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EDITORIAL NOTES.

WITH the present issue, PSYCHIC SCIENCE completes its first year, and the thanks of its sponsors are cordially extended to all those whose sympathetic support has carried the undertaking so successfully through a difficult period.

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The aim and scope of our "Quarterly" is now, we trust, sufficiently well defined. The aim is essentially a constructive one, whilst analytic in the quest of truth; its scope catholic, disdaining no form of enquiry and investigation which may bear upon the many obscure problems of spiritual interaction with Matter and physical life, through all the tenebrous avenues of the psychic regions as yet untraversed by Mind.

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We shall endeavour, in the year to come, to give further and clearer effect to these purposes and thereby to assist the College towards a more definite realization of its destined sphere of usefulness; that it may bring to birth in vigorous form the embryonic idea now forming in the public mind of the University of Psychic Science that is to be. It is at least legitimate to hope that the College may be the incubator of such an idea, and a foster-mother until it be fully fledged. The pages of PSYCHIC SCIENCE will be open to correspondence and suggestions towards this end.

For this must surely come to pass, and in that day we look to see the ministers of religion and the professors of science working together with united aim, the "tabu" of religious bigotry, on the one hand, and of intellectual arrogance on the other, being laid aside, and a fraternal understanding established for the great work of re-edification now to be done in the rearing of a new Temple of Humanity, in which truth shall be worshipped and intolerance and superstition shall have no place.

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We have desired to be non-controversial. But the year that is past has been marked as one of controversy, and it has been necessary, in the interest of justice and for the vindication of the cause of those oppressed, that the College should enter the lists as the champion of fair-play. In such matters there can be no lukewarmness. But the keynote of our action is defensive, not provocative.

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As our pages are very full, we must refrain at this time from comment on many matters of public interest which would normally call for remark, and so we wish all our readers and subscribers a very happy New Year, and one of useful activity.

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COURTEOUS CRITICISM.

AFTER mature deliberation, extending over six months, our generous contemporary "Psyche" has delivered the following authoritative judgment upon our first effort (April, 1922):—

"PSYCHIC SCIENCE, Vol. 1, No. 1, appears to be a production of the more rabid spiritualists devoid of scientific knowledge or critical ability. In view of the recent damning exposures of 'spirit' photography by the Magic Circle Committee, Major Spencer's article is out of place."

We would, however, beg "Psyche" in charity to remember the fact that our first number appeared on the first of April, and may, for that reason, plead exemption from serious criticism. We hope we have not hurt "Psyche's" feelings by sending her a review copy on or about that very unfortunate date.

We fear she will shortly discover a less innocent practical joke has been played upon her (and others) in regard to the "damning exposure" to which she alludes. If the word "exposure" may be held to refer to the contents of a certain "sealed" packet of plates supposed to have been marked by the Imperial Plate Co., then we are willing to admit that the exposures were damned, or rather "damned clever," but we are content to leave that branch of psychic science to professional conjurers and their friends.

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We would not wish to be too severe on feminine logic, but feel it scarcely convincing to be told that because an accusation of fraud—still *sub judice*—has been brought against two persons claiming to produce "spirit" photographs, therefore an article written by a gentleman against whom no fraud has ever been alleged is out of place. Major Spencer's article, of course, supports the validity of psychic photography. "Psyche" would wish her readers to draw the conclusion that if fraud be substantiated in one or two instances, *therefore* the whole subject is illusory, and any positive evidence in its support mistaken. We suggest that "Psyche" apply her theory to Chippendale chairs. She will find enthusiastic adherents, we dare say.

“POLTERGEIST” PHENOMENA AT THE BRITISH COLLEGE IN LONDON.

By Barbara McKenzie.

(The first article dealing with the medium concerned in these outbreaks appeared in the October issue of “Psychic Science,” and to this we must refer new readers. Copies can be obtained from the College.)

INTRODUCTION.

THE account of “Poltergeist” happenings in Austria, by Commander Kogelnik, in the last issue of “Psychic Science,” has aroused much interest in our readers. Dr. Schrenck Notzing has asked if he may have the article translated into German by the writer, as he regards it as possessing the greatest evidential value, and the continuation of the story after the arrival of the girl H—— in London will be eagerly read.

“Poltergeist” happenings have been recorded in all ages and all countries, from Glanvil’s “Drummer of Tedworth,” recorded in 1660, to the present year, when outbreaks in Scotland, in Africa and in Canada have occurred. Last year the Principal spent a considerable time in investigating the case at Hornsey, London, and was convinced from many evidences that the happenings were genuine.

But to have “Poltergeist” phenomena in one’s own house is another matter, and perhaps never have such phenomena been waited for and received in such an understanding spirit as were the occurrences described in the present article.

It has usually been noticed that “Poltergeist” phenomena occur in the presence of young persons, boys or girls, and usually before the age of puberty. As a rule these happenings have been so annoying and destructive that the suspected child, or children, have been removed from the scene for the sake of peace, when, as a rule, the phenomena have entirely ceased. This took place in the Hornsey case.

In the present instance the occurrences were the subject of interested observation. Nothing particularly destructive happened and no one was much frightened, so there was every hope that some substantial knowledge would be gained. This has not been the case up to the present, but the record will stand alongside those in the previous article and together form a substantial contribution to the study of the subject.

From the girl's arrival the problem before the College organizers was:—Can these disorderly mediumistic phenomena be produced in an orderly fashion by encouraging the girl to sit regularly for the development of her mediumship with a sympathetic group of persons? With the object of examining this same problem a few experiments were carried out at the College with one of the boys, through whose mediumship the Hornsey "Poltergeist" disturbances were produced in 1921, but in his case the results were negative—nothing took place in his presence during these sésances.

A series of sittings for the same purpose was begun, once a week, with the girl H——. Six College members, with the Principal, undertook regular attendance. These weekly sittings, with a break of some weeks, were carried on from the time of the girl's arrival at the College in June until the end of October, but throughout no psychic phenomena occurred. The medium was allowed to sit for a time in a normal condition, but without result. She was then placed under hypnotic influence, to which she readily responds, passing into a semi-trance sufficiently deep to produce the cataleptic state. During these trances she is incapable of speech, but seems to make an abortive attempt to respond to suggestions that she shall answer questions. In this trance condition there is no evidence that there is any spirit "control," nor has there been any evidence of supernormal physical phenomena. These sittings are still being continued regularly by several members, and a report will be issued later if any results be secured.

THE MEDIUM'S ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND.

When abroad in April—June, my husband and myself finding that the girl Hannie, around whom these strange disturbances described by Commander Kogelnik took place, had no friends or relatives in her own country (Austria), and

had left the situation in which she was engaged as a maid servant, undertook to bring her to England, and give her every care while making observations upon possible phenomena.

During a stay of three weeks in Berlin, and during the journey to England in the first week in June, no phenomena of note were observed—the new conditions operating, and probable excitement in the girl's mind, being quite enough to hinder any manifestations. One very slight incident, however, was recorded by one who shared her room in Berlin. She noted that during the girl's sleep, a slight rustling sound such as might be caused by the crushing of paper was heard distinctly in the room on two nights successively. This was heard intermittently, and no ordinary reason could be assigned for the noise.

Previous to the girl's arrival, Mr. McKenzie had told Mr. and Mrs. L——, the porter and housekeeper, and M——, a maid, something about the girl H——, and the strange happenings in Austria, of which she seemed to be the innocent cause.

Mr. and Mrs. L—— have been in the employment of the College since January, 1922, and are most reliable and trustworthy persons. They know nothing of psychic science except what they may hear indirectly or may read in any of the publications to be found at the College. The maid, M——, has been in the family for some years, and is a quiet, steady girl.

Mr. McKenzie's story appeared to them impossible, and, although they listened to it, it seemed to them quite beyond the bounds of imagination that anything of this kind could happen in a well-ordered English kitchen.

H—— was put in charge of Mrs. L—— to assist her in light household duties.

The kitchen staff all received the girl in a very friendly way, and, from the beginning, took a personal interest in her—helping her with her clothes, taking her out with them, and generally doing their best for a friendless girl in a strange land, who had only a few words of English to get on with. The girl was very happy, and at first had a sleeping room on the top floor, but some time after her arrival she was transferred to a dressing room on the basement floor—the same floor on which Mr. and Mrs. L—— slept,—for purposes of observation. She

was separated from them by a short passage, and complained of feeling nervous, although she was provided with light and her door was left open. She would get up and walk about during the night, and disturbed the others. M——, the other maid, who slept on the top floor, then, very kindly volunteered to share the basement room with her, and from that time H—— settled down quietly.

Although, naturally, of a happy disposition, she was sometimes sulky and stubborn when thwarted in her desires, and occasionally deeply offended the others.

She picked up English very quickly, and was wide awake to all that concerned herself. She began to take an interest in her personal appearance, which changed greatly for the better under the influence of good clothing, good food, and generally better conditions than could be had in Austria in her station of life, owing to war and post-war conditions.

Nothing happened for three weeks to indicate that she was in any way abnormal, until June 29th, when Mr. L—— reported strange happenings going on in the various rooms of the basement. The staff were incredulous, suspicious, and slightly nervous, but kept a sharp look out on H——, as they had been instructed to note where she was at the moment of the happenings as far as possible. L—— is quiet and level-headed, and made notes which he submitted to me daily. The outbreak continued sometimes day and night till July 9th, and was followed by a cessation of happenings until July 16th, when further incidents took place which kept up intermittently—chiefly at night, until July 26th. Things became quiet again until August 18th, when some slight incidents were reported, and again on August 25th, September 29th and 30th, and November 3rd.

During the first days of the outbreak the girl was distressed and sulky and frightened. To quieten her the housekeeper would sometimes assume that the disturbances were caused by the other maid, M——, at which H—— would laugh. It transpired, from a conversation held with her, in her own language, that she was afraid that she might be sent away, as had happened before when these outbreaks took place, owing to the damage caused by breakages. On being assured that this was not likely to take place she became happier.

It had been intimated to us by Captain Kogelnik that the "Poltergeist" disturbances in the presence of the medium H—— began about the time of the new moon—gradually increasing in intensity until the full moon, and gradually ceased on the wane. The two previous outbreaks had corresponded with these phases.

It was noticed that the disturbances in England often coincided with the same natural phenomena, and a note of the dates of new and full moon has, therefore, been made. The question has also often been discussed as to whether the female periods affected the phenomena in the case of H——, but, so far, we have not found that the two were in any way connected.

The following records, although somewhat sketchy, are as exact as could be obtained from the eyewitnesses, who were chiefly the domestic staff. For the first few days the disturbances were continuous, and it is impossible to give in detail all the conditions. But Mr. McKenzie and myself are satisfied that the record made, often at the moment of the happenings, is a correct one, and as they are similar to those recorded in the presence of other careful eyewitnesses abroad, whose records were unknown to the kitchen staff at the College, it may be safely assumed that in the presence of this girl abnormal incidents occur at times.

Points of special interest in the Report.

A question may arise in the reader's mind regarding the evidence of the phenomena being limited to the domestic staff, who presumably have little or no experience of psychic manifestations and whose testimony, therefore, lacks weight.

It is the fact that whenever an official or a member of the College made an attempt to become a spectator of the phenomena produced in the domestic quarters, nothing took place, with the exception of the one case of a knife apparently dropping from above in view of the Hon. Secretary and two others. This is quite in conformity with the testimony of many other "Poltergeist" investigators, who complain of the shyness of the intruder in the presence of strangers or newcomers to the spot. Doubtless the medium becomes self-conscious when strangers are present and passivity is hindered.

The operating intelligences behind the manifestations may also find difficulties in the new magnetic conditions brought by each fresh person into the surroundings. These require that the person should stay on the spot for some time to allow adjustment before a psychic balance is secured in which the psychical phenomena can again take place. The same delicacy of conditions is perfectly well known in the early stages of all seance work.

A query may also arise as to the possibility of the phenomena testified to being the result of good humoured tricks played by the domestics for their mutual entertainment. There is no ground for believing this ; as a matter of fact the whole staff, including the girl herself, were, for the first few days, seriously disturbed and frightened, and all of them exceedingly annoyed by the disturbance in their regular work caused by the continuous interruption. They were all heartily glad when the occurrences diminished and ceased, and I think myself fortunate in not losing the services of excellent helpers because of these manifestations.

Mr. and Mrs. L——, the housekeepers, are both serious-minded workers, who felt the importance of the whole matter, and took every precaution to verify all that was happening. This was specially impressed upon Mr. L—— by the Principal, who pointed out to him that it was possible for a medium to produce unconsciously the movement of objects by ordinary physical means, and that any attempt to do this by the girl H—— might lead him to suppose that she was simply playing tricks upon them. So strong was this suggestion that towards the end of July, when phenomena were much weaker, Mr. L—— gradually became obsessed with the idea that the medium must be providing them artificially. There seems no ground for this suspicion until the month of September, when peace reigned, and all had recovered their normal composure. An incident then happened which suggests that the medium resorted to a trick to mystify her companion, M——. On the evening of September 21st, after they had retired to bed, a water tap in the room commenced to run—and H—— professed to think that it must be due to "ghosts." In the morning a string was found attached to the handle of the tap, the other end of which passed to the bed of the medium—thus proving that she had been playing a trick. If she had been of such

a character as would lead us to suppose that all the phenomena had been produced by trickery, in spite of four pairs of observant eyes, she would have taken precautions to remove the string before the morning. I am of opinion that this trick was played purely as an amusement on the part of H—, or it might have been done to create in her companions a renewed interest in herself, and gratify her vanity, not at all an unknown weakness amongst mediumistic persons.

The subsequent weakness and cessation of the "Poltergeist" phenomena may be accounted for by the fact that the medium is now receiving a much more plentiful supply of food than has been her good fortune for years, as, through war conditions, many of her class in Austria have suffered semi-starvation. Fasting is certainly a condition conducive to the production of psychic phenomena. The "soul" or "spirit-body," through which all phenomena of a psychic nature are made manifest, is by this means released more easily from the grip of the physical. Doubtless also the girl's intellectual qualities have been stimulated by the new conditions, as her former life was spent in very simple agricultural surroundings, where she was kept in a much more passive state. She is also changing from girlhood to womanhood, and cessation of phenomena has often been noted in young people at this age.

If it be possible to obtain the permission of the authorities to keep H— in England for a longer period, the College is willing to do so, and will continue its efforts to develop her mediumistic powers. The girl has no relations in her own country. She is much more contented than on her arrival, and interested in the weekly sittings held with her. She has now a good command of English for general purposes, and communication with her is naturally easier.

Further reports will be made in the Journal should occasion arise.

REPORT ON "POLTERGEIST" PHENOMENA.

NOTES GIVEN TO THE EDITOR BY L—— ON JUNE 30TH.

(Edited by Mrs. McKenzie).

(*New Moon: June 25th ;
Full Moon: July 9th.*)

JUNE 29TH, 1922.

IN the majority of these happenings it was physically impossible for the girl to have thrown the various articles, as she either had both hands full or was talking to someone in full view at the actual moment of occurrence. We all took special care to note this, as advised by Mr. McKenzie.

About 10.15 a.m. Key drops on floor of scullery ; probably extracted from box of keys in cellar store ; a dishcloth disappears from table by sink in scullery for some few minutes, and returns to shelf over sink after new one has been fetched. A thimble, placed on the dresser shelf the evening before, dropped on to floor of basement hall, a distance of about ten feet.

11 a.m. A key always in lock is missing from Hannie's bedroom cupboard and cannot be found. Mrs. L—— walks out of this room, and a small key falls, striking her on the back before reaching the floor. This key does not fit cupboard, however. Sounds as of articles dropping on the floor of basement hall heard by several persons, but nothing found. A night-light moves from place to place five times in about twenty minutes in scullery. Hannie's brooch is found on floor two yards away from where placed a few minutes previously on a shelf. Curtain-ring falls in corner of kitchen ; I do not know where it came from. I picked it up and placed it on table near kitchen window, from where, at 3 p.m., M—— saw it come through the air and drop near her feet, close to the dresser. Ball of wool thrown on kitchen floor. Hannie no where near the direction from which these came.

About 12 noon a raw potato was heard to fall behind hamper in scullery. No one near. I picked it up and put it on

the table. At 3 p.m. it was taken from the table and thrown near gas-stove opposite. I saw it in the air myself in a kind of curve from the table to the stove. Hannie, at that moment, had both hands occupied with washing up. A pair of steel pliers drops with a loud noise near Mrs. M——'s (a charwoman) feet in the scullery, probably from tool house in store. She had just previously stated that she did not believe such things could take place. Breakfast room hand-bell heard to ring, the door being shut, room empty, all the staff in kitchen. It has a small sound compared to the front door and side door bells, and no other bell is used in the house. Hannie kicked M——, presumably unconsciously, at this time, but no notice was taken by H—— of the occurrence. [This may have been a possible reaction of the medium.—ED.]

3.15 p.m. Hannie, M——, Mr. and Mrs. L——, all together in housekeeper's room. A crash heard and a detachable teapot-spout was found broken in basement hall. The crash resembled an explosion, and all thought a plate at least had gone.

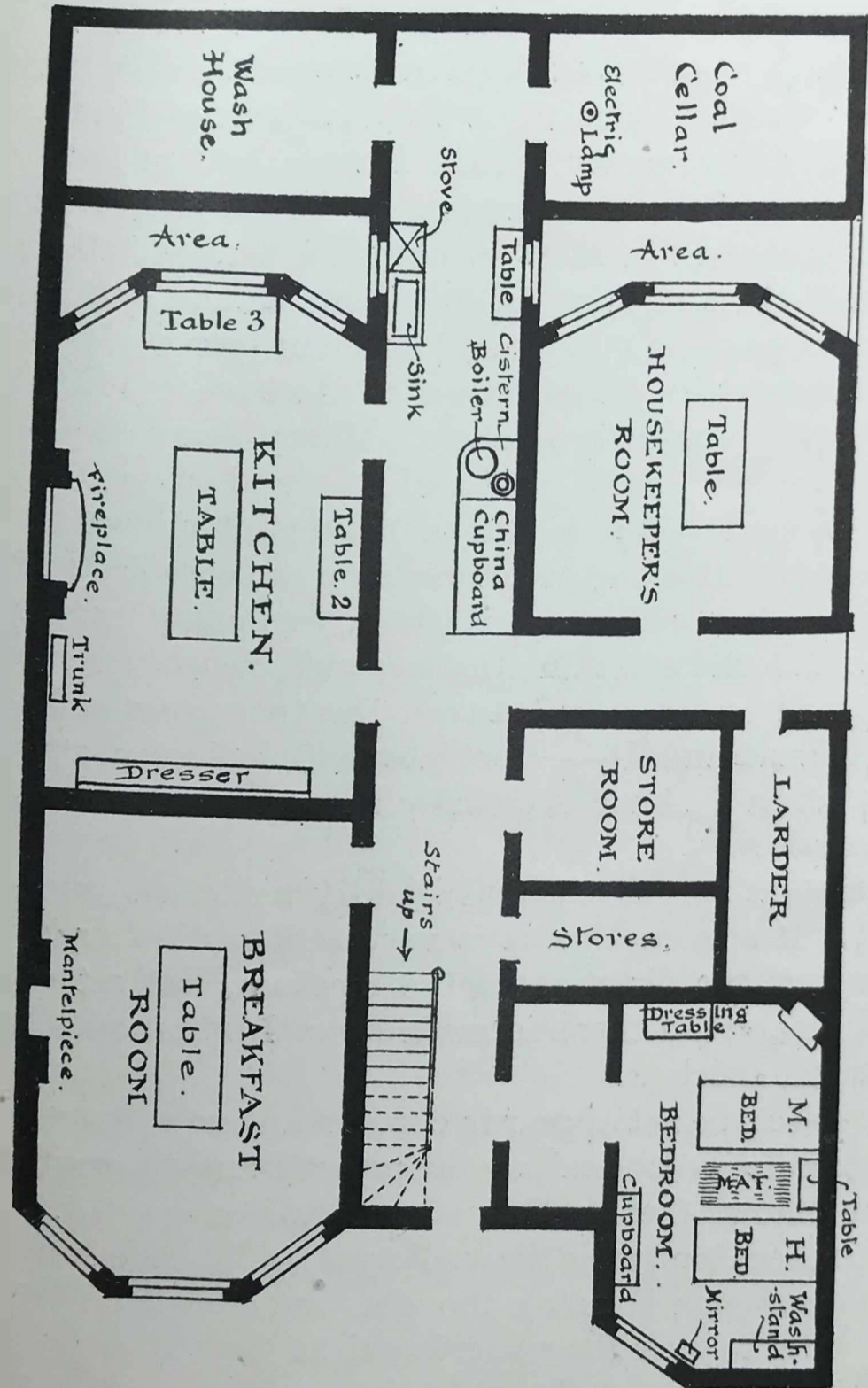
3.30 p.m. Mrs. L—— saw a small china powder box go from dressing table, in Hannie's bedroom, to a point underneath table near bed, but contents were not spilled, nor was box broken. Hannie was close to Mrs. L—— at the time. A ball of wool was thrown into water where Mrs. L—— was washing in Hannie's room. The ball had been taken from the kitchen by H——, and put in her box in her room. M—— sees flash of light in kitchen like lightning, but more local. Hannie frightened by a banging she heard on floor of her room, but this was not heard by others. Her hair-slide disappears. The girls look for it for ten minutes then it drops in middle of kitchen floor, broken. Hannie declares something is hitting her leg while sitting in kitchen. During lunch, Mrs. L—— was kicked twice (apparently by no one visible).

JUNE 30TH.

11.15 a.m. A brush, which must have been moved from far end of scullery, was found at door of housekeeper's room. Mrs. L——, at the actual moment, was holding Hannie's hands in her room and both heard the brush fall, and no one else was near. A knife fell and was picked up by me in passage, between coal cellar door and scullery. This knife had been used on

some clay a few minutes previously in scullery near sink. Hannie was in kitchen.

Hannie sleeping alone in a room near housekeeper's was nervous at night, although a light was left burning with her; she spoke of seeing someone and feeling hands.



The following occurrences were reported by M—— to L—— on July 2nd, who made a note of them at the time.

JULY 1ST.

Phenomena commenced about 7 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. L—— out, and M—— and Hannie alone in kitchen.

A key and glass-cutter fell on floor, apparently from top of hot-water cistern in scullery. The key was found to belong to the china cupboard door, and the glass-cutter had been taken from window ledge in kitchen. A teapot lid was removed from scullery table to top shelf in scullery over sink. This is the fourth time this article has been moved. A ball of black wool from Hannie's room was dropped in basement hall just in front of M—; the fourth time this article has been used in this way in kitchen. Some money, which Hannie had in her pocket previously whilst she was standing at dresser end of kitchen, dropped altogether, in M—'s sight, on window table (three coins), a distance of fourteen feet from Hannie. A piece of whitening dropped in kitchen and broke in pieces; M— and H— talking, with backs turned to place where it dropped; H— sitting in chair in kitchen. Money heard to drop out of her pocket (6d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $\frac{1}{4}$ d.) and appeared on another chair near. On going to pick it up, fifteen minutes later, it was missing. M— suggested looking in Hannie's room; on going in at the door money dropped in various places, seemingly from above, and was all found excepting the sixpence, which was heard to fall in small passage-way between the two doors of H—'s room. Hannie and M— were later both looking in a trunk in kitchen, and a tea knife, seemingly thrown from behind, lands near their feet.

Hannie was very lively and slightly hysterical during the evening. It appears that it is very seldom that articles are thrown from the direction of the medium, but rather more towards her. Also there seems a special intention to throw small metal articles.

[The objects do not appear to come at an angle, but as if they drop immediately from above, disproving any theory that the medium throws them. This is constantly reported. When the phenomena happen in the scullery it would appear, from the reports, as though Hannie's thoughts are elsewhere. She has been noticed to walk the whole length of the scullery and then pull up with a jerk, as though realizing where she is.—ED.]

Report by L—. Notes made at the time.

JULY 2ND.

Disturbances commenced again about 7 p.m. A marked

penny was taken from kitchen dresser to housekeeper's room, also a small curtain ring.

9 p.m. Mrs. L—— was clearing the breakfast room table, and H—— stood near, looking at a glass with a smashed cake in it, which seemed to amuse her. Suddenly two plates began to move on the surface of the tablecloth from different directions, for about two feet towards one objective (a cup and saucer) making some noise in touching them. M—— and I went in as we heard them speaking excitedly, and were looking at the table when my cigarette case (metal) clattered down near the window with such force that the case opened and the cigarettes fell out, and rolled all over the room. This had been left by me on the table in the housekeeper's room.

JULY 3RD.

