced, like a bride's veil twisted into a rope.

The teleplasm appeared many times and in many shapes. It fell in a long festoon from the medium's mouth and nostrils; it coiled itself and squirmed upon the floor; it entangled itself round the chair; it came out of the cabinet to my feet; it appeared like a large veil completely covering the bulky form of the medium except for a slit in front of the mouth; it shortened itself and lengthened itself; it twisted itself up into a short, thick rope, slightly damp and with an odour. Of course, all these transformations were caused by the medium who was manipulating it. Sometimes it appeared semi-transparent and with a sheen; sometimes it appeared opaque. Not once did it look like the substance I analysed (see Appendix A), and which was alleged to be a portion of teleplasm taken from Mrs. Duncan's chest. When the duration of the appearance of the teleplasm is noted in the protocol, it was timed by the time clock. But the production of teleplasm was so frequent, and the stuff was in view for such long periods, that the exact timing of the various appearances was no longer a necessity. On and off, the substance was in view for one and a half hours.

In the protocol it is stated that the teleplasm was 'issuing from her mouth', 'coming from her nostrils', etc. This is a little misleading, and is of course what was dictated. Actually, we did *not* see it coming in a stream from the medium's facial orifices as the protocol suggests. It was exactly as if it had been placed in the mouth and ends tucked into the nostrils. That same evening I secured a piece of gossamer and produced the identical effect in my own mouth and nostrils in the way I have indicated. When I saw it on the medium's face, it was always in a state of quiescence, falling into her lap like a petrified waterfall.

Neither did we see it return into the medium's mouth or nostrils. But at 8.17, when the medium was well back into the shade of the cabinet, we *did* see the end of the teleplasm rise from the floor in a quick succession of spasmodic jerks, and Mr. Duncan informed us that the stuff was returning through the mouth and nostrils, which were in deep shadow and could not be seen.

---

<sup>1</sup>Adhesive surgical tape is ideal for binding a person if the job is done properly. American gangsters invariably use this method for putting their victims *hors de combat*—when they do not shoot them.



An amazing feature of Mrs. Duncan's mediumship is the fact that, in the bright light I have described, the psychic comes out into the circle, with several feet of teleplasm trailing behind her, and the stuff never gets caught up in the sitters' feet, and the medium never treads upon it. Even young *débutantes* have to be taught or coached how to carry their train; one would imagine that it would be no less difficult to manage a 'train' of teleplasm under all sorts of changing conditions.

The reader will recollect that twice I had the opportunity of feeling the teleplasm, and he will wonder what my impressions were. So did Professor McDougall, who was sitting next to me, and I was about to give him the name of the article I thought it felt like—when I restrained myself. I did not want to hurt anyone's susceptibilities—especially Albert's. So I said it felt like 'tissue'—which was correct so far as it went. As a matter of fact, it felt exactly like the thin, fine woollen material that men's summer-weight underclothing is made of. I believe the technical name is stockingette. It was just as if I had caught hold of a man's very thin vest, and I could feel something that gave me a tactile impression of a woven texture. It also felt as warm as a piece of stockingette would feel under the same conditions.

When I was asked to feel the second mass of teleplasm (at 8.58), I received the same tactile impression of a thin woven or closely-knitted material which had been screwed up tightly and slightly damped. There was an odour which gave me the impression that it had been in the medium's mouth—but I cannot define the smell.

Mr. H. G. Bois, who has had great experience in rubber and tea planting, stated that the whitish, filmy substance we are calling teleplasm reminded him of latex, the viscid coloured or milky juice secreted by the rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*) and which exudes from the stem, leaves, or other parts when the surface is broken. India rubber is the thickened latex of the rubber plant. Mr. Bois received this impression on account of the colour, smell, and general appearance of the stuff. But cheese cloth or muslin can be twisted into all sorts of shapes, and an odour given it. But it was not possible to determine the *true* colour, as all we saw were the red and orange rays reflected from a light surface. Another member of the investigating group said it reminded him of a sheet of fatty tissue, such as suet.

The incredulous reader might—at this juncture—ask us why we did not seize a few yards of this interesting substance I have been describing and settle, once and for all, what the stuff is really made of. We could have done this a hundred times, and we were under no promise not to interfere with the substance. But when a man is on the operating-table, the examining medicos do not suddenly snatch the heart out of his body: their 'subject'—and their investigation—would be finished. And common decency would prevent a person perpetrating a similar act in the *séance*-room, unless he were driven to it as a last chance of determining the nature of the substance, knowing it to have been fraudulently produced.

But even assuming that we had strong grounds—which we had not at this first *séance*—for supposing that the whole performance was fraudulent, common prudence would suggest that we made other experiments before arriving at a definite conclusion. The crude art of 'grabbing' is not



countenanced by the Laboratory officials, except under very exceptional circumstances; there are other, and less disturbing means of arriving at the truth.

That same evening I collected a number of pieces of material which included butter muslin, fine gauze, *crêpe de Chine*, silk, artificial silk, stockingette, linen, gossamer, etc., and, blindfolded, tried to reproduce the same tactile impression I had experienced when holding the 'teleplasm'. I found that the gossamer and butter muslin felt most like the teleplasm which I touched on two occasions.<sup>1</sup>

The microscopic slides of alleged teleplasm which we possess show a structure, and we found on analysis that the substance handed to us contained iron in the ferrous and ferric states, sulphate, albumen, etc., etc. The substance felt spongy and gelatinous (see Appendix A), and had nothing of the appearance of a woven material, such as I handled at this first *séance*.

One curious incident happened during the *séance* last Monday (I am writing this on Saturday, May 9th). At 8.53 the curtains parted, and I saw a strip of teleplasm coming from the direction of the medium at about the height of her mouth. It was horizontal, and straight out like a stick, at right-angles to the medium. I put my hand out in order to draw the right-hand curtain from the wall so that I could put my head in the side of cabinet to see where the other end of the teleplasmic strip came from.

But just as I put my arm out, the medium moved slightly and I heard a very faint but clear 'click', and the teleplasmic strip fell to the medium's side. The 'click' sounded *exactly* as if the stuff had been pinned on to the inside of the curtain and had been forcibly jerked off when the medium moved.

At the moment when I heard the click, Mrs. Goldney said, 'I see my gold safety-pin on the curtain,' and she, too, had heard the stuff become forcibly detached. Mr. Barry Richards also saw the pin. When the medium was being dressed in the *séance* garments in my office, Mrs. Goldney had pinned up the medium's coat with a small gold safety-pin. It is assumed that it was this pin which Mrs. Goldney had seen on the inside of the curtain: she saw the glint of the light on the pin.

About a minute after Mrs. Goldney made the remark recorded above, the medium put out her hand, took mine (showing how close I was), and put it to her bosom where, sure enough, the pin was now resting.<sup>2</sup> This proves, of course, that the medium or her subconscious mind, or 'Albert', is cognizant of what is going on in the circle.

The pin incident proves several things: it proves that the Duncan cheese cloth variety of teleplasm has considerable strength and can forcibly pull a fastened safety-pin undone when the farther end is tugged. It also proves that the stuff can be penetrated by a pin without damage to it or the medium. The incident suggests several experiments and theories.

---

<sup>1</sup>I later discovered that cheese cloth, *when washed*, felt exactly like what I handled at this first *séance*.

<sup>2</sup>At the third *séance* we secured two photographs of a safety-pin, and at the fourth discovered a small gilt safety-pin in a tuck on the inside of the *séance* garment.



The reader will notice that several times it is stated that 'the curtain opened'. Of course, the medium does this in the alleged trance. She gets up, sits down, walks round the circle, opens and closes the cabinet curtains as the need or inclination arises. If she had been physically controlled, she could not have done this. But at 9.36 the curtains were violently shaken when the medium's wrists were secured (by adhesive tape) to the arms of the chair. Of course, the curtains could have been seized by the medium's teeth or even by her hands which were free, though not her wrists.

Albert, like Margery's control, 'Walter', is very humorous and a master of repartee. He chaffs the sitters and—especially—Mr. Duncan. Although the medium—like her husband—speaks in very broad Scotch, it is very difficult to detect any dialectic peculiarities in the voice of Albert, which a wag has compared to an 'Oxford accent'—whatever that is. Albert's voice is an amusing kind of drawl reminiscent of the voice assumed by Mose, a well-known radio black-faced comedian. It was difficult to detect any resemblance to the voice of the medium in her normal speech, but in the opinion of the writer, it would not be impossible for her to imitate it. The voice of 'Peggy Hazeldine' sounded like a child's, but her 'appearance' was of too short duration to pass judgement upon it.

The appearance of the medium in trance as we saw her last Monday did not suggest that it was a very strenuous business. There were none of those rather distressing clonic movements and heavy breathing which seem inseparable from the trance state of some mediums, such as Rudi and Willi Schneider. Mrs. Duncan dropped off to sleep within a few seconds after she had been placed in the cabinet, and whenever I looked at her (and she was always plainly visible, except when the curtains screened her) she appeared to be in rather a peaceful sleep, sometimes breathing deeply. Occasionally she had her eyes open, and then they had that peculiar passive stare which I have often noticed with subjects under hypnosis.

Where Mrs. Duncan scores over most physical mediums with whom I have experimented is that she not only allows us to have plenty of light—an absolute godsend—but she requires little or no music, and no talking. When the sitters talk, they do it to amuse themselves rather than because the *séance* conditions require it.

At 9.42 'Albert' disappeared, and the medium quickly came out of trance. I at once examined my marked ties, which did not appear to have been disturbed. I cut the ties and, as already stated, took some considerable time in removing the adhesive tape from the wrists of the medium.

After the cabinet had been examined, Mrs. Duncan was led back to my office, where she had some tea, afterwards withdrawing to another room where Miss Beenham assisted to dress her. Nothing unusual was noted, and the medium appeared quite normal again a few minutes after the conclusion of the *séance*, smoking cigarette after cigarette as is her inveterate custom.

. . . . .

Needless to say, the sitters discussed the *séance* from every angle. The question uppermost in our minds was whether the phenomena were genuine or fraudulent.

Professor McDougall expressed the opinion, which was endorsed by



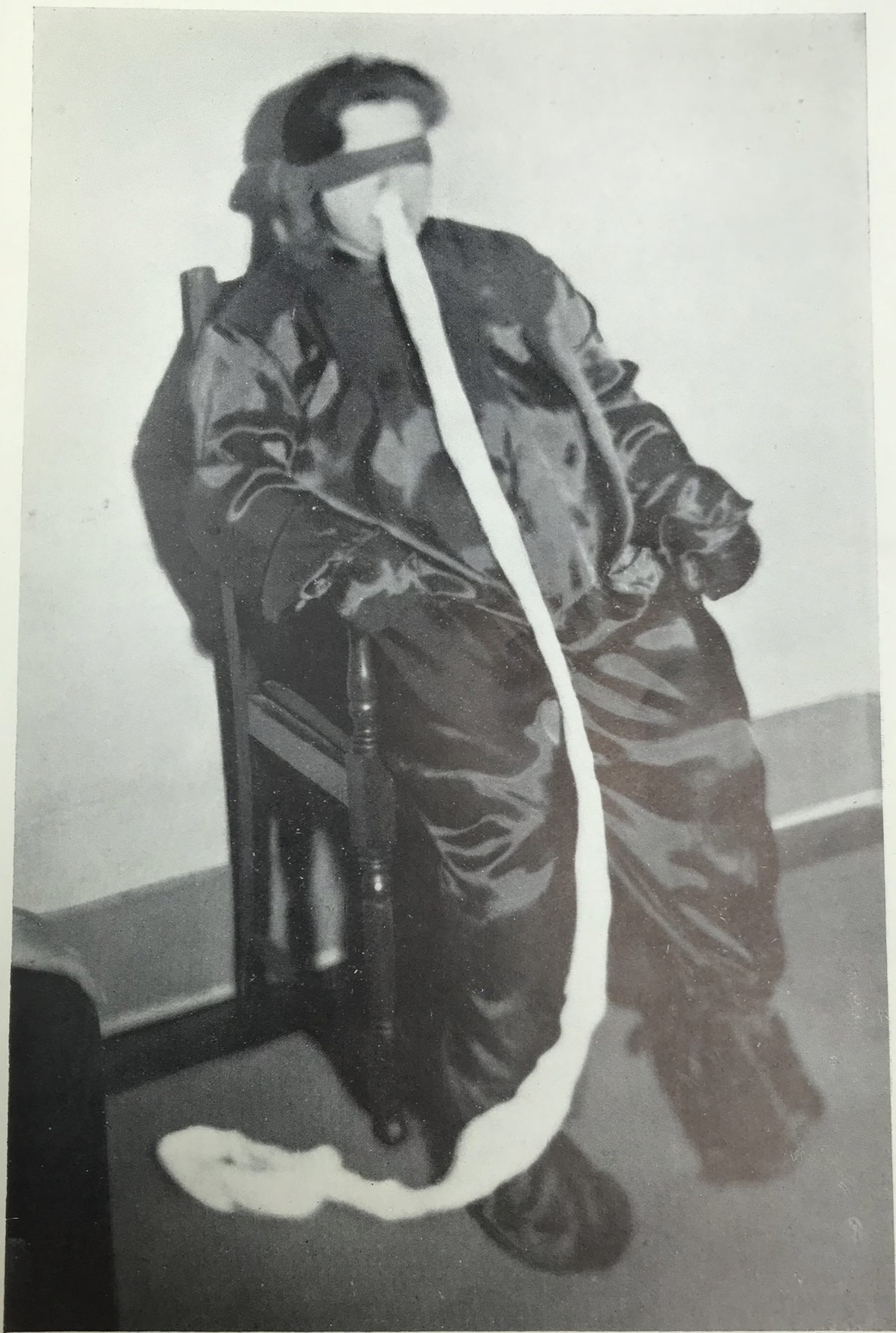


PLATE III

Half of Stereogram 1, showing trail of cheese cloth held by mouth and poked in right nostril. Note lower end is formed into loop



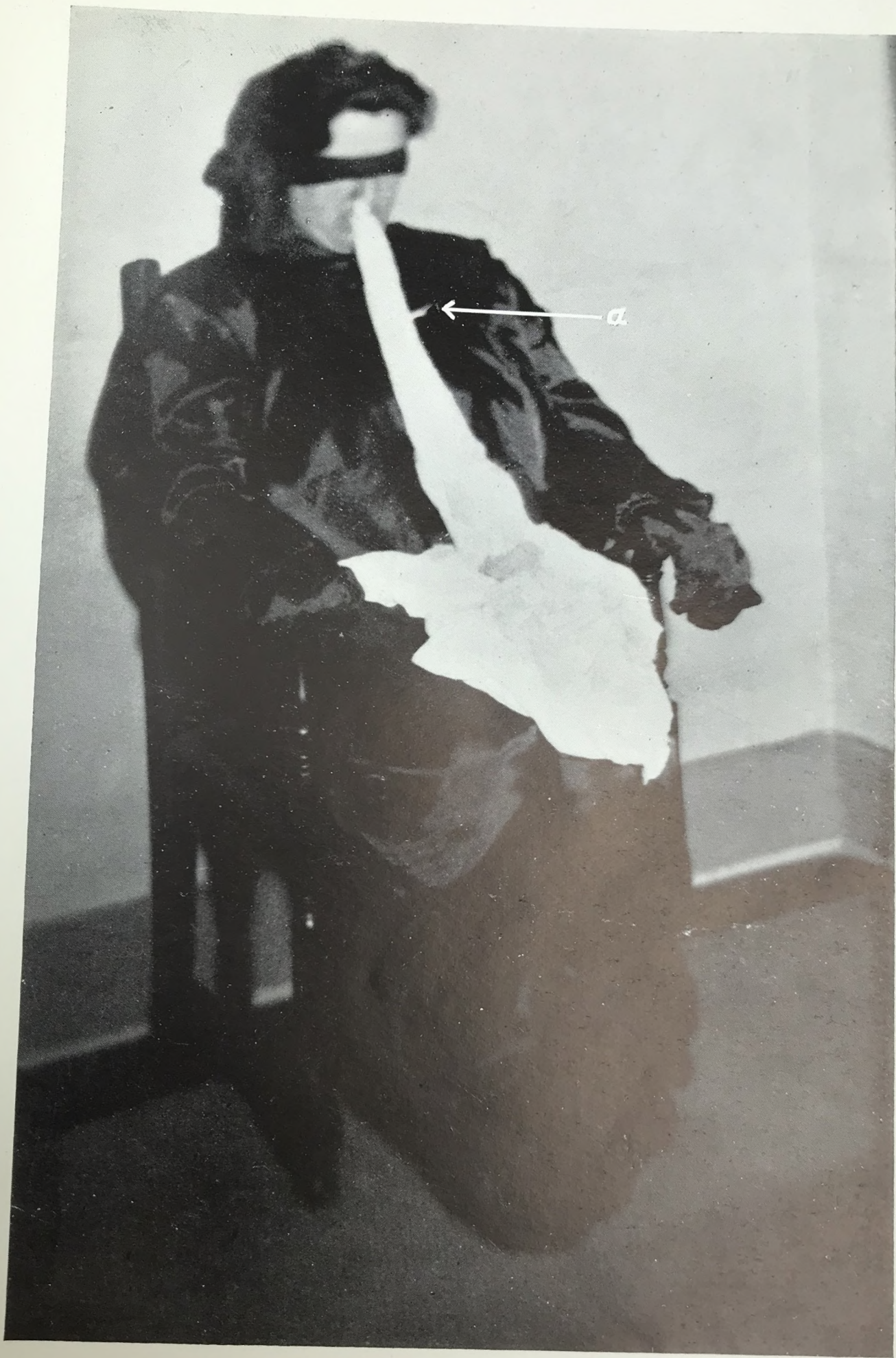


PLATE IV  
Half of Stereogram 2, showing strip of cheese cloth bunched in lap. Note torn end, *a*.



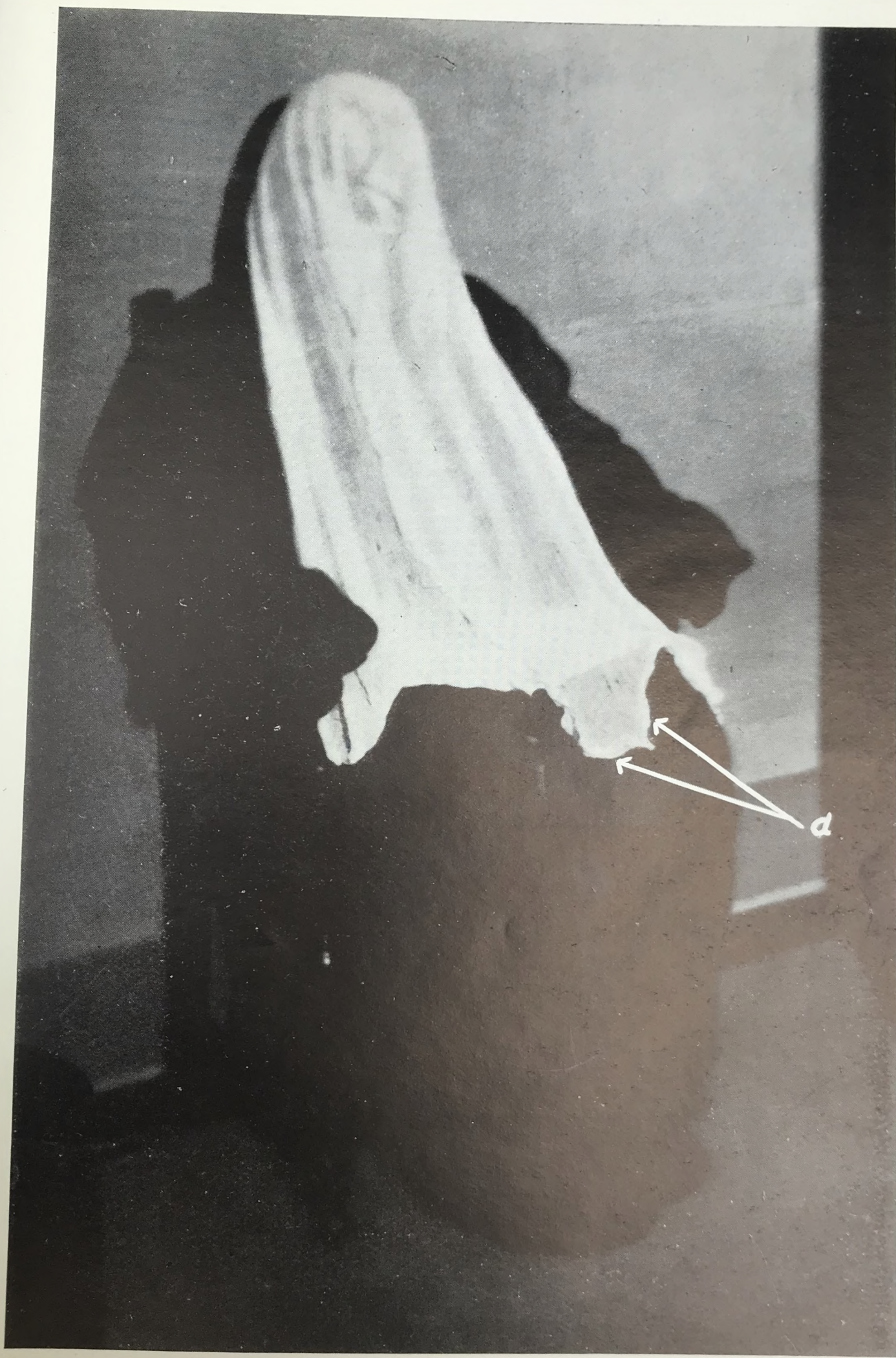


PLATE VI  
Half of Stereogram 4, showing selvedge of cheese cloth, *a*.



the other members of the Research Council, that one of two hypotheses might account for the extraordinary manifestations which we had witnessed. These theories were (1) that the 'teleplasm' was really some fine fabric such as cheese cloth, capable of being compressed into a small compass and then secreted in the genital passages; and (2) that the medium possesses a false or secondary stomach (an *œsophageal diverticulum*) like the *rumen* or first stomach of a ruminant, and that she is able to swallow sheets of some material and regurgitate it at leisure—like a cow with her cud.

Both these theories are as startling as they are interesting. It seems inconceivable that masses of material, sufficient to completely cover the large frame of the medium, and capable of being formed into twisted 'ropes' eight or nine feet long, can be secreted in the vagina. That small objects have been hidden by 'mediums' in such places is a matter of history. But that 'sheets' and 'shawls' of even a fine gossamer could be hidden in the way suggested is unlikely, and I should have to witness the performance to be convinced of its possibility. But our doubts concerning this matter will soon be set at rest, as Mr. Duncan called on me on the afternoon (May 5th) after the *séance*, and stated that at our next experiment the medium would undergo a vaginal examination. The fact that teleplasm is produced and dispersed even when the hands of the medium are apparently securely fastened rather rules out the vagina theory.

The pseudo- or secondary stomach theory is more interesting and much more difficult of examination. Assuming that the medium possesses a secondary stomach, X-rays might—or might not—reveal it. A bismuth meal would hardly help the rays to locate it, as only the intestines would be affected. This pseudo-stomach theory is one that will have to be proved or disproved by experiment.

It is well known that some people have the power of regurgitating objects. The writer has seen a showman at a fair at Prague swallow a 'gold' watch and chain, and regurgitate it. There was no humbug in this performance, for the watch could be heard ticking inside the man. Eva C., the French medium, was consistently charged with regurgitating objects, but nothing in this respect was ever proved against her. X-rays likewise would have been useless in her case, as all the objects she produced were of soft material.

When Mrs. Duncan's throat and mouth were examined by Professor McDougall, nothing suspicious could be seen. Assuming that a woman can swallow—and regurgitate—a shawl large enough to completely screen her, it would be a phenomenon as interesting as any witnessed in a *séance*-room. But as regurgitation [from *regurgito*; *re-*, again + *gurgeo* (*gurgit*) abyss] is not necessarily confined to cows and other ruminants, it is incumbent upon us to determine whether or not Mrs. Duncan can swallow objects at will and reproduce them at leisure.

But if the Duncans are fraudulent, we have effects almost as remarkable as if they were real phenomena. Mr. Duncan kindly offered us a *séance* without even a suggestion on our part. He was under no obligation to do so, and—again assuming that the phenomena are fraudulent—ran a very great risk of being detected.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan are comfortably and safely installed among the spiritualists, and it would have been the height of folly—from their point



of view—to have risked placing themselves in the hands of the Philistines, *i.e.*, the scientific investigators.

No conditions were imposed upon us when we were given a sitting; I made no promises, and the Duncans did not know what we would—or would not—do to them. We might have laid a dozen traps for them. Not that we have ever laid a trap for a medium, good or bad; but the fraudulent medium would naturally expect hidden 'tests' and be on his guard accordingly. But the Duncans struck me as being particularly trusting and tractable and did not give one the idea of being dishonest, an impression which would have discounted the mediumship from the start.

No suggestions were made by Mr. Duncan as to where any particular sitter should sit, or where he should be placed. I sat at the extreme right of the semi-circle, and was within arm's length of the medium. I could have snatched the teleplasmic sheet a hundred times if I had so wished, and nothing could have stopped me. If the 'teleplasm' is merely a roll of cheese cloth, the Duncans ran a frightful risk of this fact being unpleasantly revealed. Is this risk likely to be taken by a dishonest medium? Would the Duncans deliberately—and for no particular reason except money—walk into the lions' den when they were doing so well among the spiritualists? The answer to these two questions is, one would imagine, in the negative.

So we dispersed last Monday evening immensely interested in what we had seen, and with conflicting thoughts as to how the teleplasm was produced and whence it disappeared.



SECOND SÉANCE, THURSDAY, MAY 14TH, 1931

Saturday, May 16th, 1931

Several things have happened since our first *séance* with Mrs. Duncan. In the first place, she is very depressed, owing to an unfortunate incident which happened to her on Tuesday, May 5th, at a *séance* with the spiritualists.

The reader is already aware that during a sitting the alleged teleplasm is produced in long ropes (sometimes to the extent of nine or ten feet) which are unfolded and spread out, like a shawl, at the feet of the medium. Sometimes this mass is produced in such abundance that it trails about in front of the curtain opening, and if the sitters are close to the cabinet it comes quite near to their feet.

On Tuesday, May 5th, the spiritualists held a sitting at which were many people in three rows, the front row being very close to the curtains. During the exudation of teleplasm the stuff came out of the cabinet, through the opening, right up to the sitters' feet.

Then the calamity happened. One of the sitters in the front row was a lady from a psychic society. What happened is not quite clear, but the lady in question either trod on the teleplasmic mass or it became entangled in her shoes. The suggestion has been made that the lady deliberately trod on the mass, but no proof is forthcoming that this actually occurred: it may have been an accident.

But the fact remains that what *did* occur proved disastrous. With terrible suddenness heart-rending shrieks issued from the cabinet. Shriek after shriek almost petrified the sitters. In the meantime, the teleplasm disappeared, presumably back into the medium.

It can be realized that 'Albert' was very sarcastic concerning the treatment of 'his medium', and it is extraordinary that the *séance* did not at once come to an undignified end. But more phenomena were produced, though the medium appeared to be distressed. Mrs. Goldney, a member of the Research Council of the Laboratory, happened to be present on this evening and found the medium's face covered with blood at the end of the *séance*, and helped to remove it with her handkerchief. No abrasion on the face could be found to account for the bleeding, and a cursory examination of the mouth showed nothing there.

Early the next morning (Wednesday, May 6th), Mr. Duncan telephoned me and related the whole story, which was later confirmed by other sitters. He said that his wife was ill and had been vomiting all night. On the abdomen, near the navel, were two livid red marks as if from burns. I examined these marks some days later (May 14th), and the sores were then scaling and very red. Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., also examined them on the evening of the same day.

No explanation is forthcoming as to how the marks arose, or what process is supposed to be involved when the teleplasm is disturbed or seized



without the consent of the control. Of course, the damage was alleged to have been due to the reaction following the shock—a mental process is suggested. Other cases are on record where the medium is alleged to have been made ill through sudden or unauthorized interference or seizure of the extruding teleplasm. There is a very obvious moral to this story which needs no emphasis on my part: Do not seize the teleplasm without the medium's permission!

The *contretemps* with the spiritualists thoroughly upset the medium, it was stated by Mr. Duncan, and rendered her depressed and nervous. A few days later she was in such a state of depression (I was informed by Mr. Duncan) that she seriously contemplated suicide, and actually wrote a letter, detailing her troubles, that was to be handed to the coroner. I saw her on May 12th and calmed her considerably; I think the phase is passing. She appeared highly strung and nervous on the night of our second experiment (May 14th), but again I was successful in restoring her to a more cheerful state of mind.

*Séance garment.* In the notes of our last sitting I intimated that a special garment for the experiments with Mrs. Duncan was being prepared. This was kindly supplied by one of our Council, Mrs. Clarice Richards, under whose direction the special dress was made.

After some discussion it was decided to make the garment in one piece. It is made of a good quality material resembling fine black satin. The lower part of the garment is like a pair of trousers, but with the ends extended to form 'feet'. To these feet are attached tapes which can be tied to the ankles in order to take up the slack. In the same way the ends of the sleeves are extended to form fingerless gloves, but with a division for the thumb. These 'gloves' are of one piece with the sleeves. The whole garment is finely machine stitched together and very strong.

At the back of the garment, from the neck to just above the waist, is the only opening in the dress. This exists, of course, so that the medium can get into it. Before a *séance* the medium dons this garment in the presence of some of the Council, and the aperture I have referred to is drawn together and the edges closely *stitched* with a needle and cotton. In practise, a certain coloured cotton or silk (colour previously unknown to any person except the one responsible for the sealing) is used, and some sort of design (also known only to the person sealing the garment), such as a series of crosses, zig-zag, etc., is worked into the stitching. As no one (except the sealer) knows the coloured thread to be used, or what 'code' is to be worked into the design, it is obvious that no one (especially the medium, as everything is done behind her back) would be able to duplicate the colour and code. Of course, as the medium is so thoroughly searched before each *séance*, this elaborate 'control' should not be needed. But it is an *added* protection, so we employ it.

When the medium has been stitched into the garment, the neck is drawn together by means of a hem and tape, which is tied tightly to the neck of the medium. The ends can be sealed.

I hope the reader will now be able to visualize the dress we have made for the medium, and when we speak of the '*séance* garment' in this Report, the article described above is what is referred to. The photographs (reproduced) give one an idea of what the garment is like, and the sheen of the



material has been recorded by the camera. The reader will realize that once the medium has been properly stitched into this garment, *she cannot normally gain access to any part of her body except her head*, except by damaging or destroying the material, or unfastening the stitches.<sup>1</sup> Also, her fingers are—to a large extent—immobilized by being incased in one compartment.

*Photographic arrangements.* I decided to take some flashlight photographic stereograms at our second *séance*, and made the necessary arrangements accordingly.

It is not particularly easy to take good flashlight pictures of phenomena. In the first place, the ordinary magnesium powder is uncertain in its action; there is some risk attendant upon its use, and after firing there is much smoke, and a residue of a white impalpable powder settles upon everybody and everything. After about three flashes, one can hardly see across the room for smoke, and the products of combustion, when inhaled, are not conducive to good health. The 'wuff' of the explosion is also disturbing to the medium.

When I was in Berlin a few months ago, I heard of a system for flashlight photographs which instantly appealed to me as being *ideal* for *séance*-room work. I had no time to trace this system to its source, but I accidentally came in contact with it early in 1931 and I then proceeded to obtain particulars of the system and its makers. I at once set the necessary machinery in motion in order to get a supply of the lights, and these were used for the first time in psychical research on May 14th.

I will now describe the system, which is peculiarly simple and efficient:

Into a large bulb as used for electric lighting are placed several sheets of aluminium foil, crumpled up. In the centre of these sheets is placed a silent detonator attached to two wires, the ends of which are carried to the brass cap of the bulb, and form the positive and negative poles in the usual way. Part of the air in the bulb is extracted and replaced by oxygen. The cap is then sealed like an electric bulb. The cap is of the screw type and screws into an ordinary 4-volt pocket flash-lamp, being of the same gauge. When the circuit from the battery is closed by pressing the button, the detonator inside the bulb ignites the crumpled-up aluminium foil, which instantaneously disintegrates with a brilliant flash of high actinic value. The products of combustion are hermetically sealed in the glass bulb, so that there is no noise, smoke, residual powder, or smell. The bulb can be replaced by another in a few seconds, and a number of photographs taken with a minimum of trouble. The one drawback to this system is that the bulbs are costly—but expense cannot be considered where efficiency is at stake. I found that the bulbs were made at Augsburg, Bavaria, Germany, and at last succeeded in obtaining a number. It was this system which I employed in taking the flashlight pictures reproduced in these pages.

Previous to the *séances* I experimented with distances, lens apertures, angle of lighting, and speed of emulsion in order to obtain pictures as technically perfect as possible. Of the Laboratory's fourteen cameras, I selected

---

<sup>1</sup>We found later (see *post*) that the medium *could* withdraw her arms from the sleeves and thus reach her body, or slip a hand out between the neck of the garment and her own neck.



a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -plate stereoscopic instrument by Negretti and Zambra with a pair of Dallmeyer 'Carfac' lenses working at f.6.8. I chose a specially high tripod in order to clear any obstructions (such as sitters) which might get in the way. This camera and tripod is seen at the extreme left in Plate I. After several experiments I selected a spot for the tripod, removing two chairs from the circle in order that a clear path might be left for the manipulation of the camera. I found that Wellington and Ward's Iso-Wellington plates of 700 H. and D. speed, at a distance from the cabinet of about sixteen feet, and working with a lens aperture of 6.8, gave the best results.

*Lighting arrangements.* After the *séance* of May 4th, 1931, Mr. Duncan suggested that we could use even a *better* illumination by employing two flood lights directed upon the cabinet; at the first experiment we used one only (directed upon the space in front of cabinet) and a ceiling light. I cordially agreed, especially as this gave us an extra illumination of 60 watts. I therefore suspended from the ceiling two Wratten flood lights, one using a 12 in.  $\times$  10 in. Wratten deep red (Series 2) filter, the other with a 10 in.  $\times$  8 in. Wratten deep red filter (Series 2). These flood lights were hung at an appropriate angle so that their rays were directed full on to the whole of the cabinet front. Each filter had a new 60-watt bulb behind it, and both were connected in series with a wall rheostat in order to regulate the light.

In addition to the two flood lights with Series 2 filters, the 12 in.  $\times$  10 in. orange (Series 0) Wratten inverted ceiling light (60-watt) (controlled by a separate rheostat) was left in its original position as used on May 4th. Therefore, the *séance* of May 14th was illuminated by three flood lights, with an aggregate of 180 watts. I reiterate that we have standardized our *séance*-room lighting so that it can always be duplicated, if necessary.

Our second *séance* with Mrs. Duncan was arranged for May 14th, and Professor McDougall, F.R.S., Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., the distinguished psychotherapist, and Professor J. C. Flügel, the psychologist from London University, expressed their intention of being present. Unfortunately, Professor McDougall was detained at Oxford (where he was lecturing) and could not arrive in time.

*Fore control.* The medium very kindly consented to undergo any medical examination we thought necessary, and we took her at her word and did the job very thoroughly. I will describe the exact procedure:

After the *séance*-room and cabinet had been examined, the medium was led into the room by Mrs. A. Peel Goldney (a member of the Council of the Laboratory) and Dr. William Brown. The doors having been locked, the medium was placed upon a large settee (acquired specially for such purposes, see Plate II), and in the presence of Dr. William Brown, Mrs. Goldney (who has trained and worked for many months in a midwifery hospital) made a thorough vaginal and rectal examination. The rectum was examined for some distance up the alimentary canal and a very thorough vaginal examination given. Everything was quite normal, and I take this opportunity of publicly thanking Mrs. Duncan for so cheerfully submitting to an unpleasant duty. She realized that such an examination



was vital to any scientific report of her mediumship. I must also thank Dr. William Brown for his services at these examinations.

When the medical examination was over, Mrs. Duncan removed all her clothes (which were taken out of the *séance*-room) in the presence of Mrs. Goldney and Dr. William Brown, her hair was combed and she was assisted into the special *séance* garment already described. Mrs. Goldney then sewed up the back of the garment with red thread (colour previously unknown to anyone except Mrs. Goldney), the stitches being worked in such a way that they formed a sort of secret code. The tapes were then drawn together and tightly (though not uncomfortably) tied at the back of her neck. Guarded by Mrs. Goldney and Dr. William Brown, the medium remained by the cabinet until the sitters entered the room and took their places. I then tied the medium's feet with the tapes attached for the purpose, and led her into the cabinet.

Miss Beenham (the secretary) then locked the doors and handed the keys to Mr. Bois. She switched on the three flood lights and turned out the white centre light. The flood lights were on to their fullest capacity (*i.e.*, the rheostats were not dimming the lights).

The medium was in trance almost before I sat down, *and within three minutes* 'teleplasm' was streaming from her mouth. 'Albert' then spoke some words of welcome.

The following is the official protocol, as recorded by dictaphone and shorthand notes. The shorthand was used in recording Albert's remarks, because in a dictaphone the sentences have to be *repeated* and during the repetition the words following cannot always be heard by the note-taker. I hope to get some remarks direct from Albert on to the dictaphone some day. This is the protocol:

Both doors locked and keys given to Mr. Bois. White light out—orange and both red lights on.

Order of sitters, clockwise: Medium, Mr. Harry Price, Professor J. C. Flügel, Mr. H. E. Dennis, Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., Mr. H. L. Hervey, I.C.S., Mr. Henry Duncan, Mrs. A. Peel Goldney, Mr. Barry Richards, Mrs. Clarice Richards, Mr. H. G. Bois.

Sitting commenced 8.47 p.m. Inside temperature, 63° Fahr.; outside temperature, 51° Fahr.

Medium in semi-trance before cabinet curtains pulled together.

8.50. Teleplasm coming from the medium's mouth, seen through opening of curtains.

9.0. Orange and red lights lowered slightly, to about 45 watts. Mr. Price tells Albert about flashlight photographs: how safe they are, quickly taken, and how nice it would be to have photographs for proof, etc. Would like his permission to take these pictures this evening. Albert says he will do all he can to help.

9.1. Curtain opening. Teleplasm coming from the medium's mouth and nostril. Sitters ask Albert if he can produce some sort of face that will come out in a photograph. Albert says he will do his best. 'But the medium is in a highly nervous state,' therefore it is very difficult for him. Curtains closing.

9.4. Curtain opening again, teleplasm streaming to the floor and two



or three inches over. Albert says he will get 'the lady in the cabinet' to come out.

9.5. Medium is now standing up. The teleplasm is trailing to her feet and appears to be round her left foot.

9.6. Right curtain opening wider and the medium leaving cabinet. Teleplasm is extending over the right arm of the medium's chair. The medium on the left side of the cabinet now, and the teleplasm still trailing round the same arm of the chair and also on the ground.

9.7. Sitters ask Albert to bring lady out of cabinet and exude teleplasm from her mouth in two colours.<sup>1</sup> Also sitters would like to have some photographs. If possible, some faces. He will do his best.

9.10. Mr. Price, at the request of Albert, is binding the medium's eyes with Mrs. Goldney's black silk stockings, as the glare of the flashes might affect the medium.

9.11. Curtains being closed from the bottom, by some means unknown. [Probably by medium's feet.]

9.13. Albert says he is ready, and Mr. Price leaves his chair and advances to camera. Curtains open. Teleplasm coming from the medium's mouth, then over her right foot and curled up into a loop by the side of her chair.

9.17. First photograph taken. [Stereogram 1.] [Plate III.] Curtains closed.

9.20. Albert is asked if Mr. Price can take another photograph. Permission given. Curtains open.

9.22. Second photograph taken. [Stereogram 2.] [Plate IV.] Curtains closed.

9.23. Mr. Price asking Albert if he will show teleplasm coming from the medium's ear.

9.25. Albert says he is turning the medium's ear towards the camera. Curtains open. Third photograph taken. [Stereogram 3.] [Plate V.] Curtains closed.

9.26. Curtains being pulled in from the right-hand side. Teleplasm appearing.

9.27. Curtains being opened in the centre. A large mass of teleplasm showing.

9.28. Curtains pulled to right.

9.29. Mr. Price asking Albert to cover medium with a veil of teleplasm. Albert replies that he said he would do his best. Mr. Price says that it is always nice to be cajoled. Albert says he doesn't want to be cajoled. He also thinks that he is being treated properly. Curtains opening.