A box of matches, evidently taken from gas stove, was found in the kettle with the lid on. A teapot lid from kitchen dresser was heard to fall, and was found on kettle lid on the gas stove in scullery. About 7 p.m. M—— and Hannie both sewing, close together, in the kitchen near window; cotton, wool, needles, thimbles, were all missing at intervals, and the cottons were found in three different jugs all containing milk. M—— picked her cotton out of the milk and placed it in a jug of water to clean it. A few minutes after this it was found balanced on the point of a lemon-squeezer on the second shelf of the dresser, on the other side of the room. Hannie did not leave her chair until the various articles were missed from where they sat, when they both searched together, M—— finding most of them. One piece of cotton was found inside a teapot on a side table, with the end hanging out.

JULY 4TH.

Comparatively few disturbances, but these were spread over the whole day. H—— in cheerful, but not excitable, mood. About 12 noon, a glass inkpot, empty, crashed on the stone floor of hall, and rolled into the kitchen. It was not chipped or cracked. Do not know where it came from.

Hannie missed a small chain necklet from the dressing-table in her room, about 7 p.m. It was searched for without success, and she was annoyed that she could not find it to wear. When Hannie came downstairs, after a séance, about 10 p.m.,

Mrs. L—— happened to mention the chain, and asked if she had found it. Hannie, who speaks very little English, answered: "My chain I saw—black room" (séance room). Mrs. L——: "Where was it?" Hannie: "Your room, in box. Little thing on top." We then searched every box in our room with Hannie protesting the while, and saying: "Not now." It was most certainly not in the room at 10.15 p.m.

About 10.30 p.m., H—— mentioned powder box, chain, Mrs. L——'s room. M—— went to our room and found the chain immediately, in the powder box under a tight lid, and covered by a small puff. Hannie had not been in the room meantime, and is never in it alone.

[This seemed to be a little clairvoyance, one of the few instances noted with H——.—ED.]

JULY 5TH.

A teapot missing from 9 a.m. It was found at 3.30 p.m., on a ledge near the coal-cellar, though it was not there shortly after being missed, as I remember looking there.

About 8 p.m. H—— prepares to write, and lays her pen on centre of kitchen table. Gets ink and sits down. Pen disappears. She borrows another, and in some way loses that. Borrows another, and the second returns in the corner of the kitchen. Half-an-hour later the first one comes down near the kitchen door. In this case there was no one near except Hannie herself, and the foregoing is from her own statement. About 9.45 p.m., bread and bread-board missing from the kitchen table. We all searched the whole of the basement floor with no success until about an hour later, when the board was found behind a trunk in the kitchen, where we had already looked twice. We are still waiting for the bread.

A key is heard to fall in larder a long way from H——, sitting in the kitchen.

JULY 6TH.

8.30 a.m. The teapot before mentioned [this seems to be a special favourite of "Poltergeist."—ED.] was taken up on breakfast tray by H——, who had a small tray in both hands, to second floor, when the teapot was found to have vanished, much to her annoyance. More tea was made in another pot,

and the first was found forty-five minutes later on the top of a box under kitchen table, still containing tea.

M——'s watchkey falls in scullery near her. It was brought from the kitchen dresser. This happened last evening in the same way and at the same place.

M——'s linen cap, which she had left clean in the bedroom (which she shares with H——) at 7 a.m., when looked for a little later could not be found. Later, when the breakfast room was being cleaned, the cap was found, crumpled and soiled, at the back of the stove. The same morning an apron of Mrs. L——'s disappeared from the scullery, and was found, later, wet and crumpled in fireplace in scullery.

2.30 p.m. The bread which went on the previous evening was found in the afternoon, in the scullery, inside a portion of a tin steamer. The other portion was on top. Mr. McKenzie found this. Mr. and Mrs. L—— declare they looked twice in this tin and in all pans the previous evening, as they had no bread for supper. [The bread completely filled the diameter of the steamer.—ED.]

My pipe disappears from kitchen. A little later Mrs. L—— left kitchen, passing through scullery to go to wash-house. Before she reached it she heard a splash in the wash-house copper, in which some water stood. She examined this immediately, and found the pipe floating on the top. H—— was in the kitchen with the others, and kitchen and wash-house do not communicate. Five different boxes of matches have disappeared within a few days, and twice a box has been found in the kettle in water.

10.30 p.m. M—— and H—— went to bed, and when H—— was in bed the electric light was turned out by M——, and the red light turned on. Two single beds are used, with a small table between the beds, and a strip of matting on the floor between. As soon as M—— got into bed something was heard to fall from the mantelpiece, which is on M——'s side of the room. M—— got up, turned on the light, and found the candlestick gone from the mantelpiece and lying on the floor. M—— got into bed again, and H——'s hair-slides were thrown at her from dressing table. Some small tin tops of oil cans were also thrown at her, these were in a cupboard in the room. Articles of Hannie's clothing were thrown from one side of the room to the other into the fixed handbasin, which contained water. M——

got up again, and a small doll, which H—— keeps near her, touched her and fell in opposite corner of room. A small looking-glass, which was shut in a case on H——'s dressing table, was carried to the other side of the room, and fell in washbasin and broke. H——'s handbag, which she stated had been in a drawer, fell closed near M——'s feet, and a handkerchief, said by H—— to have been in it, was thrown in another corner of the room. Two pennies, a halfpenny, and safety pins were thrown near washhand basin. The two girls were both in bed, and the white light on, when the chamber bowl was brought from H——'s bed and rolled like a top into the middle of the floor. After about half-an-hour the movements stopped, and there were no more disturbances until 4.30 a.m., when both were simultaneously awakened, and two marking-ink bottles, apparently brought from the kitchen, were found on the floor. H—— is a very heavy sleeper. The cardboard top of the box of one hit M—— on the head, in bed. [It should be noted that at this time H—— had very few possessions of her own, and the smallest thing broken or spoiled annoyed her.—ED.]

NOTES BY EDITOR OF THE REPORT.

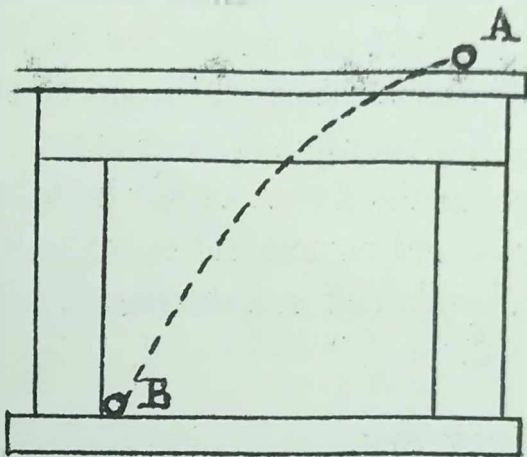
This is the only instance which can be vouched for by others of the household than the kitchen staff.

JULY 6TH, 1922.

I was seated at lunch in breakfast room, at the head of the table. Frau Silbert was on my left, with her back to the fireplace, about three feet behind her. My daughter sat on my right. We were discussing H——'s phenomena, and I had jokingly said that there seemed to be plenty of happenings, but none came under our observation. The maid, M——, entered the room, and was clearing the first course, leaving the door open, and was behind my daughter's chair, with her hands full. Suddenly we all heard a clatter as of something hard striking a hard surface, and, looking towards the fireplace, I saw a knife in the act of falling about a foot above the fender and within it, and we all heard the second noise made by its fall. It fell at the end nearest me. The first sound that attracted us all was evidently made by the knife striking the mantelpiece

at A. My daughter, who was seated facing the mantelpiece, said at once that she saw an object just above it strike the mantelpiece, at the opposite end from where the knife actually fell, but she could not have told what it was.

I picked up the knife, a small one, and verified silently the fact that the cheese knives on the table, which had not yet been used, were all there, and sent M—— to the kitchen next door, where H—— and the housekeeper were, to see if a knife was missing. She returned at once, asking if it was a cheese knife, as one she had placed ready to her hand on the end of the kitchen dresser close to the door was gone. She stated that H—— was in the kitchen all the time with Mr. and Mrs. L——, and this I verified from them.



A-B. = Line of Trajectory of Knife from mantel.

Report by Editor, from notes made at the time during conversations with Mr. and Mrs. L—— and M——, on July 8th.

JULY 7TH, 1922.

M—— put 2½d., in coppers, in a box in her bedroom in the morning. Later she found they had gone, and asked H—— if she had seen them. H—— said she knew nothing of them. Later, M—— was dusting the breakfast room, and having finished one chair and proceeded to another, happened to look back, a second later, at the one she had previously dusted, and saw the 2½d. lying upon it in a pile. H—— was not in the room, and the coppers were warm. [The latter point is interesting, as it has, on various occasions, been mentioned in connection with "apport" phenomena. M——, the maid, knew nothing of such views, and simply stated her own experience.—ED.]

In the afternoon, a felt hat of L——'s disappeared from the kitchen table, and a week later had not been found, although searched for diligently everywhere. (See note: July 21st.)

H—— and M—— retired to bed about 10.30 p.m. The red light was used, and for about a quarter of an hour small articles,

chiefly pins and combs, were thrown about. Hannie's shoes were thrown out into middle of floor from under bed. M— got up and put them in a closed cupboard, and in the morning she found one under her bed—she was always the first awake. After she returned to bed again, a thin counterpane on her bed was lifted right up and thrown over the foot of her bed. H— complained that all her bedclothes were slipping off, and M— rose and turned on the white light and found they were certainly all pulled off in a strange fashion, and she helped her remake the bed.

JULY 8TH.

In the evening at 9.30, Mrs. L— came upstairs to the private sitting room on second floor with H— carrying a tray. While Mrs. L— was in the room, H— went downstairs again to the kitchen. As Mrs. L—, a few seconds later, went down from the second to the first floor, a silver salt spoon, which had been missing since the beginning of the outbreak, June 29th, and also a cork, both struck her in the face. She was very much astonished. No one was above her, and Hannie could be heard walking on the stone basement stairs, two floors below. Mrs. L— followed her down, and coming upstairs a few minutes later reported this.

Notes made by Editor, from conversation with M— on July 10th.

JULY 9TH.

5.30 p.m. H— and M— alone in kitchen, the house-keeper being out; everyone else on second floor. Both heard three bangs, they went into their bedroom and found a looking-glass that hung on the wall near window, by a strong cord, lying on the floor at the foot of Hannie's bed, glass downwards, cord was broken at top, and yet did not seem frayed. They knotted the cord and hung the mirror up safely, and half-an-hour afterwards on going into the room, the mirror was again on the floor in the same place. They had heard no further noise, and neither girl had been in the room. Hannie at this time seemed afraid to be in her room alone. The mirror had hung there for eighteen months, and has never moved before.

Hannie complains, on many occasions, of being bumped on the knee whilst sitting at the table with the others, and blames them for having a game with her. They assure her they do not touch her. On one occasion she sat well back from the table, and again felt the blow on her knee, although nothing was to be seen.

Notes made by Editor, from conversation with M—, on July 18th, 1922.

JULY 16TH.

M— and H— had gone to bed about 10.30 p.m. H— went to sleep, but M— was still awake; there was no light, but the blind was up, and the street lamps illuminated the room. In about half-an-hour M— heard a curious rolling sound under H—'s bed.

JULY 17TH.

6.30 a.m. M— was awakened by a noise. H— was still asleep. On the floor, at the bottom of H—'s bed, M— saw a soap dish, and a piece of soap lay further away. Dish and soap had been brought from a window with fitted wash-basin, several yards away, and the noise had wakened M—. A few minutes later a comb from H—'s dressing table fell between the two beds. H— seemed still asleep, but M— heard the noise as it fell, and assured me that the comb had not been left on the bed overnight. Immediately after, both girls being still in bed, there was a noise as of falling pins, and M— found at the side of her bed, and next to the dressing table some hairpins and a safety pin, which she thinks were brought from the dressing table.

A pair of shoes under H—'s bed were moved towards the comb which lay in a space between the two beds. H— was still asleep; M— heard a shuffling noise and, on raising her head, saw the shoes by the comb. A noise was heard near the window, and M—, on looking, saw on the floor a magazine which had been on the table near her bedside the previous night. H— was still asleep.

JULY 19TH.

The hat belonging to Mr. L——, reported missing from kitchen on July 7th, was found on this day. In the morning H—— said she had a dream that she saw a woman unclothed, with the hat upon her head, standing in the boiler in the scullery that provided hot water for the house. This story made L—— get the stepladder and look on top of the boiler, and, to his amazement, the hat was there. A quantity of dust lying on the boiler top was not disturbed, as Mr. McK—— verified a few minutes later. When the hat was lost the whole basement was searched, a stepladder being used to examine all the high places, including the boiler top.

JULY 20TH.

M—— reported that she and H—— were in the kitchen about 6 p.m., and a noise, which seemed to come from H——'s room, startled them both. There was no one else on the basement, as the housekeeper was out, and everyone else upstairs. They found in H——'s room a mirror, size two and a half feet by two feet, which stood on the dressing table, with its back to the wall, and out of any reach of draught, lying at the foot of H——'s bed, face downwards and unbroken. On the front of dressing table immediately in front of where mirror stood were a large cardboard box and a number of trinkets. None of these had been knocked down. The glass of the mirror is rather loose in the frame, and the noise the girls heard in the kitchen seemed to carry a rattling sound with it, such as a loose glass on wood might make.

*(New Moon : July 24th ;
Full Moon : Aug. 7th.)*

Notes by Editor.

On Thursday morning, July 20th, I gave Frau Silbert a large, heavy canvas army food bag, with wooden handles, to use for clothing which her suit case would not hold, for her return journey to Graz. It was not packed, and lay on the foot of her bed, on the top floor of the house. When Frau Silbert came to look for the bag on the morning of the 21st it was nowhere to be found. I enquired everywhere for it, and

L—— looked in every cupboard and high place, even to the cisterns in the roof, I had to find another bag for Frau Silbert, who had only a suit case in addition, and says that her "guide" would not play such a prank. It certainly seemed more like the action of the playful forces behind H——. Two days later the bag was found in the coal cellar off the scullery, in basement.

JULY 23RD.

M—— placed a clean garment in her bedroom, and when she and H—— went to bed this was gone. H—— curiously made a remark which seemed to indicate that she knew something about it, and yet denied touching it. The pillow of H——'s bed was also gone, and on a search being made, the article of clothing was found amongst soiled clothes in the washhouse, and the next day, in a cellar, the pillow was found. Nothing was said about the pillow being found, and it was put in another place unknown to her, to see if it would be moved again, or any enquiry be made by the girl regarding it, but this did not happen.

JULY 24TH.

After M—— and H—— had gone to bed, no light on, and were just dozing off, about 11.30 p.m., both heard a sound, like that made by a stuffed mattress being turned on a spring bed. M—— got up and turning on the light found that a strip of matting, six feet long, which lay on the floor between the two beds, had been moved to a point under her bed, and they surmised that it was the movement of this that had made the peculiar sound. M—— got into bed again, leaving the red light on, and soon felt her eiderdown quilt being strongly pulled. This continued for about two minutes, while she held on to it. The pulling seemed to come from under the bed, and offered as great a resistance as the girl did.

JULY 25TH.

Both girls had been in bed and asleep some time, when both were awakened by a sound of shuffling, such as a mat would make. M—— lit a candle, but found nothing amiss, and put out the light and got into bed. She immediately felt some-

thing large pass by her face, and thought it might be a pillow. She got out of bed and put the light on again, and found that the strip of matting between the beds was doubled right over, she believes this is what she felt passing her face. M—— now put the chair on the matting between the head of her own and H——'s bed ; on the chair were some garments of H——'s ; she put the red light on and got into bed again. The clothes on the chair fell on the floor, and then the chair was tipped over. M—— lifted the chair up and kept her hand upon it. She felt it move again, and ran her hand up the chair back, and touched what seemed like a hand. H——, who was awake, said that she had not touched the chair. She was, however, in a position to do this, and we cannot verify this more fully.

JULY 26TH.

M—— moved the two beds a little further apart. Just before going to sleep she heard something move under her bed, a moment later she heard a shuffling near the cupboards. H—— seemed to be asleep. M—— got up and put on the white light, and found under her bed a rubber ball which had been last seen in the kitchen that same day. This had evidently been moving under her bed. She could find nothing to account for the shuffling near the cupboard. M—— put out all but the red light and went to bed, and again felt a tugging at the eiderdown, as on July 24th. She held on to it again, and it stopped after a minute. Again the pull seemed to come from under the bed.

(New Moon : August 22nd.)

AUGUST 19TH.

M—— was awakened by a noise apparently, and an enamelled candlestick, which stood on a small table between the two beds, was then thrown past her head and fell on the bed. She sat up, and H—— seemed to do so simultaneously. They then heard a cracking sound, and a small ornamental plate, belonging to H——, which stood on the same table, but nearer her bed, was found to be cracked across and on two places near the rim. It was perfectly whole on the previous evening, and both the plate and the candlestick were in their usual place. As this was a plate H—— had only recently

bought with her own money, it does not seem likely that she would destroy it. She apparently was grieved, and cherished the pieces for some time.

AUGUST 25TH.

M—— reported that in the early morning, about 4 o'clock, before it was quite light, she and H—— were awakened by a loud crack in their room. They both sat up simultaneously. It resembled the cracking of the plate reported previously. They turned on the electric light, but could see nothing which would account for this, and a subsequent search in the morning revealed nothing. The girls are good sleepers and the noise must have been very sharp to awaken both. Their room faces the back of the house, with a garden between it and the road. No one else was sleeping on this floor of the house on this occasion.

REPORT BY L——, OCTOBER 2ND.

*(New Moon : September 21st ;
Full Moon : October 6th.)*

SEPTEMBER 29TH.

10 a.m. I was in the area and Hannie was in the scullery, washing dishes. There was a mild explosion, and Hannie, appearing rather frightened, ran out to me asking what it was, and mentioning the coal cellar. I investigated, and found the remains of an electric lamp in the passage way leading to the coal cellar. The light was fixed with a shade over the coal cellar door, and was found at a distance of about a couple of yards from the door. The whole of the lamp had been detached from the holder. It had been used two hours previously and was in good order. It was practically a new lamp, and I can safely say that it was fixed in a proper manner, and the holder in good condition.

SEPTEMBER 30TH.

8 a.m. A similar occurrence took place with one of the kitchen lights. It fell on a strip of carpet which would be about five feet from a spot immediately underneath the bracket. It is a three-light bracket, with switch holders, two being used only. The fallen one was the disconnected one, but a perfectly

good lamp. At the moment it fell I was just entering the kitchen by the door nearest the dresser, whilst H—— was standing by the cupboard, about a couple of feet from me.

I have endeavoured to get some sort of explanation of these two cases from the electrician. He informs me that, providing the holders are in good order (not bent to allow the points to slip off, etc.), it is a mechanical impossibility. I can prove the fittings were both serviceable. In the eight months I have been in the College I have never known such a happening, although there are dozens of lamps in use.

*(New Moon: October 20th ;
Full Moon: November 4th.)*

NOVEMBER 3RD.

L——, a new maid in the house, when sitting at dinner with other maids, next to H——, felt something push her in middle of back. She turned immediately to H——, who had her hands occupied with knife and fork, and asked if she had touched her. The girl answered in the negative.

Notes by the General Editor.

The accounts given by the domestic staff of the College, and edited by Mrs. McKenzie, bring into prominence two or three new aspects of the Poltergeist phenomena. The first of these is the question whether any of the occurrences mentioned can be certified to involve the passage of matter through matter, *e.g.*: the removal of objects from covered receptacles without the opening of the same, or their deposit within such receptacles under like conditions; also the transfer of objects from room to room or from floor to floor through closed doors. The alternative, in the case of the large handbag, would seem to be that it was transported unobserved through physical space, either by the Poltergeist or by Hannie herself as the unconscious agent. It is not altogether easy to suppose that so ponderous an article could have been transported in the supernormal way, and without observation. The staff, whom we have questioned, are clearly of opinion that in this instance Hannie was the physical agent of transmission, and they hold the same view as regards the pillow episode; but they seem to think that these

acts were unconsciously performed. We are reminded of the story of the Tappington ghost in the Ingoldsby Legends, where our readers will remember that a gentleman was troubled by the loss of his trousers, one pair after another disappearing until the poor man was reduced to a single pair of inappropriate style; the sequel being that the "ghost" was watched for and discovered to be the victim himself in a state of somnambulism, stealing down the garden in the small hours and burying his trousers, which were all recovered from the hole wherein they had been severally interred.

We have, however, the definite assurance that in the following five cases—which are really more than five—physical obstacles have been transcended in the passage of smaller objects.

(1)—As to the key dropped on the scullery floor, and which they think must have been taken from the keybox in the cellar-store. This box, they say, was kept closed.

(2).—As to the box of matches taken from the gas-stove, and afterwards found in the kettle, with the kettle lid on. This lid does not seem to have been removed, and they consider that the box must have found its way into the kettle when closed. (The staff say that this phenomenon has occurred on more than three several occasions.)

(3.)—As to the chain found in the powder box under the puff. Mr. L.——— asserts that the staff are of opinion that the chain found its way into the closed box.

(4.)—As to the tops of the oilcans brought from the cupboard. They affirm that this cupboard was closed when the phenomenon occurred.

(5.)—As to the marking ink bottles brought from the kitchen into the bedroom, they state there were two doors between, and that both were certainly closed.

The other point of interest raised by the narrative is that of the entry into Hannie's dream-consciousness of the figure of the woman wearing the porter's lost hat, which fact led to the finding of it. Hannie must now be credited with a certain degree of subliminal activity, and the question of a dissociated personality cannot be altogether ignored. At the same time there is another possibility that must not be overlooked. This may be illustrated by reference to a case which occurred several years ago in a northern suburb of London, and which was communicated to the Editor by a later prominent member

of the Theosophical Society who was brought into the enquiry. The Poltergeist, in this instance, moved heavy objects, throwing open the doors of a linen cupboard and scattering its contents, throwing stair-rods about javelin-fashion, and making play with a cricket bat. The phenomena centred around a kitchen maid, and according to the information given us, the household, who were anti-spiritualist, were persuaded after much protest to hold a séance, at which a message was given purporting to come from the mother of this girl, saying that she had died three months before, and was trying to make known her wish that her daughter should return to her father, who was left alone and needed her attention. The fact of the mother's death being verified, the girl was permitted to return to her father, and the trouble ceased at once. Hannie is unaware of her parentage, and does not know whether her father or mother is still living. Have we here another case of similar nature?

FROM AN "AUTOMATIC" SCRIPT.

DATED APRIL 13, 1920.

"For in the days to come, fear shall vanish like lake-mist blown over far mountains, and men of all nations shall be as one family and shall dwell in peace together. And there shall be no terror in the heart of wild things, neither shall life feed upon life, nor brother slay brother. And the speech of all shall be made plain. And angels shall mingle among you: by their light shall they be revealed to you.

"The water, the wind, the fathomless air shall ye command that ye may walk among the many worlds and behold the beauty thereof. And the glory of God shall be revealed unto the weary—not as the fierce splendour of the storm's leaping light, nor through words of thunder, but as the tender radiance of a summer dawn, with wakened birds that sing in the branches. Then shall all tears be dried as the sun drieth the dew on the face of the meadows."

TWO RELATIVITIES.

By Stanley de Brath, M.Inst.C.E.

It is often objected that the messages that come from the Other Side represent their world, so that it seems to us a kind of copy of this. Such objections are natural enough, but, like the apparent rising and setting of the sun, it seems probable that they are an inversion of the truth.

As long as the earth was considered a central and fixed platform, the movement of the heavenly bodies was referred to that centre, and similarly while we regard material life as the pre-eminently real, any likeness to another mode of existence must necessarily present itself as a shadow of that reality.

More acute thinkers, however, from Plato onwards, regard the *noumenon*, or spiritual cause, as greater than the *phenomenon* that is its material effect; so that the visible world is the image and reflection of a supersensuous world to which our senses are not attuned—an image of the higher, but in more intractable substance. The higher is not a copy of the lower, but conversely.

But there is no doubt that the difficulty is very real to some minds, and causes them to reject all facts which they cannot place in their scheme of things.

THE ENGINEER'S RELATIVITY.

An engineer is called upon to deal with Matter and Energy for the service of mankind. To him they are totally distinct things. Matter, as evident to our senses, is composed of chemical atoms possessing mass, weight, colour and sundry other properties. That these atoms are composed of electrons, or of whatever primitive elements they may consist, is not to the point here; once the atoms are formed they are a separate category in Nature. They are also vehicles of Energy that appears as heat or electricity when certain chemical or

mechanical actions take place. Energy offers strong contrasts to chemical matter—the chemical atoms are practically untransformable—common salt contains chlorine and sodium that went to its formation, and these can be recovered by suitable means, but the one cannot be transformed into the other ; and so with all the chemical “ elements.”

The forms of Energy, however, are very readily transformable one into another, totally, completely and in perfectly definite quantities. The motion of a waterfall can easily be transformed into electric, magnetic, thermal, chemical, or any other kind of mechanical energy. The two things are quite distinct.

Our bodily organization is akin to both, and our evolutionally-derived senses are attuned to this material relativity, or at any rate to certain aspects of it ; we know a certain range of material vibrations as sound, another range of etherial vibrations as light, and another as heat, though there are a great number of other vibrations for which we have no faculties of perception. Our concepts of Space and Time are closely connected with matter, we do not perceive any form of them apart from matter. Space is the distance between material masses, whether the walls of a house or the fixed stars. Time is measured by the movement of the planet or by the swing of a pendulum, the time of one swing in seconds being 3.1416 times the square root of the length in inches divided by the acceleration due to gravity ; *i.e.* : it is inversely proportional to the mass of the earth. We cannot get away from matter, and from this relativity all our habitual notions and nearly all our language are derived. This is the relativity in which we live.

Our sciences express its sequences which we call “ laws.” Certain of these sciences are complete and final, such as geometry and mechanics. The sum of conditions dependent on matter and energy defines our relations to all normal things—they constitute what we call “ the real world ” because our senses are correlated to it. While we keep within these limits all is perfectly plain sailing. Two things can't occupy the same space, and our geometry deals with this space (linear, plane and solid) quite satisfactorily. Our mechanics work out true, the machines we construct perform their intended tasks. Our chemistry gives dependable reactions ; we hang a man on the faith that arsenic always remains arsenic and is not generated by any other combination. Our minds cannot alter

any of these reactions, though as they obey strict, mathematical laws, they are, in a sense, pervaded by Mind.

ÆTHERIAL RELATIVITY.

This orderly and comprehensible world has been badly upset. This has been done by troublesome physicists and spiritualists ; the one proving that the chemical elements are not primordial and unchangeable substances, and the other declaring that invisible persons can affect matter. All our ideas are upset : we dare not contradict the scientists, whose modes of working we take on faith ; but we vehemently deny the assertions of the spiritualists, most of which we could prove for ourselves by ocular demonstration.

Physical science has succeeded in breaking up certain chemical atoms into a positive electrical nucleus with much lighter negative electrons in very rapid motion, the number and arrangement of which apparently determine the chemical nature of the atom so formed. The chemical atom therefore would seem to be a kind of condensation and localization of energy. In the higher physics, matter and energy would seem to be one and the same ; and then Einstein comes along and tells us things that make us dizzy—that there is really and finally no matter and perhaps no æther, only motion ; and we ask, motion of what ?

At the same time metapsychic science reveals an invisible ectoplasm that can carry mechanical and vital power, is seemingly plastic to will power, and can assume the appearance of normal flesh and bone. It shows further that there are faculties latent in humanity that are independent of space and time, and that in certain circumstances mind can act directly, or seems to act directly, upon matter.

All this is very confusing. The scientists are almost as bad as the spiritualists : they upset all our ideas of finality, for “ intelligent invisible forces ” don't seem so very different from “ spirits ! ”

If the New Monism be true, as it probably is, only one thing is clear—there are two relativities. And if we remember that, this does not mean a dualism in Nature, but only two sets of faculties in ourselves ; one set correlated to the substance of the body and the other to that of the soul. The one Relativity

is that of the chemical matter and mechanical energy of normal physics ; the other is an Ætherial Relativity about which we know very little, except that it seems connected with all manifestations of energy and with the intelligent forces of metapsychic science ; that motion in it is propagated with the speed of light ; that its electrons are about seventeen hundred times lighter than the hydrogen atom, though these are so small that Professors Stewart and Tait tell us that a drop of water would have to be magnified to the size of the earth for its molecules to be seen about as big as cricket balls, and a few more curious things, among others that almost any number of electrons can occupy what seems to us the same space at the same time.

If this kind of substance, which has definite mass, rigidity and certain other properties, can be organised by life, it must involve senses correlated to it, just as our present senses are correlated to chemical matter ; which means a new relativity.

As long as we keep these two relativities distinct in our minds, there is no confusion and no upset of ideas ; there is only fresh knowledge which does not nullify the old. Gravitation continues to act, though we don't know how ; and light travels in straight lines, though Einstein may have shown that in an intense gravitational field it can be bent a little. And if we can't conceive of invisible bodies as being made of stuff " like electricity " as some spirits have said they are, we may recall that Sir Oliver Lodge, who is certainly the first physicist in England, and perhaps in the world, sees no reason why this should be impossible (cf. "*Raymond Revised*," p. 208) ; and further, that as soon as we leave the power-house where electricity is generated and distributed, its nature is quite unknown. So perhaps stuff " like electricity " may be capable of being organised into " bodies " and the spirits may be right after all, and know what they are trying to tell us ! The real difficulty may be that we are trying to interpret one relativity in terms of another, and refusing to admit that there may be a few things that we don't know.

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE GLASTONBURY DISCOVERIES.

By the Editor.

SHORTLY before the opening of the 1921 summer season for excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, there came to the writer, through an entirely new channel, further unsought-for knowledge concerning the earlier mediæval history of this great Benedictine foundation. This knowledge is even more copious than that which had been received before, but it deals with another and earlier section of the story of the Abbey, namely that period immediately preceding the great fire of 1184 A.D., and so it refers to buildings of which we have no trace left above ground, and of which our documentary records are mostly traditional and very vague.

Yet these new writings are already, in one or two most important respects, proved veridical, and they have the additional interest and value that they are not only unsought by the writer, but come from a person quite unfamiliar with the history of the place.

Readers will scarcely need to be reminded of the fact that in 1908 the Edgar Chapel, whose form and location had been a mystery to antiquaries for half a century, was discovered with the greatest ease by the correct interpretation of documents through the help of the "script" of John Alleyne, and that, following this in 1919-20, the further discovery of the foundations of the "Loretto" Chapel was effected in a similar manner. The facts have been a most indigestible meal for the sceptic, and although criticism of the most varied and intelligent kind has been levelled at the work and the claims made for spiritual direction, all has failed entirely to shake, in the least degree, the central facts. These stand as a rock of witness in the stormy sea of controversy. And as all the witness of the script has been brought down into the region of exact archæology by logical argument based upon the reassemblage of known data

in the light of the new ideas embodied in the writings, it has been possible for the present writer to carry out the (by no means simple) task of presenting, year by year, to the responsible authorities, *i.e.*: the Somerset Archæological Society and the Trustees of the Abbey—proposals for excavation sufficiently convincing to ensure their ready acceptance of his annual programme, and the incorporation of his reports in detailed form in the Proceedings of the learned Societies above-mentioned. Hence there are two parallel accounts extant of these discoveries, the one dovetailing into the other; the one the purely scientific, for which readers may be referred to the volumes of Proceedings of the Somerset Archæological Society from 1908 onwards; the other published in the "Gate of Remembrance," and to be found most fully in the fourth edition of that book, issued by Mr. Blackwell, of Oxford, in 1921.

And now we come to the third, and it may be the last, chapter of the story of these excavations, for the reality of the help derived from the writer's new and "unorthodox" method being now patent even to the most unwilling mind, the period of apathy and indifference on the part of the older school of archæological and clerical thinkers has passed away, and an active opposition is taking its place, an opposition quite easily to be understood, but which must, nevertheless, be countered steadily and unceasingly until it be finally reconciled. At the moment it has succeeded in causing confusion and in paralyzing the work on the spot, and even the 1921 excavations have been, perforce, left incomplete and without any certified record on paper or in print. Rumours of an astonishing nature in disparagement of the work have been set in circulation, and only this year an elaborate thesis of sixty-six pages of would-be destructive attack was prepared and issued by a wealthy clergyman, with the object of stopping the work, and a formal complaint made by him to the Abbey Trustees. This pamphlet, being found libellous, has been withdrawn, but more may be heard of it later.

That, in brief, is the outline of the situation just now, and the time would seem ripe for the public, whose heritage Glastonbury is, to assert their will and interest in the matter.

But the more recent story of the discoveries must now be told. Only a small fraction of the script received can be here

dealt with. The fuller story, with transcripts of the original writings, will be given to the public before long, under the title "The Script of Brother Symon." So to proceed with my narrative:—

In June, 1921, a friend in London told me that a lady of her acquaintance, living near Winchester, had received certain writings referring to some monastic house which, she had an idea, might be Glastonbury. She had not been to that place, and knew nothing of its history, except the matters of tradition commonly known. She had been in the habit, since 1919, of getting automatic messages, which came of their own accord, and sometimes interlarded themselves in her normal writing. D—S— was a cultured woman who, in earlier life, had taken honours in history. She was a consistent and practical church-woman, and gave her life to parish work among the poor of her city. I gathered that she had laid the matter before the Anglican clergyman who was her spiritual director, and that this priest, being broad in outlook and real in his faith, had not discouraged her, being content to advise such precautions in following the development of the impulse as all reasonable people would be ready to endorse. In one of her earliest letters, this lady wrote to me to ask "if there is any record or plan of the Church of SS. Peter and Paul (the monastic church) before the fire in 1180, or 1186, as she has two curious scripts relating to the old churches?"

"To-night," she continues, "I have had another curious script alluding to the veil in the sanctuary arch having caught fire from a taper which led to the destruction of both churches; also stern commands to 'seke' for a stone engraven 'ad dextram,' to be found in a wall or passage or drain leading to a gate in the town. A rough plan is given. I do not know Glastonbury and cannot tell whether this is intelligible. . . . I am hoping very much to see Glastonbury soon, but I am afraid I have lost the chance of seeing the ruins whilst you are there. (A meeting was effected in August.) The spirit of the place seems possessing me! I have been reading no books on Glastonbury, as I wished to keep my mind perfectly clear and open."





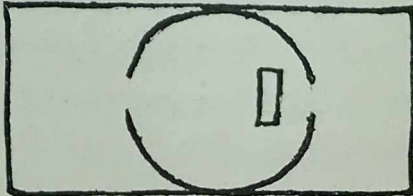
In the script which she sent with this letter was a passage in Latin, referring to certain walls of wood and lead coverings, which were built by Paulinus, companion of St. Augustine,

over the old church. This struck me as most remarkable, for, as it happened, I had only that very week been discussing with the Dean of W— the very problem, and he had remarked to me that he found warrant for the belief that the “*vetusta ecclesia*” was given a lead roof by this Bishop. The matter assumed importance at the moment, since, by the Dean’s wish I had begun to excavate for the site of a pillar mentioned in the mediæval records, and which was said to have recorded by its position the line of the eastward termination of the ancient wooden church. So in this case the communication received from the automatist exactly tallied with the subject-matter of conversations being held in a locality eighty miles away.

I reported this coincidence to the lady automatist in a letter I wrote on the 24th July, and in her reply, dated the 26th, she says:—

“It is all so wonderful—the way these scripts have come just when you are excavating, and also that I should have been absolutely ignorant of the fact that you were exploring for the *ancient* churches. I was only afraid that the scripts were useless because they related to that early period.”

In the script which was enclosed with this letter, bearing the same date, is a passage dealing with the form of the earliest Christian church. This, as it seems new to archæologists, I will give.

“Mind you well :
 men say, atte  your Ecclesia Vetusta was rounde,
 Then builded  first buildyng of wode and osyers.
 wode over. This was that whyche ye  they a ne house of
 after, alle brent (burnt) to grunde, and  beheld
 of stane now left, but alle tobrocen (broken) and layde lowe. chirche
 Mark well, ye who seke relics of Ecclesia Vetusta (ancient
 church) that ye celle of ye Holie Ones
 was ronde. Trulie I saw it not, but in 
 Ecclesia Vetusta, still parts left. Then
 alle brent. Woe ! woe ! and alle that
 so holie and without pryce. No man
 knew whilk of ye taperers fired ye vayle. Well indeed,—*Gratias*
tibi, Domine !,—that none were brent in ye Holie Place. But
 yett all that in Ecclesia Major.

It is curious to note, in passing, the archaic forms of some of the words. "Tobrocan" for "broken" for example; "grunde" for "ground"; "whilk" for "which," are habitual in this script, but were never met with in the script of John Alleyne. Another peculiarity is that the communicator always talks to the automatist as though she had been present at the time of the events described. There are several who communicate in these scripts, and they are consistent in the parts they take in describing times and events. So far, they have been but two, "Ambrose" and "Romuald," both of whom claim to have been monks of Glastonbury at that time. But they address their lady scribe as "Brother," and seem to take it for granted that she will accept the fact they so constantly assert of her share in the experiences they detail. For example, on July 28th, "Romuald" says, in an impressive communication, written in large uncials:—

"THOU WOLDEST DOE WELL, BROTHER, TO KEPE INNE MYNDE THAT THOU DIDDEST BEHOLD THAT HOLY PLACE, YE EALDE CHIRCH. BRING HIT TOE THY MINDE, PLAINE AND POORE YET RICHE IN SANCTITIE."

But the really astonishing thing about this and other scripts following are the affirmations (*a*) that the first chapel was round in form, and (*b*) that when the wooden church of Paulinus and the older chapel within were burnt to the ground, there still remained, though in a broken state, walls of stone. The automatist, in her letter of even date, comments upon these features, and I quote from her letter:—

"The idea of the earliest church of all being a 'rondhavel' (as it would be called on a South African Mission station) is interesting, as I have heard that St. Columba's followers built themselves 'beehive' huts in Scotland on landing."

She comments upon the mention of the walls of the Ecclesia Vetusta in these early scripts, and asks me:—

"Does this mean that the wood and lead were inclosed in a stone chapel built by Abbot Herlewin between 1101 and 1120 A.D., during Ambrosius' life at Winchester? He describes the sanctuary wall and arch in Ecclesia Major, which Herlewin would never have left standing, had he rebuilt the great church in Norman style. It looks to me

as if it were Ecclesia Vetusta which he recased in stone."

All the automatist's knowledge of Herlewin and his works is derived from the earlier scripts received by her in 1921, and from a book she referred to after receiving this script. In my "Gate of Remembrance," which she had read rather hastily at an earlier date, nothing is said about this Abbot's works. All mention of him is confined to a footnote on page 106 (fourth edition).

Being anxious to assure myself of the extent of my automatist's prior knowledge of such matters, I obtained from her a declaration, dated September 13, 1921, to the following effect:—

" You ask me about any knowledge of existing documents or books about Glastonbury which I may have had previous to my visit to the place in August last. I saw no books or plans relating to Glastonbury at all, and have never had access to any MSS. or documents concerning it. My sister brought down two books from the London Library on July 30th. One was an old 'Murray,' of Somersetshire, the other Mr. Greswell's 'History.' I regretted that I had no time to read them before I came away. The only other thing I looked at was a tiny booklet—a sort of guide to Glastonbury—but this was long after I had the first scripts. I had read the 'Gate of Remembrance' in 1919. It was lent to me by a friend for a few days only. I read it in a hurry, and knowing next to nothing about Glastonbury, was interested in it only from the psychic point of view. I retained a recollection of some of your theories, Johannes' love of Nature and the picture of the foundations of the Edgar Chapel. ALL THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE SCRIPTS WAS PERFECTLY NEW TO MY CONSCIOUS MIND, AND I CANNOT TRACE ANY FOUNDATION FOR IT IN PAST STUDIES. When I visited the ruins on August 18th, they seemed unlike anything I imagined, except St. Mary's, of which I had seen a photograph."

At the foot of this letter is appended a note, written by the sister of the automatist, a lady of distinguished position in Church circles, and signed by her.

" I can testify to the absolute truth of this statement."

We must now hark back a little in the narrative. It was on

the 1st of August, after the automatist had had the opportunity of glancing at Greswell's History, that she wrote me a letter, enclosing scripts dated July 27, 28 and 29. These referred to the churches standing at the time of the great fire, and gave sketches and plans of the Ecclesia Major of Herlewin, though that Abbot's name does not appear in the script. The script of July 29th, closes with a Latin passage :—

“ Ecclesia major altiora, altissima est : longeque inferior vetusta ecclesia stabat. Domus ligni quae super vetusta ecclesia de Sancte Paulini ædificabitur altiora fuit. Ecclesia non est, sed domus ecclesiæ. Nunc ecclesia nominatur.” *

Here is a curious piece of information—that the “ church ” of Paulinus, built over St. Joseph's first little round chapel, was not solely a church, but a “ Church House.” This accords with what we know of some Saxon churches : they were carried up two or three storeys in height, and the upper floors used for various purposes.

In her letter of August 1st, the automatist says to me :—

“ I should very much like to have a talk about these scripts. I have a feeling that your work at Glastonbury originates them, and that I am ‘ listening in ’ as the wireless people say. It is strange that one of the scripts spoke of Walkelyn's western towers at Winchester, just when excavations for the new War Memorial were beginning *there* at the west end.

“ The scripts of July 28th and 29th were taken down before my sister arrived, bringing with her Mr. Greswell's book on Glastonbury. It was almost a *shock* to find that the details in the scripts, which were unknown to me, were mentioned in that book.”

On the 3rd August, at 6 p.m., she gets another and most interesting script, in which the name of Herlewin first appears, together with a plan showing his work. This includes certain stone walls built around the wooden “ Church House ” of Paulinus, a passage-way sunk in the ground, communicating thence to the Ecclesia Major and a mortuary chapel at the S.W. corner of his church, just where I conceived the Chapel of the

* “ The greater church is loftier, very lofty ; the old church was less in length. The house of wood, which was built over the old church of St. Paulinus was taller. It is not a church, but a “ church house.” Now, however, it is called a ‘ church.’ ”

Holy Sepulchre built by Abbot Bere four hundred odd years later to have stood! Herlewin's cloister is mentioned. I quote from the script a portion only :—

“ Brother, I, Romuald, saw not ye building of ye most ancient chirche but menne sayde that ye chappelle—capella—of Herlewin oure Abbat builded was over muri Sancti Paulini, and I myself haf seen thereyn pavimento et muri parvæ, not high from grunde, in a ronde, in Ecclesia Sanctæ Mariæ. But of buylding after ye grete fyre lyttel ken I. Alle was brente and tobrocان, and men maybe buylded somewhat more to sud,—it may be so. Gif an I other monachi ki scavaient plus finde can, so wyl I mak them ye to remember.”

The divergence from English into old French at the close has a most quaint effect. This is “ Romuald's ” way of saying : “ If I can find other monks who know more, I will make them remind you.” He thinks that the chapel erected after the fire may have been built a little to the south of the old lines. This is interesting in view of what is to follow. For on the 6th August, in a further script, this point is elucidated.

“ Friend and Brother : I, Ambrosius, was atte Winton and Abbat Herlewin buylded atte Glaston somewhat in stone, repaying Sancte Marie ye Ealden Chirche and west of Ecclesia Major INI Regis. None of east end or apse of Regis INI his chirche did he buyld again, but claustrum of wood, and bell-towre, as ye didde see, capella mortuarium ad occidentem, and a waye. Romuald, ane novyce,—after, Thesaurus,—canne shew more. Herlewin Abbat mended roof and walles Ecclesiæ Vetustæ : stone, super muri Sancti Paulini. After ye fyre I, Romualdus, saw some of ye building, but ne muche :—new Sainte Marie more to south, so also Ecclesia Major,—but no great waye. Stone in foundation of INA Rex hard to usen and digge.”

On the 18th August, the automatist and her sister came to Glaston, and she brought with her a script she had obtained a few days before. It speaks (*inter alia*) of Herlewin's works, especially referring to a chapel of St. Mary Magdalene by the south transept. The communicator is one “ Rainald,” who, in response to the enquiry as to who is writing, says :—

“ Rainaldus Monachus : once armigerius Regum Gulielmi et Gulielmi Rufi. I Rainaldus saw not ye fyre, but ye cloyster wel yknewe, and olde chirche. Le Roy Arthure et la royne Geneviève gisaient près de l'eglyse auprès des deux ossuaires ou reposaient les restes, les cadavres des roys des Anglois. Cherchez les. More I cannot. Hora novissima. Vigilate et orate.”

On August 21st, the automatist being then at Glastonbury, was obtained the first of the only two of her scripts which were produced in my presence. She sat at a table alone, I being seated at a little distance. The writing was produced slowly and with frequent pauses. It was as follows:—

“I, Romualdus, hear from one who saw much of building after ye fyre,—greater Church builded far wider : apse of Ecclesia major covered :—sud wall builded through cloyster Abbati Herluin. None of Maudelyn chapel rebuilded, so as he knoweth. It lyeth below, south of apse of Kyng eIna. Herluin Abbat builded cloyster not wide but wider than some : XVIII its measure.”

More details follow, but are not essential to the story now. On the 23rd, another long script was obtained, with detailed plans of Herluin's church. The name of another monk, “Galfrid,” comes into this.

“Galfridus can tell more than Rainaldus. Galfridus in scriptorio made plans for Herluin Abbas. Herluin Abbas muche loved with Galfridus in frater et capitulum to speak of the building. He willed two towres to buyld, but never did :—only foundations. Yea, Sancte Marie over muri Sancti Paulini buylded was, after ye fyre :—ne of walls of Ina or Herluin Abbas left standing. Galfridus waiteth : he cometh once more to plan and build in his land. Herluin Abbas waiteth not with him : he hath his work,—a gode prieste he, and a wyse. Romualdus waiteth till the number is made up : wee eight in number await thee the ninth. He who seketh here ruled once as pryor, after Abbas :—his name know I not. Ne more.”

Later on, the same day, another script was obtained. This gave more particulars of the monks. “Galfrid” is the speaker.

“‘Muche’” he says ‘is there to tell of Dom Romualdus and of alle ye strict order whiche he among monkes kept. None dared stray in garth or cloyster : and mightily angered was hee against once sub-pryor, for that he let and gave permission to certain of the brethren to go on pilgrimage. Suche was a great sinne against oure holie rule. It was but for lay-brethren such an holiday to keepe. Our sub-pryor kept small rule after Herluin dyed. I, Galfridus came as novice before Turstin Abbas,—woe betide mee ! ’ ”

The next script is dated 25th August, and is chiefly biographical. It may be published with the rest, but the silver streak of palingenesis runs through it as it does indeed throughout these scripts, and cannot be picked out. My automatist

has never, so far as I am aware, been influenced by current doctrines of rebirth. She may be a monk in spirit, as all her ideals tend that way, and the larger part of her days are given to work amongst the poor. But to the monkish writers of the script she is always their Brother Symon, and beloved as a member of their Company. So in this script we read:—

“ Albeit thou never monke in Glaston wast, yet diddest thou here abyde sometime about ye time yatt Stephanas—Estienne in frankish,—frenche—tongue—Kinge was. Ambrosius brohte thee here as gieste, a pilgrimme from Winton ; for oure Pryor,—nay, oure Abbat—was one Robert. He had pryor of Winton been when thou wast sub-pryor ” “ I mynde me thou wast olde and bent,—olde for thy years : and Ambrosius even older, and soone he slept in Oure Lorde. But Abbat,—oure Robertus Abbas,—was cutte off from his worke in his strength by a greate fever. Yet Romuald saith he cometh again for love of Glaston, yet not a prieste. Ne ye now prieste, brother ! I see ye not but as spirit, for the thynges of earth are all changed : only all holie thinges menne mayde to Gloria Dei have here an image, and wee see Glaston as wee hit saw in his beauty and glory, as in a glasse. For hit to Oure Lorde gifan was and Hee tooke the gifte, and hit is Hys for ever.”

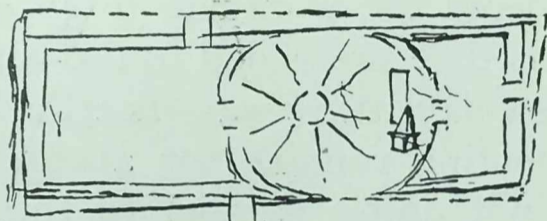
And now comes a remarkable verification of script. During July, as I have said, there had been discovered as a result of documentary research by the Dean of W——, the foundation of a very ancient monument on the north of St. Mary's Chapel, that had originally been placed there to mark, by a meridian line, the eastward termination of the oldest church, and thus also of the sacred ground. On the 26th August, my automatist obtained the following remarkable script, again from “ Galfridus.”

I quote only the more important parts of it (Bracketed words mine.—ED.)

“ Gualtier hath somewhat of Ecclesia Vetusta before Herluin : some wall of stone outer (outside) of muri Sancte Paulini ; and within, a floor of symbols, and a chasse (shrine) steep and pointed, by Awter (altar) on sud (south) for Sanct David hys reliques : as thus, saith Gualtier :—Gualtier ne scribere cann (Gualtier cannot draw) Grunde of Ecclesia Vetusta ” (Here the plan is drawn as now reproduced) “ Herluin Abbas made new wall of stone ; I can hit marke - - - Then Henricus Abbas buylded on Ecclesia Major somewhat : began towre at sud-ouest. Then Robertus Abbas from Wintonceastre came.”