9.31. Fourth photograph taken. [Stereogram 4.] [Plate VI.] Curtains closed.

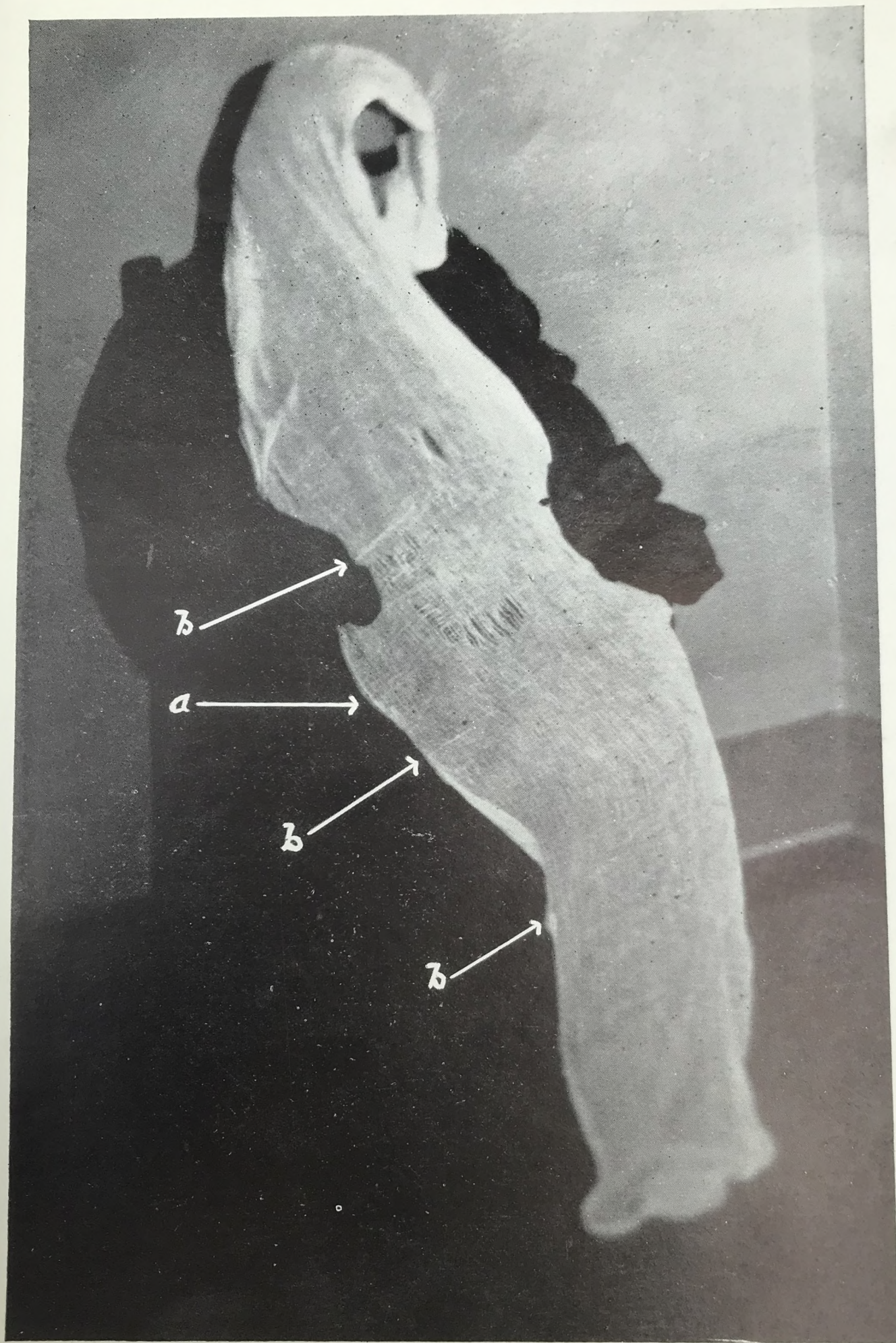
9.34. Curtains are opening and the medium appearing in front of the cabinet.

9.35. Medium coming out at right of cabinet. Teleplasm is being

---

<sup>1</sup>This effect is stated to have been seen on several occasions.





#### PLATE VII

Half of Stereogram 5, showing many rents in cheese cloth strip; also warp and weft strongly marked. Note selvedge, *a*, and fold or crease marks, *b*. Compare Stereogram 12, and control photograph, Plate VIII





PLATE VIII

Control photograph to Stereogram 5 (Plate VII), consisting of six feet of Woolworth's cheese cloth. Note selvedge, *a*; rents, etc., *b*. Compare with Stereogram 5



examined closely (but without being touched) by Dr. William Brown and Professor Flügel. Medium coming out again at centre of cabinet, Teleplasm coming from the nose and mouth. From the right nostril into the mouth and down to the floor. Mr. Duncan remarks that the teleplasm always comes from the right nostril. Curtains almost closed.

9.36. Curtains opening again in the centre. Dr. Brown looking into the cabinet. A large stream of teleplasm coming from the mouth. Curtains closed.

9.39. Mr. Price asking Albert if he could build himself up so that a photograph could be taken of him. 'Or perhaps he could build Peggy up? By the way, we have got some chocolates here.' Albert says, 'By the way, I am having a bit of a trouble, too.' Mr. Price has not been taking the times of the duration of the phenomena, as they have appeared sufficiently long enough to be photographed, each a matter of perhaps half a minute.

9.43. Albert says that he is ready for next photograph to be taken. Curtains open.

9.44. Fifth photograph taken. Curtains closed. [Mr. Price omitted to remove caps from lenses, so plate was not exposed.]

9.45. Albert says he is afraid that he will have to go. Sitters say how disappointed they are and beg him to stay. Mr. Price asks if he may take just another photograph as it will finish off the plate holder. But Albert says he will have to go anyway. Mr. Duncan says that all the sitters would like to smell and feel the teleplasm. Albert tells him to mind his own business and he will mind his. Mr. Duncan asks Mrs. Goldney to plead with Albert and ask him to stay. Albert says that he does not want any ladies trying their wiles on him. Albert asks Mr. Price his name. When told, he said he would like to tell him a lot of things. Says that he feels he has been treated like a man, and hopes to see all the sitters again. Mr. Price begs for another photograph to be taken. Permission given. Curtains opening.

9.50. Sixth photograph taken. Curtains closed. [Stereogram 5.] [Plates VII, VIII, and XXIV.] Mr. Price says that he is very grateful to Albert and thanks him very much for all that he has done. Everyone is very pleased and all thank Albert. Albert says that he will always do his best.

9.55. Albert says good-bye, and all the sitters say good-bye.

9.56. Mr. Price enters cabinet and removes the bandage from the medium's eyes.

9.57. Medium out of trance. Doors unlocked. Sitting ended.

(Signed) ETHEL BEENHAM.

After the conclusion of the *séance* the room was cleared and Mrs. Goldney and Dr. William Brown again externally examined medium. The stitches at back of garment were inspected—they had not been disturbed. The garment was then removed from the medium, examined, and found normal. Mrs. Duncan was then thoroughly examined again, the vaginal passage and rectum being quite normal, and nothing was found there.



Nothing in hair. Mouth and throat were examined by Dr. William Brown. Before the medium donned her ordinary clothes, I examined the burn-like marks already referred to. It should be emphasized that at no time before or during the *séance* did Mr. Duncan approach his wife. I kept him under close observation, and during the actual *séance* there was ample light to witness every action of every person. At the conclusion of the sitting the medium, after the medical inspection and dressing, joined the sitters and partook of tea and many cigarettes. The cabinet was examined.



## NOTES ON THE SECOND *SÉANCE*

Before I left the Laboratory on Thursday last (I am writing this on Saturday, May 16th), I developed the plates I had exposed, and was delighted to find that I had secured five excellent photographs which are reproduced herewith. Unfortunately, I omitted to remove the caps from the lenses during the fifth flash, and so the plate was unexposed.

An amusing incident occurred during the taking of the third photograph. I was always careful to tell Albert exactly when I was going to ignite the flash, and at the same time Mr. Bois and Professor Flügel (the sitters at either end of the semi-circle) drew back the curtains on their respective sides, thus exposing the interior of the cabinet.

At the third photograph I think I must have omitted to firmly screw home the bulb into the container holding the batteries. When I pressed the button, there was no flash.<sup>1</sup>

I was rather nonplussed for the moment, because Albert is assumed to make some sort of preparation for the 'shot'. But I explained what had happened, tendered my apologies, and asked him to hold the pose till I could try a fresh bulb. He consented, and an excellent picture was the result.

The intensity of the light at this *séance* was as good as at the previous one. At the commencement it was far greater as we had the additional 12 in.  $\times$  10 in. (Series 2) filter, besides the 10 in.  $\times$  8 in. red filter and the 12 in.  $\times$  10 in. bright orange. After the appearance of some teleplasm, Albert said the room was unnecessarily bright, and we lowered the intensity a little by means of the rheostats. At any moment during the *séance* every part of the large room could be seen, and the action of every person was visible. Coupled to this extraordinary (for a materialization) illumination, I ignited six flash bulbs. The parrot cry that 'every medium sits in the dark' (always an untrue statement) should be heard no more.

I procured a box of chocolates for 'Peggy Hazeldine', but as this control did not manifest, the bon-bons were not needed.

I occupied my place in the circle only for a very few minutes at this *séance*, as the camera at the other side of the room demanded most of my attention. But all the same, I chatted freely with Albert who, as usual, made several witty remarks in his drawly voice.

The phenomena were very similar to those we witnessed at the first *séance*, and we hope that at subsequent experiments Albert will give us a variety of manifestations such as 'dematerializing' the medium out of her garment; showing himself (or 'Peggy') to the sitters; shaking hands with the circle, etc., etc. It is alleged that all these effects have been witnessed over and over again. But Albert was very obliging. When I asked that he should show us teleplasm coming from the ear, he consented [Stereogram

---

<sup>1</sup>I have since discovered that the bulb is faulty.



3], [Plate V], and when I suggested a veil-like formation, he again obliged [Stereogram 4], [Plate VI].

Albert was asked whether Dr. William Brown and Professor Flügel could inspect (without actually touching it) the teleplasm. Permission was at once given, and (at 9.35) the gentlemen named left their seats and closely inspected the mass. They could only describe it as I have done in the report of the first sitting.

We did not tape the medium to the seat at this *séance* as we wished to impose no inhibitions—mental or physical—that could possibly affect the conditions which we wanted to be as perfect as possible for our photographic experiments.

The *séance* was of comparatively short duration owing, Albert said, to the fact that the succession of flashes were disturbing to the medium. This argument is a reasonable one, but we managed to get a good deal in during the seventy minutes the medium was alleged to be entranced.

I think we have settled one thing at this *séance*. However the teleplasmic 'shawls', 'streamers', 'ropes', 'trails', or 'sheets' are produced or secreted, if of normal origin, they do not always find a resting-place in the alimentary canal or genital passages. The *séance* garment should absolutely preclude the secretion in or extraction from the orifices I have mentioned, even had she not been examined medically. This double control should make it impossible.<sup>1</sup> But the fact that the medium was in view, in a good light, during practically the whole of the sitting, makes the vaginal-cum-rectal theory difficult of accepting. It was only three minutes after we had partly closed the curtains (at 8.47) that we saw teleplasm streaming from her (at 8.50).

<sup>1</sup>Later observations proved that the medium *can* extract her arms out of the 'sleeve bags' and thus reach any part of her body (see *post*).



PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE STEREOGRAMS  
TAKEN AT THE SECOND SÉANCE

*Stereogram No. 1, Plate III.* This picture confirms the protocol account of the teleplasm coming from the mouth and nose, falling in a rope-like stream between her legs, then over her right foot, the end curling up in a distinct loop at the side of the chair. A much better idea can be gained of these photographs when viewed stereoscopically.

*Stereogram No. 2, Plate IV.* In this stereogram the teleplasm is still issuing from her mouth and right nostril, but the end has been picked up and is bunched in her lap. In this picture one begins to gain the impression that the substance is of some thin diaphanous material, as portions of the bunched-up folds are semi-transparent. Under the microscope a texture can be made out. At the right of the mass, a few inches from where it issues from her face, is a small portion which has become partly detached and is standing at right-angles to the main stream. It looks rather as if it had been torn away.

*Stereogram No. 3, Plate V.* This stereogram is of peculiar interest because it represents the fulfilment of my request (at 9.30) made to Albert that he should show us the teleplasm coming from the ear. In many respects, the mass resembles that shown on Stereogram No. 1, except that it is a longer 'trail'. The end of the trail is behind the right-hand curtain and therefore invisible. It will be noticed how the medium has leaned over to her right in order to permit the trail (issuing from her left ear) to repose upon her body, and thus support it; otherwise, the weight of the stuff would cause it to fall. In all these pictures the hands of the medium are visible.

*Stereogram No. 4, Plate VI.* This picture is again an answer to a request for a certain effect which is something quite different from what I had previously photographed. At 9.29 I asked Albert if he would produce 'a veil of teleplasm'. Two minutes later he produced it and I photographed it (at 9.31). The picture looks exactly as if a light shawl of some thin woven material had been carefully draped round the medium's head, obscuring her face, with the two ends spread across her lap. The warp of the material is very plainly visible in the negative (though I doubt if it will reproduce), and the weft is much less visible. There are also small rents in the veiling, but these may be where the warp has been parted or stretched, showing the black *séance* garment beneath. I can count many such 'rents' in the veil, and I hope that enlargements from the negative will provide us with more information. Showing how thin the material is, where the folds overlap or are superimposed, the underfold is plainly visible through the top layer. Another curious feature of this picture is the fact that the lower edge of the veil appears to have a *hem* or selvedge, and the same effect is visible on the vertical edge of the veil as it falls from the medium's head.



The lighting arrangements were exactly as at the last experiment and they appear satisfactory: Two red flood lights and one orange ceiling flood light, a total of 180 watts.

We had a box of chocolates for 'Peggy Hazeldine', should she put in an appearance, and a supply of absolute alcohol (.795) and the necessary vessels for preserving 'teleplasm', should we be so fortunate as to be permitted to remove a portion.

At the request (made at last *séance*) of the Duncans I lengthened the front legs of the arm-chair on which the medium sits by nailing to them two pieces of broom handle, each  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length. This has the effect of slightly throwing back the medium in her chair.

*Fore control.*—We decided not to repeat the severe medical examination which Mrs. Duncan underwent on May 14th. There is no question that nothing was concealed in rectum or vagina at the *séance* held on this date and although the medium was very willing to again submit to a p.v. examination, we decided that it was not necessary at every experiment. We wish to spare Mrs. Duncan every unpleasantness except those consistent with a scientific investigation.

The reader may consider that it is quite unnecessary for such a severe medical examination. But the history of psychical research tells a different story and the classic case of this kind is that of Mary Toft, the 'Guildford rabbit breeder,' a 'medium' who deceived the credulous for months.

Mary Toft flourished in 1726 and startled the countryside by giving birth to a number of young rabbits. Her labour was spread over several weeks and I think she produced about 27 rabbits in all—some alive, some dead.

Her 'fame' spread to London and the king's physician (Mr. Nathaniel St. André) was ordered to proceed to Godalming and investigate on the spot. He was just in time to witness the birth of a few live rabbits and reported to his London colleagues that the phenomenon was genuine.<sup>1</sup> Then the fun began. The pamphleteers got busy and heaped ridicule on the king's physician and the local medicos who had also been fooled.

The case created such a sensation that the king ordered Mary Toft to be brought to London and housed in the bagnio at Leicester Fields (now Leicester Square). That knocked the bottom out of the swindle because although there were many young rabbits at Guildford (or Godalming) they were very scarce in Leicester Square. The supply ran out and even her friends were unable to smuggle a few bunnies into the bagnio where Mary was kept under strict observation.

Mary at last confessed and said she was prompted to the fraud because of the publicity the 'phenomena' produced and the money she received from the credulous. She admitted that her friends supplied her with half-grown rabbits which she placed in the vaginal passage, expelling them when some credulous doctor was present. She was tried for fraud and received six months' imprisonment. The case caused much amusement and many cartoons of Mary and her rabbits were broadcast. I reproduce the least indecent specimen. [Plate X.] The National Laboratory library contains

<sup>1</sup>See: *A Short Narrative of an Extraordinary Delivery of Rabbits, Perform'd by Mr. John Howard*, by N. St. André, London, 1727 (Second Edition).



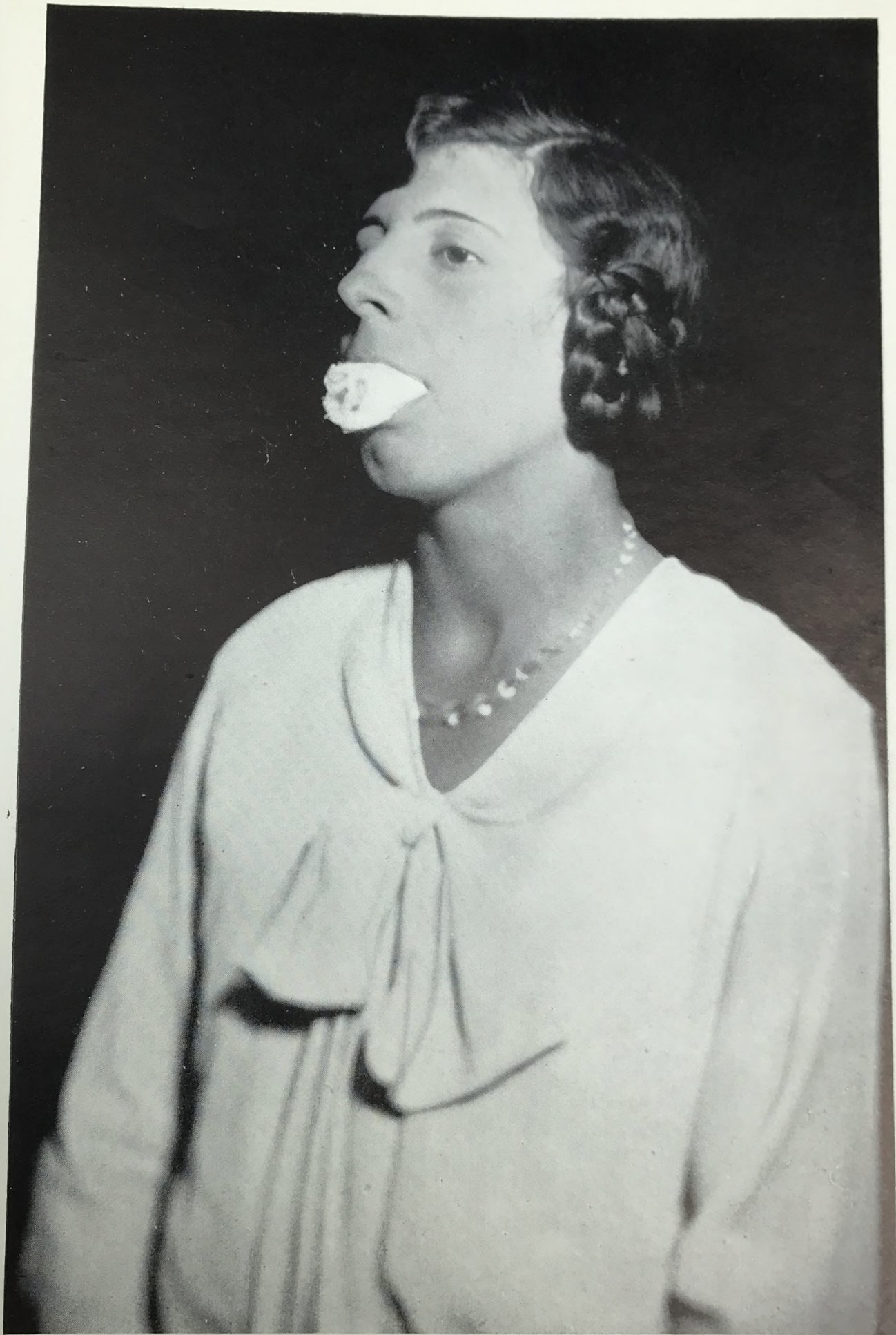


PLATE IX

Showing how easily a piece of cheese cloth (six feet long, thirty inches wide, and weighing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces) can be rolled into small compass and placed in the mouth





# PLATE X

Engraved cartoon *re* Mary Toft, the 'Guildford rabbit breeder' (1726) who deceived many medical men by concealing live rabbits in the vaginal passage



quite a collection of contemporary pamphlets connected with the case and the curious reader is welcome to consult them.

At our third *séance* with Mrs. Duncan we asked the medium to strip herself naked in the presence of Mrs. Goldney, Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Richards, who carefully examined her exterior, mouth, hair, etc. She was then assisted into the *séance* garment, the back of which was sewn up with blue coloured thread (it was red thread at last *séance*), and sewn in such a way that the stitching became a pattern, terminating at the neck with Mrs. Goldney's initials, and the end of the thread twisted round eight times, thus finishing it off. The medium's clothes were then removed from the *séance*-room and the sitters called in to take their allotted places. The *séance* commenced at 8.36 and the following is the official protocol, recorded by shorthand notes and dictaphone:

Order of sitters, clockwise: Medium, Mr. Harry Price, Captain H. W. Seton-Karr, Captain the Hon. Victor Cochran Baillie, Mr. Barry Richards, Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Mr. Henry Duncan, Mr. H. E. Dennis, Mr. Felix Hartman, Mrs. A. Peel Goldney, Mr. H. L. Hervey, I.C.S., Mrs. Clarice Richards, Mr. H. G. Bois.

Both doors locked and keys handed to Mr. Bois.

Sitting commenced at 8.36 p.m. Medium in semi-trance before white light out. Medium moaning.

White light out, orange and both red lights full on. Inside temperature, 56° Fahr.; outside temperature 44° Fahr.

8.39. Albert speaking: he greets the circle. Everybody says 'Good evening.' Mr. Duncan says to Mr. Price that he ought to explain the dictaphone in the cabinet to Albert, and Mr. Price replied that he was thinking the same thing exactly at the time that Mr. Duncan spoke. Albert says 'Great minds think alike; fools seldom differ'.

8.40. Curtains moving. Mr. Price explaining the dictaphone to Albert and asking him to speak down the trumpet, so that we can have a permanent record of his voice. Albert says he will do anything to oblige us.

8.41. Mr. Duncan says it would be nice if we could get a photograph of a hand. Mr. Price asks Albert if he could produce a hand and let him photograph it. Albert says 'Certainly'. Albert says if he is going to open up curtains, will we lower the lights a little, and bandage medium's eyes? Lights slightly lowered. Curtains opening. A hand with four fingers plainly visible. Curtains close.

8.42½. Mr. Price bandaging medium's eyes. Medium moaning.

8.44. Mr. Duncan asking Mr. Price to ask Albert if he will open curtains himself for photograph to be taken, or if the medium will. Albert says 'The lady will open them herself with her own hands and then we shall see where her hands are.' Mr. Price asks Albert if, when the lady has opened the curtain, shall he then take the photograph? Albert says 'Yes, and first he can take the "hand" open and then the "hand" closed.' Mr. Price thanks Albert very much. Curtains open.

8.46. First photograph taken. [Stereogram 6.] [Plates XI and XIII]. Hand open. Medium moaning. Curtains close.



8.48. Albert says he is going to close the 'hand' and leave one finger sticking up.

8.49. Curtains thrown open. Second photograph taken. [Stereogram 7.] [Plates XII and XIII.] Curtains close.

8.50. Medium moaning.

8.51. 'Hand' coming out from the cabinet, through opening. Mr. Price asking Albert if he will put his hand out again as he did not see it. Albert asks Mr. Price if he will shake hands with him.

8.51½. 'Hand' coming out of cabinet again.

8.52. 'Hand' appears again and seems to have all the fingers. 'Hand' withdraws. Albert wishes Mr. Price to shake hands with him.

8.53. Albert says if he (Mr. Price) will put his hand inside the cabinet, he will shake hands with him. Albert says he hopes he is not like the rest of the people and looking for a horse's hoof. Mr. Price assures him that he is not, or will not. Albert says 'Someone says that the hand looks like a human hand'. Mr. Bois admitted that he had said so to Mrs. Richards.

8.54. Mr. Price places his hand inside curtain opening. He says he is lightly touched on the hand, which he withdraws. Albert tells him to leave his hand where it was. He again inserts it between curtains.

8.55. Mr. Price's hand being pinched, sort of 'clicked'. The hand feels exactly like a human hand, of the same temperature and the same tactile impression. Albert remarks that he (Mr. Price) did not look for a hoof, and Mr. Price says that he did not get it.

8.57. Hand appearing on left hand side of cabinet, then on right hand side, through curtain opening. Medium breathing heavily.

8.58. Mr. Price asking Albert if he has not forgotten the dictaphone. Albert says 'No.' Mr. Price says he hardly likes to mention his source of inspiration, but it was his friend Mr. Duncan, who thought perhaps he could give us a little address on the dictaphone as it would be a great acquisition to our collection. Albert says he will. But first he is going to show us something.

9.0. The 'hand' seen to be holding the trumpet. One finger sort of sticking out at right angles to the trumpet, which is afterwards thrown out of the cabinet.

9.1. Curtains opening in the middle. 'Hand' plainly visible in the cabinet. Medium's hands also visible. The 'hand' is very plainly coming from the medium's mouth. Curtains close again.

9.2. Mr. Price asks Albert if he can take a photograph of the 'hand', with the medium's two hands also showing. Albert says 'Yes.'

9.3. Mr. Price asking Albert if he is quite ready, and will the medium pull aside the curtains or will he? Albert says 'Look here, if you will lower the lights a little, I will allow two persons to hold the lady's hands.' Lights slightly lowered, now about 30 watts. Mr. Price tells Albert not to come out of the cabinet too far, as he will then be out of focus, the camera having been set for a certain position. Mr. Bois and Captain Seton-Karr each take hold, on their respective sides of the cabinet, of one of the hands of the medium.

9.4. Third photograph taken. [Stereogram 8.] [Plate XIV.] Curtains close.

9.5. Medium moaning.



9.6. Albert says 'Do you hope it is Albert's ghost?' The sitters say it would be excellent to have Albert and the medium together. Mr. Duncan says 'Yes, that would be very nice.' Albert tells him 'The best thing you can do is to go and lost yourself' (*i.e.* lose yourself).

9.7. Medium moaning.

9.8. Lights lowered a little more, each to about 25 watts. Gramophone played.

9.10. Mr. Price asks Albert if he liked the record that was just played, and he says 'Yes, and you like it too, don't you?' Mr. Price says 'Yes, I do; I like music very much.'

9.11. Curtains moving.

9.12. Curtains moving. Mr. Bois could see a large mass of teleplasm in the opening of the cabinet. Curtains moving. Curtains opening, mass of teleplasm plainly visible. Curtains being pulled up.

9.13. Mr. Price saying that he would like to photograph the medium and Albert together. Albert says that he will do his very best. Curtains opening. Curtains moving. Albert says the lady is going to stand up now. Albert says that there is too much of the stuff out to be photographed. Mr. Price asking permission to photograph it, and that two sitters will instantly close the curtains. Mr. Duncan says that it has been done before (with Eva C.).

9.14. Curtains opening, a white mass at the left side of the medium plainly visible.

9.16. Medium moaning. Albert says he will attempt to give his face alongside the lady. Mr. Price thanks him very much and assures him that, after the flash, the curtains will be closed instantly. Albert says that he will do his very best. Albert says he will open the curtains now, and that the medium has not got anything in her hands, and that a photograph can be taken.

9.17. Curtains opening. Shut again now.

9.19. Curtains opening. Fourth photograph taken. [Stereogram 9.] [Plate XV.]

9.20. Albert asked that the curtain on the left-hand side of the cabinet be closed. Albert says he will talk into the dictaphone now. Will they press the button?

9.21. Albert asks what shall he say? He delivers a very short speech.

9.22. One of the flash lights has gone off by mistake. Albert asks what has happened. Mr. Price explains that it was quite an accident, and hopes that it did not affect him. Sitters express a wish to see Albert and the medium together.

9.24. Albert says that the flash upset him, and that when lights go off he does not like it. Mr. Price apologizes and says that he is very sorry. Mr. Duncan asking Albert if it is possible for him to bring the lady out with him and he promises that no photograph will be taken.

9.26. Albert says 'You want a photograph of us both together, you can have both our company on the plate.' Albert says that he is afraid that we shall find a little burn on the medium's face at the end of the sitting. Mr. Price says he will look.

9.29. Curtains moving and opening. A festoon of teleplasm from the medium's mouth and nostrils, about two feet long. It is spreading. Medium



coming out of cabinet. Teleplasm appears to be swelling, as if being inflated a little. Curtains close.

9.30. Albert says (in answer to a question) that the lady doesn't move her lips when teleplasm comes from her mouth. Curtains moving. Medium is coming out of cabinet. Teleplasm at right angles to her mouth, with a festoon looped below it, a part of which has been spread out. Medium has returned to cabinet again. A part of the teleplasm from her mouth looked almost as if it were hanging from a rod. Curtains close.

9.32. Medium breathing deeply.

9.34. Albert says that one must admit that there is always a certain amount of shock from a sudden flash. The sitters agree with him. Albert says he heard something about a rod. Mr. Price explains what he said. Albert says that the medium gets too excited for him.

9.35. Mr. Bois could see at left side of curtain a hand exactly as if it were coming from the medium's mouth. Mr. Price could also see the hand afterwards in the centre of the curtains. Both the medium's hands plainly visible holding the curtains, which close.

9.36. Albert says that there was a lady who came here to-night but that she could not do anything. He could not hear her first name but the second sounded like Hervey. She came for a lady and gentleman. Says that she will come some other time to be photographed. Mr. Price says that there is a Mr. Hervey here, but Albert says that it was for a lady, too. Mr. Price explains that Mrs. Goldney's maiden name was Hervey, and that he hopes we shall be able to get a photograph some other time. Can Albert give us the lady's name? Albert says 'A name can be guessed but the features cannot.'

9.40. Curtains being drawn in. Albert says that he is afraid he will have to go. Mr. Price asking Albert if he will not say a few more words for us into the dictaphone. But Albert says that he will try another time.

9.41. Albert says 'Good-bye.' All the sitters say 'Good-bye.' Lights full on, medium still sleeping.

9.41½. Medium just awakening. Her eyes look rather vacant, and the pupils appear to be standing up. When the medium's face was examined immediately after she had awakened, there was plainly visible, on her chin just below and to the left of the mouth, a patch about one inch in diameter, red, looking exactly as if it were a slight burn.

9.43. White light turned on. Doors unlocked.

(Signed) ETHEL BEENHAM.

The medium was stripped immediately after the *séance* and examined by the same ladies who placed her in the *séance* garment. Everything appeared normal, and Mrs. Goldney's special stitching had not been tampered with. The cabinet was examined.



### NOTES ON THE THIRD SÉANCE

Before Miss Beenham had turned out the main central white light the medium was asleep. I led her to the arm-chair in cabinet, she sat down, and just as I was about to close the curtains she appeared fast asleep—a matter of seconds only. I spoke to her, but she did not reply. In three minutes, Albert was speaking.

The dictaphone record of Albert's voice is very faint, but a portion of it is quite audible. It is obvious that the medium did not put her mouth close enough to the special trumpet which I attached to the instrument. Albert must also speak louder. I shall have to say to Albert what a 'spirit' child shouted to her mother who was attending a *séance* in New York, and who was thinking more of the phenomena than of the hymns they were singing: 'Sing up, mother, sing up big!' If Albert will only 'speak up big' at our next experiment, we may get a good record.

It will be noticed in this report that Mr. Duncan frequently suggests to me that I shall ask Albert to do such-and-such a thing, or produce such-and-such a phenomenon. I do so, and I get what I ask for. For example, at 8.41 Mr. Duncan suggests that I should ask for a hand. At 8.46 I get a hand; I also get one at 8.49 and another at 9.4.

At 9.24 Mr. Duncan suggests that the medium should come out of the cabinet: at 9.29 the medium comes out with a festoon of teleplasm.

I am not stressing the point that the medium's husband does this. Mr. Duncan has seen the phenomena hundreds of times and should know what we are likely to expect and what are Albert's capabilities. We are grateful for his assistance and advice. It is largely due to Mr. Duncan that we are witnessing the 'high spots' of this mediumship.

We did not at this *séance* depend upon Mrs. Goldney's stockings with which to bandage the medium's eyes, but provided ourselves with a double thickness of black velvet, with elastic ties. This bandage was seen by Mr. Bois in the fingers of the teleplasmic (or rubber) 'hand'. The elastic ties were entwined about the fingers, and the bandage was thrown down. It will be noticed that in stereograms 8 and 9, [Plates XIV and XV], the medium is *not* wearing the bandage; she has removed it from her face.

The 'hand' we saw just in front of the medium's mouth *looked exactly* like a right-hand rubber surgical glove and this same impression is conveyed by the photographs of which I will speak later.

But the hand which rubbed against mine and (as if in answer to my remark that I was only *lightly* touched) which afterwards gently pinched me was a flesh-and-blood hand, of the same temperature as a human's. I am quite convinced of this and I remarked to the note-taker that the tactile impression was identical to the feel of a human hand, though I could not tell whether right or left. I must emphasize the fact that *I* did not feel the hand—the hand felt mine. Mr. Bois also mentioned to Mrs. Richards that 'it looks like a human hand'—a remark which was overheard by Albert.



From his angle, at the left side opening of the cabinet, Mr. Bois saw the hand. The curtain was between me and the hand so I could not see it.

Yesterday (May 22nd) we dressed Mrs. Goldney in the *séance* garment, stitched up the back in the method employed at our experiments, and she found that she could *easily* withdraw her hand from the 'bag' sleeve of the garment. She could withdraw either arm and slip it between her own neck and the neck of the garment. In this way she could manipulate her hand, 'shake hands,' etc., with ease. When the 'human' hand pinched mine, the curtain was between the medium and me so I could not tell where it was coming from. As I was standing up and the medium was sitting down, my hand, when placed in opening of curtains at the ordinary height employed in hand-shaking, would come almost exactly at the height of the medium's neck—and *her hand*, assuming that she had squeezed it through the neck opening.

But Mrs. Goldney is only about half the size of Mrs. Duncan, so that our test lost something of its importance. The *séance* garment was much too large for her, though the tapes at the neck can be drawn tight. On the other side of the account it must be borne in mind that although the medium's neck is larger than Mrs. Goldney's, there is much more fat and soft flesh on it, so that it is more *compressible* and yielding and it would be easy, I think, for the medium to pass her hand between *her* neck and the neck of the *séance* garment, however tightly the latter was tied.<sup>1</sup> We have undoubtedly proved that the control of the medium's hands is not adequate and must therefore provide a better one for the next *séance*. Of one fact there is not a shadow of doubt: the hand I felt in the cabinet was *not* the hand I photographed.

It was a curious remark (at 8.53) of Albert's that I was not to expect 'a horse's hoof' when I 'shook hands with him' (which I never did). What I experienced was not exactly a 'click' but rather like a flick just as if the hand had snapped its fingers with my flesh in between. The hand we all saw immediately after was the 'rubber glove' variety.

The incident (at 9.22) of the accidental firing of the flash bulb had a curious sequel. Having fired one bulb (at 9.19) I had unscrewed the used charge from the battery holder, and had accidentally pushed the switch over to the 'on' position. This fact was unknown to me. When I screwed in a fresh bulb, in readiness for the next photograph, I gradually made the electrical contact and the bulb flashed in my face, nearly blinding me. Albert was in the middle of his speech into the dictaphone and stopped dead as the bulb flashed, although quite noiseless.

Although the medium—or Albert—saw the flash, the light could not have affected her very much as the curtains were quite closed, both at sides and centre: very little light could have penetrated into the cabinet. And yet Albert said that we should find a burn on the medium's face—and we certainly found a mark that looked something like it. And now comes the puzzle: If the medium is 'burned' by a flash ignited the other side of the room, with the heavy plush curtains (reaching from floor to ceiling) completely screening her, why is she not burned when the curtains are wide

---

<sup>1</sup>At the fourth *séance* Mrs. Goldney saw the medium remove her arm from the sleeve of the *séance* garment with the greatest ease.



open, and the flash ignited straight at her, and with bandage removed as in stereograms 8 and 9? [Plates XIV and XV.] The reader will remember that when the teleplasm was thought to have been trod upon at the spiritualists' *séance*, the medium screamed and afterwards two burn-like marks were found on the medium's stomach 'as a result of the sudden interference with the teleplasm.' And yet the previous day I felt the stuff with impunity—once when the medium was unaware of the fact. Another puzzle: Why, when teleplasm is interfered with by Mrs. — on Monday, it produces screams, blood, and burns; and yet when interfered with by me on Tuesday, nothing at all happens?

When I was at school one of the boys habitually malingered by violently rubbing his cheek with his hand. This produced a red patch, with an aqueous humour percolating through it *exactly* like the patch I saw on Mrs. Duncan's face. The sores on the boy's face, as they healed, then became scaly and looked *exactly* like the sores I saw on Mrs. Duncan's stomach on May 16th—more than a week later. On the part of the boy, his house-master thought the lad had erysipelas and sent him home. The boy afterwards confessed that he made the sores by friction. It must be emphasized that I am not accusing the medium of producing these sores normally. But it is our duty to point out that they *could* have been produced normally under the conditions obtaining at the time of their occurrence.

No importance can be attached to the statement by Albert that a lady whose name was Hervey had manifested. The Duncans knew that Mr. Hervey was Mrs. Goldney's father, so the further statement that 'she came for a lady and gentleman' is of no evidential value.

The last phenomenon was seen at 9.35, Albert departing at 9.41, an interval of six minutes.

Professor D. F. Fraser-Harris, M.D., D.Sc., the distinguished neurologist and physiologist, happened to call at the Laboratory yesterday and we discussed the question of regurgitation with him. Though cases are rare, regurgitation is not unknown to medical science. Idiots often swallow nails and similar objects and regurgitate them, and showmen at the fairs regurgitate for a living. Double or secondary stomachs or 'pouches' (*œsophageal diverticula*) are equally rare and Dr. Fraser-Harris admitted it would be difficult to detect such an abnormality with the X-rays. At the wonderful medical museum of the École de Médecine, Paris, founded by Baron Guillaume Dupuytren (1777-1835) I have seen specimens of humanity with secondary stomachs. There are several such in the Musée Dupuytren. But whether it were ever possible for the owners of these anatomical curiosities to regurgitate, is not known.



### SOME FAMOUS REGURGITATORS

As I have remarked, one does occasionally see regurgitators at shows or fairs and in a letter to me this week, the Hon. Everard Feilding mentions the fact that he saw at Warsaw a man who outdid the Prague watch swallower I have previously mentioned. Mr. Feilding saw a man swallow twenty live frogs, twenty live goldfish, 'and God knows how much water'. Hollar has left us an engraving (reproduced, Plate XVI) of a regurgitator, Blaise de Manfré, a seventeenth-century water-spouter who swallowed gallons of water and brought it up again in the form of 'wine'—a spectacular and rather disgusting trick common at the period, as is shown by another engraving (of Floram Marchand, 'Le Grand Boyeur de Tours,' reproduced in Plate XVII) which I possess. In a rare work<sup>1</sup> (title-page reproduced, Plate XVIII) in my collection, the tricks of Blaise de Manfré, Floram Marchand, and other regurgitators are exposed. At the Prater fair ground, in Vienna, I saw a man swallow many round pebbles and pieces of blunted glass and regurgitate them.

Concerning stone swallowing, Wanley, in his *Wonders of the Little World*<sup>2</sup> mentions an extraordinary case of regurgitating at Prague (favourite haunt of regurgitators) which was recorded as far back as A.D. 1666. The report states that there was a certain Silesian who, for a small reward, swallowed as many as thirty-six white stones each about the size of a pigeon's egg, and brought them up again.

Father Paulian mentions that a true 'lithophager' or stone-eater was brought to Avignon in May, 1760, and could swallow flints  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, an inch broad, and half an inch thick. Father Paulian examined this man and found his gullet very large, his teeth exceedingly strong, his saliva very corrosive, and his stomach lower than usual. This man could chew these stones to powder.

Several advertisements relating to stone-eaters have appeared in the English Press. In 1788 'the only stone-eater in the world' exhibited his curious gift at Hatch's, the trunk maker, at 404, Strand, 'opposite the Adelphi'. He guaranteed that after the stones had been swallowed 'they may be heard to clink in the belly, the same as in a pocket'. The audience could bring their own stones. The admission was 2s. 6d. per person and a 'private performance for five guineas at short notice'. Other stone-eaters exhibited their powers at the Richmond Theatre in 1790 and at the Old Globe Tavern, Craven Street, Strand, at a later date.

The Hon. Everard Feilding recalls the frog-swallower he saw at Warsaw. Houdini mentions<sup>3</sup> a man named Norton, a Frenchman, whom he saw at

---

<sup>1</sup>*The Falacie of the Great Water-Drinker Discovered*, by Thomas Peedle and Thomas Cozbie, London, 1650. (One of three perfect copies known.)

<sup>2</sup>London, 1906, Vol. 2, p. 58.

<sup>3</sup>*Miracle Mongers and their Methods*, New York, Dutton, 1920.