It will be seen that the diagram suggests, by a dotted line, the position of the alleged walls of stone, built by Herlewin. Two points are to be noted: (1) that they are placed at a slight

*as this saith Gualter - Gualter ne
scribere kann - funde Ecclesia vetusta*



*Herlewin Abbas made new wall of stone - I
can hit marke ---*

angle from the others, the axis of the chapel being two or three degrees S.W. and N.E. of these walls; and (2) that they embrace more space on the north side, bringing the chapel rather to the south of the enclosure. A point which struck me at once was that if Herlewin had so altered the inclination of his walls, he would have brought them in line with the axis of the Ecclesia Major, which is oriented three degrees S.E. of the Old Church, or St. Mary's Chapel. This was a point which could not possibly have occurred to the automatist, nor perhaps would it have been appreciated by her without careful explanation.

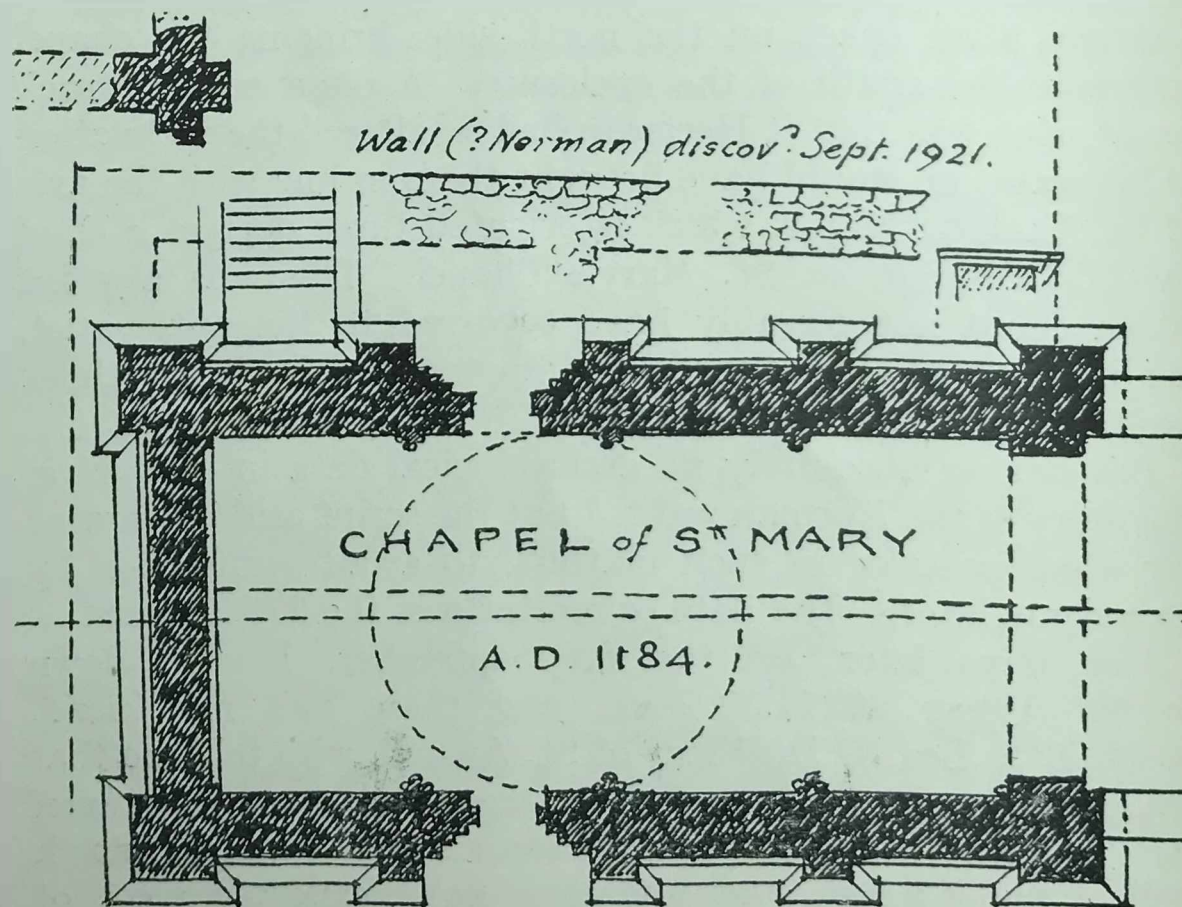
But having absolutely no archæological data in support of this story of the Norman walls, I put the script aside, following my usual practice in such matters, to await verification by documents later. The date of receipt was the 27th August.

Five days later, on the 1st September, I went down to the Abbey at 11.30 a.m., and there met my friend, Revd. T. S. Lea, D.D., Vicar of St. Austell, who told me that the workmen, in levelling the surface of the ground between the "pyramid" or pillar foundation aforesaid, and the north wall of the Chapel, had hit upon an unexpected piece of masonry. This had been found not far from the surface, at a point about four feet in advance of the chapel wall and just west of the N.E. turret. I thought, at first, it must be something that the Abbey Trustees had had put in there to underpin the foundation of the turret, and to protect the crypt window

adjoining, but on calling their man, he assured me that he had never seen it, and the foundation they put in was right under the turret.

Hence I concluded that it was old, and on digging deeper around the mass, its antiquity became more obvious. I then remembered the script, and wondered whether it were not the footing of the very wall sketched in dotted lines in the diagram. Accordingly I ordered the workmen to go on digging to the westward, and this they proceeded to do, with the result that during the next few days there was unearthed the remains of a substantial wall-footing running for about thirty feet west, and nearly, but not quite, parallel to the chapel wall. It deviated a few degrees to the north-west as we advanced, precisely in the manner shown in the script.

Herlewin's wall had discovered itself: it had not waited for my documentary research!



The same day I took Dr. Lea to my cottage, and showed him the original script which he initialled with the date of his inspection, and at my request, he wrote the following attestation:—

“ On the morning of this day, Sept. 1st, 1921, I was at Glastonbury, and had arranged to meet Mr. Bligh Bond at the Abbey about 10.30. Arriving about half-an-hour before him, I watched the digging operations on the north side of St. Joseph's Chapel, when I noticed a ledge of worked stone just uncovered by the excavators, who agreed that it was something new. Presently, Mr. Bond came, and his first remark was ‘ That must be what the Trustees put in ’—or words to that effect. He evidently connected it with some protective work done to make a window of the crypt safe.

“ But it soon became apparent that what we had found was a solid block of masonry which could have had no connection with the existing St. Joseph's Chapel. And in the evening I called at Elton Cottage, where Mr. Bond showed me the script of August 26th, which indicated the foundations of a church outside, and parallel to, St. Joseph's Chapel.

“ In fact the piece of wall discovered seemed very much in the position indicated in the script, and the conclusion grew on me that the statement of the script that it was built by a Norman Abbot to protect the ‘ *vetusta ecclesia* ’ may very well be the truth.

“ In brief, my testimony is that I saw the script with its diagram on the day of the discovery of the masonry, and the discovery appears to tally with the diagram.

“ (*Signed*) T. S. LEA,

“ *Vicar of St. Austell.*”

“ *Dated September 1st, 1921.*”

Alas! that this precious piece of evidence is now lying neglected, and in a partly mutilated condition. The writer, finding its stones disintegrated and many loose, laid over and along each edge of the wall a layer of stones following the line of those found, with the object of protecting them and holding them in place. But a few days later he found them all removed by someone else's order, and as this had been done by an ignorant workman, several of the loose stones found “ *in situ* ” had also been removed, and all had been carried away to another part of the ground! The writer has since covered the whole surface of the stone with loose earth, which will at least prevent decomposition from frost. But the occurrence is typical of

the system which prevails in the management of affairs at the Abbey, where for all practical purposes the executive power is delegated to a single official who knows nothing of archæology and cares not for work of this nature. Sooner or later there must ensue a change in this respect, and the public, whose property the Abbey is, will call for a less mechanical form of control. But it is to be feared that unless action be taken speedily, much irrevocable damage will have been done. Already many valuable data have been lost through neglect. Parts are overgrown with weeds whose rank growth has burst the stones and obliterated the contours. In other cases wanton damage has been done. Small care is taken of the sculptured stones lying about the Abbey. They are constantly chipped and defaced. The animus against the psychic side of the writer's work is unfortunately very marked. His books have been withdrawn from sale at the Abbey bookstall, and there has been an attempt to introduce another excavator, who actually succeeded for a short time in opening further ground, the soil from which was all thrown aside unexamined! The Somerset Archæological Society have been moved to throw up the work of excavation, and now the Trustees appear uncertain how to proceed further. It has been the writer's privilege to demonstrate a new and successful method of research into the records of the past. Those who stand for the old methods were at first amused and indifferent. They are now alarmed at their success and possibilities, and antagonism is hence displaying itself. The third stage will be acceptance, but before we arrive at that there will be a great conflict and the reactionary party will use any means in their power to suppress, to deny and to obstruct the truth, and they will think they are doing good service by their resistance.



Plaster Cast from Wax Mould of Materialised Hand.
Through the mediumship of F. KLUSKI.



Plaster Cast from Wax Mould of Materialised Hand.
Through the mediumship of F. KLUSKI.

AN EARLY EXPERIMENT IN WAX MOULDS OF MATERIALIZED FEET.

IN view of the widespread interest in the wax moulds of materialized hands, obtained through the mediumship of Franck Kluski, it may not be amiss to remind our readers of experiments carried out as long ago as 1877, when there was, in England, a wealth of excellent physical mediumship.

The account can be read in a book called "Some Reminiscences," by Alfred Smedley, of Belper: an account of a series of experimental séances with Miss Wood, a physical medium.

The Smedley brothers, who organized the séances, were well-known people in Belper; the family, Wesleyans for generations, and highly respected by everyone. They owned iron works in Belper, and were people of some weight. A doctor introduced the writer to the subject and, thorough practical man of affairs that he was, he demanded the most rigid proofs. The mediums of those days, or some of them, appeared to welcome locked stocks for hands and feet, and cages screwed to the floor—while in the case to be mentioned, a lamp with an adjustable light was used. But I must refer readers to the book itself for the background.

After experimenting with other mediums and learning something of the conditions under which the best results were obtained, Mr. Smedley invited to his house Miss Wood, of Newcastle—whose work had been vouched for by T. P. Barkas, F.G.S., a noted investigator. The members of the circle were open to conviction, but were quite sceptical about some of the stated happenings, and that frame of mind continued through a series of twelve sittings.

"I told Miss Wood there were three distinct manifestations we were still anxious to obtain, one of which was to secure moulds of spirit hands or feet, while the medium was screwed up in the cage. Intimation was given shortly afterwards that a special sitting for the attempt at spirit moulds should be

arranged. 'What shall we prepare?' I asked the 'control.' 'Two pails of water—one of cold and one of hot—and a pound of wax.' The experimenters had heard of an American medium, a Mrs. Hardy, through whom such moulds had been obtained under test conditions. They were produced in a wire cage securely fastened, while the medium sat at a distance from it. The Circle proposed to reverse the procedure (the medium in the cage, and the moulds produced outside). It was carefully noted, when Miss Wood entered the séance room on the appointed date, that she had nothing in her hands. Divesting herself of her jacket, she at once entered the cage, and was secured to the chair in a very careful way, which could not have been done without completely crushing articles so fragile as wax moulds, had she any such about her person. The cage door was then screwed up. The wax was cut into small pieces and placed in a pail. Boiling water was poured on this until the pail was three-parts full, and a similar quantity of cold water in the other pail. The pails were placed in the cabinet which adjoined the wire cage, about twelve inches from the side of it, but between the two there was no opening. We were asked to open the cage door a few inches. The door was unscrewed, and an opening made through which a very small baby could not have passed, the table being placed against the door as before. The workers on the other side now addressed themselves to the task of *making spirit moulds before our eyes*. Mr. Smedley was called inside the cabinet, and he could see neither medium nor chair, but a 'pillar of cloud.' Asking what he was to do, a voice from the cloud asked him to take the pails outside, as they were going to try to make them there so that all could see. The wax appeared to be melted and floating on the top, and the pails were put in the centre of the circle. The curtains were opened by 'Benny'—a 'control' whose appearance is described earlier in the book—stepping out. He asked for the loan of Mr. Smedley's chair. This was handed to him, and he placed it close to the pails—his back being about a foot clear of the curtains. When he was seated he gathered up his white robe and commenced in a vigorous and business-like way to dip his left foot first in the hot and then in the cold pail alternately, for about ten times, then placing his left leg over his right knee, he gently tapped the wax foot all round—and, taking off a

beautiful wax mould, held it up so that all could see it, and handed it to a member of the Circle.

“ ‘Benny,’ remembering that he had asked that the cage door might be partially opened, and anxious that this concession should not in any respect diminish the completeness of the test under which the mould had been obtained, undertook in his own way to convince us that the medium was not in any sense an active participant in the work which had been done. He closed the cage door and put the table firmly against it, asking me to take care that it did not move an inch. He lifted the heavy musical box and placed it on the floor, with one end leaning against the cage door and then disappeared. We were going to look at the mould, when ‘Benny’ again appeared, and said: ‘Be very quiet and we’ll try an’ send a wee lassie out to make a mould of her feet—ye’ll then see the difference between the two.’ Soon the curtains opened again, and ‘Maggie,’ a beautiful female form, in snow white robes, stepped gently out, and bowing, pointed to my chair which I had placed for her close to the pails. ‘Maggie’ gathered up her robes and pursued the same course as ‘Benny’ and handed a mould of her left foot to the sitter. She tried to do the same with her right, but after dipping two or three times, in consequence I presume of her power failing, she rose from her seat, bowed politely, and went into the cabinet, and did not return.

“ The whole process, from the first dip to the finished mould, was distinctly seen, and the fact that they were made as stated rests on as good evidence as can be offered for the shining of the sun or the falling of the snow. Had there been a lingering suspicion in anyone’s mind that by some ‘subtle device or otherwise’ the medium had managed to present us with an impression of her own little foot, it was destroyed the moment ‘Benny’ handed us the mould which we saw him take from his own foot. The moulds we got were both left feet, and an individual has not two left feet. ‘Benny’s’ mould is nine inches in length and four inches in breadth; ‘Maggie’s’ is eight inches in length and two-and-a-quarter inches in breadth. The cage door was closed, the table and musical box against it—the cabinet surrounded and watched. I asked then ‘if the moulds were not taken from the feet of the medium, from whose feet were they taken?’ I am an iron moulder; from my youth up have learned my trade, and am able to say for certai

that the moulds could not possibly be taken off the feet unless the feet were first dematerialized, or partly dematerialized. The very fine portions of wax round and between the toes all remain perfect.

“What became of these moulds? They were kept for a number of years by Mr. Adshead, one of our members, in a case made for them. Later the Hon. A. Aksakoff, Privy Councillor at St. Petersburg, asked to have casts of the moulds, as the wax was becoming deteriorated. This Mr. Adshead had done, and sent photographs of these before and after moulding to St. Petersburg. The plaster casts I have in my care.”

Later, other moulds were obtained by Miss Wood with other Circles, and some of these actual casts were sent to Aksakoff.

My readers will see how closely this story of nearly fifty years ago agrees with the experiences of Dr. Geley in his own laboratory, and that of Mr. Hewat McKenzie and myself with F. Kluski. The first firm of moulders in Paris, in 1921, examined the one-piece wax moulds of hands and found nothing in all their craft to explain their construction, and here are practical moulders in 1877 making the same statement. It is well sometimes to remind ourselves of the humble pioneers of psychic science who have beaten out the path which later the great of the earth tread in their search for truth.

SCIENCE OF THE OUIJA BOARD.

By **Hester Travers Smith.***

My subject is difficult to deal with in a single lecture, for the Ouija board is a road by which we gain access to a large group of subjects, a knowledge of which is essential to the psychic student. It is generally believed, I think, that messages which come to us through our little board with its alphabet and traveller, are chiefly valued as adding to our proofs of survival. People come for a sitting hoping to get a message from some friend or relative who has passed over, and they are pleased or disappointed as the case may be. But few among them realize that we have here a means by which we can gain experience in every branch of psychic manifestation, except materialization, of course. I have worked with the Ouija board for ten years. When I began I was totally ignorant and, without attending any seances but my own, I have gained knowledge, at first hand, of telepathy, clairvoyance and psychometry, and, further, I have had remarkable evidence of human survival. Before I give you any idea of how this was accomplished I must explain that it was a slow and difficult process, and that failures and disappointments were more frequent than successes. When these successes came, however,

*[This paper was read at a Meeting of College Members on Wednesday, November 1st, 1922, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. Bligh Bond, by Mrs. Hester Travers Smith, the authoress of "Voices from the Void," a book dealing with experiences and theories regarding Ouija board work, which was honoured with an introduction from the pen of Sir William Barrett, F.R.S.]

Many persons use the planchette or Ouija board, or glass and letters, for the purpose of obtaining psychic communications, but few have shown the remarkable perseverance of Mrs. Travers Smith, or have endeavoured to use it over such a varied field of activity as is indicated in this paper.

Mrs. Travers Smith is interested to help anyone at the College who wishes to experiment with, or receive instruction regarding, this branch of investigation.—ED.]

they more than compensated for the long and dreary tracts of dulness which had to be traversed. In this lecture I am forced to be personal, and, what is more, I must be autobiographical to some extent, for in nearly all the cases I shall speak about I was the medium myself, and never had the help of a professional. When I speak of myself as a "medium," I want you to realize that I have no powers of the kind in my normal condition. I have no prophetic dreams, I have never seen an apparition of any kind, I have no clairvoyant power, nor have I any psychometric faculty. I might hold an object possessed of the most deeply interesting history in my hand for hours and it would convey no idea whatever to me.

The natural medium cannot avoid phenomena. The phenomena come to the medium and no cultivation of his powers is required. But persons who are interested in psychic experiments may discover that they have power to develop mediumistic faculty if they are patient. They can cultivate this power. A medium is, at best, merely the tool used either by external influences for their manifestation, or, laying that idea aside, he is a person possessed of such fine sensitiveness that he can receive the thoughts and memories of others and recreate them. In either case the medium attains his results for one reason only—which is, his capacity for remaining passive or in a condition of trance, so that for the moment, his personal mind is suspended and often unconscious, and he can serve as a mirror for the minds of others.

I have come to believe, through my own experiments, that most of us have a latent mediumistic faculty which can be cultivated, if we know the right way to go about it.

The first results which the automatist achieves are slight and very unsatisfying. When I began I found movement difficult, and when a word was spelt out clearly I was delighted and felt I had achieved genuine success. After that period messages came—short, and rather irrelevant sentences, purporting to come from friends and relatives, and frequently from strangers. I then felt it was time to form a circle.

I found a few people who promised to attend regularly. One of them was a shorthand writer, he proved very useful, another was Mr. Savell Hicks, now president of the S.P.R. in Dublin; he was an excellent observer and a practised hypnotist.

I was still "top dog" as regarded "power"—my hand was

always firmly controlled and I was gaining strength as I went on. It was during this period that the *Titanic* went down, with William Stead on board. On the evening the news of the disaster reached Dublin I was sitting with a friend ; it was not the evening on which my circle met. We sat for two hours with no result whatever, which seemed strange as she was a much stronger sensitive than I. At nearly eleven o'clock we decided that it was hopeless, and she was about to go, when I felt a keen desire to try once more, and persuaded her to put her hand on the board for a moment. Immediately a message was spelt out. " Ship sinking, all hands lost, William East overboard, women and children weeping and wailing, sorrow, sorrow, sorrow." We had no idea what this message meant. Just then I heard them call " Stop Press " in the street. It was eleven o'clock, and we knew something important must have happened. I bought a paper, and there was the news that the *Titanic* had gone down with William Stead on board. We had found it hard to follow the message as it was given very rapidly. The name was, of course, William Stead. He attended at every sitting we had for weeks after that, wanting to send messages about his death, and saying he would try to materialize to convince us it was really he. This was a fairly evidential case of survival.

OUIJA BOARD RESULTS WITH MEDIUMS BLINDFOLDED.

To return to our circle. We continued our sittings, plodding on in rather a dull fashion until, one evening we dropped, entirely by chance, on the most interesting series of experiments we ever had. One evening Mr. Savell Hicks brought a stranger to our circle. I strongly objected to strangers, and was far from pleased, but, of course, I could not refuse to sit with the newcomer. No result whatever ! The traveller refused to move. Mr. Savell Hicks then suggested that we should try it blindfolded. Now it had always been his pet desire that we should get messages with our eyes closed, but so far we had had no success.

However, on this occasion the moment we sat with our eyes bandaged, the traveller spelt out messages fluently and rapidly. Mr. L., who was sitting with me, had no previous experience of psychic work, and I cannot entertain the idea that he saw the board. Well, from that time on for a year of

more, Mr. L. and I sat regularly twice a week—with Mr. Savell Hicks and our shorthand writer. The rate at which these communications were spelt out was tremendous, faster, I believe than any we had with our eyes open.

In the course of these blindfold sittings we had an interesting prophecy on the day after the Balkan War began. But our really exciting evenings were in connection with "Peter Rooney," who controlled Mr. L. Peter told us a tragic tale—how, in his lifetime, he was interested in research work, and how he had lived in Boston in great poverty, and had finally thrown himself under a tramcar and been killed. He stated that his life had been a very unworthy one, and that he had spent a good deal of it in gaol. Sir William Barrett wrote to the Chief of Police in Boston and found that a person called "Peter Rooney" had been badly injured by a tram car, but was still alive. We upbraided Peter at our next sitting, and he replied that he wanted his identity kept secret, and one name was as good as another. Peter was most entertaining. He was vulgar, bumptious, hot tempered and very easily offended. Any failure to keep our appointments with him irritated him vastly. He helped us with a series of really wonderful experiments, chiefly telepathic and was always ready to be tested and exploited for visitors.

TELEPATHIC RESULTS.

Now, I should like you to picture these sittings to yourselves. Here was our little bridge-table. Laid on it were the letters of the alphabet, cut out separately on cardboard, and over these a sheet of plate glass was placed which was highly polished so that there should be no jar when the traveller glided over it. Mr. L. and I sat side by side, our fingers resting on the traveller. We wore black satin masks and, if tests were required, we had our eyes plugged with cotton wool as well. We chatted to each other while the sitting went on, and had no idea whatever of what was coming through. Our shorthand writer took down the messages, and Mr. Savell Hicks sometimes asked questions and invented tests for us. He used to think of numbers and letters, and try to convey them to the board. The success in this class of experiment was about eighty per cent. He had a little screen made, which he placed on the table, and behind which he put a strip of coloured

paper or silk. The traveller would push behind the screen, touch the paper and spell out the colour—red, green, etc. On one occasion we asked Peter to read a verse from a calendar which hung on the wall. The time of the sitting was a June evening, I think. Peter selected a week early in the January before and wrote down the verse (four lines) without much hesitation. Mr. Savell Hicks used also to place an open book under the table. The traveller would tilt over, touch the print and read us out two or three words correctly. These experiments were telepathic, read directly from the mind of Mr. Savell Hicks, but neither Mr. L. nor I was particularly quick at telepathy when we were normal, and, further, we had no idea these tests were being tried, as we were blindfolded. The only other explanation is, obviously, that Mr. Hicks conveyed his ideas to an external entity calling itself "Peter Rooney."

A SHEET OF GLASS CAUSES INHIBITION OF PHENOMENA.

Sir William Barrett tested us by putting various objects between our bandaged eyes and the board. Clear glass was the only deterrent to the communications. These used to grow hesitating, and stop if a sheet of glass were placed over the eyes and the forehead.

These blindfolded sittings were the most interesting we had during all the years my circle worked with me. This power of seeing without eyes seemed to depend on Mr. L., for when he left Dublin I failed to get blindfolded results alone, or with any other person who turned up, for a long time. Indeed they seemed to have exhausted my psychic power, and I almost despaired of any further success with my work.

At last I discovered another medium with whom I sat regularly for a long time, and with whom I got some success in blindfold experiments. I shall call this sitter Mr. X.

DEVELOPMENT OF AUTOMATIC WRITING.