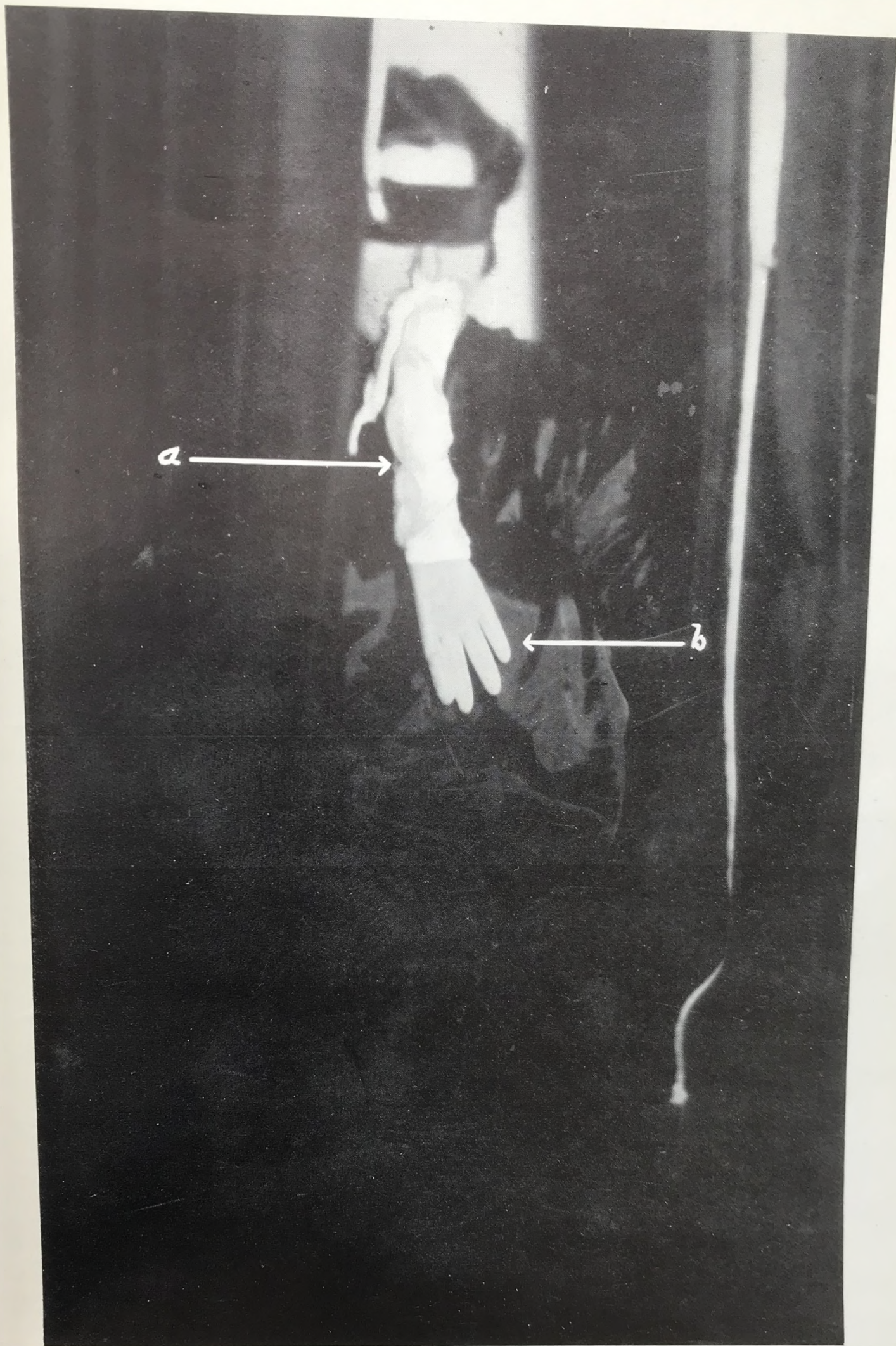


PLATE XI

Half of Stereogram 6, showing safety-pin, *a*, and rubber surgical glove, *b*



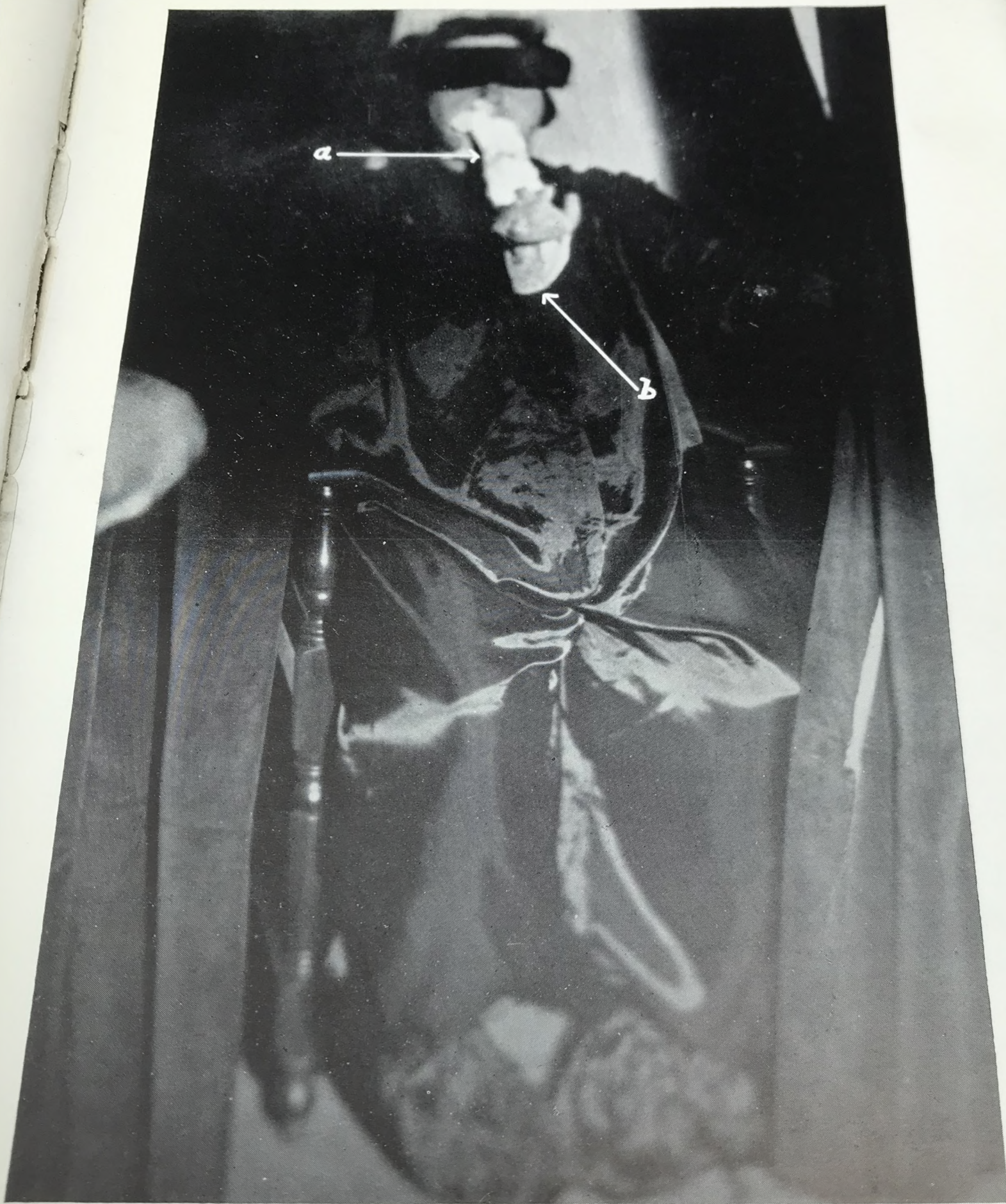


PLATE XII

Half of Stereogram 7, showing rubber surgical glove turned upwards. Note safety-pin, *a*; selvedge of stuff, *b*, and puffed cheeks of medium



Nuremberg and Berlin. Norton would slowly consume thirty or forty glasses of beer and then a number of half-grown frogs and bring them up alive.

Houdini states that at the München fairs held in October there were quite a number of frog-swallowers performing their curious act. He saw another frog-swallower, 'English Jack', in America in the early days of his career as a showman. He states that he also met a man named Bosco who swallowed live snakes.

I have seen many sword swallowers and so-called 'human ostriches'. Houdini, in the book referred to, mentions many of these performers and gives precise directions for emulating their feats. He once witnessed the 'Chevalier Cliquot' swallow fourteen nine-inch bayonet swords at once; on another occasion Cliquot swallowed a real bayonet sword, weighted with a cross-bar, and two 18-lb. dumb-bells!

Cliquot also did the watch and chain swallowing feat that I saw at Prague. A number of medical men listened to the ticking by means of stethoscopes.

Houdini cites the case of the man whom he saw swallow a small but powerful electric light bulb attached to the end of a cane. The passage of the light down the throat and into the stomach was very effective on the darkened stage. The modern stomach camera is, I think, based on a similar principle. Swallowing razors is a variant of the sword-swallowing feat. Another variety is the swallowing of a rolled umbrella, once the speciality of a London street performer whom I saw many years ago.

Among women performers, Mlle. Edith Clifford is—or was—the champion lady sword swallower and has been known to swallow a 26-inch sword blade, a pair of scissors, a saw, an open razor, and ten knives. 'The sensation of her act' (I am quoting Houdini) 'is reached when the point of a bayonet, 23½ inches long, fastened to the breech of a cannon, is placed in her mouth and the piece discharged, the recoil driving the bayonet suddenly down her throat. The gun is loaded with a No. 10 gauge cartridge.' Miss Clifford was with Barnum and Bailey's show from 1901 to 1906.

Another famous woman sword swallower was Victorina, of Berlin, who could swallow a dozen sharp sword blades at once. The *Boston Herald* for December 28th, 1902, in describing Victorina's act, states that she can swallow swords, daggers, bayonets, walking-sticks, rods, etc.

I hope the reader will pardon this digression as to what curious uses the stomach and œsophagus have been put to<sup>1</sup>, but I think it will enlighten us as to the possibilities of regurgitation and regurgitators.

. . . . .

If X-rays will not reveal swallowed objects such as muslin or rubber gloves, I am told that such articles would put out of action (through being sucked into the tube) a stomach pump and so reveal their presence. I am also informed that a line of small rubber-covered hooks, like fish-hooks, could

---

<sup>1</sup>A man swallowed a heavy chain, a staple, and a spoon in Blackpool Police Court on August 16th, 1931. He was X-rayed and the articles plainly revealed. The police surgeon stated next day that the man seemed to have no pain and "had passed a comfortable night".—*Evening Standard*, August 18th, 1931.



be let down into the stomach and that they might catch any substance like a piece of muslin. But you would have to be sure that your line and hooks were going into the right place. This regurgitation problem will have to be settled one way or the other.

On the day following the *séance* we noticed a whitish marking on the back of the right hand of the *séance* garment. It looks a little like paint or bile (though there has been no paint in use at the Laboratory since we occupied the premises) and I am afraid there is not enough of it to analyse.



A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FOUR STEREOGRAMS  
TAKEN AT THIRD SÉANCE

I want to impress on my readers that the things I describe as seeing in these photographs will not all be visible in the half-tone reproductions. The finer tones of light and shade and much of the 'detail' will be lost in the plates.

I have another vast advantage over my readers. As I write these notes I am looking at the photographs through the latest model Zeiss stereoscope, with a pair of powerful 10 cm. objectives. In other words, the entire phenomena, and the medium, cabinet, etc., are *three dimensional, as in life*; what the reader sees is a two dimensional picture, quite flat. But any reader calling at the National Laboratory is welcome to examine the original stereograms with our Zeiss instrument, and can confirm for himself every word I am writing.

If we see a picture of a lamp-post, we call it a lamp-post; we do not attempt to argue that that useful and familiar object looks like a statue of Julius Cæsar or the Eiffel Tower on a misty morning. No, we just call it a lamp-post.

In the same way, I am going to describe the articles I see in these photographs exactly as I find them, just as I should describe our hypothetical lamp-post. If I describe them as being like what we habitually see and use every day, it is because they *are* like what we see and use every day. If I say—as I intend to—that the materialized hand hanging from Mrs. Duncan's mouth is a right-hand rubber surgical glove, at the end of some sort of support, covered with a piece of (rather worn) cheese cloth, the whole being placed in the mouth, it is because *that is exactly what it looks like*. The reader will remember that in Stereogram 5 (Plate VII) I described the veil of 'teleplasm' as a long piece of butter muslin or cheese cloth, worn in places, with rents, warp and weft interlacing visible, and with a distinct hem or selvedge and crease marks where it had been folded.

*Stereogram No. 6, Plate XI.* This picture was taken at 8.46 after the direct suggestion (made at 8.41) of Mr. Duncan that we should ask for a photograph of a hand. Albert at once said 'Certainly.' The lights were lowered a little, the curtains were parted by the medium, and the shot made.

The medium's hands are holding the curtains apart. To the mouth and right nostril is fixed what appears to be a semi-rigid support, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and about 14 inches long, which is resting on her chest. Round this support is wrapped two or three times a piece of what appears to be cheese cloth. The end of the cloth is uppermost (thus facing the camera) and is *pinned with a small safety-pin*, plainly visible. The pin is about four inches from the lower end of the wrapping. It will be remembered



that Mrs. Goldney (and Mr. Barry Richards) saw the glint of a safety-pin on the inside of the left-hand curtain at 8.53 at the first *séance* on May 4th (see *ante*). Both she and I heard the 'teleplasm' being pulled off the curtain, with the characteristic noise of fabric being forcibly detached as it was snatched away from the curtain. Mrs. Goldney thought it was the same gold pin which she had lent the medium and with which she had fastened her coat, and this assumption is recorded in the notes of the first *séance*. Immediately afterwards the medium put out her hand, took mine, and put it to her bosom where, sure enough, Mrs. Goldney's safety-pin was reposing. But at the third sitting *no pin was supplied to the medium*, so it is obvious that we shall now have to reconsider whether the pin Mrs. Goldney saw on the curtain was, in fact, the one with which she pinned up the medium's coat. As we have established the fact that the medium uses small safety-pins, psychic or real, it may have been one of these that was seen on the curtain and which we heard being forcibly jerked off on a piece of 'teleplasm'.

There is a faint suggestion of a hem or selvedge round the fabric. Also to the right of the mouth is a piece of the fabric which appears to have been torn away and is hanging down loose. The folds of the fabric are plainly visible.

To the lower end of the muslin 'tube' which it surrounds and encloses at the wrist is a rubber surgical glove. It is a right-hand glove, either greyish or pale yellow or other light colour as it photographs a shade darker than the muslin. The plates I used are colour sensitive and the 'tones' or values of the colours are approximately correct.

The glint of light or sheen (or perhaps the mould mark or seam) on each finger of the rubber glove is quite visible and the palm is slightly sunken and the fingers a little flattened exactly as happens with a rubber glove. The thumb is turned inwards a little, so that it partly obscures the index finger. The medium appears to be blowing as her cheeks are a little puffed.

*Stereogram No. 7, Plate XII.* In this picture, taken at 8.49, the muslin-covered support has been raised from off the chest and appears more rigid as it stands out almost at right angles to the medium's face. It is exactly as I have described in Stereogram No. 6 except that the corner of the fabric which was pinned is now hanging down loose and a black loop (or the shadow of a loop) is plainly visible against the white fabric. Also, the corner hanging loose has a selvedge all round—this is very distinct—the fabric itself being semi-transparent and a trifle worn or 'pulled'. The loose end near the mouth in Stereogram 6 is still visible, but has been drawn up a little. The medium's cheeks are more puffed out, as if she were blowing harder than in the previous picture. The 'hand' or glove is curved upwards towards the face of the medium, and the three middle fingers are criss-cross or interlaced. The little finger and thumb are standing out.

A curious feature of this picture is that some folds of the muslin appear to have slipped, or to have been pushed down towards the 'hand' end of the support, leaving the latter bare and like a double straight-edge for about three or four inches from where it enters the mouth. It is certain that the support is covered by at least one thickness of muslin (or cheese cloth) as the rucked-up end and other corner (also showing a selvedge) is surrounding



the portion which enters the mouth. *The safety-pin is again seen on top of the roll, pinning the cloth together.*

The sheen of the rubber glove can still be seen and where the glove is sharply bent upwards, the acute, characteristic kinks in the rubber are well shown.

The medium is gripping the edge of the curtain with her left hand, while her right is behind the other curtain, holding it back.

*Stereogram No. 8, Plate XIV.* The third picture of the 'hand' series gives us still another view of the glove—a lateral one. The glove is now shown sideways, flat, resting on the medium's left shoulder, which supports it. The glint of light on the shiny rubber surface is still noticeable. The glove is slightly raised towards the observer, with the thumb in front. In other words, the glove and support have been swung round so that they now rest on the left shoulder of the medium who is standing up in this picture. She has also discarded her bandage.

But the support mentioned in my analysis of Stereogram 7, Plate XII, appears to have vanished. But the cloth remains, still wrapped round the wrist of the glove, the remainder of the fabric covering her mouth and part of chin. The 'loop' of material which is visible (perhaps as a shadow) in Stereogram 7 is now hanging from her mouth, below the chin, and is very distinct.

The corner of the fabric which was pinned round the wrist in Stereogram 6, Plate XI, but which has dropped in Stereogram 7, is still hanging from the wrappings and is in better focus. Consequently the hem or selvedge round the fabric is now *very plainly* visible and surrounds the entire corner. Moreover, because this piece is in better focus the *wear* on the corner is apparent, and the 'warp' threads are very distinct. In wear, these threads have 'pulled' and the rents are very apparent, though not so apparent as in Stereogram No. 5.

The side of the fabric wrapping nearest the observer appears to be pinned up at one place (on top of the wrist) but as the point of the assumed pinning is just the other side of the hump of the 'wrist', the pin is not visible.

The medium's hands are being held by the two sitters at their respective sides of the curtain opening, as permitted by Albert.

*Stereogram No. 9, Plate XV.* There is not a great deal to be said about this photograph, the fourth exposure at the third *séance*. The medium is now seated again and is still without her bandage.

At 9.16 Albert said he would attempt to give his face 'alongside the lady'. The photograph was taken at 9.19 but I can see no resemblance to a face in the mass of muslin-like material which is bunched up in front of the medium's face, which it nearly hides.

From the mass (which we assume is being held in position by the mouth) in front of the face falls a twisted 'tail' of the material, the end of the tail being tucked in between the medium's legs.

Where the edge of the material is visible, a hem or selvedge can be seen. Apart from a few folds of the 'muslin' which are visible, little can be learnt from this picture. The great difficulty in photographing these pictures is that the white masses are over exposed, while the shadows are liable to be under exposed. The trouble is to find a compromise that will



answer our purpose. We were very fortunate in Stereogram 5 (Plate VII) in having the white fabric accurately focused and spread out over a black surface (the satin garment) which makes a perfect background against the white. That is why the texture, warp and weft, selvedge, rents, etc., in this picture are so distinctly visible. In the case of such articles as rubber gloves, which are neither black nor white, our difficulty disappears as they receive the correct exposure.



FOURTH SÉANCE, THURSDAY, MAY 28TH, 1931

*Saturday, May 30th, 1931*

A further stage in our examination was reached at the fourth experiment with Mrs. Duncan, and if the result was not as satisfactory as could be desired, it was not the fault of the investigators.

Mrs. Duncan has repeatedly informed us that she would submit to an X-ray examination and it was decided that this should now be done, after the sitting, but without previously informing the medium or her husband as to our intention. It was not thought that, should it exist, an *œsophageal diverticulum* or 'pseudo stomach' (a blind pouch usually situated in the lower half of the œsophagus) would show on the radiograph. It was also realized that if that 'false stomach' contained any substance such as cheese cloth or a rubber glove, it would not be detected. But if a metallic object, such as a safety-pin, were to be concealed in this blind pouch, it would probably be visible in the radiograph. The X-raying of the medium was further complicated by the fact that she is such a big woman (weighing over 238 pounds) that the mass would be liable to obscure any finer structural shadows which might otherwise register themselves on the photographic film.

Because of the medium's weight, I decided not to employ the X-ray apparatus belonging to the Laboratory. When I X-rayed Joanna Southcott's famous 'box'<sup>1</sup> I had to give a nine minutes' exposure in order to get a satisfactory result. In Mrs. Duncan's case, an exposure of at least eighteen minutes would be required to secure a good radiograph. This long exposure was out of the question owing to the movement of the internal organs and the discomfort it would have caused the subject.

So I asked Messrs. Watson & Sons (Electro-Medical) Ltd., London, to instal the best apparatus possible for our purpose, in order to reduce the exposures to a matter of seconds. This they agreed to do and during the afternoon of the 28th of May the necessary transformers, stands, tube, wiring, etc., were fixed in readiness for the same evening. The installation was placed out of sight in the workshop (a room opening out of the *séance*-room) all ready to be wheeled in when required.

Photographic arrangements and lighting of the *séance*-room were identical to those employed at the last sitting. A dictaphone was again erected in the cabinet in a position convenient for the medium—or Albert—to speak into. Absolute alcohol was in readiness in case we were able to obtain a piece of 'teleplasm'.

*Fore control.*—It was decided to make the test as rigid as possible and a certain procedure was adopted. It was arranged (a) that both Mr. and Mrs. Duncan should be kept under the closest observation during the period they were on the Laboratory premises; (b) that no p.v. or other

---

<sup>1</sup>See *The Times* for May 6th and June 12th, 1927, for account and photographs.



examination be given until immediately after the X-raying; (c) that the radiographs be taken immediately the medium left the cabinet.

Although the *séance* was arranged for 8.30, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan arrived soon after seven o'clock and the medium at once retired to the lavatory. Except for these few minutes, she was kept under close observation and just after 8.30 she was led into the *séance*-room by Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Goldney, undressed, her exterior examined, hair combed, etc., and dressed in the *séance* garment. The garment was then sewn up the back with blue thread in the form of a code. The medium was then led to the cabinet and placed in the arm-chair, still under the observation of the two ladies. The sitters were then called in and the *séance* commenced. I asked Miss Beenham to particularly note the remarks and suggestions of Mr. Duncan and, for this reason, the *séance* was recorded by means of shorthand notes as being more rapid than repeating everything into a dictaphone—a proceeding which might have aroused his suspicions. Miss Beenham sat outside the circle, to the left of the cabinet, and took notes by means of a special note-taker's red lamp. This is the protocol:

Order of sitters, clockwise: Medium, Captain the Hon. Victor Cochran Baillie, Mr. Barry Richards, Professor D. F. Fraser-Harris, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.S.E., Captain H. W. Seton-Karr, Mr. A. Peel Goldney, Professor Dr. J. C. Flügel, Mrs. A. Peel Goldney, Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Professor Dr. William McDougall, F.R.S., Mrs. Clarice Richards, Mr. H. G. Bois, Mr. Duncan sitting at back of circle. Mr. Harry Price by camera, erected opposite cabinet. Messrs. Booker and Minns, X-ray technicians, outside circle, attending to gramophone. Both doors locked. Keys given to Mr. Bois. Medium in trance before white light turned out.

Sitting commenced 8.48. White light out. Both red and orange lights full on. Inside temperature 66° Fahr.; outside temperature 54° Fahr.

8.50. Medium moaning.

8.51. Albert says 'Hullo!' He asks how Mr. Price is. Mr. Price says that he is all right, but that he has been very rushed. Albert says 'Never mind, put it all to the wind.' Mr. Price remarks that he is seldom tired and can work all night without fatigue. Albert says 'Of course it depends on whom you are with.' Mr. Price says that that was unkind. Albert replies 'We are all very much alike.' Mr. Price asks Albert 'Surely you are not like that now?' Albert replies 'I do not know. I am very much attached to a lady. Worse luck that I did not find a gentleman!' But Mr. Price says 'That is to your advantage.' Albert immediately replies 'Disadvantage.' Albert then says that ladies can make you do what you don't want to, and Mr. Price agrees with him.

8.54. Albert asks for 'the band to be put on'. Gramophone record now being played. Mr. Price explaining about the dictaphone in the cabinet. Asking Albert to speak close to the trumpet, because last week the words were very, very faint and are very difficult to hear. And that when he says the word, Mr. Bois will press the button and then he has only to put his vocal organs right close to the trumpet so that we can get a good record.

8.55. Medium moaning. Curtains moving. Mr. Price asking Albert if he will attempt to build himself up, and if he will allow a photograph to be taken; everything will be quite all right. Albert says 'Look here, I



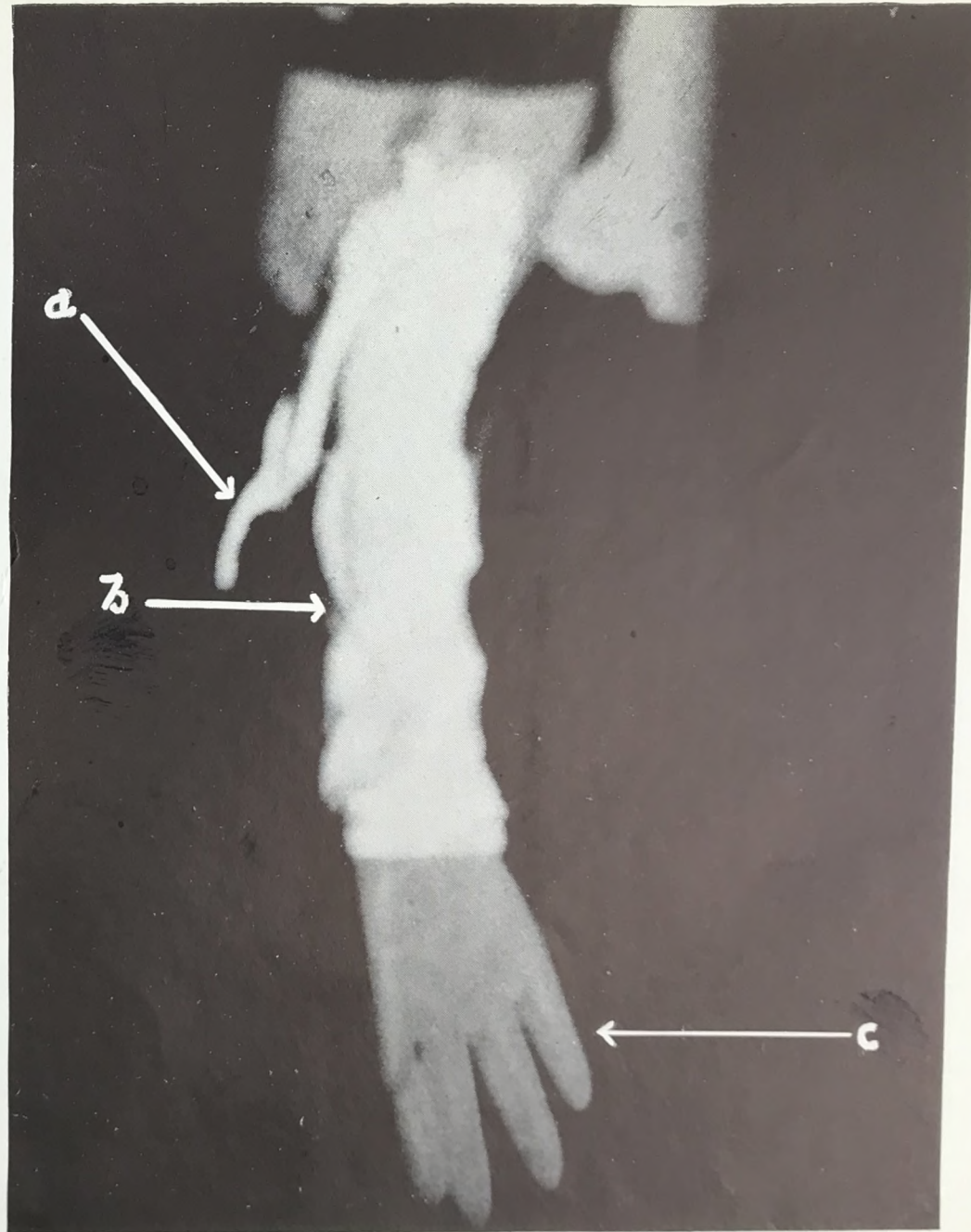
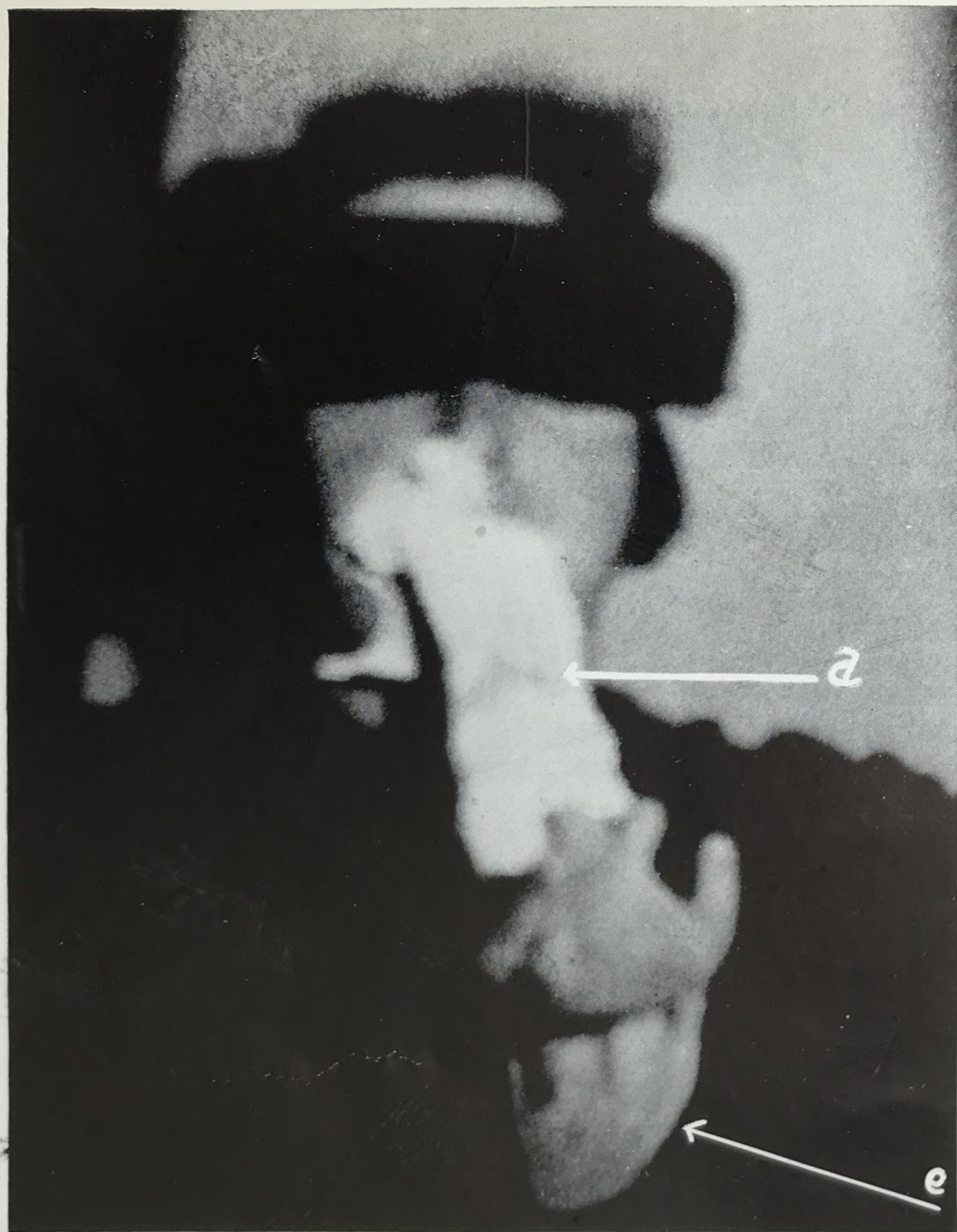


PLATE XIII

Enlarged portions of Stereograms 6 and 7, showing safety-pins, *b* and *d*. Note torn end, *a*; sheen on rubber surgical glove, *c*; and selvedge of loose end, *e*



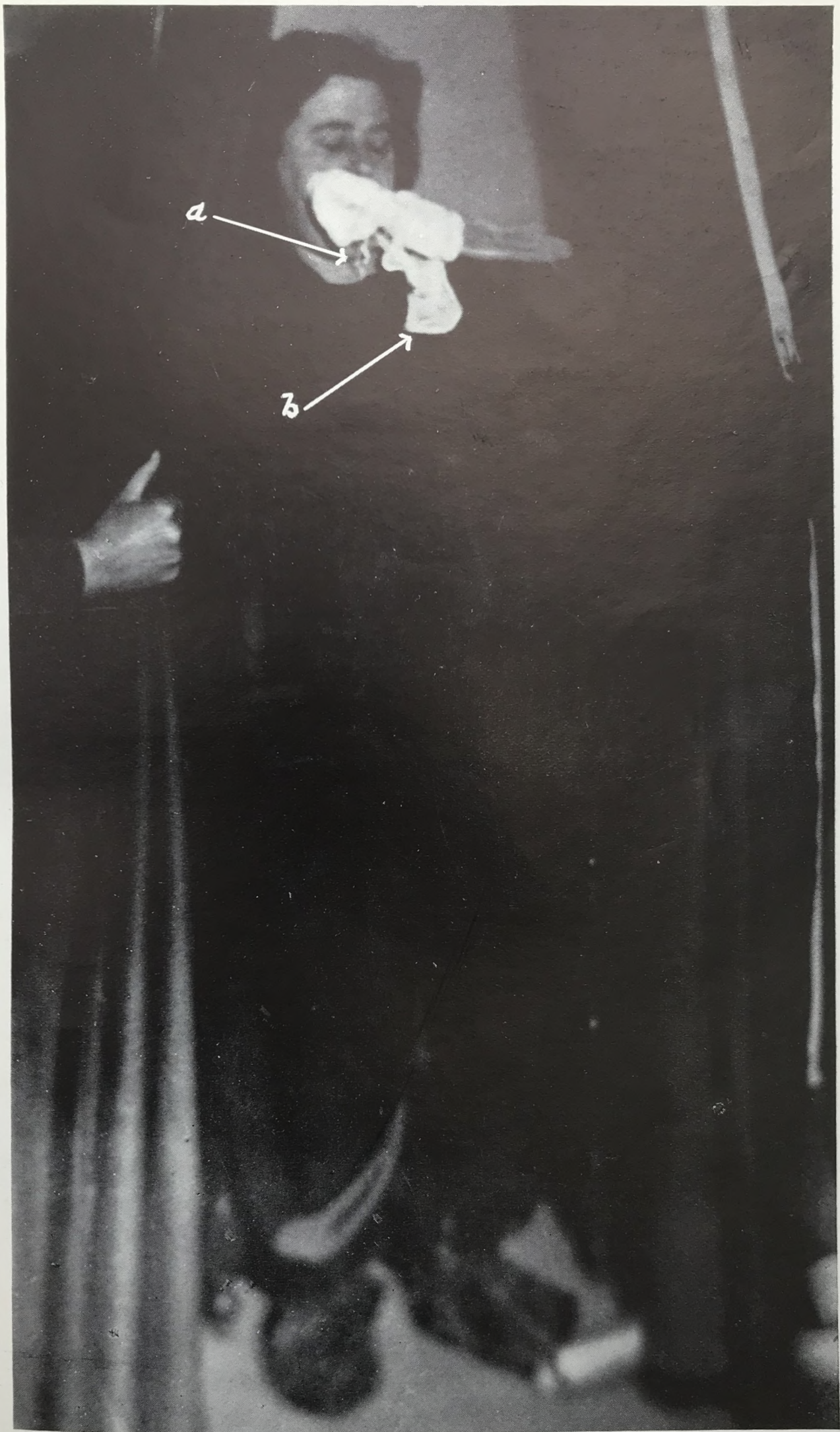


PLATE XIV

Half of Stereogram 8, showing lateral view of rubber surgical glove. Note loop in stuff, *a*, and selvedge and rents in loose end, *b*



have something very interesting for you if you will turn down the lights a little.' The orange and both red lights turned down to about 40 watts. Mr. Duncan telling Albert to hold on just a minute while Mr. Price gets ready for photograph.

8.57. Mr. Price tells Albert that he is quite ready when he is. Curtains moving; being drawn back. Mr. Duncan says he can see something black. Albert says that the lights are still too bright and will we lower them? Lights slightly lowered. Now about 30 watts each.

8.59. Mr. Bois, who is holding back the curtain on his side, says there is something pulling the curtain very strongly. Flashlight went off but Mr. Price discovered that the caps had not been removed from the camera lenses. Curtains closed.

9.0. Mr. Price says he is now all ready for the photograph. Mr. Duncan telling Albert that he must pull the curtains wide open for the photograph to be taken. Curtains open. First photograph taken. [Stereogram 10.] [Plate XIX.] Curtains closed. Albert says that the lights may be put up a little bit now. Lights raised to 40 watts each. Mr. Duncan says that there will be no harm if Mr. Bois goes into the cabinet. Albert immediately says 'Who told you that?'

9.1½. Curtains opening. Mr. Price can see a white draped mass as though coming from both ears and falling to the medium's left. Curtains being pulled in. Albert says that the lights shine full on the cabinet, and that it is too bright. 'It destroys.'

9.3. A large mass of teleplasm coming from the cabinet. Mr. Duncan says that he can see a white face, in profile, with chin rather exaggerated. The face has features to the left and hair on the right. Sitters asking about photographing it, but Mr. Duncan says that it is on the last photograph taken. Albert says he will manage to make a better face this time. Asks for light to be put down lower and he will do his best. Lights lowered to about 30 watts.

9.5. Mr. Price telling Albert that he is all ready for the next photograph when he is. Medium moaning.

9.6. Mr. Duncan again telling Albert to pull the curtains as far back as possible. Second photograph taken. [Stereogram 11.] [Plate XX.] Mr. Duncan says the hair round the face appeared to be waved. Curtain closed. Sitters thought Albert said something, but Albert said that he was merely listening. Mr. Price tells Albert that he will not hear anything to his disadvantage.

9.7. Medium moaning. Mr. Price asking Albert if he cannot show himself with the medium, or perhaps even bring out Peggy Hazeldine, and perhaps we can take some photographs of her. Albert says that he cannot command her to come. And that we may have something to-night which, he is sure, will interest us for many, many days to come. Mr. Price thanks Albert and says that he is sure the photographs will interest many thousands of readers eventually.

9.9. Medium giving a series of short, sharp moans. Curtains opening. Albert says he will get the lady to stand up.

9.10. Medium standing up. Albert says that he would like the lights down. Lights slightly lowered. Teleplasm streaming from the right nostril to the ground, about three inches trailing on the ground. Curtains open



wider. Mr. Price says that he would like to be able to have a portion of that teleplasm. Albert says that he will tell us that presently. Mr. Duncan suggests that, when permission is given, Dr. William Brown should cut it off.

9.12. Curtains opening at right-hand side of cabinet. Medium appearing. Teleplasm trailing on the ground for some inches. Coming from the mouth and nostril. Dr. William Brown says it is coming from the right nostril, is caught up in the mouth, and then streams down. Medium re-enters cabinet and curtains close. Albert asks Mr. Price what is keeping him (Albert) back with his work? Mr. Duncan says that he means that he feels something is keeping him back. Mr. Price says that he thinks he knows and that there is a certain place not a hundred miles from the Laboratory which is keeping him back. Albert says he thinks he will have to leave the 'other place' for always. Mr. Price tells Albert that he is sure he will never have cause to make such a remark about us. Albert says that he would like to get the medium properly under his control. Mr. Duncan tells Albert that we will all do our best for him and help him. Albert asks Mr. Price if it has ever struck him that 'the lady' could masquerade as him (Albert). Mr. Price says, 'I should say decidedly not.' And adds that if we could possibly see Albert and 'the lady' side by side in a photograph, it would be proof positive. Albert says he will show us how easily she can be seen with him.

9.15. Curtains moving; then open. Large mass of teleplasm visible. Medium coming forward. Mr. Price says that he would like to take a photograph of that. Albert says that certainly he can. Lights slightly lowered again. Albert says that he wants to leave the mouth quite clear. Mr. Price tells him that everything is quite ready when he is.

9.16½. Third photograph taken. [Stereogram 12.] [Plates XXI and XXII.] Curtains close.

9.17. Albert says that he is going to speak into our pipe now. Sitters discover that he means the dictaphone trumpet. Mr. Price tells Albert to speak close to the trumpet. Albert speaking into the dictaphone. Says only a few words<sup>1</sup>. Mr. Price says that perhaps he will give us a little more later on. Mr. Duncan suggests that we have a little music and then perhaps Albert will show himself with the medium, and then a photograph can be taken of them together. Also Mr. Duncan tells Albert that there is no cause for fear; there is no harm, and it has been done before.

9.20. Albert says that when that photograph was taken before, you would not think there was all that torment going on in her mind. The sitters do not understand. But Mr. Duncan says that he thinks Albert is referring to the time when *he* took a photograph. Albert says that 'often appearances are not everything; appearances are very deceptive'. He says that the thing is in keeping hold of a person's mind so that you can get exactly what you like. There is a great difficulty where we are concerned just now. Also Albert thinks that we have got something very interesting. But, of course, we shall not see it until the photograph is done. Mr. Price tells Albert that he is very grateful, and that there is nothing like a photo-

<sup>1</sup>Albert said that he felt that he was "being treated like a man", that he was happy, and would do his best.



graph to convey to the reader exactly what he can do, and he wants as many pictures as he will allow him to take. Mr. Price adds that he would like a whole volume of them; but he would like one of Albert and the medium together. Albert says that he is going to show us the difficulty.

9.23. Curtains moving, and opening. Teleplasm bunched up; coming from the medium's mouth, is bunched up on her lap with a trail falling to the ground and the upper part spread out upon her breast. Curtains close. Albert again tells us that he is going to show us where his difficulty lies. He says that it is difficult for him to inhabit that substance; he does not know whether we will understand him or not. Mr. Duncan says that if we put down the lights a little, would it not be possible for Albert to come out and let us photograph him and the lady together? Mr. Duncan assures Albert that there is no one to interfere with him and 'the lady'. Albert says, 'My good man, I am not afraid of that. I will do my best.' Mrs. Goldney says that the lady knows she is among good friends here. Albert says, 'Certainly, I dare say she does.' He then says, 'Would *you* not feel nervous if you had such a terrible time in a room and undergoing such things?' Sitters all agree with Albert. Mr. Duncan asks Albert to do his best. Mr. Price tells Albert that we have some very distinguished guests to-night and that we want him to do his best.

9.26. Curtains opening. Something white just visible. Something white as far as the medium's waist.

9.27. Medium standing up. Medium coming out from the cabinet. Teleplasm falling over her left arm and down to past her waist. Mr. Bois thinks the teleplasm is coming from the medium's mouth. Mr. Duncan asking if it is not a hand that is visible. The teleplasm is hanging over her left shoulder like a veil. Sitters say they do not think it is a hand. Albert tells us that we can take a photograph if we want to. Mr. Price says, 'All right.'

9.29. Fourth photograph taken. [Stereogram 13.] [Plates XXIII and XXIV.] Curtains close. Medium moaning.

9.31. Mr. Duncan says that he is farther back from the cabinet this time and that he could not see so clearly. Albert says, 'You had better stay far away, too.' Mr. Duncan asking Albert to build up a form of himself. Mrs. Richards suggests that it would be nice to shake hands with Albert. Albert says that one thing he does know is that he feels worse 'going back'. Mr. Price says that it must be some outside influence doing it. Mr. Price asking Albert if he is quite happy here. No reply.

9.35. Curtains opening. Something white visible, about three inches wide to about past her waist. Teleplasm now being drawn back into the mouth. Mr. Bois can see it distinctly going back into her mouth. All of it is going back into the mouth. Mr. Duncan asking Albert if he cannot give us a repetition of that manifestation and have the lights raised as it is so good. Mr. Bois says that the teleplasm is going in quite steadily. Curtains close. Albert says that there are a hundred things he will let us see if only he can get the lady properly under his control. He assures us that he will let us see how it is all done.

9.37. Medium breathing deeply. Medium moaning. Mr. Bois says that it was curious how the teleplasm looked exactly like a puff of something going through a hole. If you see a puff of something and a hole in a wall



and a draught blowing the puff through, that is how it looked. The teleplasm did not go back quickly. Whispers are heard coming from the cabinet. Albert asking Mr. Price what has happened. Mr. Price says he does not think anything has happened. Mr. Duncan says that often whispers are heard, which afterwards get stronger, like a wireless speech which has been fading.

9.42. Creaking of the medium's chair. Quite loud creaks are heard. Mrs. Goldney asks Mr. Duncan what causes that. Mr. Duncan says that he has not been able to determine.

9.44. Albert whispering again. Albert telling Mr. Price to put up the white light quickly. White light turned on.

9.46. Blood coming from the *left* nostril. Dr. William Brown at first said the right, but afterwards was very emphatic about its being the *left* nostril. Mr. Price also examines the medium and the bleeding. Mr. Duncan says that it often happens. Medium breathing heavily. [Dr. William Brown remarks to Mr. Price that the bleeding from the nose will prevent our getting any more 'teleplasm'.]

9.49. Curtains drawn together again. White light turned out. Sitters resume their seats again. Sitters thank Albert for showing them that.

9.51. Albert says that it is worse than ever now. White light put on again. Blood now coming from both nostrils. Dr. Brown wipes the blood from the medium's face.

9.52. White light switched off. Curtains drawn together again. Albert says that as soon as he tries to do something, the blood comes. [Dr. William Brown says to Mr. Price: 'Exactly as I anticipated.'] Mr. Duncan asks Albert if it is not possible for him to let us have a little piece of teleplasm; we can cut it off quite easily. Albert says that he is doing his best, but that it is absolutely pouring now. The red and orange lights almost full on now.

9.54. Albert says that it is hopeless, and that it is just as bad as ever. He says that he will have to go. Mr. Duncan again asks Albert if he cannot let us have just a little piece of teleplasm to-night. Mr. Price also pleads with Albert. But Albert tells us to put on the white light again. Dr. Brown goes into the cabinet again, and says that the blood is coming from both nostrils. White light switched on.

9.55. Medium retching. (Symptoms of being sick.)

9.56. Medium coming out of trance. *Séance* ended. Doors unlocked. Mrs. Richards and her son, Barry, and Mr. Bois remark to Miss Beenham that in one of the teleplasmic effects [see Stereogram 12, Plate XXI] they distinctly saw the rents in the stuff, and recognized them as being similar to those so plainly visible in Stereogram 5. [See Plate VII.]

(Signed) ETHEL BEENHAM.

I will now continue the narrative of this *séance*, and attempt to describe the extraordinary scene which occurred after we switched on the white light for the last time (at 9.54). It was the most unpleasant experience that I, personally, have had with any medium.

The reader will remember that we had decided to keep the closest observation upon the Duncans, especially upon the medium who was to



be under surveillance every moment until our final examination was completed.

Immediately the white light was switched on (at 9.54), the cabinet curtains were opened wide and the medium led to the upholstered settee (seen in photograph of *séance*-room, Plate II), on which she was to recline during the X-ray examination. She was under the special observation of Mrs. Goldney, Mrs. Robertson, and the present writer. Actually, she was also under the observation of everyone present.

I then mentioned to Mr. Duncan that we intended to X-ray the medium, and he cordially agreed, especially as his wife had so often expressed her willingness to undergo this test. I then gave instructions to Mr. Booker and Mr. Minns, Messrs. Watsons' radiologists, to get the apparatus ready.

I then handed a cigarette to the medium, told her what we were going to do and made her comfortable upon the settee. I pointed out that she would feel nothing of the X-rays and that they were quite harmless, and the whole business would be over in a few minutes. Also, that the radiographing would be done in the presence of Dr. William Brown, Professor McDougall, Professor Flügel, and Professor Fraser-Harris. I had asked these gentlemen to remain in the *séance*-room during the X-raying, at the same time requesting the other sitters (with the exception of some of the ladies and Mr. Duncan) to adjourn to another room.

At previous *séances*, the medium appeared absolutely normal within a few minutes of coming out of trance; but at this fourth experiment she seemed uneasy, and when she saw the preparations being made for the X-raying, declared that she would not submit. I admit that the equipment which we had provided looked rather formidable. When the workshop door was opened, she could see the cabinets containing the transformers, rheostats, coils, stands, etc. (an installation valued at some hundreds of pounds), a mass of apparatus which was there solely in order that the exposure could be reduced to a few seconds, thus putting the medium to the minimum of inconvenience.

Mr. Duncan then spoke to the medium, advising her to submit. The approach of her husband seemed to infuriate her, and she became hysterical. She jumped up, and dealt her husband a smashing blow on the face; she then made a lunge at Dr. William Brown, who fortunately avoided the blow. She then said she wanted to retire to the lavatory, and (so that she could still be kept under observation) Mrs. Goldney said that she and Dr. William Brown (being a medical man) would accompany her.

Mrs. Goldney and Dr. Brown then led Mrs. Duncan out of the *séance*-room into the hall in which was the door leading to the street. The medium found that she did *not* want to go to the lavatory, and sat down on a chair. Thinking she wanted a drink, Dr. Brown went to fetch a glass of water.

Suddenly, without the slightest warning, she jumped up, pushed Mrs. Goldney aside, unfastened the door and dashed into the street where she had another attack of hysterics. Her husband dashed after her, followed by other sitters. She was found clutching the railings, screaming, and Mr. Duncan was trying to pacify her.

After about half an hour in the street, the medium was induced to return to the Laboratory for her clothes (of course, she was still in her *séance* garment). As our test had now absolutely broken down (owing to



the fact that the medium and her husband had been by themselves in the street for two or three minutes, and owing to the nervous state of the medium), we had decided to abandon the X-ray examination. In fact, our efforts were now directed towards getting the medium dressed and into a car in order that she could be taken home. She was now much quieter and was talking coherently. She explained that what upset her was the fact that she thought we were going to give her a p.v. examination, publicly, before all the sitters. Such a suggestion was, of course, preposterous, as no such examination has been given her except privately by Mrs. Goldney (who has had much experience in a midwifery hospital) and Dr. William Brown—the only persons present.

And then the unexpected happened—Mrs. Duncan *demand*ed that she should be X-rayed! Although we knew it would now be useless, we consented, as the equipment had taken half a day to instal and there was just a very remote possibility that something might be revealed.

So the medium was X-rayed after all, Dr. William Brown being present. We made three radiographs, one of the abdomen, one of the chest or thorax, and one of the skull (reproduced Plate XXV). They were developed immediately after and no abnormalities can be detected. In any case, the depth of the medium would preclude any anatomical peculiarities from revealing themselves. As a matter of fact, the radiographs of the abdomen and thorax are merely blurs.

After the X-raying we had another surprise: the medium asked for a p.v. examination. Although such an examination was now useless, owing to our broken control, we did as requested, and the examination was carried out by Mrs. Goldney in the presence of Dr. William Brown, who also examined her throat. Nothing was discovered.

The *séance* garment was found to be considerably damaged. One arm was ripped off, the side split open and the seams gone. There were also several holes in the feet. A small gilt safety-pin was found in a tuck on the inside of the garment. Next morning I found one of the tapes in the street.

The medium and her husband were now ready to go home and we had a car waiting for them. But before their departure, we decided to ask Mr. Duncan if he would object to our searching him.

I called Mr. Duncan into my office in order to pay him the usual cheque for the *séance*. He was followed by Dr. William Brown. While I was making out the cheque, Dr. Brown spoke to Mr. Duncan and pointed out that although our control that evening had been broken down by the medium dashing into the street and tearing her *séance* garment to pieces, this unfortunate disarrangement of our plans could be remedied to a certain extent by Mr. Duncan allowing himself to be searched. Dr. Brown emphasized the vital need for such an examination, especially as he (Mr. Duncan) had so consistently urged his wife to submit to any examination at any time. Dr. Brown pointed out that husband and wife were alone in the street for some two or three minutes—when only a second or so would be required to enable the medium to pass, say, a handful of cheese cloth to her husband if she so wished. As a scientist, Dr. Brown urged Mr. Duncan to help him make the test as scientific as possible by turning out his pockets. Mr. Duncan refused to be searched, murmuring something



about his underclothing. Dr. Brown then remarked that although Mr. Duncan was within his rights in refusing to be searched, such a refusal would only increase the suspicions which our experiments had aroused. Mr. Duncan still persisted in his refusal, and the incident ended.

The Duncans left at about 11.20 p.m., and were sent home in a private car. At 12.23 a.m. (an hour later), when I was washing the X-ray negatives, Mr. Duncan rang me up. First of all, he apologized for not allowing himself to be searched. He said it was an 'error of judgment', and that next time we could search him both before and after the *séance*. He also wanted to know how the photographs had come out. He apologized for the commotion the medium had caused, and thought that, under the circumstances, he ought to return the cheque I had given him.

I told him to keep the cheque as several of the Council had paid their fees for that evening. As for the 'next' *séance*, it was rather doubtful whether we should require another, and as regards searching him, the necessity would, in all probability, never again arise, and I pointed out that there was not much virtue in searching a man if he came prepared for the job. He promised to telephone me again next day (*i.e.*, Friday, the 29th May).

He kept his word, and at three o'clock the following day I had another telephone conversation with him. He again offered to return the cheque I had paid him, and I again refused it. He then said that he wanted us to have another *séance* next Thursday with, if possible, the same sitters. We could search him, but in any case, he said, he would not remain in the *séance*-room during the experiment, but would go for a walk.

I pointed out that if our theory as to how the 'phenomena' were produced was correct, his presence at a *séance* had no bearing upon the manifestations. I suggested as a better test that the medium should be subjected to a rigid *physical* control of her person, and that two sitters should be in the cabinet during the manifestations. He agreed, and has promised to come to the Laboratory next Monday (June 1st) to talk the matter over. He again seemed anxious to know whether the photographs of the 'faces' had come out well.

. . . . .

The medium's attack of hysterics was afterwards discussed by some of the medical members of the London Group of the Laboratory's Research Council, and the unanimous opinion was expressed that it was caused by the *psychological effect* of the mass of X-ray apparatus with which she was suddenly confronted.

The theory that suggests itself to us is that the medium secretes objects (such as pieces of cheese cloth) somewhere within her (*e.g.*, in a pseudo-stomach or *œsophageal diverticulum*, or even in the real stomach) and, perhaps in a genuine trance, obtains access to these objects and makes use of them.

The medium admits that she knows nothing about X-rays, and one obvious, possible theory is that when she saw the cabinets, stands, etc., of our installation, she—consciously or subconsciously—was overwhelmed with a terrible fear that something would be discovered—assuming that the cheese cloth or other articles were secreted in the way I have suggested. The



medium was not to know that cheese cloth or muslin would not register in a radiograph; nor would she be likely to realize that her bulk would prevent any 'pouch' or pseudo-stomach, assuming she has one, from being registered on a photographic plate. She might reason that the great collection of cabinets, stands, coils, wires, etc., might be capable of revealing *anything*.

Assuming the medium reasoned as I have suggested, what would be more natural than that she should wish to evade such an examination? Her first thought would be flight. This, normally, was not easy to accomplish. But if she had really secreted the articles in the way we have suggested, she would have to do *something* to evade the anticipated exposure. What easier way out than the hysterics, the commotion, the flight into the street with its opportunity for discarding the secreted articles? We have, however, no *proof* that the medium's actions were caused by the fact that she had something to discard.



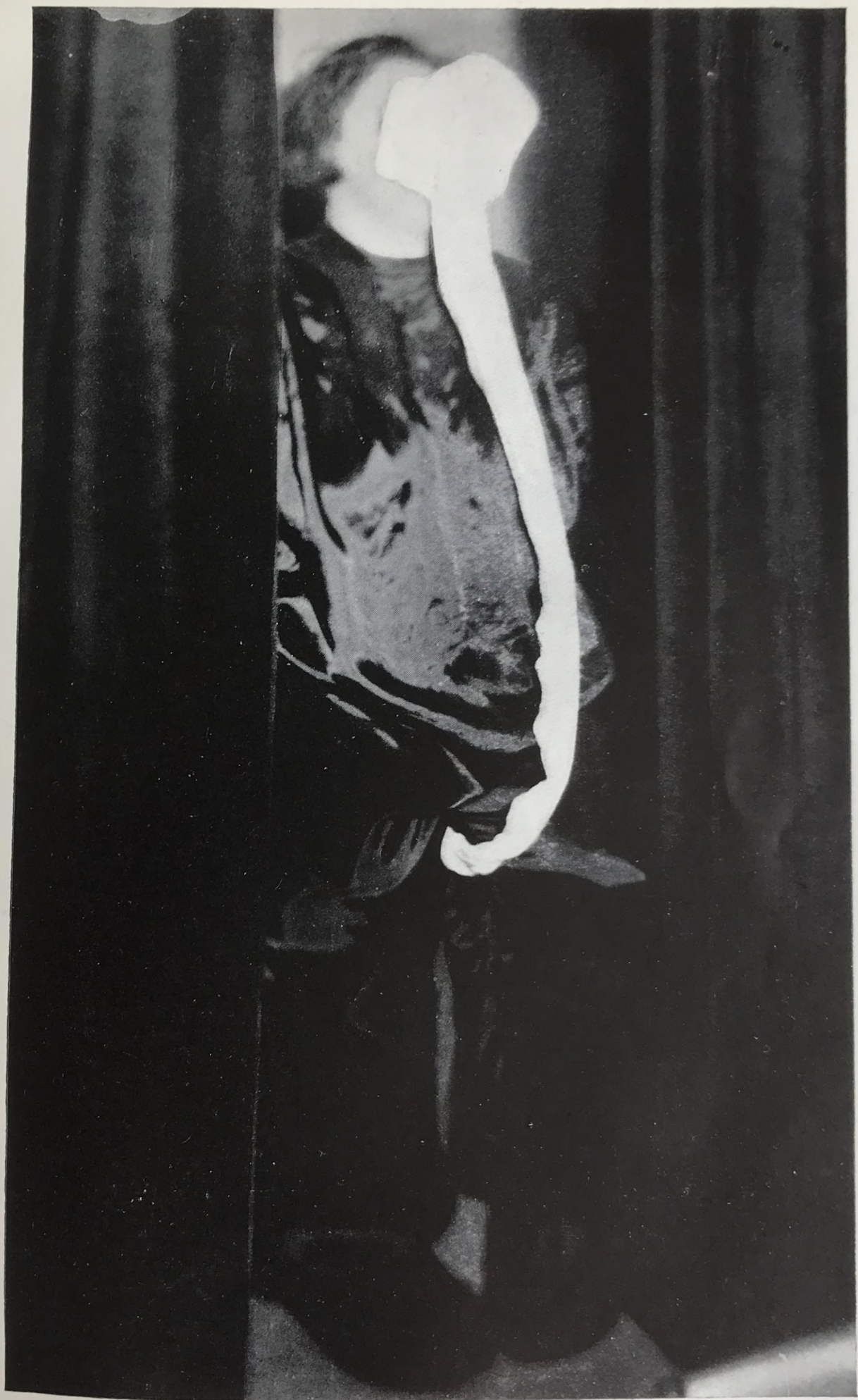


PLATE XV

Half of Stereogram 9, showing cheese cloth strip bunched round mouth and twisted tail between legs





VERA EFFIGIES Dñi. BLASII DE MANFRE NETINI SICULI, *Æt. 72, 1651*

Seu ueterum similis, non conscia sacula facti,  
 Seu tua, te, ratio credere tanta uetet,  
 Visa tamen mea gesta probant, cum Casare Reges  
 Miriadumq; oculi, quas stupor attonuit,  
 Ille ego purarum grandis potator aquarum,  
 Qui prius undiferis, uina refundo cadis,  
 Et quæcumq; tibi seu rubra, aut candida poscas,  
 Vtrinq; de largo gutture dona paro,

Quin etiam supra reliquis optaris adustum  
 Id tibi, de sumpto gurgite munus erit,  
 Lac, oleum, lupuli potum, florumq; liquores,  
 Insuper angelici poscar odoris opas,  
 Omnia mixiparo salientia gutture promo,  
 At demum altiuolam, iacto potenter aquam,  
 Ambigas? ausc ueni, volo sint tua lumina testes,  
 Unde quæq; largo credere dona Dei,

PLATE XVI

Engraving of Blaise de Manfré, aged 72, famous regurgitator, by Hollar, 1651



### NOTES ON THE FOURTH SÉANCE

Mr. Duncan appeared to know what phenomena were coming. At 8.55 Albert says he has something interesting to show us. At 8.57 Mr. Duncan says he can see something black. At 9.3 he says he can see 'a white face, in profile, with chin rather exaggerated. The face has features to the left and hair on the right.' Mr. Duncan, like myself, was at the back of the circle, farthest from the cabinet. I have exceptionally good eyesight, but must admit that I saw nothing except a white mass falling from the medium with, apparently, the ends tucked into the ears. The sitters suggest photographing it, but Mr. Duncan says we have already done so (Stereogram 10, Plate XIX). But no other person present knew there had been a face visible when I took the first photograph. How did Mr. Duncan know of this face, which he described in detail?

After Mr. Duncan had spoken, Albert at once said that he would give us a 'better face' (Stereogram 11, Plate XX). Mr. Duncan said 'the hair round the face appeared to be waved'. No other sitter saw any hair, nor was there time during the flash, or light enough before the flash, to determine what the head looked like, or its characteristics. But the two photographs reveal two flat pictures of a young girl with a face in profile, features to the left, hair on the right, and with hair waved. Albert made the suggestion (at 9.7) that what we had photographed was 'Peggy Hazeldine', because when this control was asked for, he at once replied that we had secured something that would interest us for many days.

At 9.12 Albert told us that he would show us how *easily* the medium could be seen with him, but the resultant picture (Stereogram 12, Plate XXI) shows merely the length of worn cheese cloth draped over the medium and falling to her feet. At 9.20 Albert remarks upon the *difficulty* of getting himself photographed with the medium—thus contradicting what he said at 9.12.

The dictaphone record is very faint and very short, but Albert's voice is quite audible.

At 9.26 we again saw the veil of cheese cloth and some of the sitters saw the rents in it, and those in the cloth used in the previous tableau (Stereogram 12). They show clearly in the photograph (Stereogram 13, Plate XXIII). The 'hand' which Mr. Duncan suggested was visible was formed by the end of the veil which is falling from the medium's mouth. It is quite plain in the photograph (Stereogram 13), but appears less like a hand than it did when viewed under a deep red light.

At 9.35 Mr. Bois witnessed the effect of 'teleplasm' being withdrawn into the mouth. In the dull red darkness of the cabinet this was rather striking. If our theory is correct concerning these manifestations, the cheese cloth *may* have entered the mouth. But there may be another explanation. When Mrs. Goldney was with the medium in the hall, during the attack



of hysterics, she saw Mrs. Duncan remove her arm from the 'sleeve bag' of the *séance* garment—this was done with the greatest ease and facility.

Having now proved that the medium can get her arm out of her sleeve and thus inside the garment, nothing would be easier for her than to obtain the end of the cheese cloth veil and drag it inside the garment, through the neck opening. With the chin lowered on to the chest, the gradual disappearance of the cheese cloth into the interior of the garment would, in the dim light, produce a perfect illusion as of being swallowed or being drawn into the mouth.

The fact that we have now *proved* that the medium can withdraw her arm into the interior of the *séance* garment confirms my theory that the hand that touched mine at the last *séance* (see Notes on the Third *Séance*) could have been the medium's own hand thrust through the neck opening of the garment.

At 9.46 the medium's nose commenced bleeding, and Dr. William Brown immediately remarked to me that that would be the end of the 'teleplasm'. He has a theory, expressed at the first experiment with this medium, that soft stuff (such as cheese cloth) may be packed behind the nostrils and withdrawn when required. The placing or removal of the stuff would be liable to cause bleeding of the nose. Though it is obvious that some of the things we have seen could not be placed in the cavity suggested, it is a fact that, as Dr. Brown surmised, we saw no more 'teleplasm' that night.

Speaking of teleplasm, I was astonished that we did not receive a specimen of something which we call by that name, because Mr. Duncan appeared to expect it. At 9.10, when I expressed a wish for a piece, Mr. Duncan suggested that Dr. Brown should cut it off. At 9.52, Mr. Duncan asks Albert if we cannot have a 'little piece of teleplasm'. Albert says he is doing his best. At 9.54, Mr. Duncan again asks Albert if it is not possible for him to give us a piece of teleplasm, but Albert does not answer.



AN ANALYSIS OF THE STEREOGRAMS SECURED  
AT FOURTH SÉANCE

*Stereogram No. 10, Plate XIX.* I must again remind my readers that I am examining the stereoscopic photographs taken at the last *séance* through a powerful Zeiss stereoscope and that the objects viewed are three dimensional. The reader sees merely two dimensions.

No. 10 stereogram shows the medium seated with her two arms holding back the curtains. From her mouth hangs a mass of cheese cloth, obviously the long veil seen on previous occasions, with the two ends twisted into tails, one of which is between the medium's legs.

The upper portion of the cheese cloth partly surrounds and holds in position a piece of paper, or similar substance, the left side of which is cut into a silhouette representing a young girl's face. The surface of the paper is painted or drawn upon to look like the features of a young girl, the right portion representing a mass of waved hair. Or perhaps it is a picture from a magazine cover. The top of the picture is just covered with the cloth, and the medium appears to be holding the two together by means of her teeth. The bottom of the picture is not entirely enclosed by the cloth, and for an inch or so the straight edge of the picture can be seen as if it had been cut with a pair of scissors. The whole picture is flat: that is, it is not moulded like a wax or plaster face. In an ordinary photograph one could hardly tell whether the picture were flat or moulded, but the stereoscope shows exactly what it is as the cloth stands out in relief, leaving the picture a plane surface.

*Stereogram No. 11, Plate XX.* This photograph is the same as in No. 10, except that the picture has been tilted upwards a little and the face turned inwards towards the medium. In other words, we see it at a different angle.

The cloth is the same, and again one of the tails is between the medium's legs. The other tail has become undone and a piece has been torn away from the mass and is hanging loose. This semi-detached strip we shall notice in some of the other stereograms.

The medium is supporting both picture and cloth by means of her teeth; she is again seated, and is holding the curtains back with her hands.

The picture of the girl is flat like that shown in Stereogram 10, and is probably a picture out of an illustrated paper or something similar. The picture looks *exactly* as if it had been cut out by means of a pair of scissors. Showing how *flat* the picture was, Mr. Bois from the extreme left of the circle, saw the cloth plainly; but because he had a *lateral* view, the young girl ('Peggy Hazeldine'?) was quite invisible. As a matter of fact, very few sitters saw the 'faces' at all in these two tableaux.

It is worthy of remark that Albert promised to give us 'a better face' at the second exposure; at least, he gave us the same one from a slightly different angle.



*Stereogram No. 12, Plates XXI and XXII.* This photograph bears a striking likeness to Stereogram No. 5, Plate VII. In the first place, the cheese cloth veil is draped over the medium in much the same way, and secondly, the piece of cloth is *identical* to that seen in the photograph taken on May 14th. Certainly it is worn more and there are many more rents in it. But one can tell it is the same piece as there is one large rent, of a certain shape, in the same position in each veil. Moreover, there are the same crease marks, the same hem or selvedge round the stuff, and both photographs represent the veil as being of the same shape, size, and texture. In Plate XXII the rents, etc., are shown enlarged.

At its top end the stuff is twisted into a tail, the end of which is poked into the medium's right nostril. The tail is then taken up the right side of the face and then unfolds, covering the top of the medium's head, then falling as a veil down to her feet. The mouth of the medium is not covered with the stuff, as Albert stated. The same torn end of the cloth is visible as in Stereogram 11.

*Stereogram No. 13, Plates XXIII and XXIV.* In this picture the veil of cheese cloth is identical to that used in Stereogram 12—in fact, I have no hesitation in stating that the same piece appears in all four photographs, only the formations varying.

In the photograph under discussion, the veil is bunched up in the medium's mouth at about eighteen inches from the left end. This short end drops from her mouth. The longer end reaches from the medium's mouth, rests on her left shoulder, and spreads itself over her outstretched left arm, falling to just below her knees.

The rents in the fabric visible in Stereogram No. 12 are also visible in this picture, and *again* we see the small piece which has been torn away at one end—this same piece is visible in three out of the four photographs taken at the last *séance*. It will be noticed that the medium is standing in this last picture.



FIFTH SÉANCE, THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH, 1931

Saturday, June 6th, 1931

Mr. Duncan called on me last Monday, June 1st, as promised, and discussed with Mrs. Goldney and me details of the *séance* we were promised for the following Thursday.

I again stressed the importance of the medium being subjected to a *physical* control of her person, and Mr. Duncan agreed. He suggested that during the first portion of the *séance* the medium should have her hands free, and at the second portion, two sitters should accompany the medium into the cabinet, sitting on either side and holding her hands. It would be nice, he said, to secure a photograph of the medium covered with the veil of teleplasm, with sitters on either side, holding her hands. I agreed that it would be splendid.

Mr. Duncan stated that he would bring the medium at 8.30 and would then go to a cinema for a couple of hours, calling for his wife at 10.30. In agreeing to this arrangement, I again pointed out that under our conditions of control, and according to certain theories we had formed, whether he were present or absent during the *séance* was immaterial.

Mr. Duncan remarked that the medium was still upset at the scene which we witnessed at the last *séance*, and she also had a bad abscess on her arm. He also informed us that his wife had gained the impression that the safety-pin that was found in the medium's garment after the *séance* had been placed there by Mrs. Goldney—to whom she had taken a dislike in consequence. Of course, Mrs. Goldney flatly denied doing such a thing, and rightly remarked that the whole idea was preposterous. Mr. Duncan further suggested that the hidden safety-pin in the tuck of the garment was probably subconsciously known to the medium during the *séance*, and this must have adversely affected her mental condition and caused the subsequent hysterics. Of course, the Duncans have not been informed that a safety-pin is visible in two of our stereograms—in fact, they have never examined the photographs. Mr. Duncan also informed us that safety-pins had been found in the cabinet on previous occasions, and that the one in dispute might have been 'apported' by Albert from Mrs. Goldney's bag.

*Fore Control.*—For our fifth experiment with Mrs. Duncan, we decided to make the fore control still more thorough, and to that end we asked Dr. X. and Dr. Z., two medical men on the staff of a famous hospital, to make the necessary bodily examination. I am not at liberty to publish the names of these gentlemen, but I will state that Dr. X. is a surgeon and gynæcologist, and was formerly chief obstetrician at the hospital. Dr. Z. is a physician.

The Duncans arrived promptly at 8.30, and Dr. X. took the medium



into the *séance*-room and made a very thorough examination of the various bodily orifices. Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., Mrs. Robertson, and Mrs. Richards also attended the medium during the examination—which was very thorough. Nothing abnormal was discovered. (See Appendix D.) During the examination Mr. Duncan left the building, as he suggested.

After the examination the medium was sewn into the *séance* garment by Mrs. Robertson (Mrs. Goldney, not now being *persona grata* with the medium, took no part in the examination), and Mrs. Duncan was led to cabinet, the sitters called in, and the *séance* commenced.

Lighting and photographic arrangements were as usual, and a jar of absolute alcohol was in readiness for the piece of teleplasm which we had been promised.

Here is the protocol of the fifth *séance*, recorded by means of shorthand:

Both doors to *séance*-room locked. Order of sitters, clockwise: Medium, Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Dr. Z., M.D., M.R.C.P., Mr. I. C. Gröndahl, Mr. A. Peel Goldney, Mrs. A. Peel Goldney, Mr. Guy B. Brown, Mrs. Edmund Goldney, Mrs. Clarice Richards, Mrs. Macleod, Mr. Harry Price at camera erected opposite cabinet, Mr. Norman Richards, Professor Dr. D. F. Fraser-Harris, Dr. X., M.D., F.R.C.S., Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., Mr. Barry Richards. Inside temperature, 65° Fahr.; outside temperature, 56° Fahr.

9.5. Sitters taking their places in circle. Medium in light trance while garment being sewn up at the back.

9.7. Medium in cabinet.

9.8. Medium moaning.

9.10. Albert heard to speak. Sitters greet Albert. Albert says that he is here, but cannot stay long. He wants us to see something and assures us that we shall get something. Mr. Price thanks Albert very much.

9.11. Curtains moving: being opened, then closed.

9.12. Albert says, 'You asked me to allow you to cut something off. I will allow you to cut it off and then I will have to go.' Mr. Price thanks Albert, but hopes that he will not have to go yet.

9.13. Albert asks if there is a doctor here. He is told that there are four.

9.14. Albert asks, 'Are you ready?' Mr. Price asks Dr. X. to go into cabinet to cut off teleplasm. Curtains opening. A white strip of something, about twelve inches long, hanging from medium's mouth. Dr. X. going into cabinet and a piece of teleplasm is being cut off. The doctor missed his cut and had to try again. Managed to get a piece. One or two screams from the medium. Sitters assure Albert that everything is quite all right. The curtains are closed again. The piece of teleplasm is put immediately into absolute alcohol, a small portion being placed in water. The doctor resumes his seat.

9.15. Mr. Price thanks Albert very much. Albert says that it was pulled before it was cut. Dr. X. explains to Albert that he missed the stuff and held on to it while he made another attempt. Mr. Price tells Albert that we have been promised that two sitters should sit in the cabinet with the lady and hold her hands and feet while she produces the phenomena. Albert says, 'It is not a question of producing now.' He reproaches us about the teleplasm being pulled, and again the sitters assure



him that it was quite an accident. Mr. Price says that Albert will surely understand. He also tells him that we have many distinguished guests to-night who have come at great inconvenience to themselves in order to see him, and hopes that we shall get something further.

9.17. Albert says that he does not want a repetition of it. Mr. Price says, 'No, certainly not, but I was promised that I would be allowed to let somebody sit in the cabinet with the lady while she produced some phenomena. I hope this promise will be kept. We shall all be awfully disappointed if we get nothing further.' Albert only says that the lady is in an awful mess.

9.20. Albert asks if Dr. X. will go into the cabinet. Dr. X. does so, opens curtains, and finds the medium's nose to be bleeding from the right nostril. He wipes the blood from her face. Curtains drawn again. Mr. Price asks Albert if he is all right now?

9.21. Mr. Price telling Albert that he hopes we shall get something else to-night. Albert only replies that the bleeding is getting worse. The sitters ask Albert if the doctor shall go into the cabinet and wipe the medium's face. Medium moaned.

9.22. Mr. Price asks Albert that, just to please him, and because of the little *contretemps* last time, will he produce something else this time? Medium moaning. No answer.

9.24. Albert again tells us that he will have to go. Mr. Price suggests that perhaps if we brought the medium out for a while and let her rest, we might be able to continue the sitting in an hour's time. He also says that it is all very disappointing. Albert says that no phenomena can be produced because of a certain lady. Mrs. Macleod asks if it is she, but Albert says, 'No.' Mrs. Goldney then asks if she is the cause, and Albert says, 'Yes. Look here, do you know that by trying to force a thing, you will make the lady in here tear her garment?' Mrs. Goldney assures Albert she did not know that, and says that it is very disappointing not to get anything. Albert says that it is very cruel for the people in his control to keep them tied. He also tells us that he can do a lot sometimes and nothing other times.

9.26. Mr. Price asking Albert not to go away, and again tries to impress upon him that many of the sitters have come at great inconvenience to themselves and that they will be very disappointed not to see what he can do.

9.29. Mr. Price asking Albert to give us just one other phenomenon. Suggests that he will let us see the teleplasm like a veil over the lady, with two people holding her, and that he would like to take a photograph. Albert says, 'For my sake, stop it.' Mr. Price again suggests that if we give the lady a rest, we might proceed with the sitting in an hour's time. And perhaps Albert could produce good phenomena then? Medium breathing deeply. Dr. Brown and Dr. X. are whispering when Albert tells Dr. Brown that it is no use, he can hear all that he says. Dr. Brown asks Albert what it was he said. There is no reply. Albert says there is blood all over her.

9.31½. Dr. X. goes into the cabinet and wipes the blood off the medium's face.

9.32. Curtains drawn again. Dr. X. resumes his seat. Medium moaning. Uttering short, sharp moans.



9.34. Medium moaning. Mr. Price saying, 'Albert, you say that however softly the gentlemen on your right speak, you can hear them. I have just been informed what Dr. Brown said, and I would like you to confirm it.' No answer.

9.35. Medium moaning. Giving short, sharp moans. Medium still moaning.

9.37. Mr. Price asking Albert for the last time if he cannot give just one single phenomenon, as there are present ladies and gentlemen who have come for the first time to-night especially to see him. No answer.

9.39. Curtains being opened. Drawn apart and then very quickly pulled together. Sitters could see nothing. Mr. Price asks Albert if he will allow him to take one more photograph. Curtains moving. Medium breathing deeply. Curtains moving; being pulled in towards the medium. Albert says it is no use trying, and tells us that he is going. Sitters say they are very sorry and hope for better luck next time. They all bid Albert good night.

9.41. Albert tells us to put on the light. Says 'Good-bye'. White light turned on. Doors unlocked. Sitting ended.

(Signed) ETHEL BEENHAM, Secretary.

Dr. X. found that the medium's nostrils were bleeding just inside the nasal cavities and not behind the nose. A similar effect would be caused if the medium had knocked her nose. Her face was covered with blood where her hands had been in contact with it. She was quite normal within a few minutes, and the ladies proceeded to dress her. Only an exterior examination was made, but her nose and pharynx were again examined by Dr. X.

Mr. Duncan arrived at the Laboratory just as the medium came out of trance. Instead of the two hours he was to have been away, he absented himself for less than one hour. The question immediately arose whether he knew that the *séance* was going to be a short one.

The medium's arm was so bad that the doctors persuaded her to go into hospital for a few days in order to have the abscess lanced. So she and Mr. Duncan, with the two doctors, drove off together to St. Thomas's Hospital. Mr. Duncan rang me up about an hour later and said his wife had gone into a ward and was comfortable. I telephoned the hospital the next morning and ascertained that the abscess had been lanced and that Mrs. Duncan was better. (She left the hospital the following Monday, June 8th.)



FLORAM MARCHAND, Le grand Boyeur de *Tours*.



See here the pourtract of this man of *Tours*,  
 Who from him wine in such abundance powres,  
 His Art and Reasons here are published :  
 What makes this Glafs look white and that so red;  
 And all the progress of the work's displaid,  
 The whole Deceit is here now open laid.

PLATE XVII

Engraving of Floram Marchand, '*Le Grand Boyeur de Tours*', a famous regurgitator, who flourished in 1650, from *The Falacie of the Great Water-Drinker Discovered* (Plate XVIII)



THE  
FALACIE  
Of the great  
WATER-DRINKER  
DISCOVERED.

Fully representing what are the Ingredients that provoke him to so wonderfull a Vomit, and by what Art one Glasse seemeth to be of one colour, and another of another: and what he doth when he taketh the *Rose-water* and the *Angelica-water*.

By

Mr Thomas Peedle and Mr Thomas Cozbie, who brought him over into England from *Tours* in France: and after Wednesday next being the 26 of this present *June*, will be constantly readie every After-noon, if desired, in their own persons to make an experimental proof of what is here declared.

*Published for the satisfaction of many of the Nobilitie and Ladies of this Nation, and many eminent Gentlemen who have offered great sums of money to have the misterie discovered. As also to undeceive many thousands, who having seen the manner of it, have been amazed at the wonder but could not discover the secret.*

---

Printed by B. Alsop for T. Dunster, and are to be sold at the Red Lion in Grubstreet. Anno Domini 1650.

PLATE XVIII

Title-page of *The Falacie of the Great Water-Drinker Discovered*, 1650, the regurgitator's *vade mecum*



## NOTES ON THE FIFTH SÉANCE

What happened at this *séance* was, I think, anticipated by most of the sitters.

By June 1st, the Duncans realized that we had decided in our minds that the glove, cheese cloth, safety-pin, etc., were produced by regurgitation. After the breakdown of our control by the medium at the fourth *séance*, it was certain that, if we consented to another experiment, our conditions (especially the fore control) would be still more stringent.

Also, we had stipulated that two sitters should accompany the medium in the cabinet, and Mr. Duncan acquiesced. But when it came to the pinch, this new control was refused. 'Albert' was not going to risk his strip of cheese cloth being seized—so he did not produce it. But he *did* promise us 'a piece of teleplasm', and he kept his word—but the specimen we possess is not cheese cloth, but thin blotting-paper or some other kind of thin paper.

The whole sitting was, of course, a fiasco owing to our conditions and suspicions. But, in order to avoid a blank (which would have been fatal to the mediumship so far as we were concerned) Albert *had* to produce something—hence the strip of teleplasmic paper which could have been easily swallowed and regurgitated, assuming the medium does this. And we have definitely arrived at the conclusion that that is how 'Albert's' phenomena are produced. No ordinary examination would reveal the fact that a person had swallowed a few yards of muslin, a rubber glove, a rolled-up photograph, or a flattened tube of thin paper. X-rays would not reveal these things. A strong emetic would probably bring them to light, and they might be viewed by means of an œsophagoscope. But the use of this latter instrument involves an anæsthetic which we should hesitate to use on the medium except at her request. There still remains the stomach pump and the stomach camera. The former might get clogged by cheese cloth; the latter gives us a photograph so small that it probably would not help us. And there are only two of them in England.

But really we have no need of any further evidence with which to support our theory as to how the phenomena are produced. We have had visual, aural, and tactile impressions of the various objects produced. We have invaluable photographic evidence and the analytical evidence of the microscope.

When Mr. Duncan returned from his hour's walk during this *séance*, he called me on one side and explained what was the *real* reason why he did not allow himself to be searched on May 28th: He said that at the time of the previous sitting the medium had a menstrual period, and during a ride to the Laboratory in a taxi-cab she had slipped a couple of sanitary towels into her husband's pocket. These were in his possession when Dr. William Brown asked him to be searched. He said that his refusal was based on the fact that if these diapers had been found on him, we should have thought that they had been passed to him (while in the street) by his



wife who had swallowed them and had then regurgitated them for use as 'phenomena'.

I gladly publish Mr. Duncan's amended explanation as to why he did not allow himself to be searched, but must point out that (a) nothing we have seen at the *séances* looked a bit like a sanitary towel or diaper, and (b) Mrs. Goldney has informed me that the medium was *not* menstruating when she examined her previous to the sitting on May 28th. What makes this explanation all the more curious is the fact that not a word has been said to the Duncans that we believe the 'teleplasm' to be cheese cloth or that the medium can regurgitate. But it is obvious that if the Duncans know we are becoming suspicious, they *must* know the hypothesis we have formulated as to how the effects are produced.

The reader will have noticed that Albert always produces his best effects immediately after the commencement of a *séance*. The masses of cheese cloth 'teleplasm', the rubber glove, 'Peggy Hazeldine', etc., were all produced very soon after the opening of a sitting. It was the same with the slip of 'teleplasm' which we received at this *séance*. At 9.7 the medium sat in cabinet; at 9.14 the curtains opened and I saw a 'tongue' of teleplasm sticking out of the medium's mouth. Albert did *not* speak during the period that the whitish substance was visible—in fact, he has never been known to speak while the curtains were open and the medium in view.

Albert, like the medium, appears to have his knife in Mrs. Goldney, and publicly reproved her at this *séance*. I suppose the safety-pin incident is the cause of this sudden aversion.

Out of curiosity, I asked Dr. William Brown what it was he whispered to Dr. X. Albert said he could hear everything that was being said—a statement which I challenged (at 9.34). What Dr. Brown said was: 'The medium is a sick woman,' referring to the abscess. Albert made no reply to my challenge, and I very much doubt if he heard what Dr. Brown said. On the other hand, some mediums, when in the trance state, have an abnormal auditory sensitiveness (or hyperæsthesia), and this faculty is sometimes suggested as an explanation of some forms of alleged phenomena.