Shortly after Mr. X. and I began my first "control" appeared. This creature called himself "Eyen"; he said he had been an Egyptian priest in the temple of Isis, and was attracted by the fact that a scrap of cerecloth was in my possession. "Eyen" was a most amusing character. He

was smooth and full of flattery, a liar, partly perhaps from the redundance of his imagination. But, although I had little respect for his moral character, he proved both useful and interesting. Early in his career he taught me automatic writing. I had often held a pencil for quite a long time with no result, so I had quite abandoned the idea that it was possible for me to get any success in that way. One night "Eyen" suggested that my psychic power was increasing and that he would give me more light. I asked in what way I should gain by this. He said that next time I sat I would get automatic writing, provided I held Mr. X.'s hand. He added that at each sitting I should grow stronger, and that this power would remain with me for an hour after Mr. X. had gone, that I should require his help less and less, and, finally, have no difficulty in writing alone. Things turned out exactly as he said, and after about a fortnight automatic writing came quite freely to me. This long course of sittings with Mr. X. was exceedingly interesting, and threw a light on the subject of mediumship. I was described by "Eyen" as a positive and Mr. X. as a negative. The apparent difference between us was that I could get coherent messages without any difficulty, but at a rather slow rate; he, on the other hand, had tremendous force, more than I have found in any other sitter, but without my help he couldn't get even a word coherently. Combined we made an excellent medium, and we had very remarkable results from time to time.

COMMUNICATION IN A LANGUAGE UNKNOWN TO MEDIUMS.

In the course of these sittings "Peter Rooney" turned up again and urged us to do blindfold work. With this we succeeded, but we were not so fluent or rapid as in the sittings with Mr. L. On one occasion a Spanish "control" came to us with a very dismal story of a disreputable life. Neither we nor anyone else present knew Spanish, but we asked our communicator to speak to us in her own tongue, taking what she said down letter by letter. I sent this long string of letters to a person who speaks Spanish fluently. With a few interruptions they proved to have spelt out in quite grammatical Spanish very much the same tale as we had already been told. At the same time we began a long series of experiments in hypnotism.

COMMUNICATIONS UNDER HYPNOSIS.

Mr. Savell Hicks was a good hypnotist, and he found both Mr. X. and me very easy to manipulate. In about seven minutes I would go off into a very pleasant sleep, and be extremely annoyed at having to do the experiments which he suggested. He would make me sit at the Ouija board while in this trance condition, and would get the traveller to spell out sentences from a book which he held under the table. This was the same experiment as "Peter Rooney" carried out at our blindfold seances. The percentage of successes when hypnotized certainly exceeded those when normal. The same applied to simple telepathic tests. The hypnotist would hold an object and I would generally get the impression correctly, provided his hand touched it. It was a failure otherwise. On one occasion the object was a pipe. Mr. Hicks held it by the bowl. I saw an oval hollow object of two colours, brown and black, but I did not see the stem, which did not touch the hand of the hypnotist.

COMMUNICATION OF ORIGINAL VERSES AND SHORT TALES.

"Eyen," my "control," did not put in any appearance when I was hypnotized. He preferred to work with me in his own way. As time went on he grew more and more imaginative. He loved to write poetry to Mr. X. or to me, or he would tell fantastic tales of ancient Egypt. These tales and poems were most interesting, not so much for their literary value as for the fact that they were spelt out at a tremendous rate, and, in the case of prose, without hesitation. When writing verse "Eyen" would often stop short and change a word or even a line. I feel quite justified in saying that these stories and poems could not possibly be improvised at such a rate by any normal person. If they came from the subconscious minds of the sitters, I should recommend all literary people to use the Ouija board, as it would hasten their labours considerably. I think this is a very interesting point, and one which has not excited as much attention as it deserves.

CHANGE OF "CONTROL."

Mr. X. went to live in the country, and this broke up my circle for some time, as it was hard to find anyone who balanced

my power as well as he did. "Eyen" deserted me about the same time and a new "control" appeared. She said she was an Indian named "Shamar." "Shamar" was entirely different from "Eyen." She was a much duller person, but far more dependable. She did not undertake much, but what she promised she performed. She disliked "Eyen," who still came occasionally, and he detested her. Working with these two "controls" was sometimes quite amusing. There would be, apparently, a struggle, one would be victor, and come in triumphant and full of abuse for the other.

With "Eyen" the message from Sir Hugh Lane came on the night when the news of the sinking of the *Lusitania* reached Dublin.* On that occasion I was sitting with Mr. Lennox Robinson, who did blindfold work fairly well, and the message began a few minutes before the "Stop Press" edition of the evening paper was called out in the street, exactly as in the *Titanic* case. I merely refer to this, as the matter was discussed so widely that I fancy people are tired of it. The case interests me as it gives ample scope for argument containing, as it did, such contradictory elements. The number of Sir Hugh's cabin and the name of a fellow-passenger which he gave were both wrong, but against this he told us that he was on board, and that he had been drowned before we knew it. Undoubtedly the manner of the message was characteristic of Sir Hugh.

PSYCHOMETRIC READINGS THROUGH THE OUIJA BOARD.

Our sittings now changed hands somewhat. A lady came to live with me who proved to be a very fine psychic, and we had many interesting results through her "control." The chief feature of these sittings was psychometry, the objects being laid on the Ouija table and psychometrised by the traveller. We experimented with all sorts of things. Some were letters, others jewels, others chips of wood or stones, others again items of wearing apparel. Letters were extremely successful, but we decided that on the whole the nature of the object made no difference, and we failed to form any theory as to why we succeeded in some cases and failed in others. If successful, success was immediate and complete, if a failure, the failure

* This case is dealt with fully in "Voices from the Void."

was equally definite, and no trace of the real history of the object came through. As in cases of thought transference, so also in psychometry—the light comes through at once, or entire darkness persists; results cannot be forced, and if the sitters begin to speculate unconsciously as to the history of what is before them, it is fatal. The percentage of success we had in psychometry was high. We succeeded in about seventy per cent. of the cases we attempted. Sometimes the owner of the object was present, in such instances it might be argued that success was due to telepathy. We were obliged, however, to abandon this theory, as we found we were equally successful with objects sent us from a distance. Results did not vary, whether the history of the object was known to a person sitting beside the medium, or whether the owner was in America and we had no person present who could give us any lead. Distance, however, does not seem any obstacle to telepathic experiments. I have known cases of successful thought-transference to take place when the transmitter was in Holland and the receiver in Scotland. In instances of this kind, an hour and day are arranged and the experiment is a deliberate one. With Ouija board work results slip in quite, as it were, by chance. A deliberate effort to produce any special phenomenon is almost certainly doomed to failure.

I had better give you some idea of these readings from inanimate objects. A letter, for example, was placed on the board. I psychometrised it with "Shamar" as "control." A friend of mine to whom this letter was addressed was sitting beside me. The writer was Miss Somerville, the well-known Irish Novelist who wrote in conjunction with "Martin Ross." These two women collaborated in their literary work for many years, then "Martin Ross" died, but Miss Somerville believes she still works with her from the other side. They were both automatic writers. I did not know these facts when I psychometrised the letter, but this whole history was spelt out on the Ouija board and, following on that, a description of the room and house in which Miss Somerville worked was given. My friend, who had received the letter, could not verify this description of the room. It was very detailed, the furniture was described, and more especially a piano which looked like a table. The description was sent to Miss Somerville. She said it was absolutely correct except that what

was seen as a piano was really an old-fashioned table. She added that people invariably thought it was an early Victorian square piano.

You will see by what I have said that work done at the Ouija table can be varied in many directions. I have spoken of the psychometry of inanimate objects. The psychometry of localities is another branch of our work. Take your Ouija board into a haunted house, or a house with a lurid past history, and you are almost certain to find out what has happened there. Again and again my "controls" have warned me that certain rooms are dangerous for sittings, and have then given me their reasons for saying so, which generally prove correct. Now that takes me from myself for a moment and reminds me of the most remarkable psychic achievement of our time. I refer, of course, to Mr. Bligh Bond's work at Glastonbury. Nothing has added so much to the prestige of Psychical Research as his wonderful scripts have. They have taken away the reproach that nothing useful was ever achieved by a study of the subject. His unhalting success in getting absolutely reliable information is amazing. He marched along without any check whatever, while we ordinary experimenters progress spasmodically, two steps forward, one step backward—continually baffled by untruthful communications. I fancy we hardly realize yet what miracles he has performed. Probably persons like myself who have wrestled with the difficulties of automatism are more fully sensible of it than those who have not been at grips with the continual disappointments we meet with.

CLAIRVOYANCE AND PREVISION.

To return to our Ouija board. So far I have spoken chiefly of telepathy and psychometry.

Now I am led on to the far more indefinite phenomena of clairvoyance and prevision. Undoubtedly we get a certain percentage of correct predictions of the future from our "controls." These prophecies are sometimes personal, sometimes they deal with public events. Before the Irish Rebellion in 1916, when the country was comparatively quiet, we had frequent predictions that great trouble was coming, that people would fly to the hills and hide, and there would be great fires and ruin in the land. I don't think we paid much attention

to them at the time, but afterwards, when the fires were blazing away and the hills were infested with rebels, I remembered the Ouija messages.

Before that we had a very accurate prophecy of what occurred during the Balkan War. The message came on the day after war was declared. The sitters were Mr. L. and myself, Sir William Barrett, Admiral Moore, Mr. Savell Hicks and one shorthand writer.

The message ran as follows :—

“ Blood, blood everywhere in the Near East. A great nation will fall and a small nation will rise. Blood everywhere. A great religion will stand in danger. News that will astonish the civilized world will come to hand within the next week.”

A week after this message the first Bulgarian victory—Kirk Killissa—was announced, and later Turkey fell and Bulgaria rose.

Other cases of prevision which I might quote are personal, and it is difficult to speak of them. These prophecies are comparatively rare, but so, I imagine, are the correct predictions of the average clairvoyant. Readings of character and personal history were very frequent in our circle, and generally quite accurate. Past history was easily read, the physical health of the sitter was given and his other psychic qualities summed up.

EVIDENCES OF SURVIVAL.

• Evidence of survival is, of course, the vital point for us all. It is difficult for me to speak of this subject because personally I am very sceptical as regards my results, and what is convincing to many does not satisfy me. I think, however, that we unpretentious amateurs had much the same evidence as comes to more highly gifted sensitives. The mass of evidence was not so great, but isolated instances were very remarkable. I have mentioned the cases of William Stead and Sir Hugh Lane. We had a very strange message at one of our blindfold sittings from a lady of whom we knew nothing. She told us she had died and suffered much, and that she was still suffering. She gave us her name and address, and mentioned the paper in which we should find the announcement of her death. We were in Dublin, and she died in London. Sir William Barrett kindly investigated the case, and found that the information given was entirely correct.

Psychometry sometimes leads us towards evidence of survival. Last spring my latest "control," who calls himself "Johannes"—he is not a relative of Mr. Bligh Bond's "Johannes"—psychometrised a hand-bag sent me by a lady whom I knew slightly. This psychometry involved a long and eventful history, which I thought likely to be fictitious, I confess. The owner of the bag then came and spoke for herself. She displayed a very marked personality and corroborated the statements of "Johannes." The statements, unlikely as they seemed to be, of both "control" and communicator, proved absolutely correct. I regret much that the very private nature of this case makes it impossible for me to give details.

I feel I may give you too vague an idea of the evidence of survival which we get from the Ouija board. I have only mentioned a few cases which contained information of a definite character outside the knowledge of the sitters. We have had hundreds of communicators who were convincing to friends and relatives by the nature of what they said and their manner of expressing it, but messages of this kind are not really evidential to outsiders, only to those who have known the speakers.

Before closing, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the Ouija board, and probably automatic writing, of which I have less experience, provide a method of investigating a number of different branches of Psychical Research. And, further, it seems to me that, with practice and perseverance, most of us can develop sufficient power to pursue any particular line of study which may be of special interest to us through automatism.

In other words, the Ouija board is a means by which we suspend the conscious mind and let the subconscious mind have free play. It may be the subconscious mind of the sitter which develops clairvoyance and psychometry, and is receptive for thought transference, or the subconscious may merely act as a mirror for external influences which become reflected in it. We really cannot make any definite statement as to how these results are arrived at. It seems to me that ninety per cent. are woven from the subconscious mind and ten per cent. cannot be accounted for as an outcome of its activities.

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That ten per cent. is the problem which upsets all our material explanations and induces us to admit the possibility of spirit-influence. We are certainly in no position to pronounce on these matters if we have merely been present at séances or studied the literature of the subject. We must do our own work in our own homes before we can form any fair judgment of what we shall reject as evidence and what is worthy of acceptance.

{At the close of the lecture, Mrs. Travers Smith answered many pertinent questions, and gave a demonstration of the remarkable rapidity with which her hand was used upon the traveller. This often exceeds the speed of the fastest writer.—ED.]

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

“LIGHT IN EXTENSION.”

“*I will pour My Spirit upon all Flesh.*”

Lifegiver! Breath of the Eternal Word!
 Revealed in Time, Self-limited in Space—
 Where man may see the Macrocosmic Face,
 And own his Christ, the Everliving Lord!

Spirit of Truth, Love and extending Light!
 Fraught with supremest Power to heal and bless:
 Brooding o'er worlds, to soothe their loneliness,
 Moving in realms unutterably bright.

Give Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Strength,
 True Knowledge, Godliness and Holy Fear:
 For Thou, Blest Comforter, art ever near,
 And man shall find his Peace in Thee at length.

We hail Thee! Wondrous Spirit All-Divine!
 Enthroned where'er man's heart shall Thee enshrine.

—L. F. WYNNE FFOULKES.

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THE GOLIGHER CIRCLE.

EXPERIENCES OF E. E. FOURNIER d'ALBE, D.Sc. (LONDON.)

A Review by J. Hewat McKenzie.

Published by J. M. Watkins, 21, Cecil Court, W.C. 7s. 6d. net.

HERE we have an account of twenty sittings conducted with the Goligher Circle of Belfast, by Dr. Fournier d'Albe, from the beginning of May to the end of August, 1921.

After carefully reading and re-reading this record and remembering that Dr. Fournier d'Albe is the translator to whom we are indebted for the English edition of Dr. Schrenck Notzing's work, and has himself investigated the phenomena of Eva C———, in London, with the S.P.R., besides being the author of a book on *Psychical Research*, called "New Light on Immortality" (Longmans Green & Co., 1908), I have come to the conclusion that the report is one of the most unsatisfactory on psychic matters that I have ever read, considering that it is presented by one who has a knowledge of the realities of psychic manifestation.

The book is full of errors, contradictions and loose statements, and is so obscure in many of its passages even to the experienced student of psychic phenomena, that the account must completely mystify all who read it.

When I remember the pleasure and profit I received in studying the excellent and clear records given to the world by the late Dr. Crawford, in describing phenomena with the same Circle during the years 1914—20, I am astonished that Dr. Fournier d'Albe should have risked his reputation as a psychical researcher, and I might almost say should have the audacity to issue such a compilation after such a limited opportunity of examination.

The obscurity of the author's account denotes a chaotic state of mind, whereas the delightful lucidity of Dr. Crawford's work indicated the clarity of his ideas, and the certainty of his

facts. Why Fournier d'Albe should have ever issued this book is beyond my comprehension, and unless it is explained by his annoyance with certain members of the Goligher Circle, which he fails to hide in his account, one might almost infer that this publication owes its origin to a loss of temper on Dr. d'Albe's part.

It is most unfortunate that the writer was in such a hurry to arrive at conclusive results after the first few sittings. There are no scientific facts known to-day which require more patience, tact and experience than those of *Psychical Research*, and anyone who endeavours to make haste in this work will only meet catastrophe.

The human factor—the chief one in psychical investigation—varies from day to day, even hour to hour, and here we have one of the chief factors, the leader of the group, failing to take time to make even the delicate social adjustments necessary with such a medium and her family circle, without reckoning the even finer contacts required on the psychical side, of the conditions of which even the most experienced investigators know so little.

There is every evidence in the account that Fournier d'Albe entered into his work with great expectation and an endeavour to co-operate sympathetically with the medium, the members of the Circle and the unseen operators, whom Dr. Crawford claimed as his helpers, but it is evident that he quickly tired of this, and that in later séances this attitude gave way to irritation and suspicion, which created trouble between himself and his co-workers, and resulted in a complete failure to get satisfactory phenomena.

There is one thing more than anything else yet to be recognized by all investigators in psychic phenomena, and that is the important part played by the secret emotions. One cannot *pretend* to be kind and calm, they must really be so. The mere outward appearance of kindness and tranquillity of mind is not enough, and this is a lesson yet to be learned by those known as *Psychical Researchers*, and on this point, if on no other, a useful lesson may be learned from the despised *Spiritualist*.

This is one of the gravest difficulties to be faced by every scientist who wishes to regulate the psychical forces demonstrated in the séance room along methodical and accurate lines. I have always found that the most startling results, in the way of genuine psychic manifestations, have taken place in the

presence of the sympathetic and even emotional, honourable and straightforward sitters; results which the keen-minded scientist, however tactful he may be—when lacking in sympathy—always fails to get. The so-called scientific man, says “Yes! Yes! it is the emotional people, careless in their observations and actions who can be so easily gulled by the clever medium.” There may be occasional grounds of truth in the charge, but it only covers half the case. It may be possible to cheat an emotional man or woman once or twice by trickery, but this cannot go on for years, especially when the intelligence is equal to that of a Dr. Crawford. I should rather say that the reason for success lies in a development of spirit, which has a farther reach than the keenest intellect.

I have evidence of this again and again at the College—where the coldly critical scientific gathering fails to get anything worth investigating, but with the same medium, a group of well balanced and deeply interested and sympathetic sitters will get the most astonishing results. This is not a careless statement, but an actual verified fact, proved in an experience extending now over a period of years.

I have made the statement that this report is an extremely careless one, and as a proof of this I would call the attention of readers to items, trivial in themselves, but which clearly indicate gross carelessness, a trait not allowable in a writer who sets out to make a scientific record, well knowing what far-reaching results it is bound to have on the reputation of the scientist who preceded him and on the Goligher Circle, who still, I believe, have a great work to do in the world.

In the introduction, Dr. d’Albe gives ten initials to represent the various sitters present at the séances. Amongst these there is no sitter indicated as “A,” although one referred to by this letter appears in every one of his twenty séances. I have wondered if this may, by any chance, refer to an angel who, no doubt, made careful observations! As an evidence of the obscurity of the report he states on p. 9: “St.” then asked that a speaking trumpet, standing in a corner of the room be fetched out. “After some fumbling this was done, and at St.’s request it was used to hit him sharply on the knee.” No explanation is given as to where the trumpet stood, whether on the right or left hand of the medium and within her physical radius, or whether it stood a foot or ten feet beyond her reach

or within easy touching distance of any of the other sitters. What is the object of mentioning this fact at all? He might just as well have told us that one of the sitters scratched his head. This is a fair sample of the kind of thing continually mentioned with no explanatory note attached, to allow the reader to estimate its value. This fetching of the trumpet might be a most important or quite unimportant fact, all depends upon where it stood. On the same page appears the following:—
“I rose and grasped the table and asked it to resist push and pull—which it did—as if held by a couple of strong men.” How did Dr. d’Albe know that the energy used was equal to that of a couple of strong men? Doubtless, he learned this by putting all the energy he was capable of mustering in pushing and pulling the table. Now, if there was a light—as it is stated there was—so that all the sitters could be seen—who was resisting the push and pull action? Let us suppose that he is correct in his supposition, that the medium was capable of resisting this push by placing her feet immediately below the two table legs nearest to her—that might account for the pushing, although this I doubt very much. What kept the table from coming back from her foot when he pulled with all the energy of an able-bodied man? Was it Mr. Goligher or Mr. Morrison, or both, or some other members of the Circle who were holding the table from his powerful pull? If they did this with their hands, the result would be that their bodies would rock and be clearly seen by him in the light supplied. If this was done with their feet the push and pull movement would throw the strain upon the feet of the table so that the table was likely to get broken, or at any rate twist and rock under his pressure. Dr. d’Albe does not trouble, however, to offer any explanation as to how this could be accomplished by artificial methods, and the reader is left to form his own conclusions from this meagre statement.

On p. 11, Dr. d’Albe describes the placing of certain objects under the table. He does not state how far away the table was from the medium, or whether the feet of the medium were controlled, and we are therefore completely in the dark as to the value of the experiment. His pages are as dark to the reader as the obscurity of the space beneath the table appears to have been to him, and to which he refers in almost every page. In three experiments, described in pp. 11—12, referring to the

lifting out of a large 3 in. cork from a milk jug 8 in. high, with a mouth wide enough to take a clenched fist, are we to suppose that one of the sitters stooped down and took this out, or that it was tipped over by the medium's foot or by one of the sitters? No explanation is given, and again we are left in the dark regarding the importance of this experiment.

In the second sitting, p. 13, he tells us how he begins to teach the unseen operators the Morse code—because, he is told that they are extremely clever. Surely Dr. Fournier d'Albe will recognize that if the spirit operators can be taught the Morse code in a reasonable time and can successfully use it, this desirable method would have been used by Psychical Researchers in the many cases where raps are produced. This method has been tried again and again, but with no great success except in a few isolated instances where either the medium knew the code—or the communicating spirit did so before passing over. It was a bold attempt and worthy of praise, but Dr. d'Albe was only making complications for himself by starting so early with such a proposal. My experience has been that spirit operators take just as long to learn these arts as a human being, although many investigators may make a different claim. If the medium could be first taught the Morse code, doubtless greater success would be secured, as after all is said and done, it is upon the foundation of the medium's psychic structure that all thought is transmitted, and the more quickly psychic students grasp this fact the better. I do not mean to suggest by this that original ideas cannot come through a medium, but I do suggest that where the medium has the knowledge, the spirit operator will find it very much easier to produce results. This is made manifest where a foreign language is used in asking questions from the spirit operators when the medium is ignorant of that language. The answers are usually complicated and unsatisfactory in such a case, unless it happens that the questioner is in close *rapport* with the spirit intelligence purporting to communicate. In such a case it is rather the thought that is caught by the spirit than the actual words.

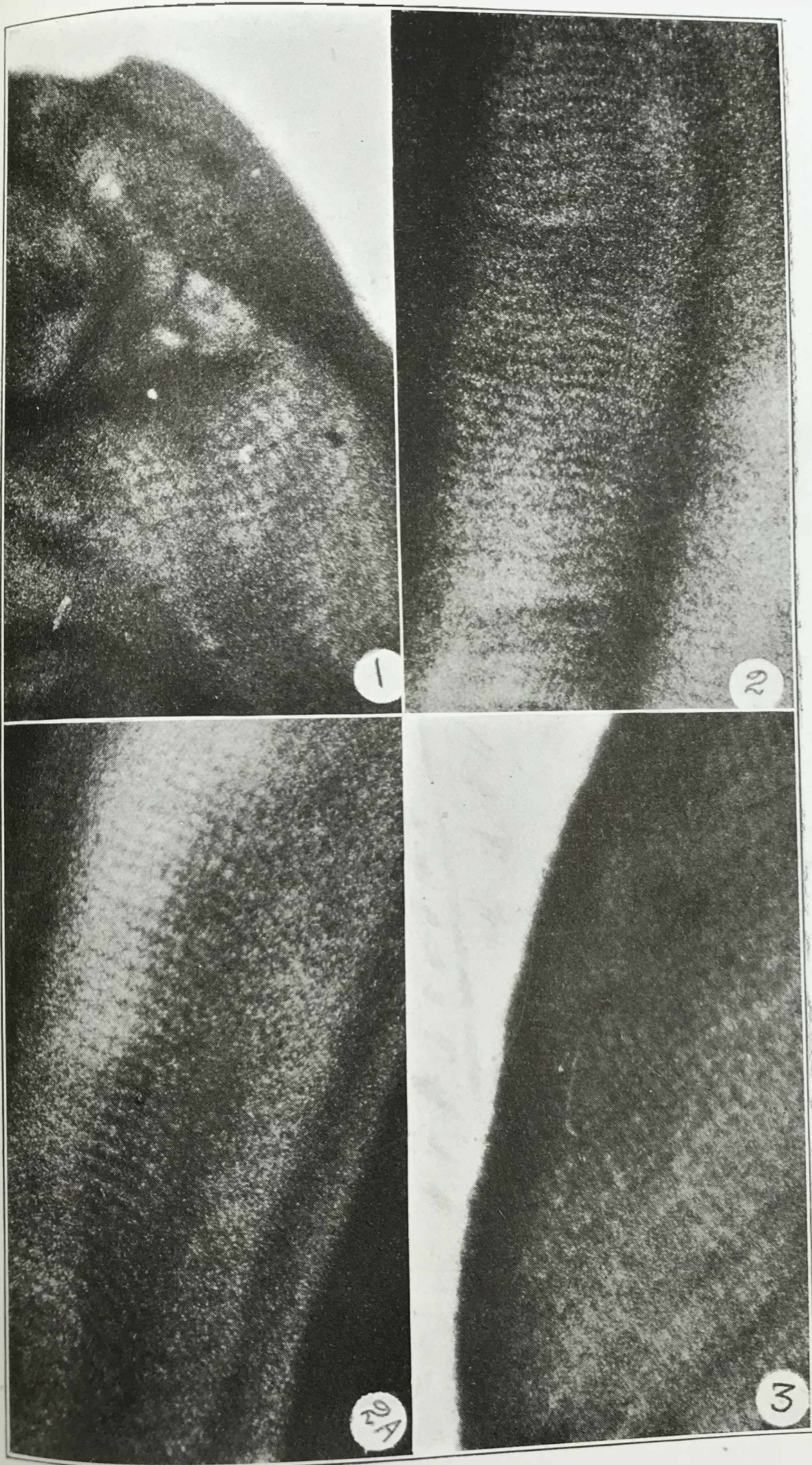
I have had this demonstrated again and again at the College with our excellent voice medium, Mrs. Cooper, who only knows English. Questions put to her in a foreign language are sometimes through the direct voice answered very quickly, but at other times questions put in the same language by another sitter

may receive no reply. This may be accounted for in various ways, but it is largely a matter of closeness of *rapport* between the sitter, the medium, and the spirit operator. Foreign visitors of a cold and sceptical character usually fail to get such good results as those of a kindly sympathetic nature. The above may throw some light on the circumstance that Dr. d'Albe failed to get a ready response to his questions in French and Irish.