## TELEPLASMIC WOOD PULP

I have already remarked that we all anticipated procuring a specimen of teleplasm at this fifth *séance*, and most of the sitters were provided with a pair of scissors in readiness to cut off the coveted trophy in case he—or she—were called upon by Albert to do so. It was a curious sight to see the glint of steel round the circle as the scissors flashed in the bright red light, and it rather reminded me of a sewing bee.

When Albert (at 9.13) called for a doctor to do the necessary operation, I naturally asked the surgeon, Dr. X., if he would oblige, and from him I heard all about his impressions of his little adventure. (See Appendix D.)

When about to make the cut, the medium moved and the scissors slipped. Still holding on to the teleplasm, and fearing the stuff would return whence it came, he held on to it firmly. At the same time the medium moved her head again and, in doing so, the piece in his hand came away as she was holding it between her teeth. It tore obliquely across. The medium gave one or two little screams and apparently swallowed the remainder of the strip, as the other end was not found afterwards.

Dr. X. told me that it was exactly like tearing a wad of damp paper or a 'fairly tough pancake'. The piece secured was immediately dropped in a jar of absolute alcohol, a tiny portion being placed in water.

After the *séance* we examined the teleplasm, and it looked exactly like a sheet of paper which had been rolled into a tube and then flattened out, and then doubled backwards and forwards zig-zag like a cracker or concertina. This compact form would make it convenient if one wanted to secrete it in one's oesophagus or in an oesophageal pouch.

During the next morning (June 5th) I devoted some attention to the specimen and photographed it (see illustration, Plate XXVI). I also weighed and measured it. Here are the particulars:

Length, 75 mm. (3 inches).  
Width at base, 34 mm.  
Width at torn end, 30 mm.  
Thickness, 1.5 mm., average.  
Weight, 36 grains.

My impressions of the previous night were confirmed, as I found that the stuff really was thin paper, the laminations or layers easily separating. Where the end was obliquely torn off, the successive layers are quite apparent. The paper appears to have been stuck together with some sort of colloid or glue—perhaps collodion as a portion under the microscope polarizes light. Whatever the bond used, it appears structureless and of a pale amber colour. On the same evening I rolled a piece of thin toilet paper into the form of a tube, flattened it, smeared it with seccotine, and then put a heavy weight on it. When it was dry, and then wetted, and



then folded like a cracker, it was a passable imitation of what we secured from the mouth of Mrs. Duncan.

The next afternoon (June 5th) after the *séance*, Professor Dr. D. F. Fraser-Harris called at the Laboratory and kindly examined our specimen. Dr. Fraser-Harris is the distinguished physiologist and has specialized in the histology of organic and inorganic substances.

Dr. Fraser-Harris removed a small portion from the mass, teased it in glycerol and mounted it temporarily for the microscope. Using two-thirds and one-fifth Zeiss objectives, he immediately declared that the stuff we thought was paper is *in fact paper* of a thin variety. The ultimate fibres of cellulose as used in paper manufacture are revealed. The typical felting, matting, or intertwining of the fibres is very pronounced. We cannot at this stage determine what particular fibres they are, as over four hundred varieties of woods and grasses are used in paper making, and all have similar characteristics when reduced to pulp.

Dr. Fraser-Harris then made two control slides, using for one slide a fragment of blotting-paper, and for the other a piece of filter paper. These two fragments were teased in glycerol in the same way as the 'teleplasmic' leaf, and mounted on slides. The cellulose fibres, felting, etc., in each case were similar to the 'teleplasm', and unless we had labelled them, we could not have identified them had they become mixed. Dr. Fraser-Harris also examined the colloid substance and confirmed my opinion that glue or some waterproof bonding had been used.

The 'teleplasm' we received last Thursday is not the same type as is sometimes produced with this medium. Mr. Duncan saw our specimen when he returned to the Laboratory after the *séance*, and he said that that was the 'first formation'—which I will call the toilet-paper variety. Then—Mr. Duncan informed us—there is the white-of-egg type, and finally the cheese cloth type. It was a portion of the white-of-egg type which I had given me some few months ago, and which I analysed and also had examined independently. The results are given in Appendix A. I am living in the hope of obtaining a piece of the 'cheese cloth' variety—for preference, a long strip complete with rents and selvedge. There are still two other varieties of 'teleplasm' which Albert produces and which Mr. Duncan omitted to mention: these are the safety-pin type and the rubber glove type. I shall not be happy until I have added these to the Laboratory's collection of teleplasmic curiosities.

Tuesday, June 9th, 1931

I have now consulted the chief authority in Great Britain as to the analysis of the 'teleplasm' which we obtained from Mrs. Duncan on June 4th. I do not mean the chief authority on teleplasm, but on paper.

This afternoon Mr. William Bacon, B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., M.I.Chem.E. (of the firm of Sindall and Bacon, Consulting Chemists, 27, Walbrook, London, E.C.4) called at the National Laboratory and examined our specimen. He immediately declared it to be paper, folded in layers, and bonded together with some sort of glue or similar substance—probably a waterproof glue in order that the paper should not be disintegrated by saliva or moisture when secreted in the mouth or other cavity.

Mr. Bacon is the chief analyst to the paper trade, is consulting chemist



to many famous institutions, and is examiner to various scientific bodies. He was a complete stranger to me when he called this afternoon<sup>1</sup> and the reason why I sought his aid was because I knew him by repute as the analyst to the paper trade, with an expert knowledge of the various fibres used in paper making.

Mr. Bacon used the same instrument and objectives employed by Professor Fraser-Harris. He examined the strip, unfolded a portion of it and removed a piece which he prepared by teasing in glycerol. He mounted the specimen on a slide, placed it on the stage of the instrument, and it took him just five seconds to pronounce the substance as being cellulose fibres used in the manufacture of paper. There were a number of special reagents which he required in order to test the colloidal bonding (glue?) so he has removed a quarter of our strip to his own laboratory and is going to furnish us with a written report. This I hope to receive in due course.

*Wednesday, June 10th, 1931*

Mr. Bacon rang me up to-day and informed me that he had commenced his analysis of the portion of 'teleplasm' which he took yesterday and he thought I would like to know that it was merely a cheap kind of paper containing 60 per cent. of 'chemical' wood pulp, and 40 per cent. of 'mechanical' wood pulp. He is continuing the analysis.

To the non-technical reader I will explain that in paper-making the wood used (in Europe generally the Scotch fir, the spruce, the poplar or the aspen) is made into pulp in two different ways—one is prepared mechanically, the other chemically. The former is obtained by disintegrating the wood entirely by machinery, without the use of chemicals; and the latter by being boiled under steam pressure with caustic soda (the alkaline process) or with sulphurous acid (the sulphite or acid process). It will be realized that the mechanical process is much cheaper and quicker—and the corresponding pulp is of a very inferior quality used in the cheapest papers. Sometimes both chemical and mechanical pulp is used in the manufacture of the same paper. The ultimate fibres (length, 1 to 5 mm.) as produced by the two processes are not the same in appearance, though manufactured from the same wood—and an expert can immediately tell whether a paper has been made from mechanical or chemical pulp, or a combination of the two. It is curious that I should have to digress on this subject of paper making<sup>2</sup> in a report dealing with psychical research; but what is stranger still is the fact that we found it necessary to appeal to the chief analyst to the paper trade to tell us exactly what one brand of 'teleplasm' is made of!

---

<sup>1</sup>He has since joined the Research Council of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research.

<sup>2</sup>If the reader wishes to pursue this subject further, I can recommend Clapperton's *Paper-Making*, London, 1894; Cross and Bevan, *Report on Indian Fibres and Fibrous Substances*, London, 1887; Ibid. *Cellulose*, London, 1895-1905; Ibid. *A Text-Book of Paper-Making*, London, 1888.



## ANALYST'S REPORT ON THE PAPER 'TELEPLASM'

*June 17th, 1931*

I have now received the official report from Messrs. Sindall and Bacon as to the analysis of the piece of 'teleplasm' which Mr. Bacon removed from the Laboratory.

Mr. Bacon confirms his preliminary opinion that the stuff is merely a cheap kind of paper containing 40 per cent. mechanical wood pulp, and 60 per cent. chemical wood pulp. As Mr. Bacon points out, the medullary rays can be seen in the microscopic slide he prepared of our specimen, and in the slide of a special paper he made up as a control slide to the original. Both of these slides are in the possession of the Laboratory. The medullary rays, I should add, are the vertical bands or plates of cellular (parenchymatous) tissue proceeding from the pith to the surface.

Mr. Bacon kindly prepared photomicrographs (x 120) from the slides of both our specimen and that of the wood pulp mixture which he produced as a 'control'. These photomicrographs are reproduced in Plate XXVII. To all intents and purposes, these photomicrographs are identical. The bonding used to stick the folds of paper together was egg albumen, *i.e.*, white of egg. Here is Messrs. Sindall and Bacon's report:

27, Walbrook,  
London, E.C.4.  
*June 16th, 1931*

Harry Price, Esq.,  
The National Laboratory of Psychical Research,  
13d, Roland Gardens, S.W.7.

Dear Sir,

Confirming the report that I made at your Laboratory on the 9th inst., the analysis of the sample of paper handed to me is as follows:—

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Mechanical ground wood pulp . . . . .                             | 40% |
| Chemical wood pulp consisting of sulphite and soda wood . . . . . | 60% |

I have had a sample made up approximating to the above composition for the purpose of having photomicrographs for comparison. The prints show the papers to be practically identical in character and medullary rays can be seen quite plainly in both specimens.

The sample of paper handed to me appeared to be of a class known as M.G. Cap Printing and the binding medium used to prevent the paper disintegrating when swallowed I find to be Egg Albumen.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) WILLIAM BACON.



## MR. DUNCAN EXPLAINS

*Friday, June 12th, 1931*

We had a heart-to-heart talk with Mr. Duncan yesterday. At the suggestion of several members of the Council, on Wednesday last I sent a telegram to Mr. Duncan inviting him to meet us in order to explain, if possible, why 'Albert's' teleplasm looks like cheese cloth, but is made of wood pulp.

We met soon after three o'clock, the following members of the Council being present: Mr. H. G. Bois, Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Mrs. Clarice Richards, Professor Dr. D. F. Fraser-Harris, Captain H. W. Seton-Karr, Mr. I. C. Gröndahl, Mr. H. E. Dennis, and the present writer.

Mr. Bois, who presided, opened the proceedings by informing Mr. Duncan of our suspicions, at the same time placing before him our evidence in the shape of enlargements of the fourteen stereograms, Mr. Bacon's analysis of the paper 'teleplasm', etc. He was shown the enlargements of the rents in the cloth, dirt marks on the fabric, the hem or selvedge in the various photographs, the weft and warp interlacing, the two pictures showing safety-pin, the glint of light (where the fingers are shaped in the mould) on the rubber gloves, the two dimensional pictures of 'Peggy', etc., etc.

Mr. Duncan took it all very philosophically. He did not question our evidence, and admitted that the things we photographed are what we declare them to be. He raised the very obvious question that if we had so thoroughly searched the medium, how did she secrete them? We informed him that his presence among us that afternoon was to enable us to clear up this point. He declared that he knew nothing at all about it. He said he was under the impression that the things we saw and photographed were psychic productions, produced abnormally.

Mr. Duncan raised the question whether such things as rubber gloves and lengths of cheese cloth could be swallowed and regurgitated and Professor Fraser-Harris assured him that that was quite possible. Dr. Fraser-Harris pointed out that not only could the stuff be lodged in an oesophageal pouch, but also in the true stomach. In reply to a question by Mrs. Robertson, Dr. Fraser-Harris stated as his opinion that with long practice, the things could be swallowed and regurgitated noiselessly.

Mr. Duncan admitted that he has known the medium to pick things up<sup>1</sup> and that sometimes he has previously examined her in order to ascertain whether anything was concealed. He said (I am quoting from the shorthand verbatim report of the meeting): 'I have taken her into the bathroom and made her take all her clothes off and I have on two occasions given her a

---

<sup>1</sup>On the day following (*i.e.* June 12th) our interview Mr. Duncan likewise admitted to the spiritualists that he believed the medium secreted things. (See *Light*, July 17th, 1931, p. 345.)



vaginal examination. I have got the maid to look through her clothes and hand them to her one by one.'

Mr. Duncan calls this normal production of objects 'automatism of the mind'. He said: 'That is my idea. These ideas which are impressed within the mind of that subject will become an obsession and that person will do anything towards gaining that end.'

MR. BOIS: 'So the medium is quite prone to take any steps to back up her belief?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Not consciously.'

MR. PRICE: 'Then it is very difficult to say when the medium is acting subconsciously or consciously.'

MR. BOIS: 'It is to prove the existence of beings outside ourselves and therefore the medium tries to back up her theory by producing something which she has already arranged normally?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'All mediums whom I have come in contact with have struck me as being of a very childish disposition. . . . And therefore that childish mind produces these things.'

MRS. ROBERTSON: 'Where does she produce them from?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'God knows.'<sup>1</sup>

MRS. ROBERTSON (to Mr. Duncan): 'Do you believe that she is genuine?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Oh, yes. But I also believe in automatism of the will.'

MR. BOIS: 'He thinks it is genuine sometimes, but that she is quite capable of humbugging. So far, to me, we have seen the humbugging' (pointing to the photographs and 'teleplasm'). 'We cannot get away from these things. Is it worth our while to continue?'

After further discussion it was agreed, at Mr. Duncan's suggestion, that we should make at least one more attempt at getting phenomena under a good physical control. We have arranged to hold the *séance* on July 2nd. The medium will be taped to her chair, her hands will also be held by two sitters who will occupy the cabinet with her, and her head will be enclosed by a net which will be sewn to the *séance* garment. If under these conditions the medium can produce phenomena of any description, apart from those we suggest are the result of regurgitation, we shall then have to review the whole case.<sup>2</sup>

Only portions of the shorthand verbatim report of this meeting have been quoted here. If the reader is sufficiently curious, he can peruse the complete report in Appendix B.

<sup>1</sup>On the day after (June 12th) we told Mr. Duncan that the effects we had witnessed were caused by regurgitation, he informed the spiritualists that 'he had come to the conclusion that the "ectoplasm" was the result of regurgitation.' See *Light*, July 17th, 1931, p. 345.

<sup>2</sup>Without informing the Council of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, the Duncans left London for Leith on June 23rd, 1931.



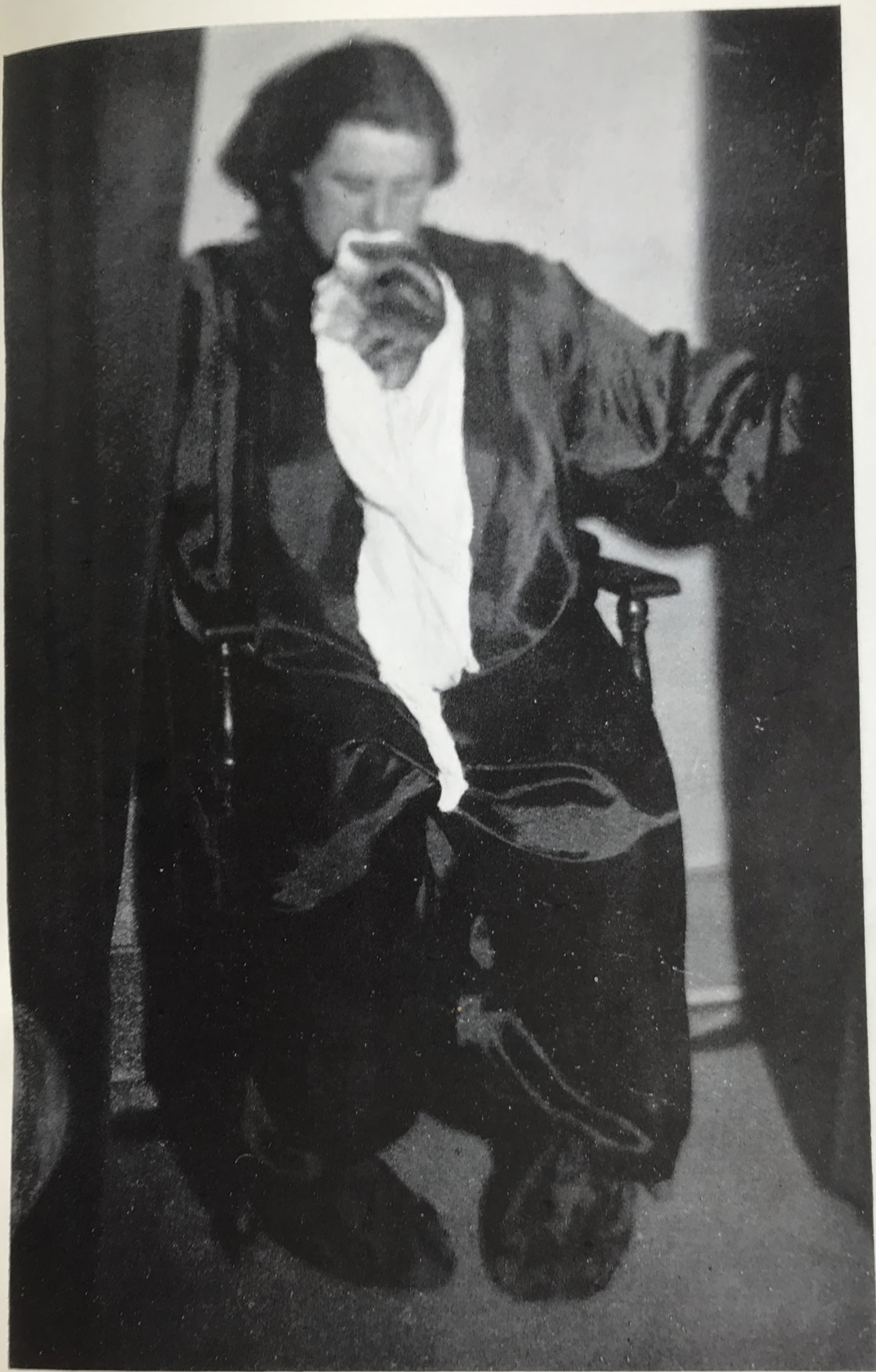


PLATE XIX

Half of Stereogram 10, showing girl's head wrapped in cheese cloth. Compare with Stereogram 11



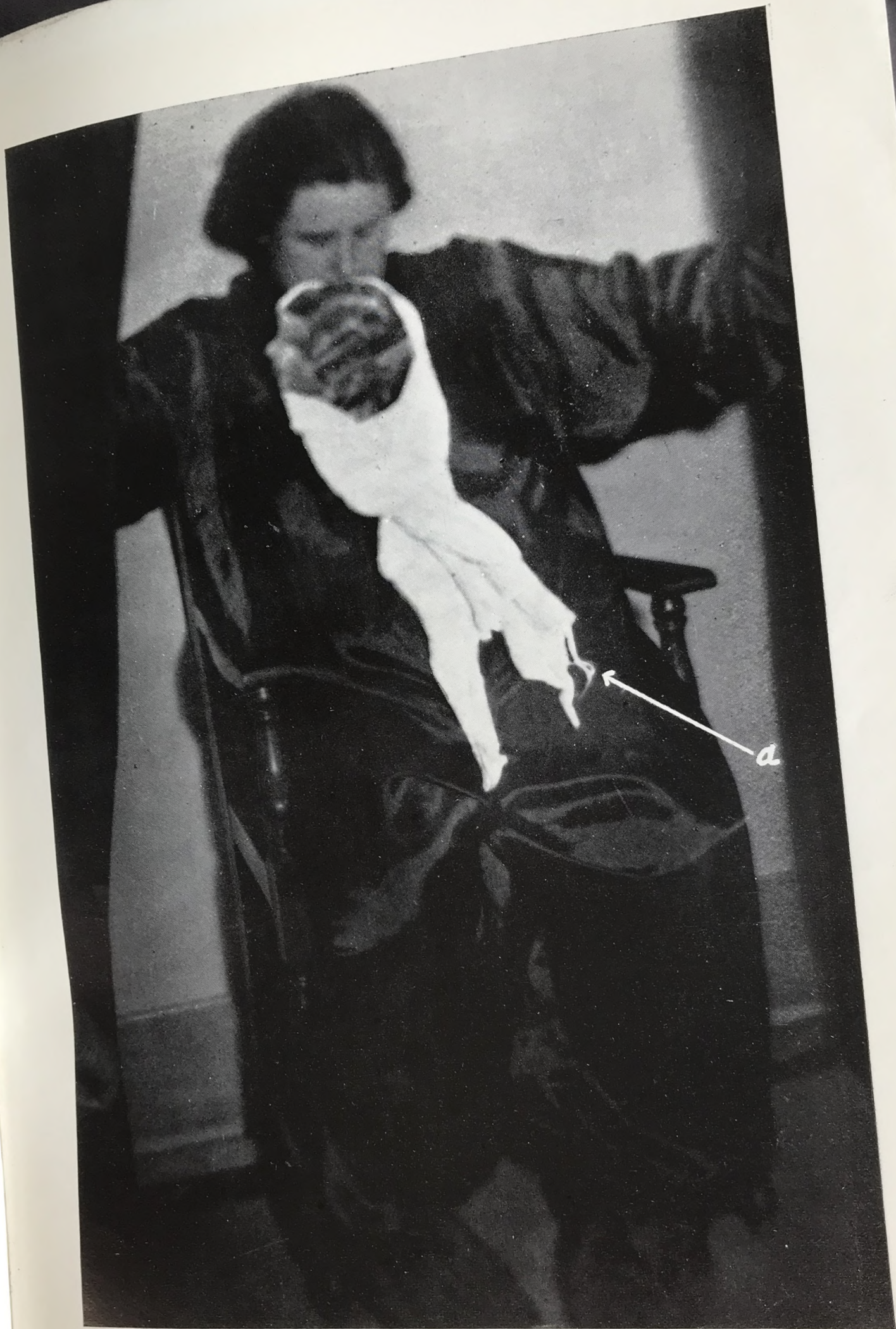


PLATE XX

Half of Stereogram 11, showing girl's head wrapped in cheese cloth. Note loop in stuff, *a*.  
Compare Stereogram 10



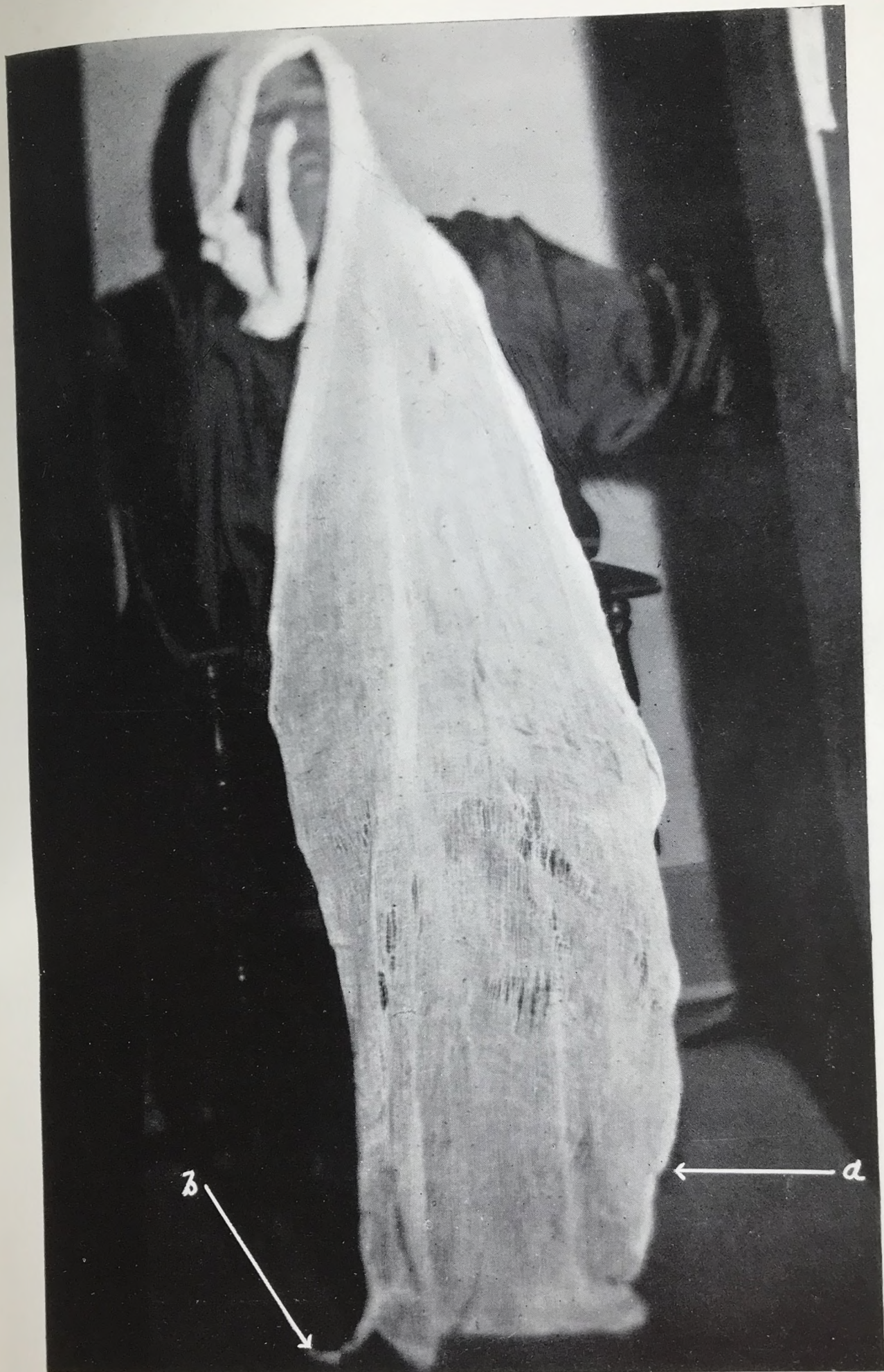


PLATE XXI

Half of Stereogram 12, showing rents in cheese cloth. Note selvedge, *a*; and torn strip, *b*.  
Compare Stereogram 5



## MR. DUNCAN RECEIVES AN OFFER

*Monday, June 22nd, 1931*

To-day I heard by accident that the Duncans had booked their passage home and were off to Leith to-morrow, June 23rd.

Thinking it strange that we had received no intimation that the test *séance* promised for July 2nd had been cancelled, our Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Goldney, spent this afternoon in travelling to their temporary home at Thornton Heath in order to ask for an explanation. The Duncans were out, but our information *re* their departure was confirmed. Mrs. Goldney found that their furniture was ready packed for shipment and that they were giving a private *séance* in a house in Eaton Terrace, S.W.1. Thither Mrs. Goldney went and at last discovered the Duncans. Mr. Duncan accompanied her back to the Laboratory, where Mrs. Richards and the present writer awaited him.

Mr. Duncan stated that he intended writing from Scotland saying that the test *séance* they promised us was cancelled. He said his wife wanted a holiday and that they had decided to quit London for good.

We had another heart-to-heart talk with Mr. Duncan and told him that although we had all the evidence we needed as to the normality of the 'phenomena' we had witnessed, we should like to round off our series of photographs with some pictures showing the actual process of the cheese cloth and rubber glove being regurgitated. We told him that if he could induce the medium to swallow and regurgitate the cheese cloth, in full light, in the presence of the Council, *we would pay him one hundred pounds sterling*, provided we were allowed to take a cinematograph film of the entire process. In the interests of the public, the medical profession, and especially psychical research (to save argument) such photographs were necessary.

We pointed out that such a demonstration would not affect the 'mediumship'. So far as London was concerned, the mediumship was finished—whatever might happen north of the Tweed. In the cause of psychical research and medical science, we told him, it would be satisfactory to have these photographs, and there were several little details we wanted to clear up. We informed him that nothing that they might do or say would alter our opinion that the trails, veils, and tails that we had photographed were made of cheese cloth, or that their 'teleplasm' was made either of cheese cloth, white of egg, or the bag the egg was bought in.

Mr. Duncan thanked us very much for the offer. He again declared that he was unaware of the fact that the medium regurgitated or, if this were true, how she did it or where she put the stuff. If she regurgitates, he said, she does it subconsciously.

We pointed out that she might do these things subconsciously, but in that case she would have to prepare the stuff subconsciously, buy the cheese cloth subconsciously, prepare the eggs subconsciously, and swallow the bag



subconsciously. We emphasized the terrible predicament the medium would be in if, in the act of subconsciously swallowing ten feet of 'teleplasm' she suddenly 'came to.' What a shock she would receive to find a few feet of cheese cloth, half-in, half-out, dangling from her mouth. We said the medium ought to be warned of such a catastrophe.

But, assuming that the swallowing and subsequent regurgitation were really done subconsciously ('automatism of the will' Mr. Duncan calls it) we told him that, in the interests of the public, we were still willing to pay the sum mentioned if Mr. Duncan could persuade the medium to subconsciously go through the entire process, before our cinematograph camera, in the full light of day. He said he would try, and that is how we left it.

While Mr. Duncan was at the Laboratory I carried out a little test with him. Last Friday I dressed Miss Beenham in the *séance* garment; I draped over her six feet of Woolworth's cheese cloth, thirty inches wide, made a few rents in it, and then photographed the *ensemble*. The result can be seen in Plate VIII. The camera, flash bulb, exposure, make of plate, etc., were the same as those we employed in taking Stereogram 5 [Plate VII] which was the model on which I based my attempt at a 'teleplasmic veil'.

Half of Stereogram 5 and half of the control stereogram (Woolworth's cheese cloth) were handed to Mr. Duncan with a request to tell us which was the Albert variety of 'teleplasm' and which was the Woolworth.

Mr. Duncan studied the two photographs and was unable to tell us which was which until I pointed out that Miss Beenham's figure is about half the size of Mrs. Duncan's. The 'veils' are, of course, identical, and both show the rents, texture, selvedge, etc.

Plate IX shows how easily the Woolworth cheese cloth can be rolled into a small compass and placed in the mouth. It is the same piece photographed for the control stereogram [Plate VIII] and weighs  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. I have already mentioned that it measures six feet long by thirty inches wide.



## CONCLUSION

I suppose the reader will look for some sort of 'conclusion' to this Report, but he will have anticipated the considered view of the Research Council that all the manifestations we witnessed through the Duncans were produced by normal—though exceedingly unusual—means.<sup>1</sup>

In coming to this decision we were faced with two hypotheses: (a) that some subtle mental process of the mind can produce cheese cloth, safety-pins, rubber gloves and wood pulp; or (b) that the objects in question were previously secreted and normally produced. The reader has seen that by a combination of controlling methods we have been driven to conclude that the articles we photographed and analysed were first swallowed and then produced by regurgitation, or reversed œsophageal peristalsis, with the help of the diaphragm and the muscles of the anterior abdominal wall.

But regurgitation is not the only method possible for the normal secretion and subsequent production of small or easily compressible articles. All the body orifices could be used for this purpose, and if, as Mr. Duncan states, the regurgitating may be done subconsciously—then the medium could just as easily subconsciously secrete an object in the vagina or in the cavity behind the nose, as Dr. William Brown suggests.

During our investigation it has been more or less assumed that the medium possesses an œsophageal pouch or similar pseudo or secondary 'stomach'. But as Professor Fraser-Harris pointed out, this anatomical curiosity is not at all necessary, it being possible, with much practice, to silently regurgitate from the true stomach. I have recently heard of a case (well known in medical history) of a young lady school teacher who, having consumed a meal, would immediately regurgitate it 'for the fun of the thing'. She even taught her pupils this curious accomplishment. Of course one could not make much money by regurgitating one's meals, but the case is interesting. Our trouble has been that the X-rays will not register soft stuff like muslin. But on the night the medium dashed into the street I was hoping that a safety-pin might be revealed. We did not get our safety-pin, but the experiment was valuable all the same.

For the especial benefit of those persons who still think that the stuff we photographed might really be 'teleplasm', I have prepared some enlargements of the cheese cloth veils showing rents, warp and weft, selvedge, etc.,

---

<sup>1</sup>The story of the Duncan mediumship, with our impressions concerning the 'phenomena', was published in the *Morning Post* for Tuesday, July 14th, 1931. On the following Friday (July 17th) *Light* published a statement that Mr. Duncan had been interviewed by the spiritualists on June 12th (the day after we had him 'on the carpet') and he had suggested to them that the 'phenomena' were the result of regurgitation. *Light* says (p. 345): 'At this interview Mr. Duncan anticipated the discoveries of the Committee' [of the spiritualists]. If Mr. Duncan *anticipated* the discoveries of the spiritualists, when and how were these made?



and the glove and safety-pin. These are illustrated in Plates XIII, XXII, XXIV.

Little has been said about Albert's 'voice' in this Report because there is little to say. Neither his voice, nor that of 'Peggy Hazeldine' would convince any one as being abnormal. I do not think the 'Oxford accent' joke was meant to be taken seriously. At least on one occasion Albert forgot he had ever been to Oxford and lapsed into the vernacular. At 9.6 at the third *séance* Albert said to Mr. Duncan: 'Go and lost yourself!'

The Council wishes to emphasize the fact that this Report deals merely with what happened in its own Laboratory and under its own conditions. It is not at all concerned with what is alleged to have happened at other times or places.

For example, it has been stated that on several occasions the medium (weighing more than 238 pounds) has completely dematerialized from out of the *séance* garment into which she had been sewn, and has appeared stark naked in the cabinet. True, the stitches afterwards found in the garment were not the same as those with which it was originally fastened; but Mr. Duncan has a theory that Albert gets the medium out of the garment, afterwards resewing it with a psychic needle and teleplasmic thread. This most dramatic appearance of the nude Mrs. Duncan was discussed by the Cambridge Union on Tuesday, May 5th, 1931, one of the speakers remarking that the medium came forth:

'Not in entire forgetfulness,  
'Not in utter nakedness,  
'But trailing clouds of teleplasm.'

I repeat that we were not there, so cannot describe the scene. But we definitely proved that in the case of the Duncan effects, our *séance* garment was useless as a form of control.

A curious feature of Mrs. Duncan's manifestations are the bleedings and burnings which occurred on various parts of the body. We refuse to accept them as abnormal. A nose can be normally punched and made to bleed; a face can be normally rubbed and a sore produced; and a stomach can be normally burned if by so doing a purpose is to be served. All these things could have been done normally by the medium and (like Professor McDougall—see Appendix F) we refuse to accept an explanation that involves an abnormal origin—which brings me to the question of trance.

The medium *may* go into a genuine self-induced trance. I consider that this hypothesis is a very doubtful one, but I mention it. *If* she really is in a trance during her *séances*, then the nose bleedings, etc., may be produced during that state. But *if* the cheese cloth is also produced in a trance, then it must have been prepared during periods of normality. No one has yet suggested that the medium, in the trance state, goes into Woolworth's for a few yards of cheese cloth. What complicates the question is that no one appears to know exactly what a mediumistic trance is or how to test it.

To give the Duncans their due, they showed considerable pluck in coming to the Laboratory—thereby shaming the majority of physical mediums who do not appear anxious to be tested scientifically.

At our very first *séance* we guessed that Albert's 'teleplasm' was a



normal, woven fabric because it *felt* like it. And in the extraordinary bright light permitted at these experiments the stuff *looked* like it. At the second *séance* when we were permitted to photograph the cheese cloth, our suspicions were confirmed. All that remained was to get as many pictures as possible and to secure a piece of 'teleplasm'. The reader is aware of our success.

Although we have concluded the investigation of the Duncan mediumship to our entire satisfaction, several things are still puzzling us. One is why these people ever came to the Laboratory at all, entirely of their own volition. Secondly, why did they allow us to photograph the series of cheese cloth *tableaux*? Thirdly, why did Albert hand us out a piece of egg bag or toilet paper and tell us it was teleplasm? Why were we permitted to photograph a safety-pin? And a rubber glove, complete with glint? And why did the medium *dare* to pirouette among us, in a bright light, with a teleplasmic tail trailing round our feet? We have been accused of being 'too proud to pinch'—but even then, the medium ran a great risk of the stuff accidentally catching in something and finding herself back in the cabinet minus a yard or two of cheese cloth. It is all very puzzling.

A distinguished psychist who read the MS. of this Report said that it will put psychical research back fifty years. But I am sure he is mistaken—at least, I sincerely hope so. Every case must be judged on its merits, and certainly there has been no other mediumship quite like the Duncans', which is destined to become classic.

Our last important report dealt with Rudi Schneider, to whom we issued a certificate of genuineness. Our action was justified because the mediumship survived every physical control scientifically applied. The Duncan mediumship would not stand a physical control by sitters for five minutes. There is not one thing in common between the Duncan and Schneider manifestations. Whereas, as usual with physical mediums, the Duncan effects are produced *inside* the cabinet on the person of the medium, the Schneider phenomena are produced with the medium *outside* the cabinet, the phenomena occurring several feet away from Rudi, who was always controlled by at least two persons and four electrical devices. Whereas we challenged any person to duplicate one of Rudi's phenomena,<sup>1</sup> under our conditions of electrical control, offering a thousand pounds for the privilege of witnessing it, we would not risk a shilling for a duplication of the Duncan mediumship (except by the medium herself, upon the conditions offered to Mr. Duncan), as any expert regurgitator could reproduce all the effects that we saw performed at the Laboratory. And he need not be in a trance, either.

---

<sup>1</sup>When Rudi left the Laboratory he went to Paris, where he was again investigated by the French scientists and pronounced genuine. He is still in Paris at the time of writing and the experiments are being continued with complete success.



## APPENDIX A

### THE MICROSCOPIC ANATOMY OF THE ALBUMINOID TYPE OF DUNCAN 'TELEPLASM'

Early in 1931 a friend of mine handed me a piece of alleged 'teleplasm' which he had secured at a *séance* with the Duncans. He asked me to examine it, and I was soon engaged upon its histology.

Although we talk so glibly about teleplasm, it is curious that so few specimens have been obtained by investigators. It has been assumed that it is 'dangerous' to remove portions seen exuding from a medium—that is, dangerous to the medium. This has often proved to be the case when the teleplasm has turned out to be muslin—or a similar substance—but it has been the reputation, and not the health, of the medium which has suffered in consequence of the seizure.

The late Dr. A. Freiherr von Schrenck-Notzing, of München, secured a specimen of this elusive substance produced at a *séance* with Eva C., and he has published some photomicrographs of the stuff in his monumental work<sup>1</sup> dealing with the alleged phenomena of that medium. He also showed me his slides. The London S.P.R. likewise obtained a specimen during their experiments with Eva C., and the analysis of the stuff revealed it to be chewed paper or something similar.

The reader has already learnt that Mr. Duncan declares that the teleplasm which exudes from his wife is of three types, *viz.*, the one we call the 'wood pulp type' and with which we have already dealt; the 'white-of-egg type', and the 'muslin type'.

It was a portion of the white-of-egg type which was handed to me for examination, an account of which forms this Appendix.

The teleplasm was obtained under the following circumstances: At the conclusion of a *séance* with the spiritualists, during which masses of the stuff were said to have been produced, the medium stated that a damp object was between her chest and the garment into which she had been sewn. This was verified by those present, and a medical man obtained permission from the psychic to examine the substance. This was done, and the piece was removed by lifting with a pair of forceps. I cannot give details of the occurrence, but there can be no doubt as to the integrity of the sitters taking part in the experiment. I am merely concerned here as to the examination of the specimen handed to me; I was not present at the *séance* in question.

The portion of alleged teleplasm removed was in the form of a strip, about five inches in length. It looked like some sort of tissue. It was placed in distilled water and afterwards cut into pieces. The specimen I

---

<sup>1</sup>*Phenomena of Materialisation*, London, 1920; *Materialisations—Phänomene*, München, 1914.



received was also in distilled water, contained in a two-ounce bottle which was afterwards sealed. It is a great pity the specimen was not immediately immersed in absolute alcohol, or a formalin solution.

I received the bottle containing the specimen on January 7th, 1931. In appearance, the substance was amorphous, greyish-white tissue, apparently of a gelatinous nature, with many small fragments which had become detached from the mass. It appeared slightly fibrous. In size, it was roughly 20 mm. square and 3 mm. thick. It weighed, with the surface water adhering to it, 3.5 grams. To the touch it felt spongy and rather slimy, like hard-boiled white of egg. Under the 12 mm. objective of the microscope, I thought I could detect a skin or cuticle with broadly elliptical or ovaloid markings. This appearance was more pronounced under the 4 mm. objective, but owing to trouble in illuminating the specimen, I could not use a higher power. Transversely, the section showed a laminated appearance. This concluded my preliminary examination. I replaced the specimen in the bottle.

Owing to great pressure of work, I was unable to touch the specimen for a few days, and when I was at last able to devote some attention to it, I found that it had undergone a change. Although I had re-sealed the bottle, I found that fermentation had commenced and bubbles of gas (carbon dioxide) were forming freely on the top of the water. Also, the specimen had turned blackish, and mould was forming. It was obvious that if I wanted to preserve the specimen, I should have to act quickly.

Removing the specimen from the water, I cut off about half of it, which I retained with the intention of obtaining, if possible, some decomposition products. The remaining portion I handed (January 14th) to Dr. X., the distinguished London consulting and analytical chemist, for analysis. He cut the piece into two portions, one of which he retained; the other piece he placed, at my request, in absolute alcohol. This third piece (Dr. X. and I each had a portion) was immediately handed to Messrs. C. Baker, of High Holborn, the well-known optical instrument manufacturers and microscopists, with instructions to prepare and mount a number of transverse sections, stained in various ways and colours, in order to illustrate the structure or formation of the object. Unfortunately, the portion received by Messrs. Baker was not large enough for them to cut longitudinal sections. Also, it was apparently impossible for them to mount portions in their natural state.

I received the analyst's report on January 21st, 1931. It is dated the previous day. I am not allowed to reveal his name without permission. His wishes in the matter will be readily understood when I remark that this gentleman has a very large and important practice, and as not one person in ten thousand believes even in the *existence* of teleplasm, it would probably harm him professionally if he were to sign his name to an analysis of even an imitation of it! So I will call him Dr. X. If it ever becomes vital that his name be revealed, doubtless Dr. X. will give me the necessary permission.



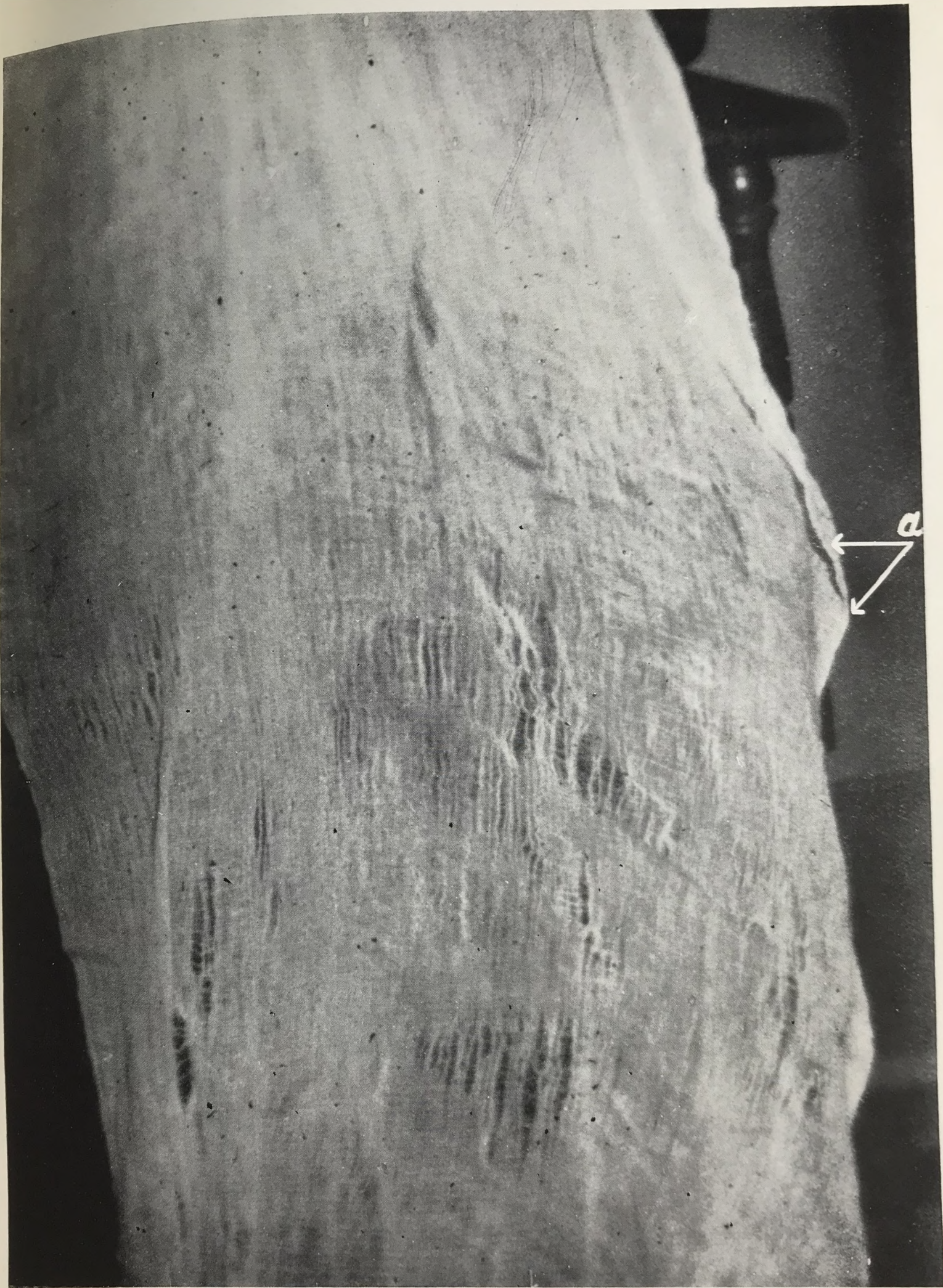


PLATE XXII

Enlarged portion of Stereogram 12, showing rents in cheese cloth, warp and weft, etc. Note selvedge, *a*



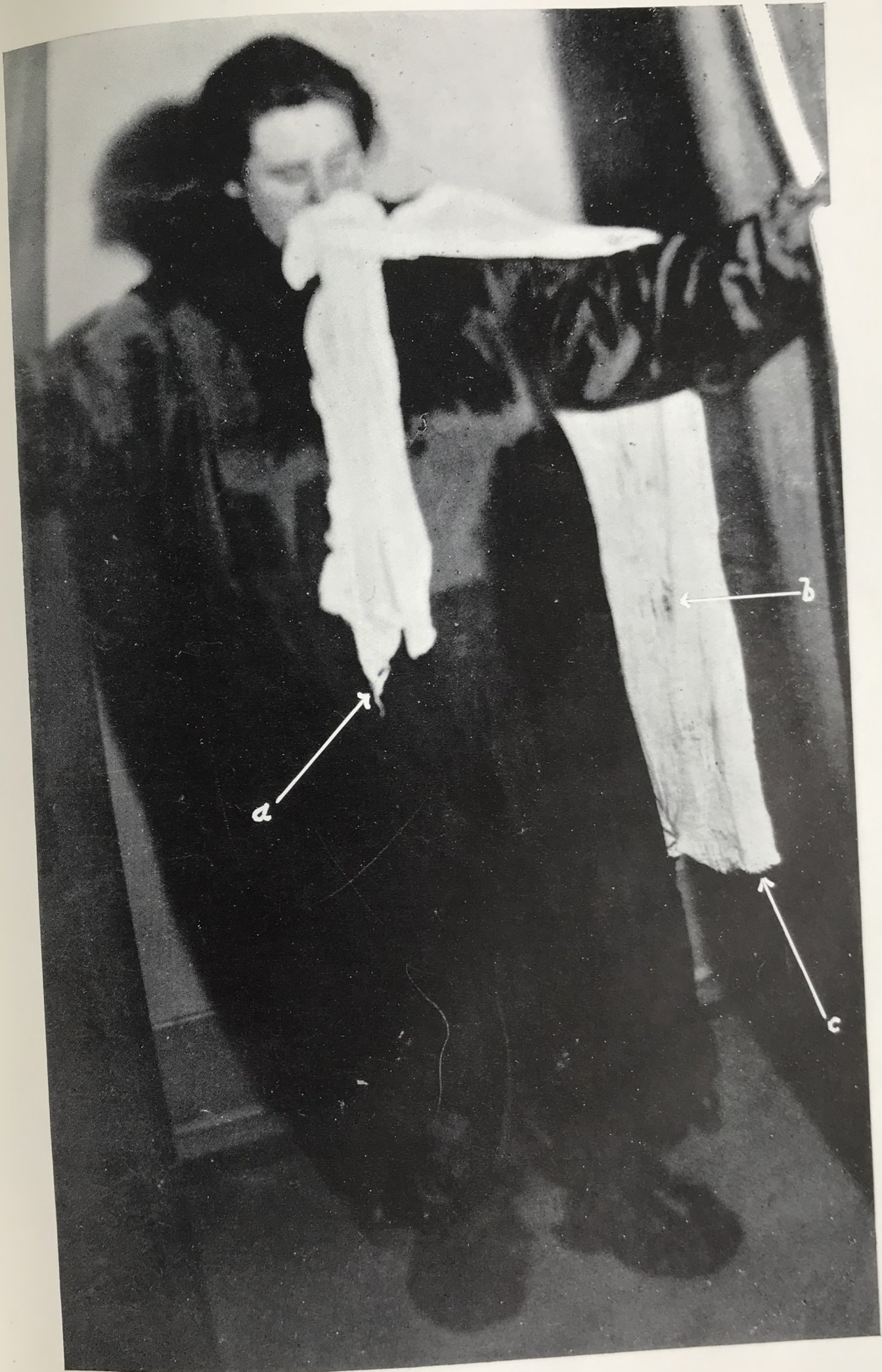


PLATE XXIII  
Half of Stereogram 13, showing strip of cheese cloth. Note loop, *a*; rents, *b*; and frayed edge, *c*



Dr. X.'s report is as follows:

London,

January 20th, 1931

Dear Mr. Price,

I have examined the specimen you brought here on the 14th inst. This was a bottle containing a liquid described to me as Distilled Water, in which there were a few small fragments and particles of a grey to greenish colour.

The solid material was first examined and found to consist of superimposed films clearly visible under the low power of the microscope. There was no organized structure, but under a high power the films seemed to contain minute granules.

A number of chemical tests were made and the solid mass gave the reaction of an albuminous body, such as white of egg. In addition it was found to contain iron partly in the ferrous and partly in the ferric condition. The particles are stained blue either with ferro-cyanide or with ferri-cyanide. The chemical tests included the test of nitrogen and sulphur, and determination of the solubility of the material in the usual reagents.

The water in which the solid was suspended was then separated and evaporated. The residue weighed 0.227 grams, and the total amount of iron found as ferric chloride was 0.156 grams. In addition to iron and chlorine, the water contained a reducing agent and a soluble sulphate.

As analysed, the bulk of the chloride of iron was in the form of ferrous chloride [ $\text{FeCl}_2$ ].

Metallic chlorides, such as the chlorides of iron, coagulate albumin and other protein solutions, forming insoluble gelatinous masses, for instance, when white of egg is coagulated with ferric chloride, filmy and thread-like masses are produced.

In one branch of the arts, plastic masses are made from blood albumin mixed with coagulating substances.

In a branch of science, the gelatinous precipitates resembling cells and other organized structures, which result from mixing colloid solutions with coagulants, are the objects of study.

You will notice that I have found some facts, namely, the conjunction of protein, iron chloride, and a sulphate, and I have given you some additional information as to the properties of such mixtures. I do not say positively, however, that the protein in the specimen brought to me was white of egg.<sup>1</sup>

It will be noticed that—quite naturally—Dr. X. is very guarded as

---

<sup>1</sup>The spiritualists also had another specimen of Albert's teleplasm examined, and the analyst's report (dated February 9th, 1931) stated that the stuff was made of 'paper, cloth, and such everyday materials mixed with an organic substance which is in every respect similar to coagulated white of egg'. (See *Light*, July 17th, 1931, p. 344.) And yet a month later (on March 9th, 1931) we find them signing an agreement with the Duncans for sittings intended to last eighteen months. In the same issue of *Light* (p. 345) the spiritualists assert that as late as May 16th, 1931 (*i.e.* more than two months after they were getting 'teleplasm' made of paper, cloth, and white of egg) 'nothing had occurred upon which a definite accusation of deception (conscious or unconscious) could be based'. The italics are theirs!



to what he says concerning the specimen handed to him. The fact that he was dealing with something, the very existence of which is denied, made him careful. But the analysis is interesting—if obviously incomplete—and I will discuss it later.

During the period when Dr. X. was making his analysis, Messrs. Baker and I were busy preparing slides of our respective portions. The professional microscopists were concerned with preparing sections showing structures, while I devoted myself to breaking down the substance in order to arrive at, if possible, its chemical constituents.

On January 23rd, 1931, I received from Messrs. Baker twenty slides (including ten duplicates) of transverse sections stained and cut in various ways. I produced six slides during my experiments. For the sake of clarity and easy reference, I will now give a list of the complete set in my possession, with some particulars of their preparation:

1. Longitudinal section (cuticle?) showing ovaloid surface markings. Embedded in paraffin wax, cut by microtome in usual way, soaked in alcohol, then in weak sulphuric acid, and mounted in Canada balsam.
2. Acid fat of a crystalline nature reduced by boiling in weak sulphuric acid, and extracted by means of alcohol. A decomposition product. Leucin or isobutyl acid? For polariscope. Mounted for re-melting. Compare with Nos. 4 and 5.
3. Granules of crystalline formation reduced by boiling in ether, afterwards in weak sulphuric acid. One of the phospho-globulins? Ammonia-phosphate of magnesia? Striking effect when viewed under polarized light.
4. Acid fat of a crystalline nature reduced by boiling in ether. A decomposition product. Leucin or isobutyl acid? For polariscope. Mounted for re-melting. Compare with Nos. 2 and 5.
5. Acid fat of a crystalline nature reduced by boiling in hydrochloric acid, and extracted by means of alcohol. A decomposition product. Leucin or isobutyl acid? For polariscope. Mounted in Canada balsam. Compare with Nos. 2 and 4.
6. Mould developed on piece of teleplasm left in distilled water for eight days. Appears similar to the fungoid growth on meat. Mounted in Canada balsam.

*By Messrs. C. Baker*

7. Transverse section double stained with Heidenhain's Iron-Hæmatoxylin and Erythrosin. Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 7a. Similar.
8. Transverse section double stained with Ehrlich's Hæmatoxylin and Alcoholic Safranin. Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 8a. Similar.
9. Transverse section triple stained with Heidenhain's Iron-Hæmatoxylin, Safranin, and Light Green. Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 9a. Similar.
10. Transverse section double stained with Safranin O. (Pfitzer Flemming) and Light Green. Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 10a. Similar. (Slide damaged.)

11. Tr  
Acid Green  
12. Tr  
Neilsen) ar  
12a. Si  
13. Tr  
Hæmatoxy  
13a. Si  
14. T  
Hæmatoxy  
balsam.  
14a. S  
15. T  
Mayer's c  
15a. S  
16. T  
Hæmatox  
Canada b  
16a. S

All  
in paraff  
sections  
been pla  
and the  
The stai  
absorpti  
the stain  
etc.) an  
to the  
stains,  
and the  
such as  
the stre  
few wo  
Of cou  
I  
above  
I selec  
objecti  
I.  
which,  
compo  
irregul  
pavé  
ridge

11  
'telepl  
research



11. Transverse section double stained with Paracarmine (Mayer) and Acid Green. Mounted in Canada balsam.
12. Transverse section double stained with Carbol Fuchsin (Ziehl-Neilsen) and Methyl Blue. Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 12a. Similar.
13. Transverse section single stained with Heidenhain's Iron-Hæmatoxylin. Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 13a. Similar.
14. Transverse section double stained with Heidenhain's Iron-Hæmatoxylin and S. Fuchsin (acid, 2% aqueous). Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 14a. Similar.
15. Transverse section double stained with Carmalum (Dr. Paul Mayer's carmine) and Light Green. Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 15a. Similar.
16. Transverse section double stained with Heidenhain's Iron-Hæmatoxylin and Carmalum (Dr. Paul Mayer's carmine). Mounted in Canada balsam.
- 16a. Similar.<sup>1</sup>

All of the above series were prepared by embedding the specimen in paraffin wax and cutting with the microtome in the usual way after the sections had been dehydrated with absolute alcohol. After the sections had been placed on the slides, the paraffin was removed by absolute alcohol and the sections stained. Some of these sections were stained on the slides. The stains used were chosen for their selective properties acting on the absorptive powers of special tissues or cell elements. It will be noticed that the stains used include those belonging to the cochineal series (Carmalum, etc.) and to the logwood series (Iron-Hæmatoxylin, etc.). Others belong to the anilin group (Safranin, etc.). In the case of Safranin and other stains, these are *regressive*—that is, the tissues are over-stained uniformly and the superfluous colouring matter washed out by alcohol. Other stains, such as Methyl Blue, are *progressive*—that is, the colour is brought up to the strength required and the reaction is then stopped. I have added these few words concerning stains for the benefit of the non-technical reader. Of course, if the sections were *not* stained, they would be almost invisible.

I have spent very many hours on a microscopic examination of the above series of slides, and I will give a *résumé* of what I have discovered. I selected the National Laboratory's best instrument, and a series of Zeiss objectives. I will describe the sections slide by slide:

1. This is a longitudinal section from the surface of the specimen which, for want of a better name, I will call the 'cuticle' or skin. It is composed of a mass of roughly ovaloid or broadly elliptical markings, of irregular shape grouped into a pattern which rather reminds one of the *pavé* of a French street. Between each ovaloid marking is a connected ridge or 'framework' which has the effect (which may be an optical one)

---

<sup>1</sup>I have given details of these slides because such a collection of specimens of 'teleplasm', normally manufactured, must be unique in the annals of psychical research.



of throwing the pattern into relief. Using a stage micrometer, I find that, measured longitudinally, the markings are from .002 in. in the smallest to .003 in. in the largest, so small that the pattern is not discernible to the unaided eye. Under polarized light the 'pattern' is more distinct, but little else is gained by using this means of illumination. I shall experiment with 'dark ground' and other methods of illumination at a later date. No trace of a granular structure of the skin could I discover using a 2 mm. Zeiss Apochromat (numerical aperture 1.30) oil immersion lens. It is *just possible* that the sulphuric acid solution in which I immersed the section was too strong and so 'burnt' the finest markings, but I do not think so.

2, 4, and 5. These slides must be examined together. They represent the fatty acid extracted by three methods: sulphuric acid and alcohol, ether, and hydrochloric acid and alcohol. Although they *must* be the same substance, they exhibit different characteristics when viewed by polarized light. All are crystalline, but they appear to crystallize differently. The reason must be that the specimens have undergone some chemical change due to the acids used in their extraction. The one extracted by boiling in ether is undoubtedly the one to be regarded as the purest specimen. Owing to the minute quantities of the fat extracted, it has been impossible to apply chemical tests. For the same reason I have been unable to determine the melting point. Dr. X. does not mention a fat content in his report, but his examination was not an exhaustive one. Of course, there is acid fat in the plasma of the human body, and the specimens under examination may be of a similar nature, such as palmitic, stearic, and oleic. The crystalline formation can be clearly determined under polarized light; and when plates of red and green selenite are interposed, the effects are very striking. It is possible that this substance is *leucin* ( $C_6H_{11}NO_2$ ) or *isobutyl acid*, a decomposition product of albumin.

3. This slide of the crystalline granules or crystals extracted from the mass presents a striking effect under polarized light when red and green selenite plates are interposed between polarizer and analyser. The crystals do not appear to be of one type. Most of them are of the oblong pyramidal class (five planes) of various sizes (largest about .01 in. in length measured by stage micrometer). Other crystals are also of prismatic formation; these are smaller. Other fragments appear to be bipyramidal and 'chips' have the appearance of tetragonal bisphenoids and orthorhombic bisphenoids (double wedge shape). No chemical analysis of these could be made, owing to the minute quantity secured. They may be crystals of phosphoric or some other acid, or perhaps ammonio-phosphate of magnesia. A thought occurred to me that they might be phospho-globulins found in albuminous proteid compounds, but the particles are, I think, much too large.

We now come to the series of stained sections, and although I have spent many hours on these slides, days could easily be devoted to their examination. The sections were examined (principally) under two powers: a 4 mm. Zeiss achromatic objective, and a very fine 2 mm. Zeiss Apochromat (numerical aperture 1.30) oil immersion objective. This latter lens, when used with a suitable ocular, gives a colourless image, as the secondary spectrum, for all practical purposes, is unnoticeable.

I will briefly state the principal characteristics of each section, as recorded in my notes. I have not thoroughly examined (with one



exception) the 'a' (duplicate) series, as the reactions due to staining should be similar to those I will describe. The figures (4 mm. and 2 mm.) denote the power under which the specimen was examined.

7. (4 mm.) Black granules or crystals, opaque. Stringy, fibrous threads. Fibrin? (2 mm.) Granular nuclei. Black granules, partly opaque, partly stained. Distinctly striated or laminated. Cellular? Band of a deeper tint (due to greater absorptive power) clearly visible throughout section. Finely granular, with black (iron?) nuclei. A long, fine, tubular, transparent, hair-like object, fibrous at ends, visible. (Probably foreign body.)

8. (4 mm.) Large granules or crystals, various shapes, partly transparent. (2 mm.) The granular or cellular structure not so apparent with these stains. Portions of section near the cuticle have absorbed more of the Hæmatoxylin, thus giving them a red tinge.

9. (4 mm.) Laminations plainly visible. Blue-black masses or patches, principally near cuticle, very prominent. (2 mm.) Granulations very pronounced.

10a. (2 mm.) Striations and granulations very pronounced under these stains. Striated patches of pink (Safranin), extending to, but not including, cuticle, very pronounced and in great contrast to the Light Green stained body of the mass. These pinkish patches are apparently the same as the blue-black ones in slide 9, the stains reacting differently. Amber-coloured semi-transparent crystalline objects noticeable, probably a colloid. Most interesting slide, unfortunately damaged when removing cedar wood immersion oil from cover glass: owing to Canada balsam not having set, cover glass shifted. Slide 10 shows similar characteristics, but not so pronounced.

11. (2 mm.) Very opaque, but granulation prominent. Stained deeply, giving a dark-green to purple effect. Fibrous structure very pronounced, with many fibres separated. 11a shows some amber-coloured crystalline objects seen in slide 10a—probably colloidal, comparable with those found in the 'wood pulp' type.

12. (4 mm.) Granulation or structure not so prominent. Opaque particles, deep blue-black (iron crystals?) embedded in mass and detached. Blue-black patch with bunch of fine fibrous threads streaming into mass, ceasing abruptly. (2 mm.) Granular construction pronounced. Cellular effect plainly visible. Dark blue-black particles scattered throughout mass. Long tubular thread crosses section, with radiating finer threads. (Foreign body? Compare slide 7.) A most interesting slide, the selective properties of the Carbol Fuchsin and Methyl Blue stains contrasting well.

13. (4 mm.) Single stained. Mass of a pale neutral tint. Iron (?) content a purple black, confined principally to small patches near and extending right up to the cuticle. (2 mm.) Under the higher power cuticle appears as a black line outlining the transverse section. Granular formation pronounced. Opaque black patches (iron?) extend right up to cuticle.

14. (2 mm.) Granular formation very pronounced. Black patches (iron?) persist. Laminated structure pronounced. Excellent slide for displaying granular (cellular?) and laminated structure. Black patches are, as noticed in other sections, near to and extending to the surface or cuticle. Patches of the mass have stained (S. Fuchsin, acid) more deeply.



15. (2 mm.) Granulations not very pronounced under these stains. The Light Green predominates with purple pink patches of Carmalum due, perhaps, to the absorptive power of fatty content. The usual dark or black patches (iron?) not apparent. Mass of amber-coloured crystalline objects visible. (Compare slides 10a and 11.)

16. (4 mm.) Granular structure pronounced. (2 mm.) Fibrous nature of mass shown well, with many detached strands. Purple-blue semi-opaque patches of iron (?) content prominent and, as usual, just below and extending to cuticle. Excellent slide for exhibiting fibrous nature of mass.

It will be obvious that we have acquired some information concerning the Duncan variety of the albuminoid type of 'teleplasm'. I refuse to call it ectoplasm, a term long used to denote the outer layer, of hyaloplasm, of a vegetable cell: the same word is also applied to the external zone of the protoplasmic body of the Protozoa (also called the ectosarc), the animalcules. Studying Dr. X.'s report and my notes, we have found that the stuff consists of an albuminous body, of a laminated structure, and of granular or cellular formation. It has been found that the mass consists of iron, partly ferrous and partly ferric. Ferric chloride ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{Cl}_6$ ) was also discovered. Also 'a reducing agent and a soluble sulphate'. Dr. X. found that in the specimen I handed to him 'the conjunction of protein, iron chloride, and a sulphate' was apparent.

Working in a different direction, I found that a fatty crystalline acid was present, which displayed varied characteristics under polarized light. We have also discovered that the surface or 'cuticle' of the substance consists of ovaloid markings. We have seen that the substance decomposes or ferments, and that carbon dioxide is given off. With fermentation, the substance blackens and a mould forms.

From Messrs. Bakers' slides we see distinctly that the substance is laminated or in layers, and a cellular or granular structure is visible under the higher powers.

The substance is partly of a fibrous nature, many of the detached strands being clearly visible. Also, masses of a chemical, which I think must be iron, are secreted near the surface of the substance. These masses stain deeply and appear as black, blue-black or purple-black or pinkish patches according to the stains employed.

The 'amber-coloured crystalline objects' are curious, and I should imagine that it is some chemical that has crystallized out of the mass, or a colloid (such as jelly or glue) used for stiffening the substance.

In some slides the fibrous nature of the substance is well shown. Messrs. Baker suggest that it may be *fibrin* or *fibrinogen*, a proteid compound of the globulin group, found in blood and other body fluids, connected with the formation of *fibrin* and with coagulation. It is a constituent of the blood-plasma of all vertebrates. *Fibrin* itself is a white proteid compound obtained when blood is coagulated. *Fibrin* is a tough, strongly elastic jelly-like substance, and when denaturalized by heat, alcohol, or salts, it behaves as any other coagulated albumin. It is reasonable to assume that the substance under discussion, being albumin, may possibly contain *fibrin*.



According to one theory, *fibrin* does not pre-exist in blood, but is formed by the chemical combination of a fibrogenous subject occurring in the blood-plasma with a fibrino-plastic matter contained in the blood corpuscles which escapes from them.

I was also able to separate out the minute crystals of certain salts or chemicals, such as are found in urine. These crystals (or some of them) are double-refracting, and under polarized light display their shape and structure to perfection. The crystals appear to be identical to those illustrated in Griffith and Henfrey's *Micrographic Dictionary* (Third Edition, London, 1875, Vol. II, Plate 9, Fig. I). The crystals there illustrated are of ammonio-phosphate of magnesia, a salt frequently met with in animal secretions which have undergone decomposition, or in calculi (concretions formed in various parts of the body, as the kidneys, gall-bladder, joints, etc.). The most common forms are prismatic (as in our specimen), but there are many varieties. These salts are also found in decomposing urine, blood, fæces, and in the contents of the seminal vesicles (the membranous sacculated tubes situated at the base of the bladder, serving as receptacles of the semen). If our crystals really are of ammonio-phosphate of magnesia (as I think they must be), a number of interesting theories as to the origin of this specimen at once present themselves.

The major portion of this paper was written in January, 1931, but since we have been experimenting with Mrs. Duncan, I have amused myself by producing 'synthetic teleplasm' of the Duncan albuminoid type. I used the following substances in varying proportions:

White of a new-laid egg,  
Ferric chloride,  
Phosphoric acid and stale urine thickened with Nelson's gelatine,  
Hot margaric acid from olive oil.

The whole of the above ingredients were beaten together and poured into a flattened tube or mould formed out of a sheet of lead. The ends were sealed up with damp paper and the whole plunged into a saucepan of boiling water and boiled hard for fifteen minutes. The tube was then removed from the saucepan and dropped into cold water.

Upon carefully removing the leaden former or mould, I found that I had a beautiful strip of 'teleplasm' similar in appearance to the portion I had received. I tested my concoction with nitric acid, mercuric nitrate containing nitrous acid, sulphuric acid, caustic potash, and copper sulphate, etc. All these reagents gave their distinctive colours for albumin. I was also able to extract crystals from the mass, and by boiling in dilute sulphuric acid I recovered a fatty acid. In other words, I treated *my* variety of teleplasm just as we did the Duncans' albuminoid type and got similar, if not identical, results.

It is obvious, then, that it is hardly safe for us to regard as phenomenal either the 'albuminoid type' or the 'wood pulp type' of teleplasm, since similar varieties are so easily manufactured from substances, most of which are to be found in the majority of kitchens. All the microscopic slides mentioned in this Appendix are to be seen at the National Laboratory.



## APPENDIX B

### VERBATIM REPORT OF MEETING BETWEEN MR. HENRY DUNCAN AND THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL LABORATORY, HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH, 1931, AT 3.30 P.M.

Present: Mr. H. E. Dennis, Professor Dr. D. F. Fraser-Harris, Mr. Harry Price, Mr. I. C. Gröndahl, Mr. H. G. Bois, Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Mrs. Clarice Richards, Captain H. W. Seton-Karr, Mr. Henry Duncan. Miss Beenham recording in shorthand.

MR. BOIS opened the proceedings by telling Mr. Duncan of our suspicions. He said: 'We are rather suspicious as to the genuineness of the phenomena, and we have had photographs taken, and in the photographs it appears that the material which was apparently extruded by the medium is of an exactly similar nature to butter muslin. Now there are two or three points shown in the photographs which I should like you to explain: The threads of the weft and warp show very clearly—there are interlaced threads. Secondly, there are apparently holes. Thirdly, in one of the photographs it will appear that there is a dirty dust mark made, probably, through trailing on the floor, and last and by no means least, the substance appears to have a selvedge mark. Can you question these facts?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I cannot. This material which I have here' (taking hold of our piece of paper 'teleplasm') 'is, I would say, the first stage; the second stage is of pretty much the same nature, but there appear to be threads running through it, it is much the same in texture. The third stage is of muslin-like texture. I believe they have a piece at the L.S.A. Sometimes it is thick in places and at other times very thin, and it has the appearance, under the light, of being like muslin. On some occasions, I have witnessed what you refer to as a selvedge, and it appeared to be, when felt, like a curtain—rough.'

MR. BOIS: 'Assuming this substance which is extruded is genuine, is it possible that it can take the form of butter-muslin and also appear like muslin to the sight and touch? At the last sitting there was no production of this butter-muslin, but a certain substance was extruded from the mouth of the medium. This substance was torn off by one of the medical men there, and on being shown to the expert analysts, they say it is paper and it is composed of vegetable fibre, and that it is 60% chemical and 40% mechanical wood pulp, and not only does it look like paper, *it is paper*. How do you explain that?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'God only knows. Now, Mr. Price, what was it that you had analysed?'

MR. PRICE: 'That, of course, was white of egg, and we have made up a similar substance which gives the same reaction to tests and reacts the same way. This "teleplasm" is wood-pulp.'



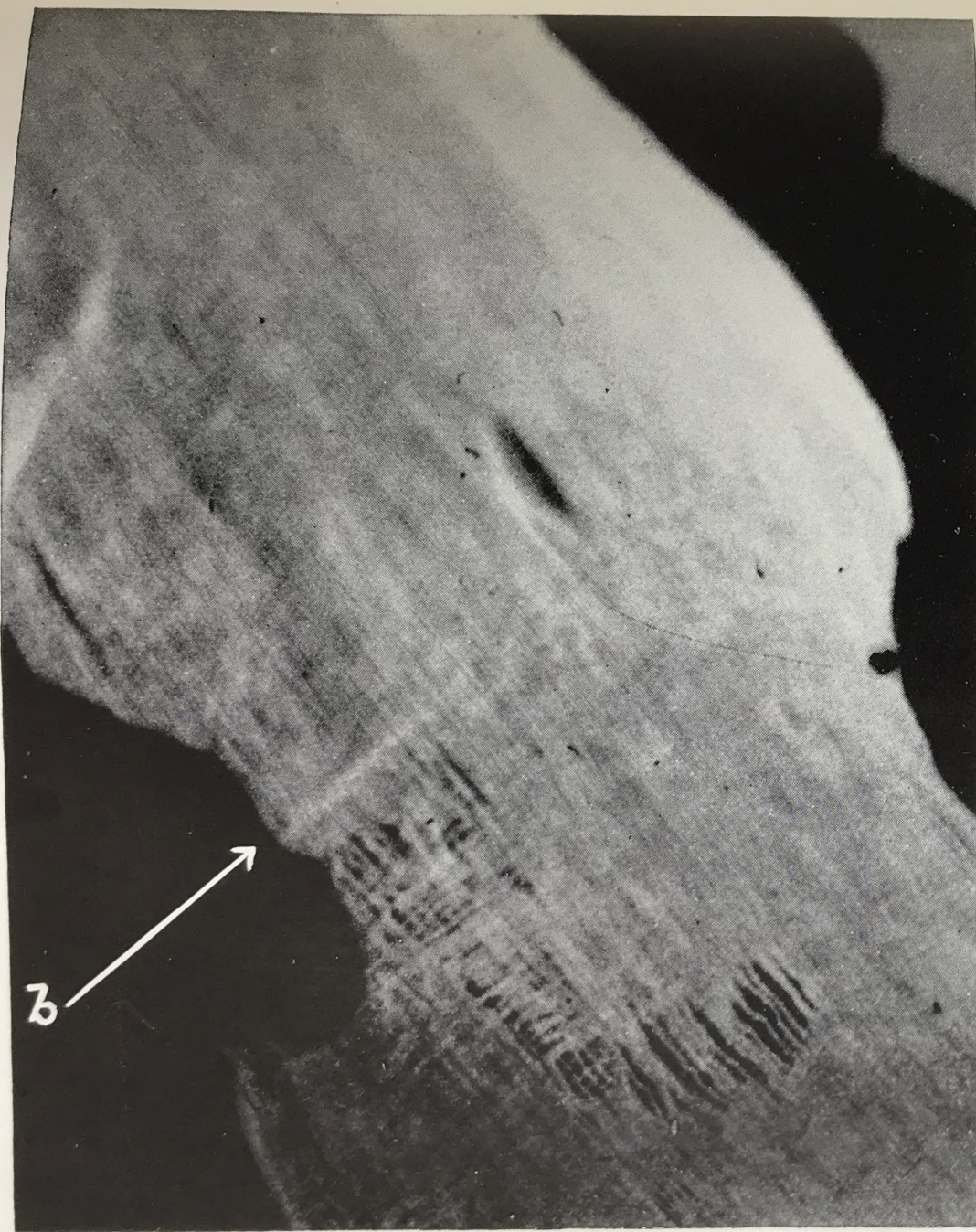


PLATE XXIV

Enlarged portions of Stereograms 5 and 13, showing rents in cheese cloth, warp and weft, etc. Note frayed edge, *a*, and crease or fold mark, *b*



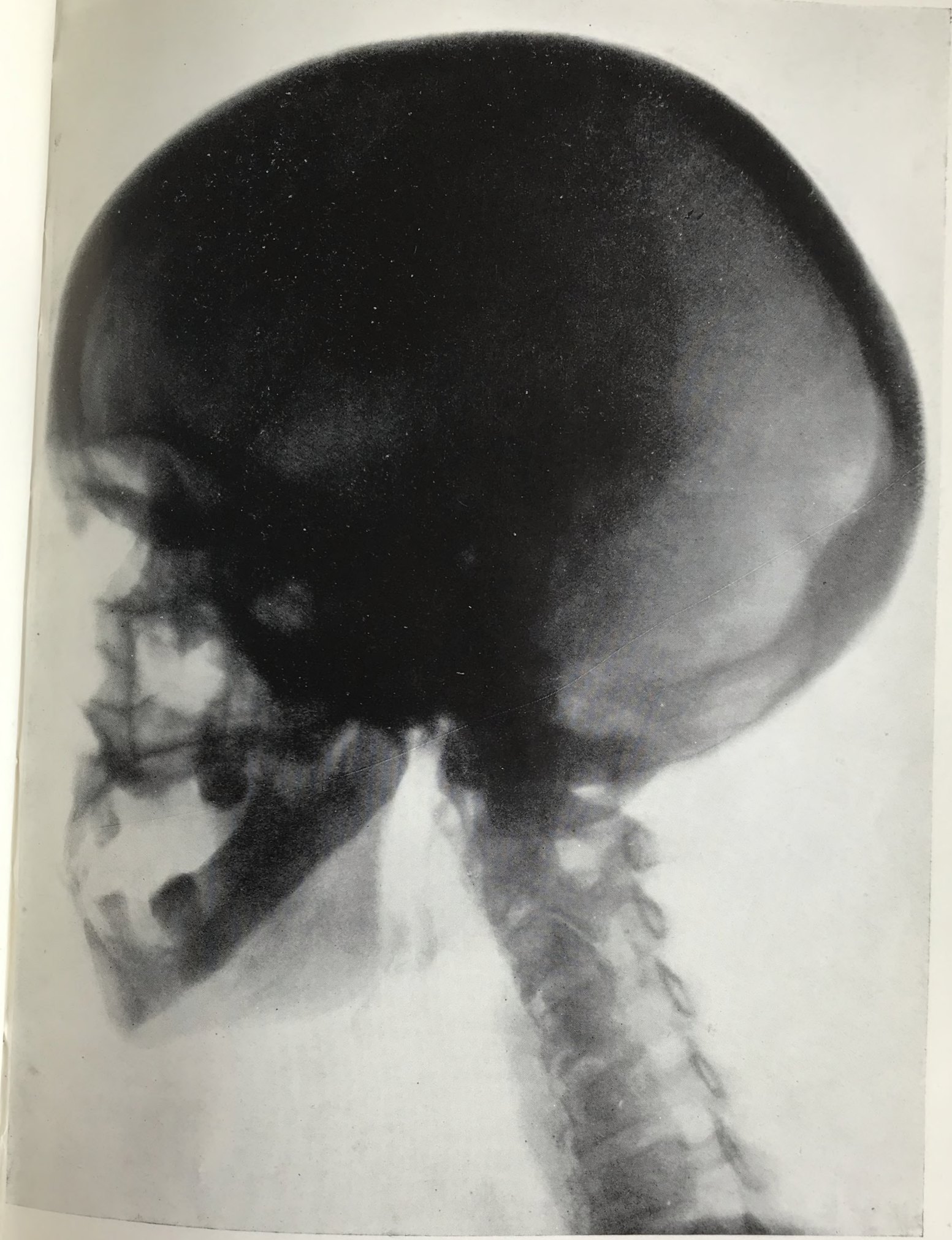


PLATE XXV

Radiograph of medium's head, taken at fourth *séance*, May 28th, 1931



MR. DUNCAN: 'Do you think for one moment that I would get Mrs. Duncan to come here and by some means or other (say Mrs. Macleod passed it to her) produce fraud? That I would allow her to come here and get you to test her? The whole idea is preposterous!'

MR. PRICE: 'Yes, that is what is in your favour. But we cannot get away from the fact that this is a piece of paper folded over and glued—it is folded in the form of a concertina—or cracker.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Where do you think it could be secreted? I believe in automatism of the will. Previous to *séances*, two or three mediums seem to have gone into that hypnotic state, and it is quite possible that they would pick up something (I have seen it done with Mrs. Duncan). She might have done it.'

MR. PRICE: 'But she was searched thoroughly and led into the cabinet. If she picked anything up, she must have secreted it.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, and these photographs. Well, in the first place in examining these photographs, it does look like threads; but the point is this, how in the name of anything, and after you have examined her, could she secrete this substance?'

MR. PRICE: 'That is exactly what we want to know.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I do not know.'

MR. PRICE: 'Also, there is an identical tear in the substance, seen in the photographs, which appeared at different *séances*.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I do not know. It is a complete puzzle to me. I know nothing about it. If you accept the evidence of your witnesses, I cannot say where she could possibly secrete it. There is about seven or eight feet of substance. That means bulk.'

MR. PRICE: 'We have some of the identical stuff here, and it can be rolled up very small.'

MR. BOIS: 'I confess that is the puzzle—where she has been able to secrete that stuff after the very thorough examination she has had.'

(Mr. Duncan looking at photographs.)

MR. PRICE: 'That is frayed at the edge' (pointing to one of the photographs).

MR. DUNCAN: 'To me, this hand looks like a glove' (he examines one of the photographs).

MR. BOIS: 'To me, they look exactly like a surgeon's (very thin) rubber glove which has been blown out. It would have the same appearance.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'To me, these look different' (looking at some pictures of trailing cheese cloth).

MR. PRICE: 'That is merely the same roll of muslin twisted into a trail, but you do not get the criss-cross warp and weft as when spread out. It is very difficult to photograph, as the white stuff requires one-tenth the exposure the *séance* garment does.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, you do see the rents and tears. The curious fact is that you say that that was a rubber glove, then how is it held up straight like that?'

MR. PRICE: 'Of course, that is what we want to know.'

MR. BOIS: 'These gloves do stand up, in any case.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'You forget this, gentlemen. You would need to have a tube in it—to hold the glove out like that.'



CAPT. S.-K.: 'You would not need anything to support it. It would stand out when blown up.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'But there must be something in it to support it.'

MR. PRICE: 'In two of these photographs there are distinctly safety-pins. These are in the "glove" pictures. They are in the stuff that is wrapped round the glove. Curiously enough, it has lost something by being enlarged, but in the stereoscope the pin is very distinct. In the other picture the pin is, of course, viewed from a different angle.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Did you say there was a pin in this one?' (picking up a 'glove' photo).

(Mr. Price points out the positions of the pins to Mr. Duncan.)

CAPT. S.-K.: 'The whole thing is quite easy. I have done these sort of things for years. You would only have to blow the glove out and it would be identical with the one in the photograph. The only question is where the stuff is hidden.'

MR. PRICE: 'At the first *séance* we heard the stuff being jerked off the curtains. I won't say anything about the other pin that was found in the tuck of the *séance* garment.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'That is the substance here, is it not?' (pointing to a cheese cloth photo).

MR. PRICE: 'I think it might possibly be thinner just there, as it is worn and torn and would show the black garment through more clearly; and perhaps it was not then dirty.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'You mean that mark down at the bottom?'

MR. PRICE: 'Yes.'