The innuendo is continually made by Dr. d'Albe that the medium or the sitters were co-operating in producing "fake" phenomena, whereas the evidence that is produced in this book seems to indicate to myself the genuineness of the work. The third sitting was held in a strange room, in Chichester Street, on May 29 (p. 14). Here we find that it took twenty-five minutes after the séance started before any raps were received. Why should this be—when the raps were usually produced during the singing of the first hymn in the Circle's usual conditions? If trickery produced the raps, they should have been forthcoming in a new room as quickly as in the old, but we know very well that in new conditions there is no reserve of psychic force, as is undoubtedly the case in a room constantly used, and that time to gather this must be allowed for. Why should it take so long to ring the electric bell if trickery was at work? Doubtless Dr. d'Albe's reply would be that this was part of the game. If this be his answer, it is idle to discuss the matter with him, but such a delay in manifestations is just what I should expect where conditions are strange, and the light strong, or in a position where it shines too directly upon the medium and upon the path of the psychic structure. On p. 16 it is stated that "the table was then violently agitated—two of its legs were placed upright on my knees. I looked under the table top, but could not see any structure holding it." Was this table then lifted up into this position by the other sitters? It is a well-known fact that the structure lifting the table is only seen on very unusual occasions. Why should Dr. d'Albe therefore say when he looked in this way that he had no satisfactory evidence of genuine phenomena as stated at the conclusion of his book? Dr. d'Albe does not take the trouble to tell us how far the table was from the medium when its legs rested on his knees, but such an important detail seems to be too much to expect from this so-called scientific report.

On p. 18 another inaccuracy appears, when he says "I rose and looked under the table with my red torch. The decanter (one placed under the table containing a button, a piece of indiarubber and a drop of mercury) was lying on its side with its opening towards the medium. The button was gone from it and the drop of mercury was in it as well as the piece of india-rubber." On p. 19, under note referring to this experiment, he says that the button was left in the decanter with this mercury. Which is correct, Dr. d'Albe, that the button was left in the decanter or the rubber? Such inaccuracies are tiresome. What is the meaning of this experiment? He claims that the result could only be accomplished by someone stooping down and lifting the decanter or raising it with their feet in some miraculous way. Did he see anyone do this, in the red light, as he claimed that there has been no satisfactory evidence granted to him of psychical intervention. On p. 20 I read that Dr. d'Albe asks for a golf ball to be dematerialized and to be put inside a small necked bottle. Why? I have never heard it claimed by Dr. Crawford, or any other experimenter with Miss Goligher, that such work was ever produced by this circle. Is this another cause of complaint? On p. 24 he requests that a stout string with sealed ends shall be knotted—this the operators fail to perform. I have only heard of one medium through whom this has been done, and that was not Miss Goligher. Doubtless these experiments were both worth trying, but it would have been well if Dr. d'Albe had left these for a later date when he had successfully carried out the work he set out to do, which was to verify and corroborate the phenomena recorded by Dr. Crawford.

With regard to the shadowgraphs of ectoplastic drapery taken at the seances, prints of which accompany the record, and which, having an appearance similar to chiffon, seem to have given Dr. d'Albe a great shock, He regards this result as a clear proof of fraud on the part of the medium and her Circle, but I do not see, from the notes supplied, that in this we have any real evidence of trickery. In psychic photography most peculiar results are secured, showing strange weavings of structures, which in many cases seem almost an exact duplication of some diaphanous material which might have been woven on a loom. But these startling results have been secured again and again under test conditions at the B.C.P.S. and elsewhere. Dr.



Micro-Photographs showing Structure of Ectoplasmic Drapery.

d'Albe offers not only a gratuitous insult to the medium and her circle in suspecting them, so far as these photographs are concerned, but also throws doubt on the observations of eminent scientists throughout the world who have records and photographs of similar materials. These things appear in a material world and are likely to resemble a material substance. Personally it is my belief that the substratum of those ectoplastic draperies is first produced by unseen operators in their own realm of refined matter, and then take upon themselves a physical form evident to our ordinary eyesight when combined with ectoplastic matter, thus producing a substance exactly similar to chiffon, which, when photographed, shows the weaving of the substance in detail. These pictures, in my estimation, are about the most valuable piece of work done during these sittings.

On p. 25 and in other passages, Dr. d'Albe speaks of the great agitation of the medium after the light has been flashed upon her during the photographic experiments. This nervous prostration invariably accompanies such experiments, and the lapse of time asked for by the "controls" after these, is also advisable and quite a natural request after so severe a shock to the nervous system. Dr. d'Albe hints that in his opinion this lapse of time is necessary to get rid of the chiffon photographed, although this agitation and quivering has been observed on many occasions with other physical mediums. He also speaks of the permanence of the structure under the flash-light, suggesting that this is due probably to its being a physical fabric secreted by the medium, and speaks of the absence of that sudden dissolving of the substance which takes place in the ectoplastic structure produced through the mediumship of Eva C———. He is quite correct in pointing out this difference, but his scepticism is due to his limited experience of such structures, confined I should suppose to experiments with one medium only, Eva C———, and even those of limited duration. It has been found from long experience that the ectoplastic structure may vary in its resistance to light from a second even to an hour, in some well recorded occasions. Much depends upon the length of time taken in the building up of the structure. If rapidly produced by the unseen operators, it will quickly and rapidly melt under the flash of light, but if time be granted for the building-up process it may last under a very

strong light for a considerable period. Dr. d'Albe's criticism, therefore, of the permanence of the structure with the Goligher Circle does not prove anything, either that it was ectoplasmic or a crude swindle of chiffon. On p. 26 I must note Dr. d'Albe's inaccuracy with regard to time—a very important item in psychic phenomena. He says: "This sitting started at 7.36 and lasted till 9.5." On p. 27 he says that after three hymns were sung, raps were produced at 7.30 at the same sitting!

With regard to the *drawing* on p. 34, which shows the foot of Miss Goligher lifting the table, I do not know how much I can trust the accuracy of Dr. d'Albe's observations, in view of the slackness of the other part of the report. I have again and again seen what seemed to be a limb and foot come from a medium, move an object such as a table with the greatest swiftness, and immediately return to the medium, while both her feet were stationary, thus proving that it is possible to produce a psychic structure which has all the appearance of a third limb. I have also seen the actual foot of the medium used in an unconscious way to produce phenomena and this I understand often occurred in the case of Eusapia Paladino. This illustration, showing the foot of the medium below the table, must therefore be taken with great caution by all unprejudiced students. If Dr. d'Albe saw not only the limb, but the foot and shoe of the medium, as illustrated, then it is likely that here we had unconscious muscular action. Such things frequently occur where the psychic conditions are disturbed, as was undoubtedly the case in the latter part of these experiments. I do not wish unduly to strain this point and to seem to excuse conscious or unconscious deception, but in view of the limitations of the whole report, further light is needed upon this statement. I am more and more convinced that harmonious conditions are absolutely necessary to enable spirit operators to withdraw the psychic body of the medium for the production of all psychical phenomena, and where this harmony is lacking the discordance is registered within the physical organism of the medium. Efforts are made by the spirit operators to extrude this 'soul,' but these may expend themselves in forcing the physical body and limbs into action, independent of the medium's own volition and against the wish of the spirit operator, who seems to be helpless under the circumstances. It is therefore wisest to discontinue sittings where

discord exists, otherwise these complications are bound to arise.

It is in my opinion a very unfortunate thing that Dr. d'Albe has ever published this book—casting such grave reflection on the careful, accurate and self sacrificing work of Dr. Crawford.

This report must also have given the greatest pain to Miss Kathleen Goligher and her family, whom I feel have deserved the thanks of all students for the sacrifices of time and means which they have personally made for psychic science. It is a fact that up to the present the greatest sacrifices in psychic science have been made by the humbler classes, and not by the scientists or well-to-do investigators, great as this has been in some cases. This debt few scientists are gracious enough to recognize, but in the eyes of others it has not gone unnoticed. Another regrettable fact is the readiness with which those calling themselves Psychical Researchers hasten to tear down previous evidence, without adequate examination of facts. We have another instance of this in the Price Photographic Report, which the S.P.R. can hardly congratulate itself upon as being scientific, the word the Society would fain attach to all its work.

Before writing this, lest I should misjudge Dr. d'Albe, I asked for an interview with him to discuss some points raised, but received the answer that he did not wish to enter at the moment into any discussion regarding the book. I have therefore been obliged to judge on the memoranda supplied, and review the book accordingly.

The following notes on the photographs accompanying Dr. Fournier d'Albe's Report are contributed by Major R. E. E. SPENCER, at the request of the College.

“With reference to the photographs in Dr. Fournier d'Albe's pamphlet describing his recent experiments with the Goligher Circle in Belfast, many of the original Crawford negatives were sent to me some time ago for examination, with a view of ascertaining whether evidence of *structure* existed in the substance to which the late Dr. Crawford gave the name of 'plasma.' Up to that time no signs of such structure had been discovered.

“I subjected the plates and films to a very careful search under a microscope, employing various magnifications and methods of illumination, with the result that in three *plate* negatives I found four areas in which marks appeared that were somewhat similar to those one would expect fine textile material to show.

In no *film* negatives could such marks be found.

It was noticeable that the areas in which the marks existed in the plates were always adjacent to the person of the medium, in each case being seen near the front of the stocking covered legs, and a little above the ankles.

The texture marks of the stockings themselves are of a very much larger size than those seen in the “plasma,” and can be faintly seen in print 3, in the white portion of the diagram.

It should be remembered that the total superficial area of the “plasma” shown in all the plate negatives examined exceeds by some hundreds of times the four areas in which the structural marks I have referred to were found; the lighting in all cases was, I believe, the same, and the surfaces of the “plasma” were, of course, presented to the camera lens at all angles—yet, in all that large total area these curious marks can only be found in four minute places.

I have repeated, as nearly as I can, the late Dr. Crawford’s photographic experiments, that is as far as conditions of light, type of camera, distance, etc., are concerned; and taken negatives of various fabrics, such as fine cambric, *crepe de chine*, and the finest gauzes, and I find that these negatives, when examined by means of a microscope and a thirty-six inch extension camera with an acid eaten glass screen, show textile structure marks practically everywhere.

The structure marks found in the Crawford plates are shown by the four micro prints, Nos. 1, 2, 2A, 3.

The matter may be of no great importance, but the indexing of the illustrations in Dr. F. d’Albe’s pamphlet requires correction, and for the sake of accuracy perhaps those who have the Report will refer to it.

The enlargements, Nos. 4, 5, 6, are all from the areas indicated by my micro negatives, but the details will not be found as stated in the index of the pamphlet and as shown by the half-tone reproductions 8A, 8B, 8C.

In 8A the area indicated by the arrow will not produce Dr. Fournier d'Albe's enlargement No. 4, but will give his illustration No. 6.

In 8B I do not think the area to which the arrow points, will produce any marks at all. Another area from the same negative, marked by me above the ankles, *will* produce Dr. F. d'Albe's illustration No. 4.

In 8c the arrow indicated area will not produce Dr. F. d'Albe's illustration No. 6, but will show the enlargement No. 5.

Recently I have been producing "Shadowgraphs" of samples of the materials mentioned above, using a six volt. gas filled lamp at ten inches from the plate surface, across which, and in contact with it, the various pieces of material were laid, the method being that followed by Dr. Fournier d'Albe.

I have obtained results not *very* dissimilar in a general way to those seen in shadowgraphs Nos. 1 and 2 in the pamphlet, but bearing no resemblance to the distinctive marks exhibited by the two photographs Nos. 2 and 3. I am continuing the experiments with samples of other fabrics.

It is unfortunate that Dr. F. d'Albe has not given us an illustration of the shadowgraph he obtained from the piece of chiffon pinned over the two pieces of bromide paper (ninth sitting, page 27), and might I ask if he discovered that this same piece of chiffon was torn after the experiment?

In sitting six (page 23) we are told "The shadowgraph, if any, was thus spoiled." It is obvious that Dr. F. d'Albe did not even trouble to develop the paper and plates used in the first exposure. This seems regrettable. It would be of interest if Dr. d'Albe will give the dimensions of the box, particularly those of the apertures formed by the open ends, used in sitting No. seven. Also it would be well to know whether these plates were marked, and if so, in what manner.

FRAUD CHARGES IN PSYCHIC PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE PRICE-HOPE CASE.

By J. Hewat McKenzie.

I AM sorry to weary my readers with the long story of this annoying case, but it is necessary in the interests of the College, and of the mediums charged with fraud, that a full record of it should be made in the College Quarterly.

The full facts concerning the anonymous packets were not in my possession when our last issue appeared, and since that time our contemporary "Light" has dealt with the matter. An historical summary of the case, asked for by many, was supplied by me to "Light," and it is a reprint of this that forms the earlier portion of this article. It is followed here by new matter, and is illustrated by photographs not, so far, produced elsewhere.

I have often been reproached by journals which have got hold of the case from the perusal of the S.P.R. Report and the Price pamphlet, for the fact that I have made no answer to the charges made against Mr. Hope. This is not quite correct, but the impossibility of getting even one scrap of information from the S.P.R. (beyond the meagre and one-sided report in their Journal), until October 23rd, has made it impossible to deal with it fully.

My answer, therefore, is contained in this article, and to my mind it is a very complete one, and one which must give many S.P.R. members furiously to think as to how their Council can delegate important work to those who, while using the name of an honourable Society, can so lightly attempt to destroy a fair reputation: this too, on evidence provided by one person who is not a member of the Society, and by another who had only recently become a member.

THE RECORD.

February 24th.—Date of the "Price" photographic experiment at the British College.

March 4th.—The Society for Psychical Research (S.P.R.) received an anonymous packet containing four undeveloped photographic plates.

March 31st.—The S.P.R. received a second anonymous packet containing trick photographic apparatus.

End of May.—The S.P.R. issued a printed report of the whole case in their Journal. The notes were supplied by Messrs. Price,

Seymour and Dingwall. It is important to note that the report came before the College officials as a complete surprise, as the experiment was secretly conducted by the S.P.R., through Mr. Price.

June 7th.—Letter sent from the Principal of the College, Mr. J. Hewat McKenzie, and "The Society for the study of Supernormal Pictures," requesting the S.P.R. to form a joint committee to investigate the charge made against the Crewe Circle by Mr. H. Price and the S.P.R.

June 23rd, 1922.—Reply of the S.P.R., refusing the proposal of a joint committee on the ground that no good purpose could be served by such an enquiry.

From this date forward continuous pressure was brought to bear by Mr. McKenzie and others upon the S.P.R. to get full particulars regarding the X-ray marked plates belonging to Mr. Price's experimental packet, which it was stated in their report had come into the hands of the Society in some unexplained way. This was one of the two plates said to have been abstracted by Mr. Hope at the experiment.

June 30th.—The Principal of the College, after these repeated requests, threatened to take legal action against the S.P.R. unless particulars of the X-ray marked "mystery" plate were supplied. He pointed out the grave injury being done to Mr. Hope and to the cause generally by this uncalled-for secretiveness on the part of the S.P.R.

August 17th.—Ultimately at the College, before a representative committee of leading men interested in the matter, Mr. Dingwall, Research Officer of the S.P.R., submitted the "mystery" plate for examination. When examined critically this proved without shadow of doubt to be one of the 'Price' set of X-ray marked plates. Mr. Dingwall stated that he could give no particulars as to how this plate came into their possession without first receiving permission from his Council which would not meet until October.

October 17th.—After waiting for two months, the S.P.R. Council met on this date. Indirect information reached the College that at the meeting permission had been granted to Miss Newton (Secretary of the S.P.R.), to give the College and Mr. Hope full particulars as to how the "mystery" plate came into their hands.

October 23rd.—After waiting a further six days, and hearing nothing from the S.P.R. Secretary, Mr. McKenzie applied for particulars, and an appointment, given with great reluctance and after considerable pressure, was made for Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie to visit the S.P.R. offices and receive the desired information. The appointment was kept on October 23rd. Present:—Miss Newton, Mr. Pugh (by invitation of Miss Newton), and Mr. and Mrs. Hewat McKenzie. Mr. Dingwall was absent through illness.

The information given by Miss Newton was to the effect that the "mystery" plate had been received by the S.P.R. on March 4th, with three other undeveloped plates, wrapped in a 1921 British

College syllabus, and bearing the Notting Hill post mark, in an anonymous packet, particulars of which have already been given in "Light" of November 4th. Further information was given in confidence regarding a second anonymous packet received by the S.P.R. on March 31st, but it was requested that public use should not, at the moment, be made of this. This second packet contained in a small cardboard box, a rubber contrivance, five small photo transparencies on glass, a red celluloid disc with perforations somewhat resembling part of the Imperial Company's X-ray marks, a small portion of a pencilled letter, and a typewritten note, which read as follows:—"I would have sent these before but was afraid Hope would miss them—they were found in his room with the plates I sent you before. Don't write to Madame again as she is getting suspicious." Immediately below this typing appeared in pencil the words:—"I shan't write again." The address of the S.P.R. was typed upon the outside wrapper, and bore the Paddington post mark. After carefully examining the writing, the wrappers, the post marks, and contents of the box, Mr. McKenzie pointed out that the original labelled wrapper of the Imperial Company and the sealed envelope of Mr. Moger were both missing, and asked Miss Newton if Mr. Price had collected these after his experiment at the College, as they were most valuable and necessary as part of the evidence to prove Mr. Price's case. It was essential that this question should be put, as it is stated in the S.P.R. report that Mr. Price threw the wrapping on the floor after he opened the packet. Miss Newton then stated that she had never seen these wrappings since the experiment, and that they were, no doubt, left at the College by Mr. Price. This point is important in view of subsequent events.

October 24th.—A special Committee of the British College met and received Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie's report regarding the interview with Miss Newton. The following resolution was passed and sent to the S.P.R. :—

"That this Meeting of Members of the College, invited to consider the Price-Hope case, regrets that the S.P.R. should have withheld for eight months important facts regarding this, and requests that no information bearing on the case they may now hold or may receive shall be withheld from the College officials."

(Signed) CHARLES BADDELEY.
 . FREDERICK BLIGH BOND.
 FRANCIS C. CARTER.
 ROSE DE CRESPIGNY.
 ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.
 FELICIA R. SCATCHERD.
 HARRY C. SCOFIELD.
 M. A. ST. CLAIR STOBART.

October 30th.—On this date, a fortnight after the S.P.R. Council meeting, Mr. Hope received a brief letter from Mr. Dingwall, simply stating that the "mystery" plate had been sent to the S.P.R. anonymously.

October 31st.—In answer to a letter from Mr. McKenzie to the S.P.R. Secretary, asking for photographs of the four anonymous

plates, the wrappings and the other objects in the second packet, Mr. Dingwall called at the College and left for inspection the contents and wrappings of the two anonymous packets. Mr. McKenzie pointed out to Mr. Dingwall that neither Mr. Moger's sealed envelope nor the Imperial Company's box wrapping with label, two very important links in the chain of evidence, was included; also that it seemed that Mr. Price had been careless over these, and had thrown them on the floor of the studio on February 24th. Mr. Dingwall replied that no doubt Mr. Price had these, and promised to get them for the College from him.

November 4th.—Mr. Dingwall called at the College and left with Mr. McKenzie (1) The Imperial Company's Flashlight labelled box wrapper; (2) The Imperial Company's brown paper postal wrapper, in which the packet was sent to Mr. Price; (3) Mr. Moger's envelope, with six wax seals, all of these being completely broken and seriously damaged; (4) a brown paper wrapping in which the whole had been enclosed by Mr. Moger, and addressed to Miss Newton.

Owing to the absence of the Hon. Secretary from the College, and a pressure of callers, Mr. McKenzie, in the presence of Mr. Dingwall, and without examination, placed the wrappings in the Hon. Secretary's drawer.

November 5th.—Mr. McKenzie took from the drawer these four wrappers for careful examination of their general condition. On examining wrapper No. 1, it was quite obvious that the Imperial Company's Flashlight label had been disturbed. Herewith we give a photograph of same. If examined, it will be noted that the label has been turned down just sufficiently to release the folded "ear" of the paper wrapping, thus making it possible to withdraw the box containing the plates. It will be obvious to readers that this vital and important discovery nullifies all the other evidence produced by Mr. Price against Mr. Hope, if it can be proved that the packet did not leave the hands of the Imperial Plate Company in this condition.

November 6th.—Mr. McKenzie, at the earliest possible moment, rung up the S.P.R. offices, and asked for Mr. Dingwall, to get him to explain the matter. Mr. Dingwall was not there, but later in the day referred the Hon. Secretary to Mr. Price regarding it, and Mr. Price called at the College on November 10th (*see below*).

November 10th (11.30 a.m.).—By written permission from Miss Newton, the College Committee examined the whole contents of the two anonymous packets now before them and the wrappings, and unanimously agreed that the packet showed signs of having been opened. The following resolution was sent to the S.P.R.

That this Committee of the B.C.P.S., having examined all the documents and exhibits of the two anonymous packets received by the S.P.R. in connection with the Price-Hope case, are of opinion that the sealed packet of plates used at the experiment on February 24th, shows distinct signs that the makers' paper wrapping has been tampered with. Also that the sealing of the envelope in which Mr. Moger put the packet of plates

to send to the S.P.R. was ineffective in itself, and was rendered useless as evidence, owing to the fact that the six seals had all been broken and damaged. They beg to point out that to have carried out the experiment satisfactorily the envelope should have been opened by slitting it, in order that the seals might have remained intact for examination."

"The Committee fail to understand why the Council of the S.P.R. refused to lay these documents and exhibits before an impartial Committee, as proposed five months ago by the Principal of the Psychic College, when the S.P.R. report on the matter was published."

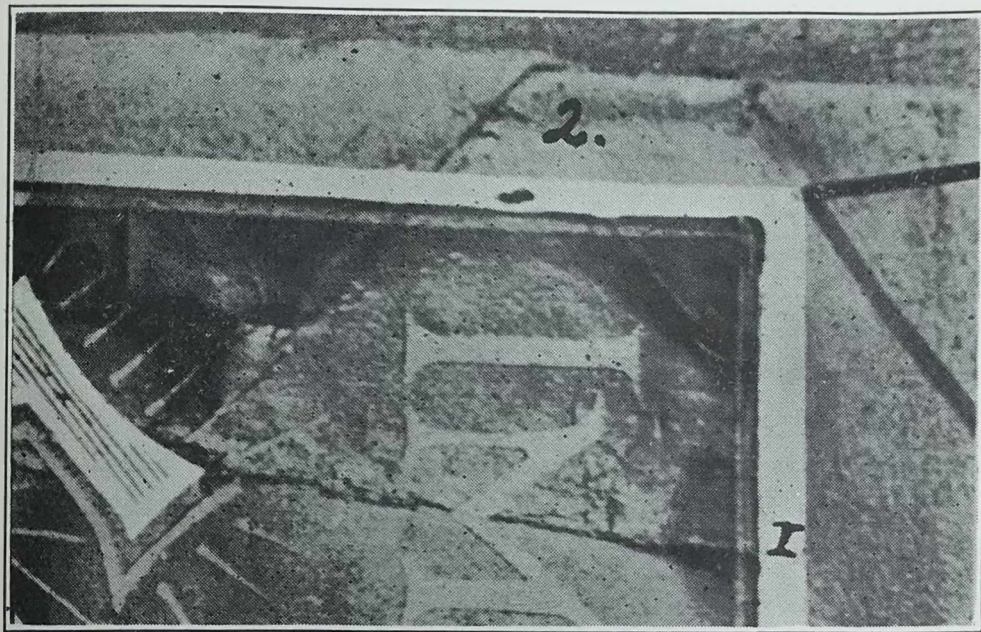
All present on the previous occasion signed this resolution, with the addition of Mr. Stanley de Brath. Major R. E. E. Spencer and Rev. Drayton Thomas were unavoidably absent. Half of the members of this College Committee are also members of the S.P.R.