MR. BOIS: 'The real point is this: What is the explanation of all this?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'God knows. I do not. You are asking me a puzzle. In the first place, you say she was examined, and on two occasions I have examined her before she came up here. I have taken her into the bathroom and made her take all her clothes off, and I have on two occasions given her a vaginal examination. I have got the maid to look through her clothes and hand them to her one by one.'

MR. PRICE: 'Is that necessary? Has she secreted things on other occasions?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I have told you. I call it "automatism". If that is butter muslin, how did she secrete it?'

MR. BOIS: 'That is exactly why we have met here this afternoon.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'The same thing happened in the Eva C. *séances*.'

MR. PRICE: 'There has been a great deal of controversy over those pictures. Not one person in a hundred accepted Eva C. as genuine. When Eva C. was at the London S.P.R., the "teleplasm" was proved to be chewed paper. By a strange coincidence the same analyst who analysed the Eva C. "teleplasm", analysed the piece of "teleplasm" I received from the piece cut from Mrs. Duncan soon after she arrived in London.' [See Appendix A.]

MR. BOIS: 'That is the whole trouble. I might say that teleplasm may



take the form of paper or butter muslin; I might admit there may be holes in it; I might admit there may be dirt on it; but when it comes to having a selvedge, it is more than I can swallow. All these things are puzzling.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I understand.'

MR. PRICE: 'Professor Fraser-Harris has made some slides of our piece of teleplasm, and I can even show you the machine marks on the wood pulp as it was passed through the machine. When the wood is cut up, it is treated (a) mechanically, or (b) chemically. Actually, as the analyst has told us, there is 60% chemical and 40% mechanical wood pulp. What are we to make of it?'

MR. BOIS: 'Obviously this is paper' (pointing to our specimen).

MR. DUNCAN: 'The point is this, gentlemen. It seems silly that anyone would come here and deliberately produce fraud.'

MR. PRICE: 'Unless that person thought that he, or she, would run the risk.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'But we allowed these photographs to be taken. You know I am not a spiritualist. Here is my explanation: I believe in an animistic theory that the idea has, through the ages, become impressed upon our minds that there is a god, and naturally then that there is a life after death. To support that theory—man has got into a groove with the result that some persons can easily go into an hypnotic trance, are open to suggestion, and the idea of immortality is so much impressed within that mind that the subconscious will do anything to prove it.'

PROF. F.-H.: 'But what has the production of the paper teleplasm to do with an after life?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'That is my idea. These ideas which are impressed within the mind of that subject will become an obsession, and that person will do anything towards gaining that end.'

MR. BOIS: 'So the medium is quite prone to take any steps to back up her belief?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Not consciously.'

MR. PRICE: 'Then it is very difficult to say when the medium is acting subconsciously or consciously.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'This should be for further research work. It should be studied by every research worker.'

MR. PRICE: 'The Hon. Everard Feilding wrote to me only the other day and quoted a case of a man swallowing frogs and goldfish and "God knows how much water".'

PROF. F.-H.: 'What has this substance' (pointing to our 'teleplasm') 'to do with psychic powers?'

MR. BOIS: 'It is to prove the existence of beings outside ourselves, and therefore the medium tries to back up her theory by producing something which she has already arranged normally.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'All mediums whom I have come in contact with have struck me as being of a very childish disposition. I would then say that under trance conditions the child mind comes to the surface. That is why we get so many childish pranks during a *séance*. And therefore that childish mind produces these things.'



## REGURGITATION AND

MRS. ROBERTSON: 'Where does she produce them from?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'God knows!'<sup>1</sup>

MR. PRICE: 'That X-rays incident the other night was very suspicious, and when it came to the X-rays, she broke down all our controls by rushing out of the house, and that afterwards she insisted upon the X-rays *after* she had been in the street with you. Also, you would not be searched. It is very suspicious.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, I admit that. But I told you about the diapers.'

MRS. ROBERTSON: 'It is suspicious that Mrs. Goldney says that Mrs. Duncan was not unwell that night.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, but it was due for that night.'

MRS. ROBERTSON: 'Were they soiled diapers you had on you?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'No, clean ones.'

MR. BOIS: 'Well, what is the next step?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I think the best thing would be to hold another three *séances*.'

MR. BOIS: 'But are we not wasting our time?'

MR. DENNIS: 'Do you swear that you do not know where that stuff is concealed?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Of course, I do swear.'

MR. PRICE: 'Of course, it is not an anatomical impossibility for her to conceal it in her body. I have seen a man swallow a watch and chain and regurgitate it two or three times. I mean that if regurgitation can be done several times a day for a living, there is no reason why it is impossible in this case. Especially if she has an oesophageal pouch.'

PROF. F.-H.: 'It could go into the real stomach.'

MR. PRICE: 'That is where we think all these things are secreted.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'But you cannot get anything from the X-rays?'

MR. PRICE: 'That is absolutely useless because she is so thick, and in any case, muslin or rubber gloves would not register.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'But if you gave her a bismuth meal or something like that?'

MR. PRICE: 'Yes, but I do not think that it would do. It is possible that it would reveal a secondary stomach, but it is only a small chance.'

MRS. RICHARDS: 'Has Mrs. Duncan ever had an operation where she was cut open?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, she has, but it is too far down. It would not show anything in the X-rays.'

MRS. ROBERTSON: 'Do you believe that she is genuine?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Oh, yes. But I also believe in automatism of the will.'

MR. BOIS: 'He thinks it is genuine sometimes, but that she is quite capable of humbugging. So far, to me, we have seen the humbugging.' (Pointing to the photographs and 'teleplasm'.) 'We cannot get away from these things. Is it worth our while to continue?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes. I should have two or three more *séances* under a physical control, the sitters going in the cabinet.'

<sup>1</sup>On the day after (June 12th) we told Mr. Duncan that the effects we had witnessed were caused by regurgitation, he informed the spiritualists that 'he had come to the conclusion that the "ectoplasm" was the result of regurgitation.' See *Light*, July 17th, 1931, p. 345.



MR. PRICE: 'You very kindly offered us that first *séance*. I was very impressed by what I had been told by other sitters, and you did not come here with any idea of our showing you up. On the contrary, I had received such good reports from various people that I wanted to have you for a long period. But we simply *cannot* believe it now. We have been forced into this attitude owing to the evidence we have accumulated.'

MR. BOIS: 'We will assume these things are secreted somewhere we do not know. Supposing she was immobilized so that she could not move hand or foot?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Just a minute. I asked you, Mr. Price, to immobilize her at the last sitting.'

MR. PRICE: 'In any case, that would have been useless the other night, as the paper "teleplasm" could have been produced with a dozen people holding her. A funny thing, but we all thought we were going to get that piece of "teleplasm", because at previous *séances* we were promised it and you were always urging Albert to give us a piece. As this one was a test *séance*, I was sure that we should get it. Everybody had scissors, and it was a curious sight to see the glint of light shining on the steel. It reminded me of a sewing bee. Everybody was prepared to cut off the stuff in case Albert picked upon him or her.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'As far as I know, the doctor tore it off.'

MR. PRICE: 'Yes, the scissors slipped.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'What about the bleeding?'

MR. PRICE: 'She could easily have knocked her nose.'

PROF. F.-H.: 'The bleeding had nothing to do with the stuff being torn from her mouth.'

(Mr. Price explains how the piece of 'teleplasm' was torn.)

MR. BOIS: 'Assuming that the medium is tied hand and foot, is there any way of checking her from bringing up the substance normally?'

MR. PRICE: 'Not the slightest. If you put a net over her head, it would only fall into the net. I think perhaps you might check part of it.'

MRS. ROBERTSON: 'Has she never produced it anywhere but from the mouth?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, the ear and the vagina.'

MRS. RICHARDS: 'But if we get a bit from the floor?'

MR. PRICE: 'Yes, but that is not much use to prove that the medium has secreted it somewhere. You admit she does secrete it?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, unknown to me.'

MRS. RICHARDS: 'How is it she got out of that suit?' [At another society.]

MR. DUNCAN: 'God knows. Assuming that she could get out of it normally, how could she sew it up the back again?'

MR. PRICE: 'If she could secrete things, as obviously she can, such as rubber gloves, butter muslin, etc., she could easily secrete a needleful of cotton. It is admitted that the stitches are not the same at the end of a sitting as at the beginning.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Not every time. But on two occasions.'

MR. PRICE: 'Well, it is quite easy for her to get out of the thing.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I do not mean that. Supposing she is tied up and the



curtains are open and you see her tied up? You can hear the tying up going on at the same time as the voice.'

MR. PRICE: 'But the talking is nothing. We have never heard Albert at the same time as we have seen the medium.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, but the talking and the tying going on at the same time. How could she tie herself up? It is impossible.'

MR. PRICE: 'It is not. Tying up a medium is the worst possible form of control. But in any case we are talking about what we have seen.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, but the entities purport to tie her up. How a person tied at the back and sewn up from the waist and the tapes over the buckram gloves tied tightly, and the feet also tied and the chair screwed down to the floor, how is she able to tie herself up in such a manner?'

MR. PRICE: 'You are asking me about something I have not seen. There are a number of mediums whom you can tie up as hard as you like and yet they can get out and back again into the ties. The tying up of a medium is the worst form of control.'

MR. BOIS: 'You do not think it is possible to get out of surgical tapes?'

MR. PRICE: 'No. The time we tied Mrs. Duncan up with surgical tapes, Albert said they were too tight and they had to be loosened. That is how they get away with it.'

MR. BOIS: 'Supposing we get her tied up so as to immobilize her absolutely. Is that going to stop her regurgitating? We want something that will prevent her from doing it normally. Has teleplasm ever gone through a net?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes. The point is, has it gone through or has it gone underneath the net? I think that it has gone underneath.'

MR. PRICE: 'Mrs. Duncan has such a thick neck that it is impossible to tie the tapes tight enough to stop her putting her hand through the neck opening of the garment.'

MR. BOIS: 'Supposing we hold her hands and feet, she can only get these substances from her inside by some power of regurgitating. If she could not use her hands, would that stop it at all?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Can you explain this to me? We have had an extrusion about six or seven feet long, which holds a trumpet up in the air and from which voices issue forth. The medium has been searched. How is it done?'

MR. PRICE: 'We do not know. I have never seen such a thing done. We are not concerned with what we have not seen.'

MR. BOIS: 'Are you referring to this having been done with Mrs. Duncan?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes, we have seen it done with Mrs. Duncan.'

MRS. RICHARDS: 'Has that been done at the L.S.A.?''

MR. DUNCAN: 'No, never.'

MR. PRICE: 'Have the L.S.A. ever questioned the phenomena?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'No. But you are surely not suggesting that a person can swallow a rubber glove?'

PROF. F.-H.: 'Yes, it is quite possible.'

MRS. ROBERTSON: 'Is it possible to regurgitate very silently?'

PROF. F.-H.: 'Yes. But it would need very long practice. Swallowing



rubber gloves, paper, and muslin would not make a noise. It is the air that makes the noise.'

MR. BOIS: 'I certainly have never heard any noise. What are we going to do? Shall we sit again with this net test, or shall we just leave it?'

MR. PRICE: 'Mr. Duncan has suggested that if Mrs. Duncan produces the stuff normally, he is not aware of the fact.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'No.'

MR. PRICE: 'And the fact that on two occasions Mr. Duncan has searched Mrs. Duncan.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Yes. I would not go by one sitting. I would like to impress upon you that for Heaven's sake do not want this and that at a sitting. I quite believe that she is in a trance. I think that the collective minds of the sitters impress the subconscious with the thought that she is doing it normally; and she might not do it at that one sitting, but might try it the next time.'

MR. BOIS: 'I am prepared to admit that this is a hypothesis, but what are we going to do? We do not want to go on in the same way.'

CAPT. S.-K.: 'We would not get any further evidence of its being normal if we had any more sittings.'

MR. PRICE: 'Of course, the stuff is produced from a portion of her anatomy which is exceedingly difficult to control.'

MR. BOIS: 'These things we are all agreed about. Would it be any use our having another sitting? If we get nothing, it would simply confirm our opinion that these things are secreted?'

MR. DUNCAN: 'Now you have put these bad ideas into my mind, and she is likely to get them from my subconsciousness. I think I know as much about mediumship as anybody. I would say that that would not prove anything either for or against. After the first *séance*, you could see whether the control was all right or not. She is genuine sometimes. She has produced psychic phenomena under the best of controls. If this is butter muslin and has been all the time, how are we going to explain, unless on the supposition of my first hypothesis that the production of the so-called butter muslin is due to automatism of the mind? We get mental phenomena which is absolutely startling at times.'

MR. PRICE: 'It is not a bit of good talking like that. In that case she might be a good mental medium, but not a physical one.'

MR. BOIS: 'At the moment we are only talking about physical phenomena.'

MR. PRICE: 'The whole thing is very interesting. But there is nobody who will accept these things as abnormal.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I am quite agreeable to any test. I want to know the truth. I am not a spiritualist.'

MR. BOIS: 'Now, the thing is whether we are going to drop the whole thing or not.'

MR. DUNCAN: 'I say if you can prove that these things are produced either by regurgitating or other fraudulent means, it proves that B. [mentioning a certain person] is right.'

MR. PRICE: 'What has B. to do with it?'



MR. DUNCAN: 'He says that Margery, Eva C., and Rudi Schneider are frauds.'

MR. PRICE: 'No, that is wrong. Mrs. Duncan and Rudi Schneider are not in the same street. Rudi produced phenomena under electric control at a distance of several feet from him. I have never heard that he considers him to be a fraud, or that he knows anything at all about it.'

(It was decided to have another sitting on July 2nd, with the medium held by two persons, a net over her head, and taped to the chair.)

(Signed) ETHEL BEENHAM.

N.B.—Without informing the National Laboratory, the Duncans left for Leith on Tuesday, June 23rd, 1931.



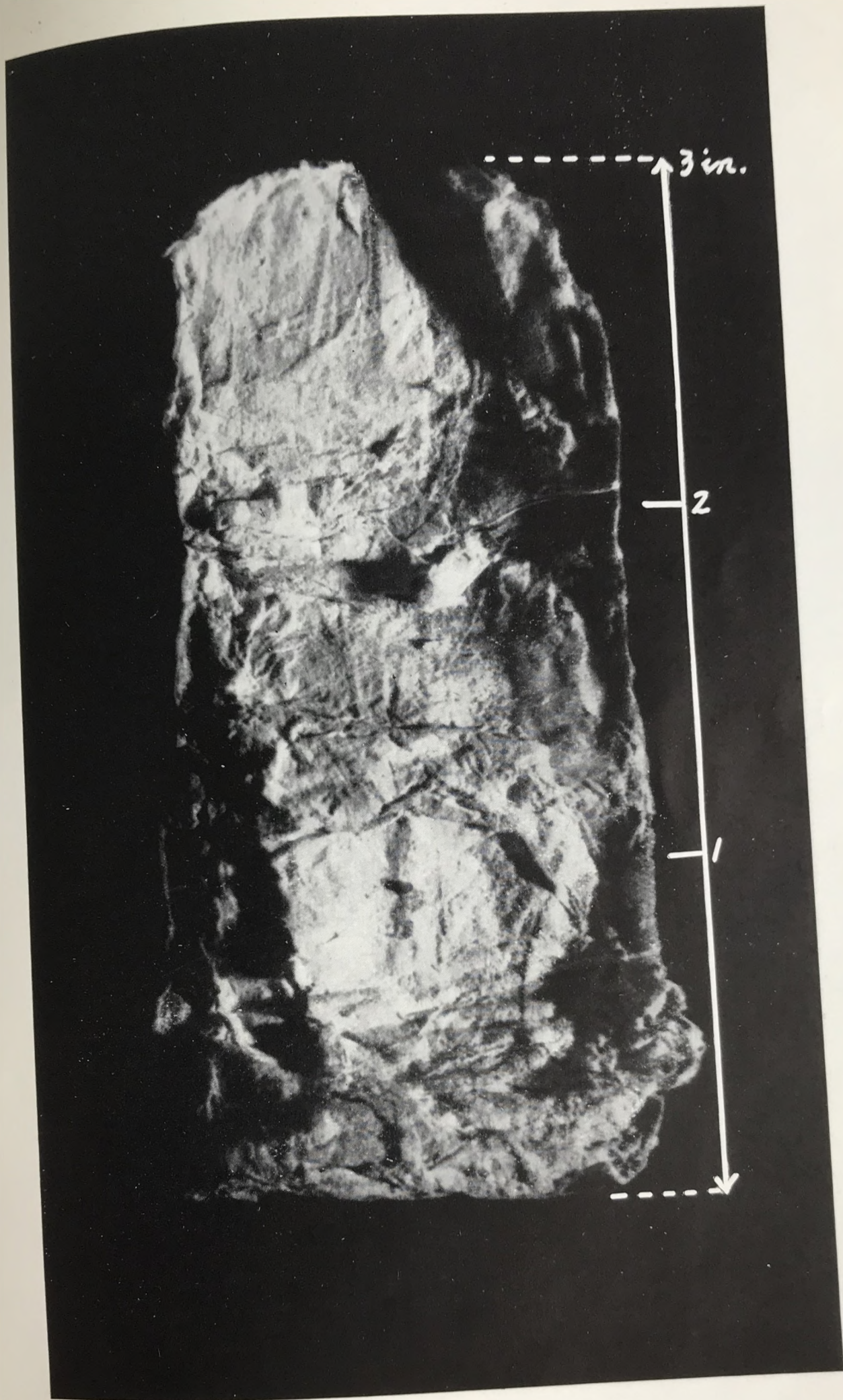
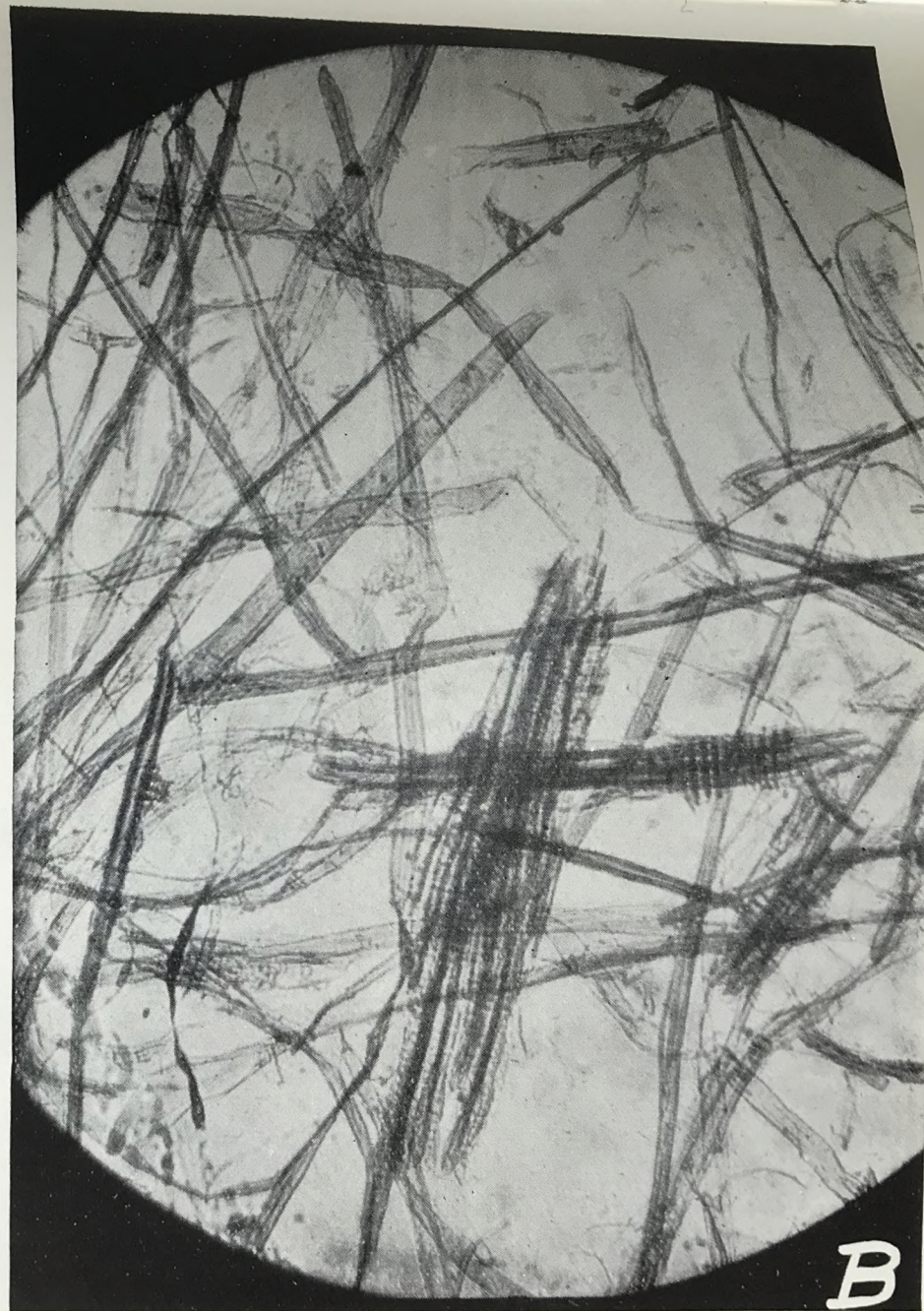


PLATE XXVI  
Piece of 'teleplasm' (enlarged), consisting of ordinary paper, secured from Mrs. Duncan at fifth *séance*. See photomicrographs, Plate XXVII, and analyst's report, p. 78





**A**



**B**

PLATE XXVII

Photomicrographs (x 120) of *A*, the paper 'teleplasm' secured from Mrs. Duncan on June 4th, 1931, and *B*, control mixture of 60% chemical and 40% mechanical wood pulp. The fibres, medullary rays, etc., are identical in both photographs



## APPENDIX C

### LIST OF SITTERS WHO EXAMINED THE DUNCAN MANIFESTATIONS

- \*Mr. William Bacon, B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., M.I.Chem.E. (analyst)
- \*Mr. H. G. Bois  
Mr. Booker (radiologist)
- \*Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P.
- \*Mr. Guy B. Brown
- \*Captain the Hon. Victor Cochran Baillie
- \*Mr. H. E. Dennis  
Mr. Henry Duncan (husband of the medium)
- \*Professor Dr. J. C. Flügel
- \*Professor D. F. Fraser-Harris, B.Sc. (Lond.), M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.E.
- \*Mrs. A. Peel Goldney  
Mr. A. Peel Goldney  
Mrs. Edmund Goldney
- \*Mr. I. C. Gröndahl  
Mr. Felix Hartman
- Mr. H. L. Hervey, I.C.S.
- \*Mr. E. W. Janson, M.A.  
Mrs. Macleod
- \*Professor Dr. William McDougall, F.R.S.  
Mr. Minns (radiologist)
- \*Mr. Harry Price
- \*Mrs. Clarice Richards  
Mr. Barry Richards  
Mr. Norman Richards
- \*Mrs. J. G. Robertson
- \*Captain H. W. Seton-Karr  
Dr. X. (analyst)  
Dr. X. (obstetrician)  
Dr. Z. (physician)

The Secretary (Miss Ethel Beenham) attended every *séance* in order to prepare the protocol.

---

\*Members of the London Group of the International Research Council.



## APPENDIX D

### REPORT BY DR. X., M.D., F.R.C.S., OF ——— HOSPITAL, CONCERNING HIS EXAMINATION OF THE MEDIUM AT THE FIFTH *SÉANCE*, THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH, 1931.

The medium was a stout, middle-aged, Scotch woman, who appeared to be no different from any normal person to talk to. She stripped, and after removing my coat and rolling up my sleeves, I examined her.

Her hair was cut to a length of about four inches or so. I felt it and combed it. I examined both ears. The nose was examined and nothing abnormal was seen. The throat and naso-pharynx were examined with negative results. A brisk palate reflex was present.

The mouth and teeth were examined, and also the floor of the mouth.

When the mouth was closed, and she was asked to inhale deeply, there was no evidence of any respiratory obstruction; a very clear and satisfactory air-way was present.

The axillæ, folds under the breasts, groins, buttocks and perineum were all examined.

Vaginal examination revealed nothing abnormal; the uterus was small and anteverted, the cervix small and scarred—a normal multiparous cervix. Rectal examination revealed nothing, except some soft foecal matter. The hands and feet were examined. Her pulse rate was 84.

The *séance* suit was examined, and nothing was found. Mrs. Duncan assisted the examination in every possible way, and offered no difficulties to any examination. She apparently was entering the trance during the examination, but was easily roused by speaking loudly, and telling her that it was too soon. She refused the offer of a drink to refresh her.

Tapes were tied round the ankles, and she was led to her chair. She lay back in it, with her arms resting on the supports. Her breathing became slower and heavier and she apparently passed into a trance.

The curtains were closed, the lights lowered. An announcement was made by the 'controlling spirit' of his presence, that the audience would witness some phenomena, and that they would have something to take away.

After some slight noises, the curtains were parted, apparently by the medium's hands, and revealed in the dim light was the medium. Her head seemed to be bent slightly forward, the mouth partly open, and hanging out of it a greyish-white material, two inches or so wide, and about a foot in length.

After a short interval, the curtains closed, and a little later a statement was made by the 'spirit' to the effect that a piece of this material could be cut off when the permission was given.

The word was given and I parted the curtains. The appearance of the medium was the same as before, but only about two inches of the material was projecting from her mouth.

I took the material in my left hand. It was hot, moist, of firm, slightly



elastic consistency, and thickly covered by saliva. It appeared to be closely applied to her protruding tongue, and towards the end of it, where unsupported by the tongue, was bending by its own weight.

In the dark, and owing to fear on my part of cutting her tongue, I missed the material when attempting to divide it with the scissors.

The material then moved as if an attempt were being made to withdraw it. I maintained a firm hold with my left hand, and a piece tore away and parted in much the same manner as sodden paper tears. The end protruding was *double*.

I was asked almost at once after taking the material to examine the medium's mouth. This I did, but discovered nothing.

Later, I was asked to look at the medium. Her right nostril had a thin trickle of blood coming from it. This was wiped away.

The 'controlling spirit' interrupted a whispered conversation, which I was holding with Dr. William Brown. He said, 'No matter how low you speak, I can always hear.' He was immediately asked what had been said, but there was no reply.

Later, Mr. Harry Price repeated the question, but there was no reply.

In my opinion, Mrs. Duncan could not have heard what was said, but might very easily have been conscious that someone was whispering.

Later, the medium requested further attention, as her nose was bleeding again. Before the blood could be wiped away, the medium's own hand was raised and the trickle of blood wiped away, and then the hand smeared it over her face. This suggested to me that the medium, or her 'controlling spirit', was conscious of normal cutaneous sensation and could appreciate the sensation of blood trickling over the skin.

Later, when the lights were raised, the medium came out of the trance very quickly. Her eyes rolled about wildly in all directions, and she started to fling her arms about. She was spoken to loudly, and soon became normal.

The only examination carried out was an examination of the nose and pharynx. There was a small bleeding point on the anterior part of the septum, just inside the right nostril. There was no blood visible in the pharynx or mouth. (Attention had previously been drawn by the medium to the fact that blood was trickling down the back of her throat.)

She had a suppurating hæmatoma  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter over the outer aspect of the lower quarter of the right forearm. This injury was some days' old and later on in the evening the abscess was opened.

At no time during the evening did I feel that I was in contact with, or witnessing, the supernormal.



## APPENDIX E

### IMPRESSIONS OF TWO *SÉANCES* WITH MRS. DUNCAN, HELD ON MAY 28TH, 1931, AND JUNE 4TH, 1931 By Professor D. F. Fraser-Harris, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.E.

*Fourth séance, May 28th, 1931.* At the kind invitation of Mr. Harry Price, I was one of a number of persons who were associated in the scientific investigation of a 'medium' of (alleged) 'great power'.

The investigation, which was of the most strictly rigorous description, took place in the *séance*-room of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research.

The cabinet in which the medium sat is really a recess behind a pair of heavy curtains. The small company sat on chairs arranged in horse-shoe fashion, so that each one of us could look into the cabinet when the curtains were drawn. On the first occasion when I was there the husband of the medium was one of the company.

By 8.50 the medium had undressed and was clothed in a one-piece garment of black satin which covered her hands and feet. The individual fingers were provided with no spaces as they are in gloves. As soon as this garment had been stitched up the back, Mrs. Duncan entered the cabinet and without more ado went off into the spontaneous 'trance', by which I mean she was not hypnotized by anyone present.

The curtains were drawn, the red lights turned down, and all we could hear was some loud and heavy breathing.

For a time nothing happened; then someone said 'Albert is speaking' or something to that effect. 'Albert' asked for the gramophone to be put on, but it was soon stopped and we were all at attention to catch whatever might be said by the 'control'. The notes taken by Mr. Price's secretary will show exactly what was said, but, so far as my impression goes, nothing of any consequence could be made out. I should say that 'vague trivialities' summed it up.

One thing was interesting and significant: whereas the voice of Mrs. Duncan has a very pronounced South Scottish accent, the voice of 'Albert' was certainly not Scottish in character. It was of a drawling, rather affected kind. Almost all the conversation (such as it was) between the medium and the group was carried out between 'Albert' and Mr. Price. The medium's husband addressed 'Albert' a few times.

Presently the curtains were seen to be moving; the gramophone was at once stopped, and the curtains seemed to be pulled aside from within, but only to a small extent. In the feeble light, all we could see was the black seated figure of Mrs. Duncan from whom hung down a white material, having even in that poor light and at that distance a close resemblance to what is called 'butter muslin'.

As had been previously arranged, the so-called 'ectoplasm' or 'teleplasm' was to be photographed, so that after the curtains were pulled more widely



apart, Mr. Price, with the aid of a powerful flash light, took four photographs of this mysterious substance during the evening, and 'Albert' resumed his drawling and disjointed communications.

One of these was more to the point than the rest for it indicated that all was not going well (in a physical sense) with the medium. Upon the curtains being pulled aside, the woman's face and forehead were seen to be smeared with blood. That this was the genuine, familiar substance was proved by Dr. William Brown being able to wipe some of it off with a handkerchief. Dr. Brown, with the aid of an electric torch, satisfied himself that the blood was nasal in origin and was not proceeding from the mouth or pharynx.

The *séance* was now virtually over; but as it had been arranged to have an X-ray photograph taken, the medium was asked to lie down on a settee placed underneath the vacuum tube of the X-ray apparatus. This Mrs. Duncan seemed very unwilling to do. She sat perspiring on the settee in a state of considerable agitation and seemed determined not to submit to this last test. She was offered the usual cup of tea, which she refused.

Several times she tried to rise and leave the room which was not easy as the bulky X-ray apparatus surrounded her. Her agitation increased with every request that she should lie down for the X-ray photograph; until at last she sprang to her feet, struck her husband a violent blow on the face, and fled from the house.

In summing up my conclusions, it must be remembered that this was the first *séance* I had ever attended, so that I hardly knew what to expect:

1. I should be inclined to say that the voice of the hypothetical 'Albert' was Mrs. Duncan's voice altered by long practice so as to be unrecognizable.

2. That the woman had acquired the capability of concealing somewhere within her body—in posterior nares (which communicate with the pharynx), stomach or œsophageal pouch—a sufficient quantity of very thin muslin which, if she is given sufficient time, she can produce and arrange in front of her, and also later withdraw it into her mouth.

3. That the bleeding was (a) produced either to impress us, or (b), was produced in connection with the manipulations necessary to get the muslin fixed in her nostril.

4. That she was greatly embarrassed at the close of the *séance* because she was not able at once to get rid of something which she was concealing in some uncomfortable manner.

*Fifth séance, June 4th, 1931.* This *séance* was much shorter, and from one point of view much less satisfactory. The medium was, as before, undressed and sewn up in the special black dress. She went at once behind the curtains, and there seemed to me much less preliminary heavy breathing. 'Albert' seemed a long time in coming forward or downward or upward or whatever the correct expression is. When the voice was heard at last, it seemed rather dissatisfied in tone and as though proceeding from a person embarrassed and ill at ease.

'Albert' in fact indicated that little or nothing of an important or interesting nature was to happen that night.

It should be here noted that Mrs. Duncan's husband was, by special arrangement, *not* present in the company.

At last the curtains began to move, and on being pulled wider apart



revealed the portly form of the medium with a few inches of some white material protruding from her mouth and covering her lower lip.

This so-called 'teleplasm' had been previously only photographed, but to-night 'Albert' promised that a piece should be cut off for examination. Accordingly, Dr. X., with a pair of surgical scissors, advanced towards the cabinet, a movement which the medium seemed to resent.

Dr. X., however, having his duty to perform, laid hold with his left hand of the wet, slimy substance and prepared to cut it across with his right hand. As he attempted to cut, the medium gave a shrill scream and drew her head back quickly, with the result that the stuff tore off in Dr. X.'s hand. The piece was promptly placed in a stoppered bottle of absolute alcohol. Dr. X. said that it felt like 'tearing through a pancake'.

As nothing was happening either vocal or visible, Mr. Price in a kindly voice implored 'Albert' to do his best. He reminded 'Albert' that much was expected of him by the company, which included some distinguished people who at some inconvenience had come to the *séance* that evening.

But 'Albert' refused to be encouraged; the helplessness of thwarted purpose seemed to have settled like an incubus on that gentle spirit. For although not exactly inarticulate, he uttered only indistinct and uninforming platitudes.

Several times he indicated to us that in spite of all our great expectations, his part of the performance was to be, in the language of the day, a 'wash-out.' Yet again did Mr. Price speak imploringly; but it was all to no purpose. We sat in the feeble red light staring at the curtains. At last they began to move and we could hear 'Albert's' distressed voice announce: 'She is in an awful mess here.'

Assuming that this referred to the blood now to be seen as before on the medium's face, Dr. X. wiped some of it off with his handkerchief. All trace of 'teleplasm' had disappeared.

Next day (June 5th), I called at the Laboratory and had very little difficulty in preparing a microscopic specimen of the 'teleplasm'. I tore it easily asunder with a couple of needles in glycerol. Under low and under high power it had all the appearance of fine filter paper or blotting-paper: a piece of each of these similarly prepared was indistinguishable from the 'teleplasm'. The specimens were duly labelled and dated.

On June 12th I called again at the Laboratory and put up in Canada balsam a 'permanent' specimen of the 'teleplasm' which by that time had been found, upon analysis, to be a common, thin paper.

As long ago as 1777 a young Dr. Stevens investigated in Edinburgh a 'fire eater' or 'salamander'<sup>1</sup> who swallowed objects and regurgitated them. Dr. Stevens got gastric juice along with the regurgitated objects. In this way Stevens proved that the juice digested meat. The account of it is in Stevens's thesis for M.D.: *De alimentorum concoctione* (1777).

(Signed) D. FRASER-HARRIS, M.D.

---

<sup>1</sup>Probably Robert Powel, mentioned by Strutt in *Sports and Pastimes of the People of England*, London, 1801. Powel (to whom Sir Hans Sloane, on behalf of the Royal Society, handed a purse of gold and a silver medal, March 4th, 1751) was before the public from 1718 to 1780. H.P.



## APPENDIX F

### IMPRESSIONS OF TWO SEANCES WITH MRS. DUNCAN, HELD ON MAY 4TH, 1931, AND MAY 28TH, 1931 By Professor Dr. William McDougall, F.R.S.

Having been present at two sittings with the medium, Mrs. Duncan, at the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, on the invitation of Mr. Harry Price, I record that my impression during and after the sittings was that the whole performance was fraudulent. The manner of secreting and producing, for exposure in red light, the material claimed as teleplasm was not clear to me.

On the first occasion I suspected an *œsophageal diverticulum*; on the second, Dr. William Brown's observations led me to suppose the material might have been packed in the nostrils and nasal cavities.

My general comment is, that here is another case which justifies the general principle that, when the general procedure and circumstances demanded by the medium are such as suggest fraud and favour fraud, the observer is justified in regarding the phenomena as fraudulent—even if he is not able to suggest any plausible explanation of the phenomena; and, still less, to demonstrate the truth of any hypothesis he may entertain as to the manner of their fraudulent production.

July 12th, 1931

(Signed) WILLIAM MCDUGALL.



## APPENDIX G

IMPRESSIONS OF THREE SEANCES WITH MRS. DUNCAN,  
HELD ON MAY 14TH, MAY 28TH, AND JUNE 4TH, 1931  
By Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P.

88, Harley Street, W.1.  
*August 15th, 1931*

Dear Mr. Price,

During the three sittings with Mrs. Duncan in which, through your courtesy, I was able to take part in May and June last, I never for one moment felt that the phenomena she produced were supernormal.

The so-called 'ectoplasm' or 'teleplasm' which she seemed to produce (behind closed curtains) in the first two sittings was apparently a long strip of light fabric, which she may have previously swallowed and then regurgitated, or—more probably—have concealed during the previous search by clever prestidigitation. On the third and last occasion the preliminary search of the medium was exceptionally thorough, and on this occasion, as I anticipated, she produced nothing more than a very short piece of stuff which was probably regurgitated paper.

At the close of the second sitting in which I took part her behaviour was extremely suspicious and just such as might have been expected if she were afraid of detection and wished to evade a thorough search. She became apparently hysterical and violent and dashed out into the street. She only calmed down after she had been left for a moment alone with her husband, and then returned. I was not convinced that her hysterical condition was a genuine hysterical attack.

Nothing that I saw would have led me to attribute to her any supernormal or 'psychic' power whatever.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) WILLIAM BROWN.

THE END



# INDEX

N.B.—Names of real or alleged mediums are printed in small capitals, trance personalities or 'controls' in heavy type, and publications are in italics.