November 10th (2.30 p.m.).—Mr. Price called at the College, accompanied by Mr. Pugh, and examined the Flashlight wrapper. Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie and Mr. Bligh Bond were present. Mr. Price treated the matter very casually and referred to it as an accidental crease, probably made at the time the packet was labelled by the Imperial Plate Company, and considered Mr. McKenzie only wasting his time in calling him to inspect this. During the conversation that ensued, Mr. McKenzie enquired of Mr. Price as to when he lifted the wrappers from the floor of the studio at the College, as, in his report, it was stated that he had thrown them on the floor, and also asked him if these wrappers had been examined by Mr. Dingwall, as he understood from the latter that he, Mr. Price, had kept them in his possession. Mr. Price replied that he took good care to lift the Flashlight box wrapper and the postal wrapper at the College, but he was not sure whether Mr. Moger's sealed envelope had been brought to the College or not, or whether Mr. Dingwall had opened the package at Holland Park Station on the morning of the experiment, and kept the sealed envelope. He also stated that the wrappings had not been in his possession from the day of the experiment, as he had handed them to Mr. Dingwall on February 24th, at the S.P.R. rooms, and had not seen them since. It cannot be ascertained from anyone whether Mr. Price, Mr. Dingwall, or any official of the S.P.R. has ever carefully inspected the Flashlight wrapper either before or since February 24th.

November 11th.—Mr. McKenzie took the Flashlight wrapper to the Imperial Dry Plate Company, and saw the two gentlemen who originally sealed the packet for Mr. Price. They carefully examined the packet with a microscope, and found clear traces of a sharp instrument, such as might be made by the point of a small penknife having been used immediately under the "ear" flap, and a double line of adhesive showing that the "ear" had been opened and folded down a second time in a slightly different position from its original seating, and to enable this to be done the gummed label had been lifted at one end, thus confirming Mr. McKenzie's finding. They repudiated completely Mr. Price's suggestion that it was an accidental "crease," as they prided themselves upon their clean workmanship, and stated that the labels were all gummed by means

of rollers which made it impossible for them to send out such work. They also stated that they believed they could tell, by unsealing the label and wrapper, as to whether any adhesive other than their own, which is a particular preparation, had been used. As this could not be done without the permission and concurrence of the S.P.R. officials, Mr. McKenzie promised to get their permission to allow a further examination. This permission has not yet been granted by the S.P.R.

November 13th.—The Flashlight wrapper was photographed by the Imperial Dry Plate Company at their studio, in the presence of Mrs. McKenzie, and brought back to the College.



Magnification of Label and Wrapper in dispute.

1. Crease showing in label where opened.
2. Knife point marks showing at ear of brown paper wrapper.

November 13th.—The following letter was received by post from the Imperial Dry Plate Company, and a copy of it was forwarded to the S.P.R., with the resolution of the College Committee, to lay before their Council:—

“ November 13th, 1922.

“ MR. J. HEWAT MCKENZIE.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Further to your call here on Saturday last, the 11th inst., we beg to confirm herewith the conversation we had with you in reference to a portion of a wrapper taken from a box of our ‘ Flashlight Plates,’ and submitted to us for our opinion. After careful examination of the label attached to the wrapper in question we are of opinion that one end of the label has been unstuck from the wrapper and folded back so as to leave the ‘ ear’ of the brown paper wrapping uncovered. This ‘ ear’ also appears to show signs of having been unstuck and refolded.

“ Yours faithfully,

“ THE IMPERIAL DRY PLATE COMPANY, LTD.

“ (signed) H.T.G.”

It will be seen that there is a very serious discrepancy between the statements of Miss Newton, Mr. Dingwall and Mr. Price regarding these original wrappings. On October 23rd, Miss Newton stated that she knew nothing of the wrappings, but that they were doubtless left on the floor of the College studio by Mr. Price, on February 24th, as she had not seen them since. On October 31st, Mr. Dingwall stated, at the College, when asked for the wrappings, that he did not have them, that Mr. Price had, no doubt, got them, and he would ask for them. When he brought the wrappings to the College two days later he did not state where he had got them, and led me to infer that they had come from Mr. Price. On November 9th, Mr. Price stated that he had never seen the wrappings since the experiment, when he gave them to Mr. Dingwall.

In answer to a letter from the College, asking for an explanation of these different statements, Mr. Dingwall replied on November 13th, as follows :—

“ With regard to your first point I certainly was surprised at it being suggested that Mr. Price had not taken the wrappers away with him. At the same time, I had no recollection of them being in the file. You must remember that I have a great many cases to deal with, and that this file is only one amongst many. As to Miss Newton’s statement, the file is not in her department, and she naturally does not know its details.”

It certainly would appear from these various statements that no collective examination of these wrappers has ever been made by the officials or Council of the S.P.R., a very serious omission, when we consider the damaging report that was issued in their Journal.

Regarding these wrappings, the S.P.R. report (see page 274), states :—“ Mr. Price handed them in their original postal wrappings to Mr. H. J. Moger, of Pulborough, Sussex, who, in turn, sealed them privately and forwarded them to the Secretary of the S.P.R., for safe keeping. In this condition they were kept until handed to Mr. Hope, in the séance room at the B.C.P.S.” Mr. Price now definitely states, after careful consideration, and presumably after collaboration with Mr. Dingwall, that either he, Mr. Price, or Mr. Dingwall, opened the sealed envelope at Holland Park Station, and took out the packet of plates. Mr. Price is not quite clear as to whether he examined the seals at the time, but thinks he must have done so. Mr. Dingwall, in the above quoted letter to the College, of November 13th, says regarding this point :—“ I note what you say about the wrappers. It is possible that I removed the outer wrappers at Holland Park. I do not remember doing so, but then the persons concerned in the case did not take notes of every action of each other. I agree that the statement on page 274 of the Report is ambiguous.”

It would be interesting to know from Mr. Dingwall or Mr. Price what purpose was served in sealing the envelope so carefully with six seals if these were not to be examined later and a note made regarding their condition.

By this careless handling, Mr. Moger’s carefully sealed envelope has been completely spoiled as evidence on the testimony of the

chief witnesses. Upon inspection of the grossly damaged wax seals it is found that five of the six are of a bright red colour, and the sixth of a much darker red. When the attention of Mr. Price was called to this, on November 9th, he seemed to have no remembrance of this fact, and suggested that in all probability the darker seal had been burned when the sealing was done, but this is not so. The wax used is of two entirely different colours.

In a letter from Mr. Moger, dated November 16th, in reply to a question addressed to him from the College on this point amongst others, he states that he cannot now remember, after such a lapse of time, whether more than one colour of sealing wax was used. Another point which is unnecessary to labour, but which should be stated, is that the envelope sealed by Mr. Moger had no gum upon its upper flap, and that in spite of six seals, it was only necessary to remove one—the centre and darker one—to enable the envelope to be opened and the parcel of plates extracted. It is scarcely worth discussing this now, as the seals have been entirely destroyed and broken open.

In view of the later evidence regarding the apparent tampering with the original packet of the Imperial Plate Company, used by Mr. Price in his experiment, readers of "Psychic Science" who have been carefully following the case will see that it is now quite frivolous to discuss the two anonymous packets and as to how the "mystery" plate got into the hands of the S.P.R. There is no foundation for the suggestion made in the typed note that these plates have come from anyone attached to the College. The note is self-contradictory, and still further reflects upon the honesty of the whole experiment. It is quite obvious that whoever sent the packets to the S.P.R. had full information regarding the experiment being conducted with marked plates by Mr. Price, facts which no one at the College had any knowledge of for three months afterwards, and therefore could not plan such letters.

It might be pointed out, as an explanation of this lack of knowledge on the part of the College officials, that Mr. Price was a stranger to them, but brought an introduction, asking for an experiment with the Crewe Circle, from Miss Phillimore, of the L.S.A., of which he is a member. In view of this ignorance of Mr. Price's connection with the S.P.R., it was clearly impossible for anyone at the College to communicate with that body a week after the experiment, as the matter was kept a complete secret from the College. Mr. Seymour who was associated with Mr. Price, had been previously at the College under the wing of a member, and has, since the Price experiment, been concerned in allegations of fraud and substitution of plates made against Mrs. Deane and Mr. Vearncombe. According to a statement made by Mr. Dingwall, Mr. Seymour, a member of the Magic Circle, is an expert in the production of "fake" spirit photographs. The only person, therefore, who could have sent the anonymous packets to the S.P.R. was one who had an immediate and firsthand knowledge

of the experiment, and was in close touch with all the moves of the experimenters, even to the fact that an ordinary letter of enquiry had been received at the College on March 7th, from the S.P.R., which reads as follows :—

20, Hanover Square, W. 1.

“ 6th March, 1922.

“ DEAR MADAM,

“ I received last week a packet containing four undeveloped photographic plates from which the covering letter had apparently been inadvertently omitted, for there was no indication as to who had sent it or why they had been sent here. The packet bore the Notting Hill post mark, and the plates were wrapped up in the syllabus of the lectures at your College. Do you happen to know anything of these plates, for we should like to acknowledge our receipt of them. I should be much obliged for any information on the matter.

“ Yours faithfully

“ I NEWTON (SECRETARY).

“ MRS. MCKENZIE.”

Believing this dealt with a matter of no particular importance, Mrs. Ford, the assistant organizer, replied briefly as follows on the same day :—

“ 7th March, 1922.

“ MISS I. NEWTON,

“ 20, Hanover Square, W. 1.

“ DEAR MADAM,

“ I cannot think what that packet of plates could refer to. Sometimes our sitters take some of the unused remaining plates away with them to develop at home, but I have not heard any of them mention about sending them to your Society. I am sorry I cannot give you any light on the subject.

“ Yours truly,

“ (signed) E. FORD.”

and there the matter ended. This will explain the reference in the typed note : “ Do not write again as Madame is getting suspicious.” As the letter was only known to Mrs. Ford and her stenographer, we infer that only someone who had knowledge of Miss Newton’s inquiry and the reply received by her, could have used this phrase, which had no basis in fact, as no one at the College was suspicious.

It should be observed here that as the four anonymous plates were sent to the S.P.R. in an undeveloped state two days after Mr. Hope left the College and a week after the experiment, it would be something amounting to a miracle for anyone to select four plates from scores of others lying in the College dark room, one of which had the special X-ray marks upon it, as this marking is invisible until after development.

The glass transparencies enclosed in the second anonymous packet have been examined by the College Committee, who are all very well acquainted with Mr. Hope’s results, and they agree that they are a spurious and bad imitation of the work of the Crewe Circle. Can it be supposed that if Mr. Hope were capable of such fraudulent practices, he would have continued to work at the College after missing such damning apparatus ? On the contrary he explicitly denies all

knowledge of these matters and has constantly claimed that he has been tricked in this experiment.

Doubtless most readers of this complicated story, which reflects grave discredit on the S.P.R. officials and their boasted scientific methods, will ask what motives can be behind the mystery, but a discussion of these must be held over until a later date.

An honourable and straightforward reply is, however, due to all concerned, by the officials of the S.P.R. This reply should include an ample apology to Mr. Hope and Mrs. Buxton for the allegations made against their work in the S.P.R. Report. For nine months this anonymous matter has been withheld from the persons most concerned, and it is easy to see how great has been the injury done to Mr. Hope. It is unthinkable that the Council of a Society such as the S.P.R., established to investigate the truth of psychic phenomena, could sanction such delay. Their action has also greatly increased the difficulties of the College and gravely impeded its work by disturbing the minds of the general public in regard to all psychic phenomena. This public disturbance may have, at some future date, an unfortunate reaction on the work of the S.P.R. itself.

On November 15th, the following reply was received from the S.P.R. in answer to the two Resolutions from the College Committee :—

“ 31, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C. 1.

“ November 14th, 1922.

“ That a reply be sent to the Psychic College asking whether any specific accusation is intended by their resolution. The S.P.R. request the return of the wrapping of the packet, with information as to what has happened to it since it left the Society's hands.”

In view of the fact that neither the Secretary of the S.P.R., on October 23rd, nor the Research Officer, on October 31st, knew (according to their own statements) where this wrapping was, the note as to “ what has happened to it since it left the Society's hands,” is amusing—to put it mildly. The College Committee might well have been provoked to reply, “ What happened to the packet while it was in the hands of the S.P.R. before the experiment? who had access to it; by whom was it examined before the experiment and after; and who besides the three or four persons mentioned in the affair knew that the sitting with marked plates was to be carried out at the College, and where the plates were kept at the S.P.R.? No information on these points, apart from Miss Newton's statement that the packet was locked in a drawer in her desk, has been volunteered. Following the receipt of this Resolution came importunate telephone messages from various officials of the S.P.R., who now realized that the wrappings had never been examined by the Council. Legal proceedings were threatened if these were not at once returned. They had remained nine months with the S.P.R. but a fortnight was too long to allow them to remain with the B.C.P.S. !

irrelevant, but it seems fairly certain that the label, of which a photograph appears in your issue of the 25th November, has been at some time surreptitiously turned back and rescaled. This must have been done either before the experiment, presumably by the experimenters, or at some later period. The former supposition seems inconsistent with the fact that the wrapper was preserved by the experimenters, although on this hypothesis it constituted a definite piece of evidence against them. Since the experiment the wrapper has been in the hands of several other persons, as appears from Mr. McKenzie's article. In spite of a definite request to the College for information as to what has happened to it since it left the Society's hands on the 4th November, the Council do not know how many people at the College have had access to it.

"If Mr. Price's evidence as to the substitution of slides is carefully read, it will be seen that the wrapper has very little to do with the matter, and that is, no doubt, the reason why, since the sitting, no steps were taken by any official of the Society to examine it carefully.

"As regards the accusation of delay, we may point out that no request was made to the Society by the College authorities for leave to inspect the wrapper in question until the 23rd October.

"The facts as regards Mr. Dingwall's letter of the 4th May, quoted in your issue of the 2nd December, are as follows: Mr. Dingwall was preparing an historical summary of recent developments in spirit photography, to be illustrated with well-authenticated reports of sittings with various mediums. He would have been glad to include, if possible, in his summary some well-authenticated cases of a more favourable nature to Mr. Hope than the material already in his possession, and his letter of the 4th May was written with the sole object of giving Mr. Hope an opportunity of supplying such material. We may add that there are several inaccuracies in the correspondence as quoted in your columns.

"Yours faithfully,

"(signed) E. M. SIDGWICK (*Hon. Sec.*).

"V. J. WOOLLEY (*Hon. Sec.*).

"W. H. SALTER (*Hon. Treas.*)."

I was asked by the Editors to reply to certain points raised, and the gist of my reply was incorporated in their answer to S.P.R. in issue of December 16th, but for the sake of clearness I append my own notes.

"7th December, 1922.

"TO: THE EDITORS OF 'LIGHT,'

"5, QUEEN SQUARE,

"W.C. 1.

"GENTLEMEN,

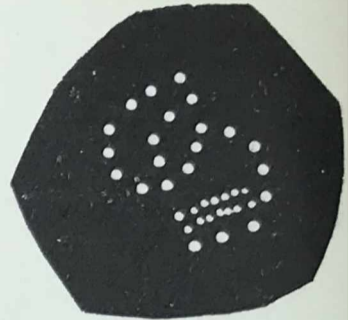
"I have read, by your kind permission, with no little surprise, the letter of December 4th, addressed to you by the S.P.R., in answer to my report and other articles on the Price-Hope case.

"The whole matter now, as far as I am concerned, centres around the Imperial Plate Company's wrapper, and as to whether this was opened before the experiment at the College or after.

"In their letter to you the following statement occurs:—'As regards the accusation of delay, we may point out that no request was made to the Society by the College authorities for leave to inspect the wrapper in question until October 23rd.' My reply is, that on June 7th, when I had read the report on the Price-Hope experiment, I immediately wrote the following letter:—

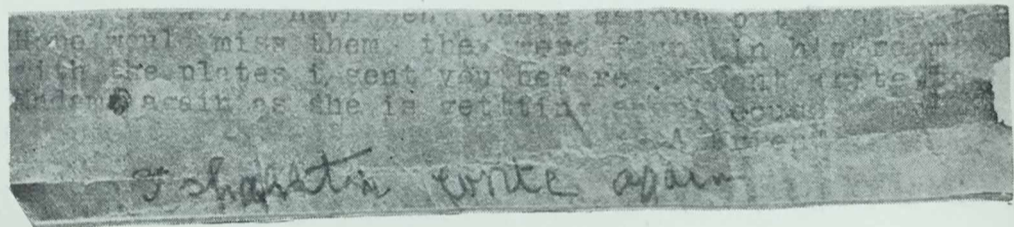
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DENNISON'S
CLOVER LEAF
GUMMED RINGS.
For Hanging Pictures, Cards, &c.

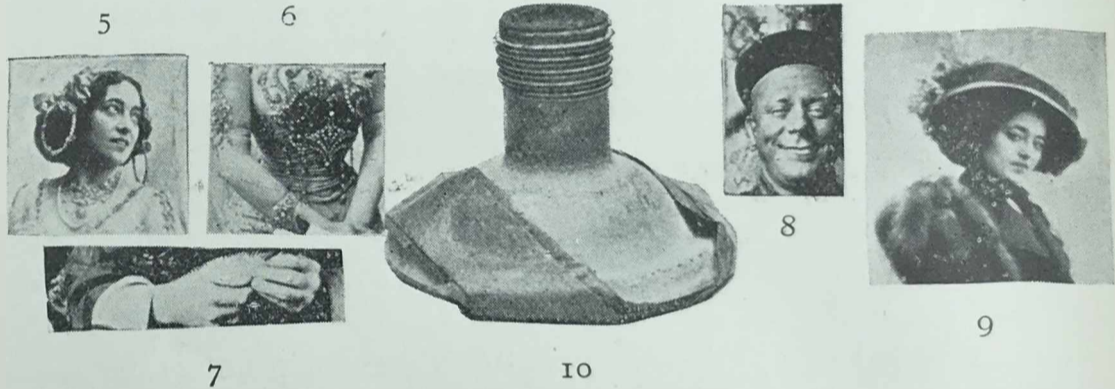


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Box, label, and contents of second anonymous packet sent to S.P.R., March 31st.

- 1. Box label.
- 2. Cut portion of a letter.
- 3. Red celluloid perforated disc.
- 4. Slightly reduced dimensions of typed note, which reads:
 "I would have sent these before, but was afraid Hope would miss them—they were found in his room with the plates I sent to you before. Don't write to Madame again as she is getting suspicious." Then in pencil the words "I shant write again."
- 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Five glass miniatures, exact size.
- 10. Tubular Rubber sucker with brown paper attachment round the mouth.

Nos. 5 and 9 miniatures appear as imitation psychic "extras" upon two of the unexposed plates received in the first anonymous packet of March 4th.

“ ‘ *Re* PRICE-HOPE EXPERIMENT.

“ MR. E. J. DINGWALL,

“ ‘ 20, HANOVER SQUARE, W. 1.

“ ‘ DEAR SIR,

“ ‘ On my return from the Continent I read your communication on the above matter, and feel it is most important that these and other charges against Mrs. Deane and Mr. Hope should be carefully examined. I have discussed the matter with several interested students of Psychical Research, and propose that a Committee should be formed to enquire into these charges and receive all evidence.

“ I suggest that this Committee should consist of three Members, to be elected from each of the following Societies :—The Magic Circle, The S.S.S.P., the S.P.R. and the B.C.P.S., making twelve in all, they to elect an independent man as Chairman of the Committee. If this is done I will see that the negatives in question are produced for examination, and will endeavour, so far as it lies in my power, to have Mr. Hope and Mrs. Deane here to answer all questions, etc.

“ I trust that this proposal will meet with your approval. Your early reply will much oblige.

“ Yours faithfully,

“ (signed) J. HEWAT MCKENZIE.”

“ To this proposal the S.P.R. Secretary replied on the 23rd June, as follows :—

“ DEAR SIR,

“ *Re* PROPOSED ENQUIRY INTO THE CHARGES AGAINST MRS. DEANE AND MR. HOPE.

“ Your letter of June 7th, addressed to Mr. E. J. Dingwall, was brought before our Council yesterday, and I was directed to reply to it.

“ The Council regret that they cannot accept your proposal, as they are of the opinion that no good purpose would be served by the proposed enquiry.

“ Yours faithfully,

“ (signed) I. NEWTON (Sec.)’

(Letter to “Light” continued.)

“ You will see, therefore, that it is a mere quibble for the Society to say that the College did not ask for an inspection of the wrapper until October 23rd, as my letter suggested that every piece of information should be placed before the Committee regarding the experiment.

“ All this stupid correspondence would have been avoided had the S.P.R. Council agreed to my proposal of June 7th, asking that a Committee from both Societies should be formed to go into the details and issue a report.

“ The next point in the letter which requires an answer is the following : ‘ Since the experiment the wrapper has been in the hands of several other persons, as appears from Mr. McKenzie’s article. In spite of a definite request to the College for information as to what has happened to it since it left the Society’s hands on the 4th November, the Council do not know how many people at the College have had access so it.’ My reply to this statement is given in the present article, under dates November 4th and 5th, and appeared in ‘Light’ on November 25th, to this I have nothing to add. Two members of the S.P.R. Council, as well as Miss Newton have been at the College and have received full particulars regarding the wrapper since it came into my possession at the College.

“ The next point in the letter which deserves careful attention is the statement that ‘ If Mr. Price’s evidence as to the substitution of slides is carefully read, it will be seen that the wrapper has very little to do with the matter, and this is no doubt the reason why, since the sitting, no steps were taken by any official of the Society to examine it carefully.’

One can hardly imagine a Society calling itself scientific writing in this way, seeing that the College has provided evidence which proves that the wrapper has at some time been surreptitiously opened and unsealed.

" My Committee has endeavoured to get permission from the S.P.R. to have the sealing chemically examined to see whether it has been opened within the past few weeks or nine months ago, which they seem strangely disinclined to agree to. Whether it is possible for a chemist to say now whether the packet has been tampered with in February, 1922, or November, it is difficult to say, as it will depend on the kind of adhesive used, both by the Imperial Plate Company and those who opened and unsealed the packet after it left the hands of the Imperial Plate Company, but we are led to believe, from the chemist's report, that there is every opportunity of this being satisfactorily proved if done at once. It must stand to reason, even if the S.P.R. cannot see it, that if the wrapper is likely to have been opened and unsealed before the experiment, all the other statements made in Mr. Price's report fall to the ground, and need no consideration at all by any honest investigator anxious for the truth.

" Yours faithfully,
J. HEWAT MCKENZIE."

On December 13th the following communications were received at the College from Miss Newton.

" 31, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C. 1.

" November 29th, 1922.

" That the Hon. Secretaries and the Hon. Treasurer of the Society be requested to draw up a statement to be offered to ' Light,' and printed in the ' Journal' in connection with the Price-Hope controversy.

" Carried *nem. con.*"

" 13th December, 1922.

" DEAR MRS. MCKENZIE,

" I was not present at the last Meeting of the Council on November 29th, and I now find that, in addition to passing the enclosed Resolution (*see above*), the Council decided, in accordance with the opinion they expressed some months ago, when your Committee proposed a joint Committee to deal with the whole case, that anything in the nature of a formal Committee of the S.P.R. to co-operate with the British College would be inadvisable.

" They are, however, very willing to assist Mr. McKenzie in elucidating the matter, and if he will bring the wrapper and other articles down to the S.P.R. Rooms one day next week, the honorary officers and others who have any special knowledge of the details will be glad to examine these with him, and anyone else he cares to bring. *The Council have no special interest in the wrapper* [the italics are mine—J.H.McK.], and Mr. McKenzie is quite at liberty to submit this to an analyst if he thinks such an examination will yield further light, but they would like their officers to examine it, as above suggested first.

" I should add that the whole case has been embroiled by statements which by many have been interpreted as charges against certain members and officials of this Society. Whether such interpretation is justified or not does not seem to matter, but before meeting Mr. McKenzie, the honorary officials would like to be assured that it has not been his intention to make any charges involving *mala fides* of such members and officials, and that he will write to ' Light' to this effect.

" Yours sincerely,
" (signed) I. NEWTON (*Secretary*).