- Adelphi, 48  
 Adhesive tape, for binding, 18, 21, 24  
**'Albert Stewart'** (medium's alleged control):  
   story of earth life, 11  
   likes much light, 17  
   voice compared to Mose's, 18  
   complains of medium being tightly bound, 18  
   knows what is going on, 23  
   is sarcastic, 27  
   asks Mr. Price to shake hands, 42  
   speaks into dictaphone, 45, 58  
   says he will 'make a face', 57  
   whispers, 59  
   gives circle a piece of 'teleplasm', 70  
   complains of teleplasm being pulled, 70  
   says he can hear everything, 71, 74  
   reproves Mrs. Goldney, 74  
   his 'voice' discussed, 84, 108  
 Albumin in 'teleplasm', 78, 88-95  
 Albuminoid type of Duncan 'teleplasm', analysis of, 87-95  
 Alcohol, absolute, 40, 55, 70, 75, 91, 110  
 Alexander and Mose, radio comedians, 18  
 Analysis of paper 'teleplasm', 75-78;  
   of albuminoid 'teleplasm', 87-95  
 Anilin dyes used in analysis, list of, 90-95  
 Arm-chair, front legs of, raised, 40  
 Artificial silk, 23  
 Augsburg, Bavaria, 29  
 'Automatism of the will', 82, 98, 100, 103  
 Avignon, France, 48  
  
 Bacon, Mr. William, 76, 77, 78  
 Baillie, Captain the Hon. V. Cochran, 16, 20, 41, 56  
 Baker, Messrs. C., microscopists, 88-95  
 Barnum and Bailey's show, 49  
 Bayonet swallowing, 49  
 BEARE, CHARLES ALBERT, pseudo medium, 11  
 Beenham, Miss Ethel (Secretary), 15, 19, 24, 31, 33, 45, 56, 60, 72, 82, 96  
 Berlin, 49  
 Blackpool Police Court, 49  
 Blaise de Manfré, famous regurgitator, 48  
 Blue pencil, surgeon's, use of, 21  
 Bois, Mr. H. G., 15, 16, 17; gets impression of latex, 18, 22; 31, 35, 41, 42; sees a hand, 44; 45, 46, 56, 57, 59, 60, 65, 67, 79, 80, 96-104  
 Booker, Mr., radiologist, 56, 61  
 Bosco, snake swallower, 49  
 Boston Herald, 49  
 Bradley, Mr. Dennis, 11  
  
 Brown, Dr. William, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62; wishes to search Mr. Duncan, 62, 63; 66, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 83, 107, 109, 111; impressions of 'phenomena', 112  
 Brown, Mr. Guy B., 70  
 Burn-like marks on medium, 27, 34, 43, 44, 46, 47, 84  
  
 Callender, Scotland, 11  
 Cambridge Union, 84  
 Camera used, description of, 30  
 Chain swallower, 49  
 'Chevalier Cliquot', sword swallower, 49  
 Clifford, Mlle. Edith, sword swallower, 49  
 Cost of Duncan investigation, 4  
 Cozbie, Thomas, 48  
 Crêpe de Chine, 23  
  
*Daily Express*, 11  
 Dallmeyer's 'Carfac' lenses, 30  
*De alimentorum concoctione*, 110  
 Dennis, Mr. H. E., 31, 41, 79, 96-104  
 Dictaphone records, 31, 39, 41; of Albert's voice, 45, 55, 56, 58  
 Duke University, U.S.A., 13  
 Duncan, Mr. Henry:  
   fees paid to, 4  
   details concerning, 11  
   requests an interview, 13  
   in circle, 16, 20, 31, 41, 56  
   remarks that medium never treads on teleplasm, 17  
   says 'Peggy Hazeldine' eats cakes, 17  
   says medium is depressed, 28  
   describes phenomena, 57, 65  
   refuses to be searched, 62, 63  
   absents himself from fifth *séance*, 69, 70, 72, 109  
   explains why he would not be searched, 73, 74, 100  
   describes three kinds of teleplasm, 76, 87, 96  
   meets the Council, 79, 96-104  
   makes some admissions, 79, 80, 96-104  
   receives an offer, 81-82  
   cannot tell 'genuine' teleplasm from Woolworth's, 82  
   says he examined medium, 98  
  
 DUNCAN, Mrs. HENRY:  
   details concerning, 11  
   arrival in London, 13  
   examined by Mrs. Goldney and Prof. McDougall, 13  
   uses her own *séance* garment, 14, 20  
   takes Mr. Price's hand, 17  
   comes out into circle, 22, 24, 44, 58  
   trance state of, 24



- DUNCAN, Mrs. HENRY:  
 burn-like marks on stomach, etc., 27,  
 34, 43, 44, 46, 47, 84  
 depressed and nervous, 28  
 is dressed in *séance* garment by Mrs.  
 Goldney, 31  
 sends Mr. Price her photograph, 39  
 is unwell, 39  
 examined by Mrs. Goldney, Mrs.  
 Robertson, and Mrs. Richards, 41, 44  
 is seen to remove her arm from *séance*  
 garment, 46, 66  
 her bleedings, 59, 66, 71, 72, 84, 107,  
 109, 110  
 is retching, 60  
 has hysterics, 61, 112  
 dashes into street, 61, 83, 108, 112  
 tears her *séance* garment, 62  
 is radiographed, 62  
 takes a dislike to Mrs. Goldney, 69  
 is examined by Dr. X., 69, 70, 106,  
 107  
 goes into hospital, 72  
 alleged dematerialization of, from  
*séance* garment, 84  
 examined by husband, 98
- Dundee, 11  
 Dupuytren, Baron Guillaume, 47  
 Dupuytren, Musée, 47
- Ecole de Médecine, Paris, 47  
 Edinburgh, 110  
 Eiffel Tower, 51  
 'English Jack', frog swallower, 49  
 EVA C. (French medium), 25, 43, 87, 98,  
 104  
*Evening Standard*, 49
- Falacie of the Great Water-Drinker  
 Discovered*, 48
- FALCONER brothers, Scotch photographic  
 'mediums', 11  
 Feilding, Hon. Everard, 48, 99  
 Flash-light photography, new system of,  
 29  
 Flügel, Prof. Dr. J. C., 30, 31, 32, 35,  
 36, 56, 61  
 Fore control, 13, 30, 40, 41, 55, 69,  
 106-7  
 Fraser-Harris, Prof. Dr. D. F., 47, 56,  
 61, 70; analyses 'teleplasm', 76, 77;  
 79, 83, 96-104; his impressions of the  
 'phenomena', 108-110  
 Fraud, Professor McDougall's remarks  
 concerning, 111  
 Frog swallowers, 48, 49
- Gangsters, American, use surgical  
 adhesive tape, 21  
 Gastric juice proved to digest meat  
 through regurgitator, 110  
 Gauze, fine, 23  
 Genital passages as hiding places, 25, 36,  
 40, 83
- Glove, rubber surgical, 45, 46, 51, 52,  
 53, 54, 97, 98  
 Godalming, 40  
 Goldfish, swallowing and regurgitating  
 of live, 48  
 Goldney, Mr. A. Peel, 56, 70  
 Goldney, Mrs. A. Peel, 13, 16; sees  
 safety-pin, 17, 23; 18, 27, 30, 31, 33,  
 41, 44; experiments with *séance*  
 garment, 46; 47, 52, 56, 59, 61, 62,  
 65, 69, 70, 71, 74, 81  
 Goldney, Mrs. Edmund, 70  
 Gossamer, 21, 23  
 'Grabbing' not countenanced by Labora-  
 tory officials, 4, 22  
 'Grand Boyeur de Tours, Le', 48  
 Griffith and Henfrey, 85  
 Gröndahl, Mr. I. C., 70, 79, 96-104  
 'Guildford rabbit-breeder', 40
- Hand, alleged teleplasmic, 41, 42, 44,  
 45, 46, 51-54, 59  
 Hartman, Mr. Felix, 41  
 Hatch, trunk-maker, 48  
 Hervey, Mr. H. L., 31, 41, 44, 47  
 Hollar, Wenceslaus, engraver, 48  
 Hooks, rubber-covered, for exploring  
 stomach, 49, 50  
 'Horse's hoof', 42, 46  
 Houdini, Harry (*i.e.*, Weiss, Ehrich),  
 American conjurer, 48, 49  
 Howard, Mr. John, 40  
 'Human ostriches', 49  
 Hyperæsthesia, suggested faculty of, 74
- Illustrations suffer from being repro-  
 duced, 9  
 Incident, an unfortunate, 27  
 Iron, in ferrous and ferric states, con-  
 tained in 'teleplasm', 23, 87-94
- 'Jack, English', frog-swallower, 49  
 Janson, Mr. E. W., 16  
 Johannesburg, 11  
 Julius Cæsar, 51
- Knife swallowers, 49  
 Kodak, Ltd., 14
- Latex, 18, 22  
 Leicester Fields, 40  
 Leicester Square, 40  
 Leith, 80, 104  
*Light*, 11, 79, 80, 83, 89, 100  
 Lighting arrangements, 30  
 Linen, 23  
 Lithophagers (stone-swallowers), 48  
 London Spiritualist Alliance, 96, 102  
 London University, 30
- Macfarlane, 11  
 Macleod, Mrs., 70, 71, 97  
 Malingering discussed, 47  
 Manfré, Blaise de, famous regurgitator, 48



- MARGERY (Mrs. L. R. G. Crandon),  
American medium, 11, 24, 104  
*Materialisations-Phänomene*, 87  
McDougall, Professor Dr. William,  
examines medium, 13; 14, 16; binds  
medium, 18; 22, 24 30, 56, 61, 84;  
impressions of 'phenomena', 111  
Medical examination of medium, 25, 30,  
33, 34, 36, 40, 62, 69, 70, 72, 106-7  
Medical importance of the Duncan case, 3  
Michelangelo, 20  
*Micrographic Dictionary*, 95  
Microscopic specimens of 'teleplasm',  
75-78, 87-95  
Minns, Mr., radiologist, 56, 61  
*Miracle Mongers and Their Methods*, 48  
*Morning Post*, 83  
Mose, Alexander and, radio comedians,  
18, 24  
Mowbray, Major C. H., 11  
München, 49, 87  
Muslin, 23
- Nasal cavity as suggested hiding-place,  
66, 83, 109, 111  
Negretti and Zambra's camera, 30  
Norton, French frog-swallower, 48, 49  
Nuremberg, 49
- Oesophageal diverticulum, 25, 47, 55,  
63, 109, 111  
Oesophagoscope, the, 73  
Old Globe Tavern, Craven St., Strand, 48  
Oxford, 30  
'Oxford accent', Albert's alleged, 24, 84,  
108
- Paper making, works on, cited, 77  
Paper 'teleplasm', 75, 76, 77, 78  
Paris, 85  
Paulian, Father, 48  
Peedle, Thomas, 48  
'Peggy Hazeldine' (medium's alleged  
control), 11, 17, 24, 35, 40, 57; is  
photographed, 57-60, 65, 67, 68; 74, 79  
*Phenomena of Materialisation*, 87  
Photographic arrangements, 29  
Pouch, oesophageal, 25, 39, 47, 55, 63,  
64, 83, 109, 111  
Powel, Robert, famous regurgitator, 110  
Prague, 25, 48, 49  
Prater fair ground, Vienna, 48  
Price, Mr. Harry, 16; touches medium's  
hand, 17; feels teleplasm, 17; smells  
teleplasm, 18; binds medium, 18, 21;  
unbinds medium, 18; binds medium's  
eyes, 32; takes photographs of 'pheno-  
mena', 32, 33, 41, 42, 43, 57-59;  
explains dictaphone to Albert, 41;  
42, 43, 56, 61, 69, 70, 71, 72, 79;  
analyses 'albuminoid' teleplasm, 87-  
95; 96-104; 107, 108, 111  
Rabbits, Mary Toft delivered of, 40  
Radiographs of medium described, 62
- Razor-swallowers, 49  
Rectal examination, 30, 33, 40, 62, 69,  
70, 106-7  
Regurgitating school-mistress, story of,  
83  
Regurgitation;  
power of, 25  
of watch and chain, 25, 49  
derivation of word, 25  
of umbrella, 49  
discussed by Prof. Fraser-Harris, 47  
of live frogs and goldfish, 48, 49, 99  
of stones, 48, 49  
of snakes, swords and dumb-bells, 48,  
49  
silently, 79  
by a school-mistress, 83  
Regurgitators, famous, 25, 47, 48, 49,  
83, 110  
Reversed oesophageal peristalsis, 83  
Richards, Mr. Barry, 16; sees safety-  
pin, 17, 23; 31, 41, 52, 56, 60, 70  
Richards, Mr. Norman, 70  
Richards, Mrs. Clarice, 16; provides  
*séance* garment, 28; 31, 41, 42, 45,  
56, 59, 60, 70, 79, 96-104  
Richmond Theatre, 48  
Robertson, Mrs. J. G., 16, 31, 41, 56,  
61, 70, 79, 80, 96-104  
Royal Society, 110
- Safety-pin seen at *séance*, 17, 23, 51, 52,  
62, 69, 74, 98  
Salamanders or fire-eaters, 110  
SCHNEIDER, RUDI, Austrian medium, 4,  
16, 24, 85, 104  
SCHNEIDER, WILLI, Austrian medium, 24  
Schrenck-Notzing, Dr. A. Freiherr von,  
87  
*Séance* garment, description of, 28; ex-  
periments with, 46; torn to pieces, 62  
*Séance*-room, description of, 14; lighting  
arrangements, 14, 15; equipment of, 15  
Searching of medium (see 'Fore con-  
trol')  
Seton-Karr, Capt. H. W., 16, 20, 41,  
42, 56, 79, 96-104  
Shakespeare, William, 20  
*Short Narrative of an Extraordinary  
Delivery of Rabbits*, A, 40  
Silk, 23  
Sindall and Bacon, analysts, 76, 77, 78  
Sloane, Sir Hans, 110  
Snake-swallowers, 49  
Society for Psychical Research (London),  
87, 98  
Southcott, Joanna, and her 'box', 55  
Spoon-swallower, 49  
*Sports and Pastimes of the People of  
England*, 110  
St. André, Mr. Nathaniel, 40  
St. Thomas's Hospital, 72  
Stevens, Dr., 110  
Stockingette, 23



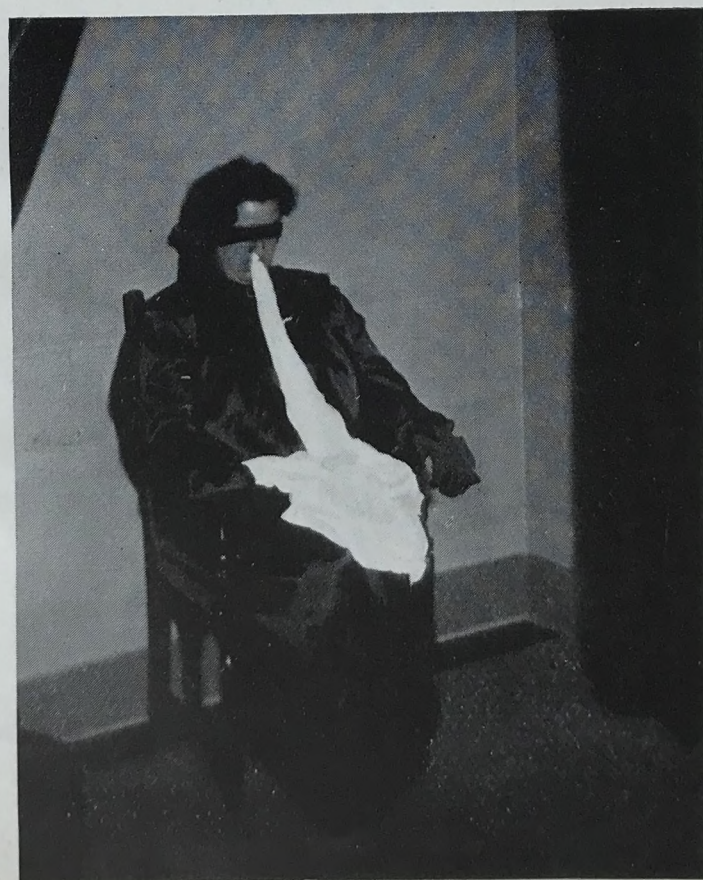
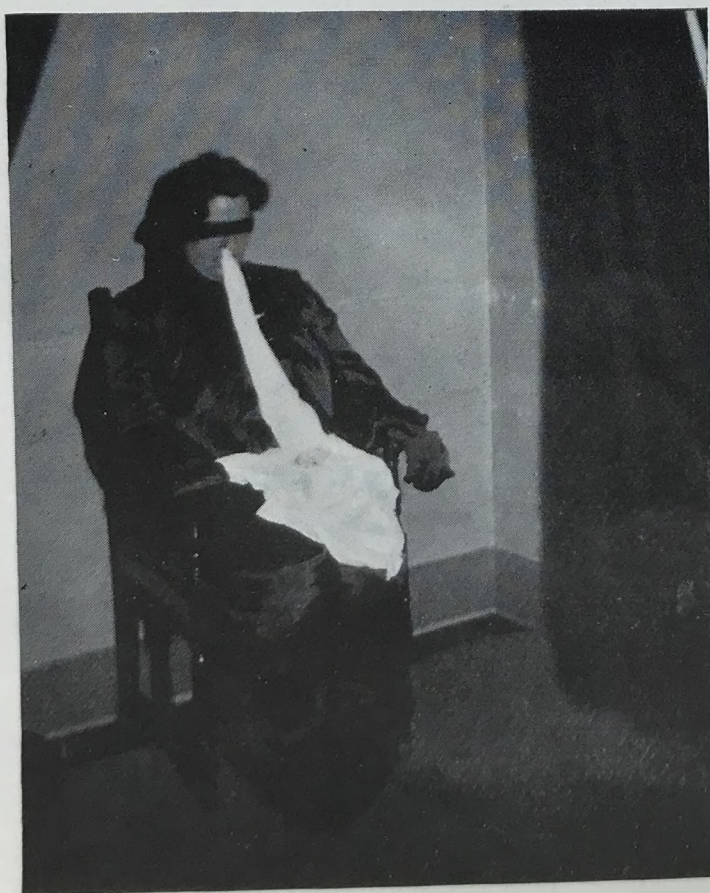
- Stomach camera, 49, 73  
 Stomach-pump, 39, 49, 73  
 Stomach, pseudo, 25, 39, 47, 55, 63, 64, 83, 109, 111  
 Stone-swallowers, 48  
 Strutt, Joseph, 110  
 Sulphate in 'teleplasm', 23, 87-95  
 Swallowers of frogs, chains, watches, umbrellas, snakes, fish, razors, stones, dumb-bells, etc., 48, 49  
 Sword-swallowers, 49  
 Sydney, N.S.W., 11
- Tactile impression of 'teleplasm', 22, 23  
 Teleplasm, alleged;  
   from mouth, 16, 17, 21, 31, 33, 58, 59  
   from nostril, 16, 17, 21, 31, 33, 57, 58  
   like an apron, 16  
   like a 'bridal veil', 17, 32  
   disappears into mouth, 17, 59, 65  
   hangs from chest, 17  
   like a shawl, 17  
   felt by Mr. Price, 17, 18, 47  
   from ear, 32, 37, 57  
   smelt by Mr. Price, 18  
   in long strand, 18, 25, 59  
   in circular mass, 18  
   like a large veil, 21, 68  
   appears transparent, 21  
   appears opaque, 21  
   in view for 1½ hours, 21  
   'like a petrified waterfall', 21  
   rises in jerks from floor, 21  
   is never trod upon by medium, 22  
   what it feels like, 22  
   tactile impression, 22, 23  
   difficult to determine its true colour, 22  
   albuminoid (Duncan) variety, 23  
   made of iron, sulphate, albumin, etc., 23, 88-95  
   like a stick, 23  
   has considerable strength, 23  
   can be penetrated by pin without damage, 23  
   theories concerning its secretion, 25  
   alleged shock to medium when interfered with, 28  
   request for it in two colours, 32  
   inspected by Dr. William Brown and Prof. Flügel, 36  
   rents in, 37, 38, 68  
   warp and weft plainly visible, 37, 38, 52, 53, 60  
   selvedge marks, 37, 38, 51, 52, 53, 68  
   tucked under medium's chin, 38  
   appearance of dirt marks, 38  
   incapable of being registered by X-rays, 39, 73  
   in festoon, 43, 44  
   appearance of being inflated, 44  
   as if hanging from a rod, 44  
   what happens when interfered with, 47  
   wrapped round a support, 51, 52  
   like a straight-edge, 52  
   showing loop, 53  
   as a tail, 53, 67  
   difficulty in photographing, 53  
   coming from both ears, 57  
   trailing on the ground, 58  
   disappears as through a hole, 59, 60  
   ceases when nose bleeds, 60, 66  
   crease marks, 38, 68  
   a piece is cut off by Dr. X., 70, 110  
   is made of paper, 73  
   is made of wood pulp, 75, 76  
   like tearing wad of damp paper, 75  
   details of piece secured, 75  
   examined by Prof. Fraser-Harris, 76, 110  
   examined by Mr. William Bacon, 76, 77, 78  
   Woolworth variety, 82  
   is made of white of egg, 87-95  
   microscopic slides of, 75-78, 87-95  
   synthetic albuminoid type, formula, 95  
 Time-clock for timing phenomena, description of, 15  
*Times, The*, 55  
 Toft, Mary, the 'Guildford rabbit breeder', 40  
 Tours, France, 48  
 Trance, appearance of medium in, 24, 84
- Umbrella swallower, 49
- Vagina, as a hiding-place, 25, 40, 83;  
   examination of, 25, 30, 33, 36, 40, 62, 69, 70, 106-7  
 VALIANTINE, GEORGE, American medium, 11  
 Victorina, sword swallower, 49  
 Vienna, 48  
 Voice box, alleged, 11
- 'Walter' (alleged control of Margery), 24  
 Wanley, 48  
 Warsaw, 48  
 Watch and chain regurgitated, 25, 49  
 Water spouters, 48  
 Watson & Sons, Ltd., X-ray technicians, 55, 61  
 Weight of medium, 11, 55  
 Wellington and Ward's plates, 30  
*Wonders of the Little World*, 48  
 Wood pulp teleplasm, 75, 76, 77, 78  
 Woolworth's cheese cloth, 82, 84  
 Wratten filters, series of, 30
- X., Dr., analyst, 88-95  
 X., Dr., surgeon, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75;  
   report on examination of medium, 106-7; 110  
 X-rays, 25, 39, 47, 49, 55, 56, 61-63;  
   psychological effect of, 63; 83, 100, 109
- Z., Dr., physician, 69, 70  
 Zeiss, Carl, stereoscope, 51, 67; objectives, 91, 92





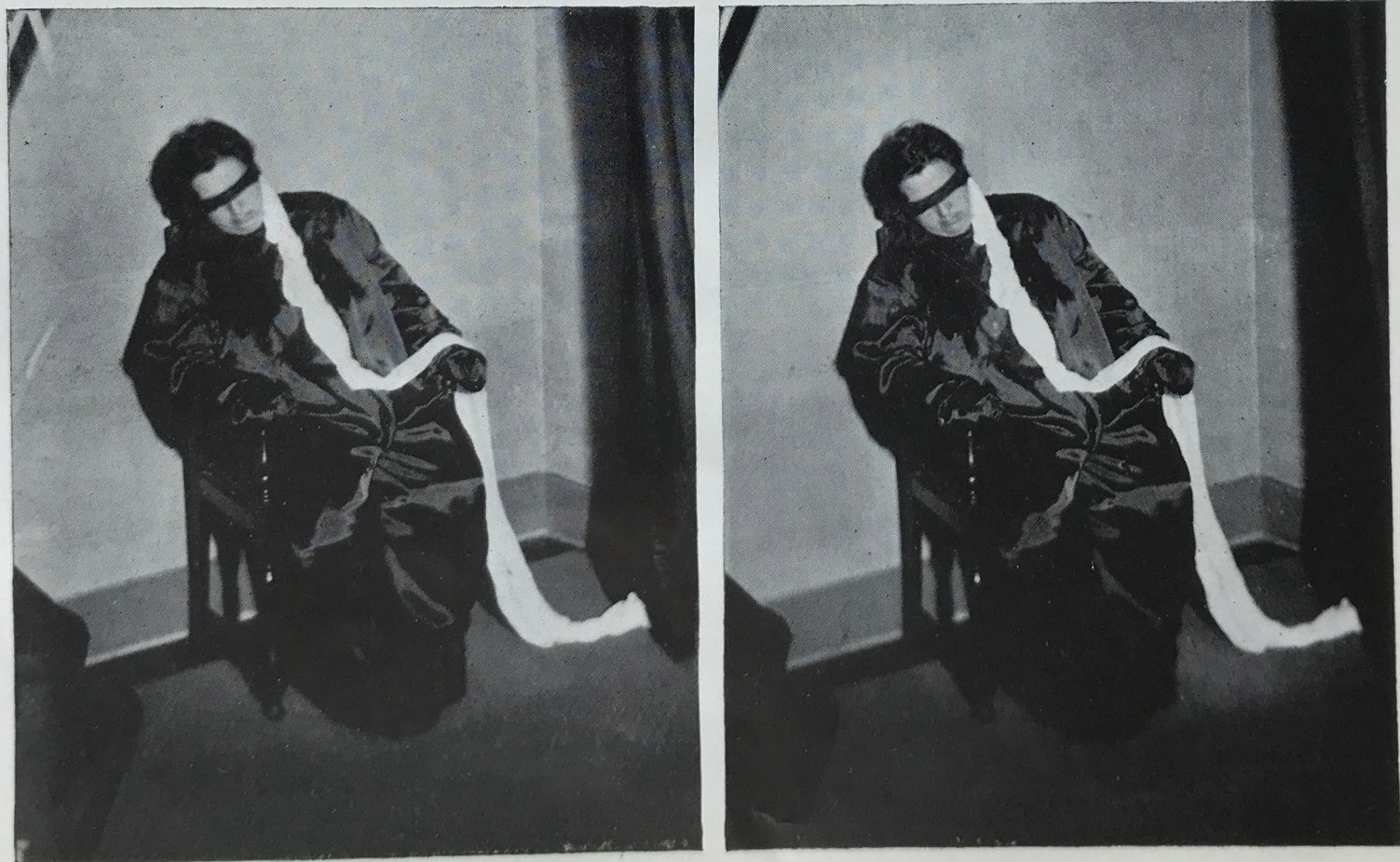
STEREOGRAM I (SECOND SEANCE)





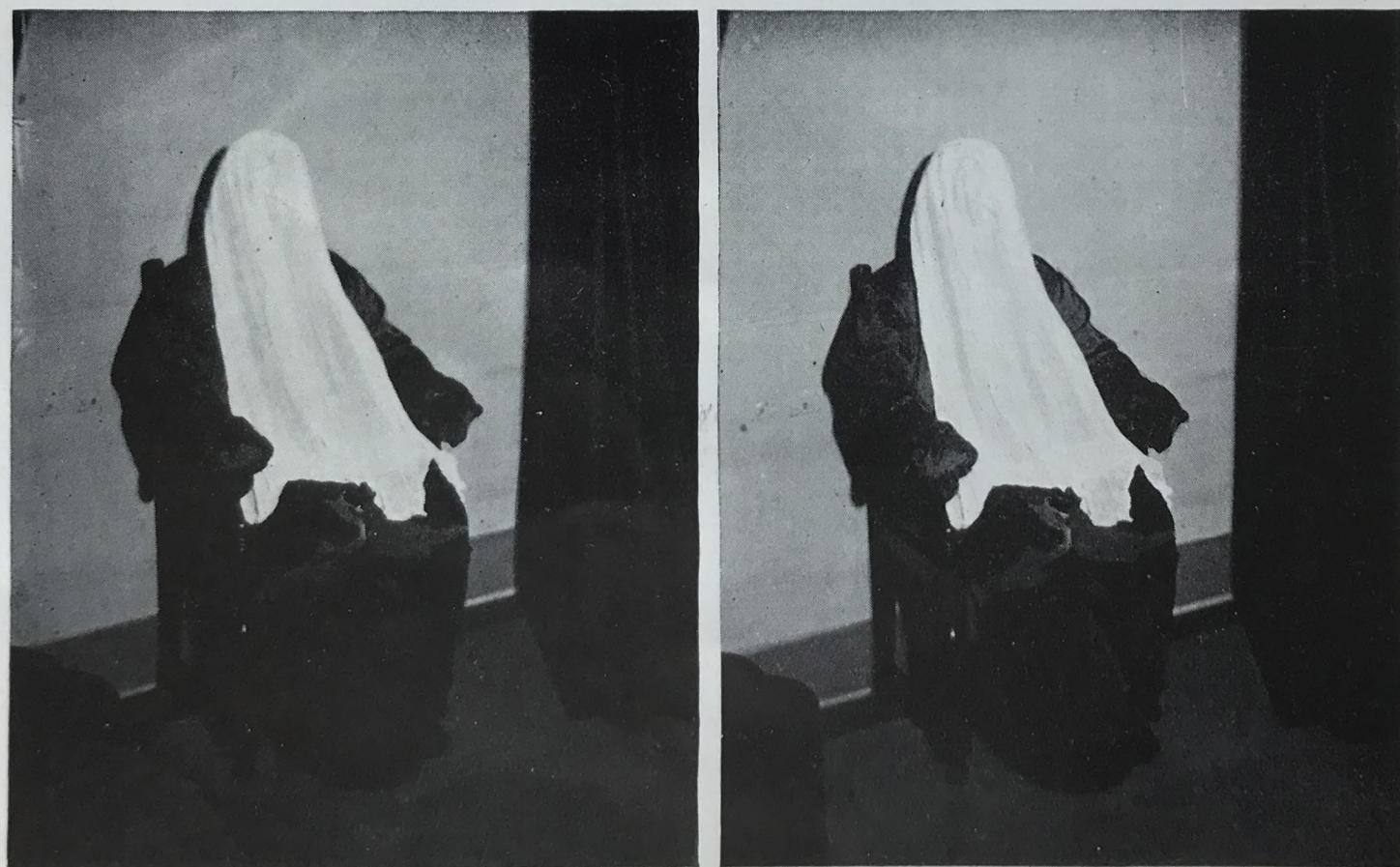
STEREOGRAM 2 (SECOND SEANCE)





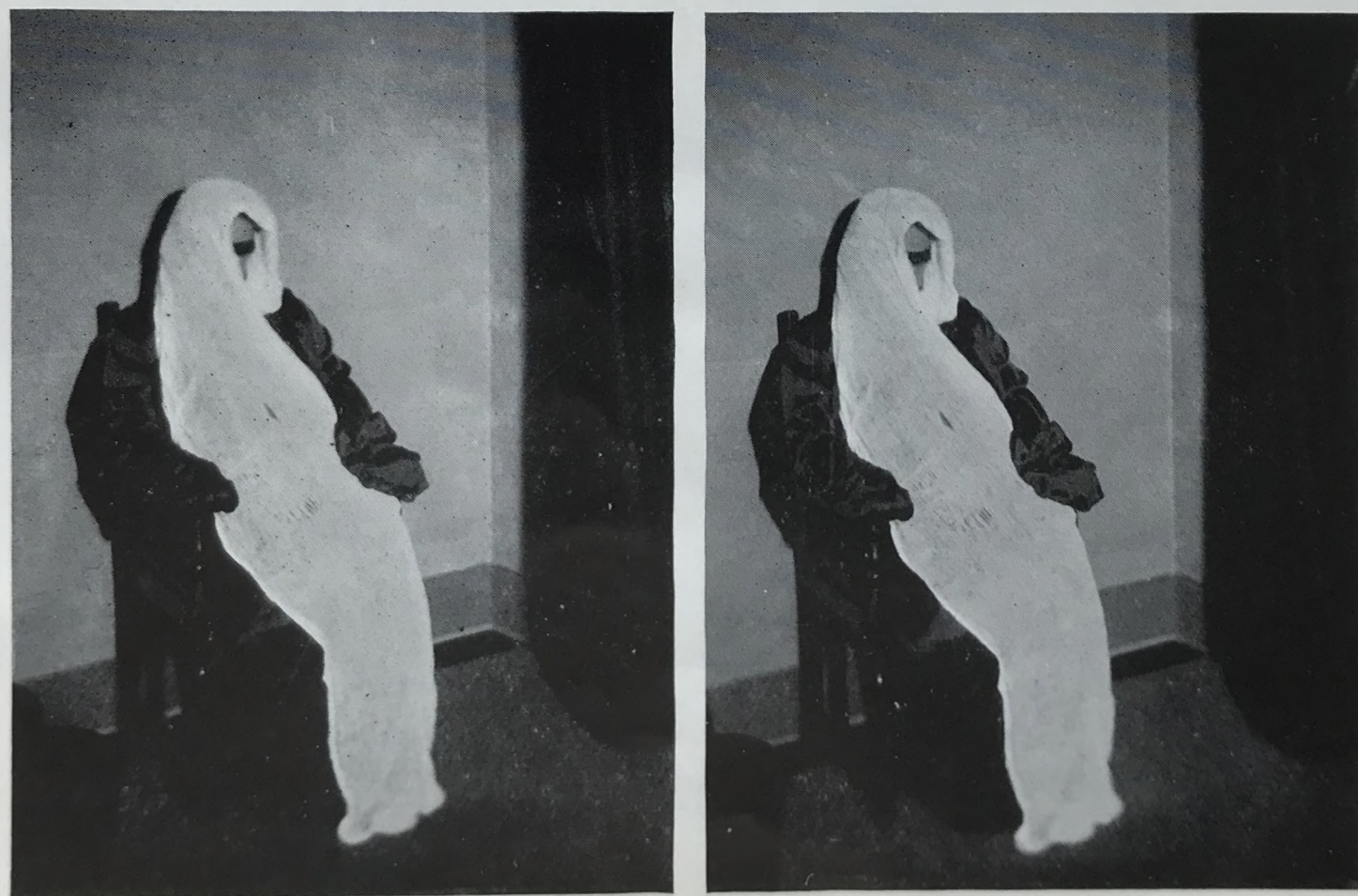
STEREOGRAM 3 (SECOND SEANCE)





STEREOGRAM 4 (SECOND SEANCE)





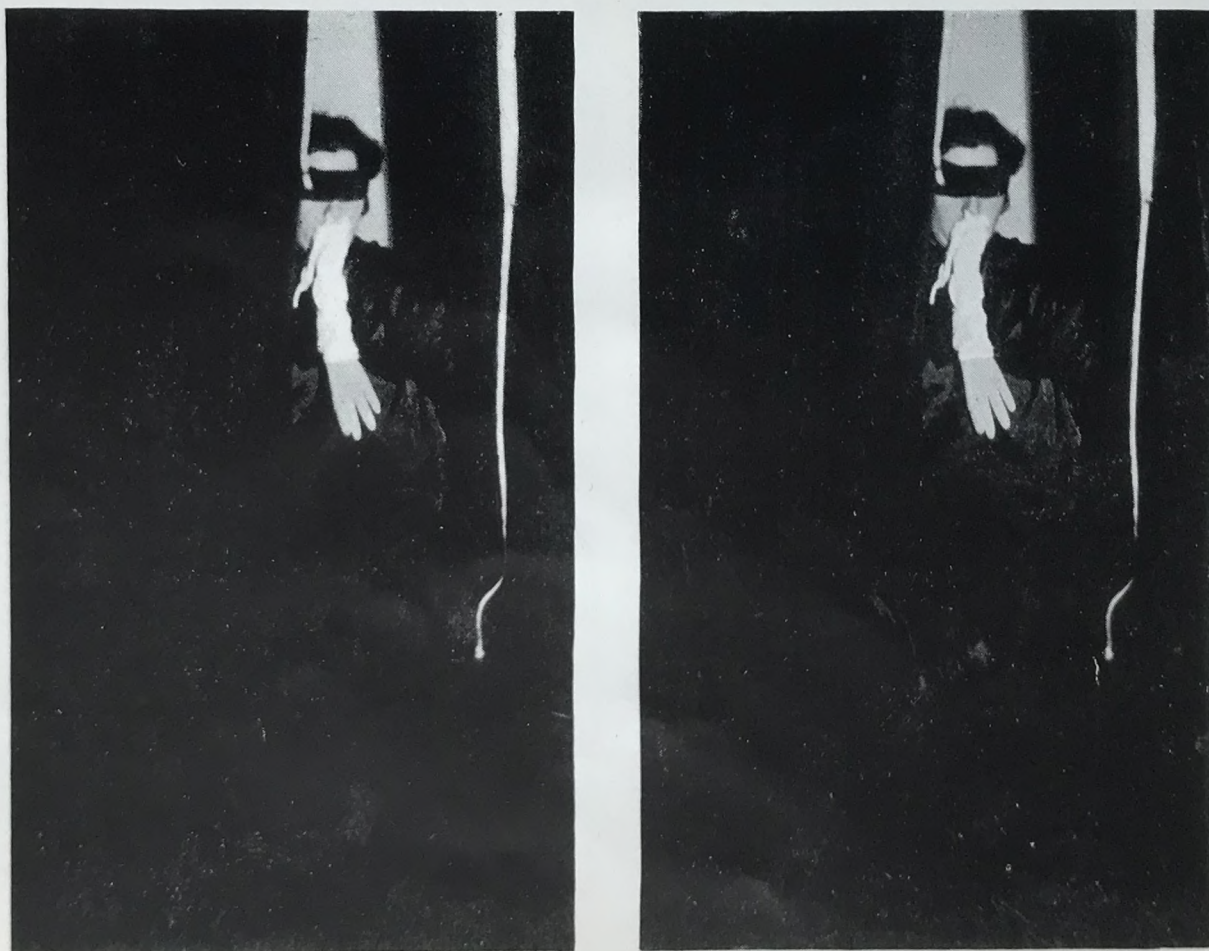
STEREOGRAM 5 (SECOND SEANCE)





CONTROL STEREOGRAM (WOOLWORTH'S CHEESE CLOTH) TO STEREOGRAM 5





STEREOGRAM 6 (THIRD SEANCE)





STEREOGRAM 7 (THIRD SEANCE)





STEREOGRAM 8 (THIRD SEANCE)





STEREOGRAM II (FOURTH SEANCE)





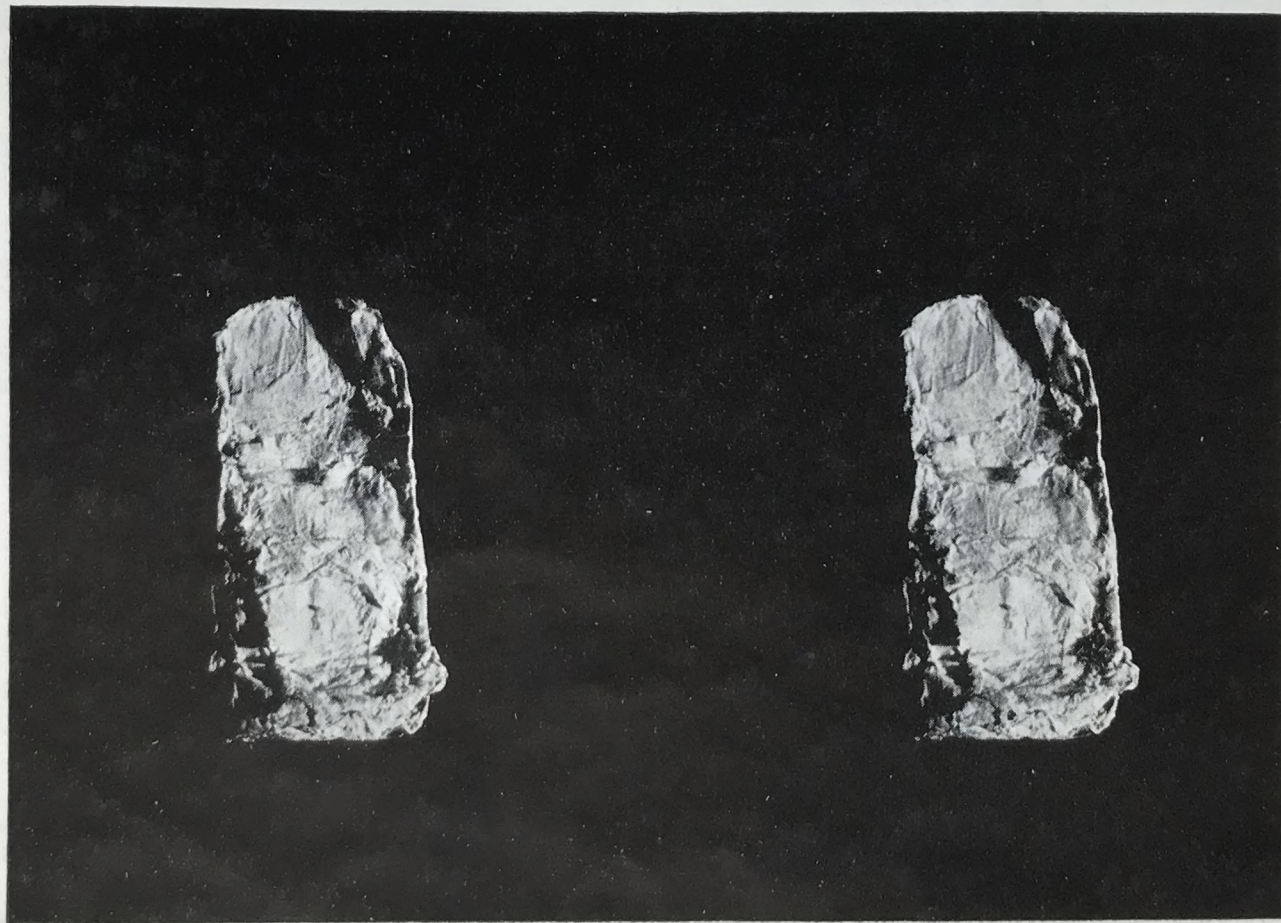
STEREOGRAM 12 (FOURTH SEANCE)





STEREOGRAM 13. (FOURTH SEANCE)





STEREOGRAM OF PAPER 'TELEPLASM' (FIFTH SEANCE)



# THE NATIONAL LABORATORY of PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

---

The National Laboratory of Psychical Research was founded in 1925 to investigate in a dispassionate manner and by purely scientific means, every phase of psychic or alleged psychic phenomena.

## AN INVITATION

It is incumbent upon an organisation founded for the study of psychic phenomena to provide facilities for experimentation and study, and to supply information dealing with every phase of the subject. It has been decided, therefore, that there shall be a large Honorary Membership of the National Laboratory, and those interested in the scientific side of the subject are invited to apply for an Honorary Membership Pass. The possession of this Pass will provide the holder with the following facilities, *gratis*:

The use of research library,<sup>1</sup> laboratory, workshop, etc.

The use of *séance*-room, dark-room, etc., for private experiments.

The use of reading-room, periodicals, etc.

An address to which Members' correspondence can be forwarded.

A meeting place for Members.

A bureau where Members can be put in touch with mediums of good repute.

A centre where information concerning psychic subjects can be obtained.

The services of an international organisation of Foreign Corresponding Members to whom letters of introduction will be issued.

The attendance at such meetings or lectures as may be held in the Rooms of the Laboratory.

Facilities for borrowing lantern slides.

In short, the Laboratory organisation will be at the disposal of those interested in psychical research, who hold the Honorary Membership Pass.

Honorary Members will be invited to participate in such *séances* with mediums as will not interfere with the work of the Research Council. Those attending these *séances* will pay only their fair share of the cost of such investigation. It is hoped to give Honorary Members opportunities of sitting with famous mediums. In the case of mediums engaged for demonstration purposes, the whole of the fees received from sitters will be paid direct to the medium.

Those wishing to apply for Honorary Membership should send their full names and addresses, in block letters, with titles, degrees, etc., and telephone number (if any). Honorary Members will be elected annually, but a Pass will be issued only on the condition that its cancellation can be effected at any time, without previous notice, at the discretion of the Administration. An Honorary Member calling at the Laboratory will at all times receive a sympathetic and cordial welcome. Members meet on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding July and August) at 8 p.m.

---

<sup>1</sup>A Catalogue of ten thousand volumes of the National Laboratory Collection of books, tracts, broadsides, etc., has been published. A further one thousand volumes are indexed, though not catalogued.

**The National Laboratory is supported entirely by Donations  
which are earnestly solicited.**



---

# RUDI SCHNEIDER:

## A SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION ∴ OF HIS ∴ MEDIUMSHIP

By HARRY PRICE

*Honorary Director, National Laboratory of Psychical Research*

A detailed, illustrated account of twenty-six experimental *séances* held in London during 1929-30 under conditions of control never previously imposed upon any medium in any country. Dr. William Brown, F.R.C.P., Dr. F. C. S. Schiller, Professor A. F. C. Pollard, Dr. Eugène Osty, Mr. C. E. M. Joad, etc., record their observations of the phenomena and control.

---

'A new and valuable contribution to research.'—*The Times Literary Supplement*.

'Here is the nearest approach yet made to a scientific demonstration of the strange supernormal phenomena connected with teleplasm and telekinesis.'—*The Listener*.

---

*Demy 8vo, pp. xv. + 239, with twelve plates on art paper and  
very full index  
10s. 6d. net, post free 11s.*

---

METHUEN & CO., LTD., LONDON.

(The above work can be obtained at the National Laboratory of  
Psychical Research.)

---