The B.C.P.S. Committee met on December 14th, and having noted the reply of the S.P.R. Secretary, resolved that the following letter be sent :—

" 59, HOLLAND PARK, W. 11.

" 18th December, 1922.

" DEAR MADAM,

" *Re* PRICE-HOPE CASE.

" In reply to your letter of December 13th, to the Hon. Sec. of the B.C.P.S., we would draw your attention to the fact that the matter is not a personal one to Mr. McKenzie, but that it is in the hands of the Committee, whose names have been appended to previous documents.

" We propose to go forward with the chemical examination of the adhesives of the wrapper, as the chemists hold out hopes that some definite results may be obtained. In order to disturb the packet as little as possible, it is proposed to cut out a section as shown in enclosed photograph and marked with a cross, this cutting to be done by the chemist.

" Paragraph two of your letter is noted. No charge of bad faith has been or is being made against any member or official of the S.P.R. in connection with the Price-Hope enquiry, but we are quite convinced that there has been some questionable dealing, of which the S.P.R., as well as ourselves, may be the victims.

" Considering the exceedingly doubtful nature of the whole case we can never be satisfied with less than complete withdrawal of allegations made against Mr. Hope upon such imperfect evidence. (Signed by seven Members of the Committee.)"

I regret the necessity for having to write the full details regarding this case, conducted so clumsily and unfairly by the Research Officer of the S.P.R. That a correct record should be made, however, is most important, as it proves to the interested student how weak may be the foundation of many charges of fraud made against mediums. I should think, in all probability, nine cases out of every ten of such charges are quite unfounded, and whenever I have been brought in contact with such cases, and they have not been few during a long experience, I have always made a special effort to arrive at a conclusion upon all the possible evidence I could obtain. I have never been so hampered as in the present case, by the unwillingness of the other side to supply evidence.

What astonishes me so much in the case under discussion is the cool indifference, almost amounting to callous cruelty, of the S.P.R. officials who, on 13th December, can write, "The Council have no special interest in the wrapper," when, as a matter of fact, the whole of the Price-Hope case depends upon their proving that the Imperial Company's packet of plates had not been opened before the experiment.

In view of this attitude, and their repeated refusal of a fair investigation, can they call themselves a scientific Society? The whole affair smacks of pompous impertinence, and is deserving of the most severe condemnation from all students of psychical research.

I have often heard it claimed that the officials of the S.P.R. were most stupid in the way in which they handled mediums, and I can quite believe it from my own experience of the last few months.

I can also now quite understand why so many professional and non-professional mediums have refused in the past and refuse to-day to submit themselves to the S.P.R. for test purposes.

They have probably added to their difficulties in the future through their handling of the present case and reiterated unwillingness to hear evidence on both sides.

So far as the case now concerns the College the matter must be considered at an end. No stone has been left unturned by me to endeavour to get at the bottom of the affair before and since October 23rd, when I was first allowed to learn the full details of the case.

The chemists' report relating to the adhesives of the disputed wrapper I shall hope to give in the next Quarterly, and will now leave the matter for the consideration of all thoughtful persons within and without the S.P.R.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

THE following letter is welcome from a foreign reader, who has made a first-hand investigation of the work of the Crewe Circle in their own home conditions, and is not afraid to trust his own findings. I remember hearing at the time of Dr. Kallenberg's visit to Crewe. Even his name was unknown, and his first thought was to secure a skotograph—a psychic result obtained on plates *not* exposed in the camera. He brought his own plates, and held them between his hands in the unopened box during the usual brief séance, took them into the dark room himself, without Mr. Hope accompanying him, developed them himself, and obtained an excellent result. I am obliged to Dr. Kallenberg for his courtesy in communicating with the College at this time, when two of the mediums he mentions have been so severely attacked.

DEAR SIR,

STOCKHOLM. *17th September, 1922.*

To my astonishment I see in the TRANSACTIONS of the B.C.P.S. that you have two refusals in your work to verify that psychographs and psychic "extras" are a genuine and known reality.

Many years ago I was with Prof. Charcot, in Paris, and Prof. Bernheim, in Nancy, and since thirty years my practice is in nervous diseases and psychotherapy in Stockholm. During the winter of 1919 and 1920 I was in England, and visited Sir Wm. Barrett, and by his recommendation I came to Dr. Crawford, in Belfast, and was enabled to confirm the genuineness of the mediumship of Kathleen Goligher in some parts. Table-tilting and levitations I knew before, and have not found that miraculous, but when he (Dr. Crawford) spoke of "psychographs" or psychic "extras" I said that was quite impossible.

Therefore, when in the Crewe Circle, I was suspicious and waiting upon fraud of any kind. But during the whole week I remained in Crewe I found no sign of fraud or any trick from Mr. Hope or Mrs. Buxton. As I am acquainted with photography and double exposure, and having had practice in hypnotism during thirty years, I know "the psychology of deception" (Carrington) and, therefore, I say: "There was no trick and, as my séances were arranged, no possibility of fraud."

Now, Mr. McKenzie, I must say I do not attach importance to psychographs as a proof of survival—as Stead and Colley, and perhaps Conan Doyle—but they are genuine phenomena depending on unknown latent forces which scientific men almost need to investigate. With every good wish,

Yours sincerely, KARL O. KALLENBERG, M.D.

PS.—If you wish to publish my opinions in your TRANSACTIONS, I agree.

Here is another letter appreciative of the work of the Crewe Circle. This experiment took place at the College.

18th November, 1922.

DEAR MRS. MCKENZIE,

The "extra" on the photograph taken by the Crewe Circle at the College, of my husband and myself, in October, is my mother, who passed over thirty-three years ago.

It is a wonderful likeness, being more like she was than any ordinary photo I have of her.

I showed it yesterday to a brother, who at once exclaimed, "It's mother!" He adds a note in corroboration.

Testimony of the brother.

18th November, 1922.

I beg to state that the likeness to my mother in the photograph of my sister is most remarkable.

(The names of the persons above are in the Hon. Secretary's possession. They were complete strangers to the Crewe Circle.)

* * * * *

The College is proving an incentive to the establishment of various other centres, Birmingham and Sheffield have made headway, and now Leeds has opened a Psychological Research Laboratory, under the particular care of Mr. Clifford S. Best, the President of the Leeds Theosophical Society. The combination is interesting, and as Mr. Best has with him the cooperation of several members of the University, his appeal should reach the thoughtful. Mr. Best called at the College recently to look at the wax moulds of materialized hands, and we wish him a good heart and intelligent support in his valuable work in the North.

Dr. Maxwell Telling, who gave the inaugural speech at the opening of the new laboratory, dealt with his subject under two important headings. He declared that psychical research was important :—

- 1.—Because it is the duty of everyone to seek the truth.
- 2.—Because psychical science is a useful corrective to materialistic science.

He could not have expressed more clearly the reasons that led to the foundation of the British College of Psychic Science.

The College is greatly indebted to the hon. members and others associated with them, who were invited by the Hon. Principal to form a Committee of Reference with regard to the Price-Hope photographic case. The attendance and work of this Committee have been excellent, and the College is to be congratulated on having such a body of co-operators to call upon in the time of need.

* * * * *

It is a great pleasure to receive Frau Silbert, the Austrian physical medium, again at the College, and she is to be congratulated on the courage she has shown in undertaking the long journey again. We are much indebted to a member, Miss Eissner, for making the journey to Graz, and bringing Frau Silbert safely to the College. The Research Group, which proceeds side by side with the ordinary groups, has been continued with Frau Silbert since her arrival, and a further deeply interesting report may be looked for by readers.

Mrs. Head, who photographed Frau Silbert for our last issue, has been congratulated by fellow-photographers upon the fine result.

* * * * *

A Members' Meeting, held on December 6th, was the occasion of a reception to Mrs. Osborne Leonard, the famous trance medium. The Rev. Drayton Thomas took the chair, after a social hour, and introduced others who were well able to speak of Mrs. Leonard's work of comfort to the bereaved. From every part of Britain, testimonials could be gathered as to the changed lives, the happy outlook, the consciousness of an ever-present communion which has come to thousands through Mrs. Leonard's gift. "Feda," the great helper behind the veil, was not forgotten in the thanks and greetings given to Mrs. Leonard from her many friends present. Amongst those who contributed experiences were: Mrs. Kelway Bamber, Mr. V. Torkildeen (Bergen), Mr. G. Sandeman, Mr. T. Stancomb, the Hon. Principal and Hon. Secretary of the College, and others. Mrs. Osborne Leonard's power to comfort and illumine through her great gift was emphasized by every speaker, and a general sense pervaded the gathering of the great Spiritual realities which lay behind the best spirit communications.

All readers of the TRANSACTIONS will be delighted to have the excellent photograph of Mrs. Leonard in this number, and Mrs. Dora Head has our thanks for the fine study.

* * * * *

In the "Revue Métapsychique," Dr. Geley deals sharply with the foolish and malicious criticism directed against mediums, both by enemies of the subject and by ignorant journalists, for whom room always seems to be found in newspaper or magazine pages, while valuable research work by able scientists and experienced investigators is ignored. Dr. Geley particularly feels grieved at such criticism, by means of an anonymous letter directed against Franck Kluski, the Polish medium, who has never accepted any remuneration, direct or indirect, for his gift, and has, on the other hand, refused many most advantageous offers to exercise it professionally. Dr. Geley speaks of him as a good man and a perfect gentleman, and the Principal and myself can most heartily endorse this from personal experience.

* * * * *

The waste of time caused to genuine investigators by these attacks is also another ground of complaint by Dr. Geley, and he says that the necessity of the moment is more work, more experiments and not useless argumentation. I thoroughly agree; quite half the time and strength of the College officials has been used during the last four or five months, in combatting the disturbance raised by the S.P.R. in the Price-Hope case; time and strength greatly needed for research work. That this should have been entailed upon the College by an organization devoted to establish the truth of psychic phenomena by scientific investigation is incomprehensible, and betrays a hidden hostility to the work at 59, Holland Park, on the part, at least, of the persons who carried out the experiment. The attitude is regrettable, and the sooner it is overcome the better for the future work of both societies. With Dr. Geley we can echo that the College cares little for fame, but desires the triumph of truth with all its heart. From this viewpoint the future is regarded with perfect serenity. The truth can be obstructed, or hindered, in its continued progress by persecution as in former days, or by

falsehood, as to-day. There is, however, no example in the history of human progress of the march of truth being brought to a full-stop.

* * * * *

A number of wellwishers, during this term have expressed their indebtedness to the College, and they desire that the work shall continue in a very practical shape. The thanks of the College is extended to the following contributors who have with such kind words largely increased the value of their monetary gifts.

Donations to College during present Session :—

	£	s.	d.
A Member	0	6	10
Lady Mary Loyd	10	0	0
Mrs. Devenish (Research Work)...	5	0	0
Major R. A. Marriott, D.S.O.	5	0	0
Mrs. B. Hannay	2	15	0
Mrs. de Crespigny	1	1	0
Mr. G. L. J. D. Kok (Sumatra)	14	0	0
Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald	5	17	0
Mr. Newman Flower	5	5	0
Mr. L. James Hobbs	3	6	4
	£52 11 2		

COLLEGE INFORMATION.

THE College was opened on April 12th, 1920, as a centre of Instruction, Demonstration and Research in all that relates to the great subject of Psychic Science.

The promoters of the College are J. Hewat McKenzie (Hon. Principal) and Mrs. McKenzie (Hon. Secretary), who are wholly responsible for the organization and upkeep of the work. They have been practical students of the subject for over twenty years, and Hewat McKenzie is the author of a widely read book, "Spirit Intercourse, its Theory and Practice" (Simpkin, Marshall), and of the largely circulated pamphlets, "If a Soldier Die" and "First Steps to Spirit Intercourse."

Their united desire has long been to provide a suitable and well-equipped centre for the practical study of a great subject, which, at the present moment, and inevitably more so in the future, promises to exercise a profound and modifying influence upon science, religion and the general outlook of humanity. This desire has been partially realized by the establishment of the College, and it will be fully attained when the work grows and develops and the College becomes a recognized centre of study and experiment. Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie offer freely to members of the College all the experience gained during years of patient study and investigation both in Great Britain, on the Continent and in America.

Psychic science, relating as it does to man's soul, or finer body, is so far but little understood by Western nations, and the forces which are studied under this title, are capable, like other great natural powers, of being grossly misused. By wise instruction and guidance the College seeks to direct and use these forces for the good of mankind, and in this effort the promoters seek the hearty co-operation of the students and all who enter the College doors.

More than any other subject perhaps, the study and practice of psychic science demands from its students a consistently ethical and generous spirit, for in dealing with occult forces and their development, both the virtues and the vices of humanity are intensified, and their influence exercised in a most subtle fashion. All therefore who propose to become earnest students are asked to keep this in view, and within the College, and especially in contact with the sensitives engaged for the work, to place a careful watch on both word and motive. This advice is tendered by experience, both in the interests of the individual and the science as a whole.

THE AIM OF THE COLLEGE.

The aim of the College is not to enquire whether life continues beyond death, but to demonstrate that it does. Agnostics, sceptics, and believers are equally eligible for membership. The College will not attempt to deal with the religious implications of the subject, but will endeavour to study the subject scientifically. Any sug-

gestions as to the plan of the work and study made by members will receive careful consideration.

Those who recognize the profound importance of the work and feel that they would like to assist financially, are invited to do so. Such assistance will be greatly appreciated, as, until the College is fully established the expenses are very heavy. It has been the general experience of the promoters of such work, both in this country and in the United States, that monetary help for research work has been sadly lacking. Considering the great importance of the subject to humanity, this should be rectified by those who have the means and have benefited by the study.

SPECIAL DONATIONS earmarked for particular purposes, such as research work, ministrations to the poor, bereaved or sick, the training of sensitives and scholarships for suitable students, will also be welcomed and will be placed in the charge of trustees.

Advantages of Full Membership (*see cover*).

The use of the College as a convenient centre both for town and country members for the serious study of psychic science under the very best possible conditions.

The free use of the Reading Rooms and current literature, and of the extensive Loan and Reference Library.

The opportunity to join classes for study under competent instructors, and to attend demonstrations in all branches of phenomena available, at moderate fees, and under admirable conditions.

The privilege of being able to introduce friends (for whom members must be personally responsible) to such classes and demonstrations at an increased fee, and to be able to bring such to a centre which recommends the subject in every way—an important point with beginners.

Free attendance at all public clairvoyant demonstrations and many lectures. (Only those lectures are charged to members where expenses are too heavy to be met otherwise, and these will be noted on lecture programme.)

An opportunity is afforded for qualified students to investigate various phases scientifically, and for all students to have access in one building to the best mediums that the promoters can obtain from any country.

The College Quarterly Transactions are sent free to members, and intelligent and sympathetic advice from the Hon. Principal and Secretary is given, together with assistance in private development.

TO COUNTRY MEMBERS a free Catalogue and the use of the Library (monthly parcels free outward postage), and every attention when in town, is given, so that the best use of a visit may be made. Advice by correspondence on matters of difficulty is always available.

The Reading Rooms are open daily to members between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 9 p.m. ; Saturdays, 1 p.m. The Library is open between 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. ; Saturdays, 1 p.m. ; Wednesdays and Fridays till 8 p.m.

BOOK REVIEWS,

"THE MIND OF A WOMAN."

By Mrs. Champion de Crespigny (Edward Arnold & Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

SINCE the war there have been few books dealing with women's particular problems, and this by Mrs. de Crespigny—whom the College is glad to have as an Hon. Member—appears at a singularly appropriate moment, when the importance of woman as sharer in the larger citizenship is again in the forefront.

I should like to place this book in the hands of all thoughtful young women from eighteen years upwards, for it records in a brief and yet deeply interesting way, the real history of women from the days of primeval savagery through ancient civilizations, to our own race and time. Causes are dealt with, and their effects shown throughout the ages.

The writer stoutly combats any idea of inferiority in women, although she readily acknowledges differences between the sexes, which she takes pains to prove are, when rightly used, of the greatest advantage to the progress of the race.

Women's so-called emancipation and access to scholarship and training, and legal rights, is so comparatively recent that no satisfactory deductions can be made as to what she may attain in any of the fields so long closed to her. Mrs. de Crespigny, although precluded by the scope of her work from dealing directly with women's place in psychic science, touches upon the intuitional power in several passages,

Women's long discipline of humility and obedience through the ages will not be unavailing if she has learned a power of spiritual perception, which man, whose work keeps him closer to matter, finds it almost impossible to reach. All women owe a debt to Mrs. de Crespigny for her clear insight into essentials shown in "The Mind of a Woman," and the encouragement she gives the sex for future co-operation with man in work for the general welfare of humanity. B.

"A STUDENT'S TEXT BOOK OF ASTROLOGY."

By Vivian E. Robson, B.Sc. (Cecil Palmer. 6s. net.)

Astrology may safely be congratulated upon Mr. Robson's work, which will meet the public desire for a text-book superior to the valuable, but obsolete, works of the great mediæval writers and their modern imitators. The matter is arranged with great care, and the author's ideas expressed with brevity and an admirable

lucidity. The chapter upon "General Principles of Judgment" will be invaluable to the beginner, and may be read with advantage by every student, though Mr. Robson surely does not mean to imply, as he seems to, that a person's mental, moral *and spiritual* development may be judged from his status in life. The author gives us his opinion on several important moot-points generally scanted hitherto, such as the effects of intercepted signs, of planets near cusps, of planets in detriment and fall, of the stationary position and retrograde motion. The types of personal appearance and character conferred by the signs are most carefully described, evidently from minute personal observation. There is an excellent chapter on what is generally, but rather unsatisfactorily, known as "Esoteric Astrology"—a phrase we wish Mr. Robson had not helped to perpetuate; and directional astrology affords the author a good opportunity of displaying his powers of clarity of arrangement. Chapters are devoted to the various principal matters ruled by the Twelve Houses, but the work is limited to Natal and Directional Astrology, and there is no mention of the horary and other branches.

In sum, we may say that it is an excellent work for the beginner—even for the absolute novice, provided he possesses an elementary aptitude for scientific study. If he lack this, it might usefully be preceded by one or two rather less condensed works, such as the late Mr. Leo's "Manuals."

C. E. CARTER.

"IN DEFENCE."

By Rev. Walter Wynn. (Fisher Unwin. 6s. net.)

"In Defence" is published as a reply to those investigators who have not scrupled to express their views upon the tenets of orthodox religion as these appear to them from deductions made from the facts of psychical phenomena. It is an ancient controversy, and while the ardent championship of Mr. Wynn is admirable, on behalf of the cause he represents, and while we remember how he too has suffered at the hands of some of his brother clergymen, because of his expression of conviction regarding psychic phenomena, we do not forget that there are those who, with equal conviction, uphold the universalist conception of religion, and that "God is not a respecter of persons," or creeds.

The difference of opinion is really a tribute to the naturalness of the facts of psychic science, and now that the author has set forth his views in a book, which will be interesting to some for its racy and telling arguments, we may hope that a truce between himself and his opposers may be called, and that together they may work to further the facts upon which both agree, and which are so vitally necessary to place before both the religious and non-religious sections of humanity.

B.

“THE PROCESS OF MAN’S BECOMING.”

By “Quæstor Vitæ.” (London: Duckworth & Co., 1921.)

The author asserts the entire dependence of the finite consciousness upon the Infinite Self which seeks expression through an infinity of forms and experiences, Matter is the appointed vehicle for the clothing of the germs of spirit seeking ever fuller self-expression. Intellectually finite, we nevertheless, as finite selves, live as units in an integral, incorporate Unity, invisible to us. God is thus immanent in us, and we may progressively manifest His beauties. Evolution is the external presentment of an inner law of spiritual involution. Other chapters deal with the duality of the conscious and subconscious (or unconscious); with the process of self-differentiation and the after-death states; the greater planetary spheres and the Angelic-selves, of which we, as humble units, are living integers. The philosophy of communion with spirits is discussed, and the indiscriminate sitting for development shown to be undesirable for important reasons. But the latter-day phenomena of Spiritualism are declared to be the work of great “Guides” of the race, for the stimulating of conviction in man of his own immortality. It is a normal evolutionary law; but it does not operate for personal interests. The book ends with chapters on the origin of religions, and the problems of Good and Evil.

“SECRET SECTS OF SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.”

By Bernard H. Springett. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.)

This volume is of wider interest than its title might denote, and we hope to make its contents the subject of a special article in our April issue. The author is a Past-Master in Masonry, and the book will have a primary appeal to Freemasons and students of their mysteries. It contains a careful review of the creeds and rituals of the various races inhabiting the north-east corner of the Levantine district, and it relates these schools of religious and symbolism with our Masonic Ritual. A great range of study and research into hitherto obscure fact and tradition is shown, and this alone constitutes a most valuable element in the work.

“THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES.”

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. (Hodder & Stoughton, Ltd. 12s. 6d.)

Man inherits a psychic nature which has affinity with the sub-human orders of life. Intellectual development has obscured this. With some, notably in the case of children, the affinity asserts itself consciously. To this awareness on the part of the human, the “faerie” life responds, and manifests itself in a form agreeable to the dominant human thought. The form is a human symbol, but it is not intrinsic in the sub-human entity. The case of the

Cottingley children, championed by the writer, is founded on evidence that has so far escaped destructive criticism, and the salient fact seems to be that the little figures on the photographic plates are not only of a type far more perfect in the artistic sense than would be normally possible to produce (even granting a combination of first-rate artistic training *plus* a creative genius, and a perfect technical knowledge and ability on the part of the producer of the negatives), but that the critics have not, so far, been able to discover any "originals" of the "faerie" groups in any modern publication or reproduction of artists' work which might have got into the hands of the two girls and been copied by them.

Very frequently in "psychic" photography, representations of pictures or photographs known to exist have been mysteriously transferred to plates in the process of experiment under conditions not allowing of manipulation. The appearance of a copy of a page of an old black-letter Bible on one of Major Spencer's plates is a case in point. Should the original of the group of "faerie" dancers on the first Cottingley plate ever turn up in a Paris or Vienna art gallery, we might argue such a transfer. But at present, Sir Arthur's theory, which we take to be the materialization of the little sub-human lives in a form controlled by the "thought-aura" of the percipient, seems to hold the field. The book is largely an endorsement of the work of Mr. Edward L. Gardner, and is a well-merited recognition of the able and painstaking work he has done in the investigation of this strange and unfamiliar, yet fascinating, subject. Whatever the conclusions of the reader, all will admit Mr. Gardner's candour and sincerity of purpose.

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED.

NOTE.—Some of these notices are preliminary only. Fuller reviews will, it is hoped, be embodied in our next issue.

"SEEING THE INVISIBLE." By James Coates. (Fowler & Co. 6s. 6d. net.) This revised edition of Mr. Coates' valuable work has been brought up to date by the addition of new matter, and is a unique record of remarkable experiences

"FACTS AND THE FUTURE LIFE." By Rev. G. Vale Owen. 4s. 6d. net. (Messrs. Hutchinson.) This valuable record of personal experiences from Mr. Vale Owen is a useful corollary to the scripts.

"RAYMOND REVISED." By Sir Oliver Lodge. (Methuen & Co.) The matter of "Raymond" has been concentrated and added to in this volume, and the new arrangement will be valued by new readers.

THE QUEST.

A Quarterly Review.

Edited by G. R. S. MEAD

Vol. XIV.

JANUARY, 1923.

No 2.

Among the Worshippers of Satan	ROBERT NEWTON FLEW.
Church—A Psychological Fact	S. ELIZABETH HALL.
The Present Phase of the Survival Controversy	THE EDITOR.
Love and the Survival Quest	Dr. C. A. F. RHYS DAVIDS.
An Analysis of Mind	F. C. CONSTABLE.
On Witches' Sabbaths	H. C. FOXCROFT
Boehme and Madame Guyon	E. T. HARRISON.
Elroy Fletcher—The Ghost Poet	HERBERT E. PALMER.
The Smile of the Seven Buddhas	PAUL COHEN-PORTHEIM.
A Mystical Experience	ENNIS H. EDINEL.
Spirit	W. KINGSLAND.
An "Iranian" Redemption Mystery	Dr. ROBERT EISLER.

Reviews and Notices.

JOHN M. WATKINS,

21, Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C. 2,

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Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A.,

(Author of "The Gate of Remembrance," "The Hill of Vision," etc., ; Editor of "Psychic Science," is prepared to undertake engagements for Town or Country)

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Terms for Lectures by arrangement. For further details, apply (by letter only) to F. Bligh Bond, 47, Beaufort Gardens, S.W. 3 (pro tem.).

NOTE.—It is proposed to form a class for the study of Elementary Study of the Symbolism of Number and its interpretive values. Names of intending students should be sent to the Secretary of the B.C.P.S., 59, Holland Park, before March 1st, 1923. Terms for the course on application.