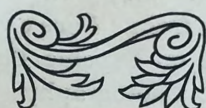


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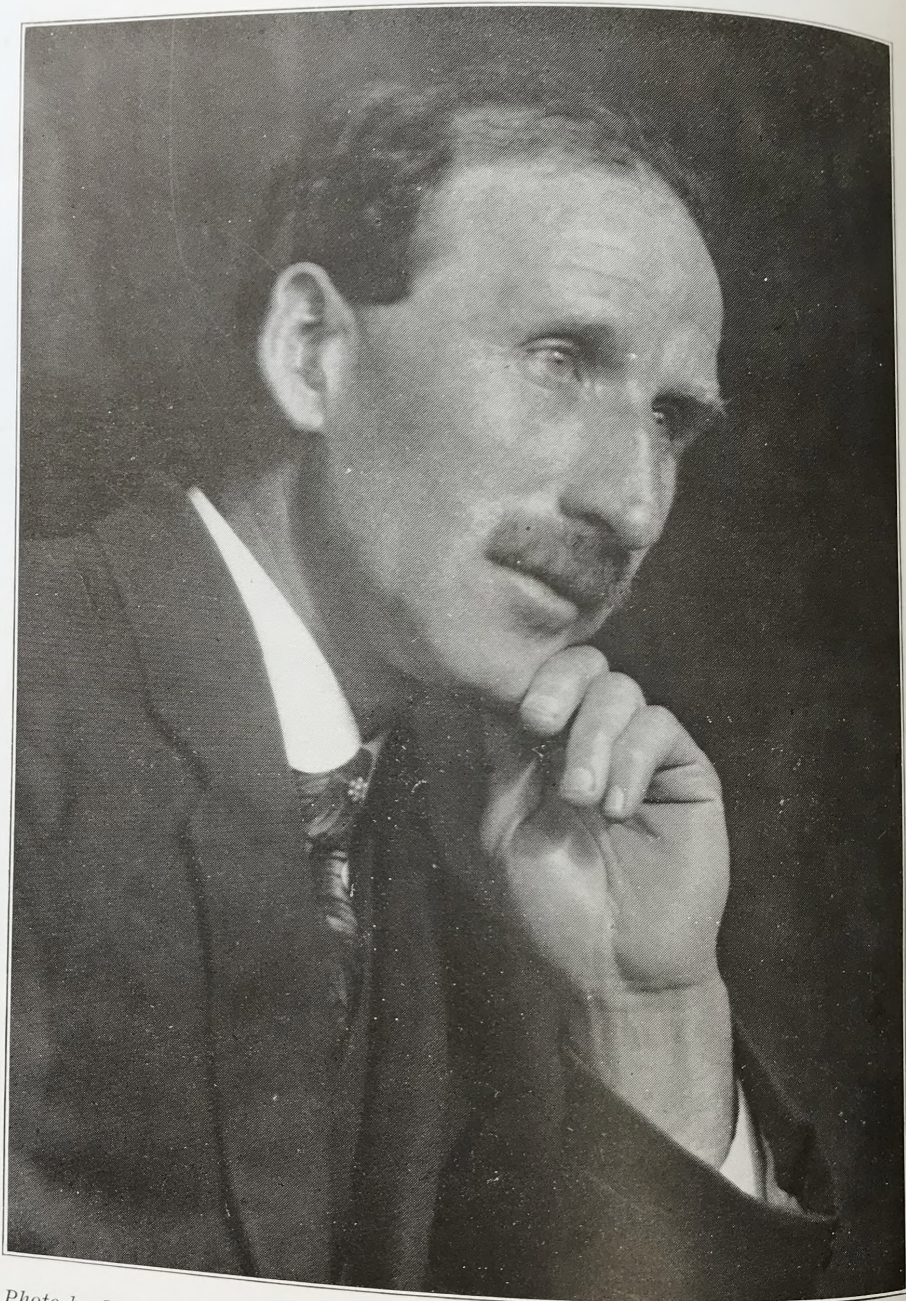


Photo by Dora Head

**EVAN POWELL,
MATERIALISING AND VOICE MEDIUM.**

[125, Cheyne Walk, S.W.]

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Vol. II

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Quarterly Transactions
of the
British College of Psychic Science.

Vol. II.—No. 1.

April, 1923.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

PROFESSOR William McDougall, F.R.S., in accepting the Presidency of the American Society for Psychical Research, has taken the wise course of fortifying his position and that of the Society's work by the nomination of an Advisory Scientific Council, in which the University element is strongly represented. It is a course well calculated to give the work of Psychical Research a status and a recognition in American scientific circles which has hitherto not been accorded it. And in another direction Dr. McDougall will soon make his influence felt. His Presidential address, originally delivered at Boston, and published in the "Harvard Graduates' Magazine," is a powerful plea for the widening of enquiry into psychical phenomena and laws, as a bulwark against the increasing materialism of outlook, in which it is not difficult to see that he senses a menace to our civilization, whose moral standards and ideals of conduct have, as he asserts, been built up on the basis and under the guidance of certain definite beliefs that are incompatible with materialism. The belief that our lives have a significance greater than appears; that we are members of a moral order, and that the value of moral idealism and effort cannot be measured in terms of material comfort has produced a moral tradition which, so far, has held men by force of habit and training, and still holds many men to a higher standard of

decency of conduct in spite of their materialistic outlook. But if the beliefs which engendered this habit have disappeared, he questions whether, with the foundations sapped away, the edifice of moral tradition can long continue unshaken and powerful to govern human conduct in the ages to come. We are, he says, living on the capital of an inherited moral tradition, and this capital, he feels, must undergo a gradual and perhaps a rapid attrition—nay, has already done so in those men and women whose attitude to life may be expressed in the words “ Let me get through with my life honourably and decently—then, after me, the deluge ” ; and such people will hesitate to bring children into a hopeless world.

As a student of eugenics, he laments the fact that the decay of religion and the spread of materialism is leading to the refusal to perpetuate the life we bear ; in fact—to race suicide.

The unwillingness of those men of science who stand upon their belief in a materialistic view of the Universe and who say there is “ nothing ” in psychical research, he considers unjustified, as it is only by a well-organized and long-sustained course of investigation that a positive conclusion in either sense can be affirmed, and this the “ scientific ” sceptic will not condescend to make ; but, apart from this, he reminds them that from the study of obscure matters there often result great discoveries in the biological and physical sciences.

A larger class of cultivated people do not deny that there is “ something in it,” but remain indifferent. Many of these are interested in the moral welfare of mankind ; some are religiously minded. It is to these indifferent ones chiefly that Dr. McDougall’s appeal for the conservation of moral values is pointed. When pious folk say that the reality of spirit and the moral values have been supernaturally revealed once for all, he reminds them that the evidence of revelation no longer suffices, except for such as themselves ; and he warns them that the world at large is unmistakably drifting away from these beliefs. Nothing but the discovery of facts by psychical research, facts incompatible with materialism, can suffice to check its spread. “ No other power can stop it ; revealed religion and metaphysical philosophy are equally helpless before the advancing tide which threatens now to sweep away all the hard-won gains of humanity in the increase of truth, justice and charity.

Lastly he appeals to propagandists of Spiritualism not to show impatience of the slower methods of psychical research, reminding them that we cannot afford to lower our standards of evidence, or to relax our rules of investigation; for mere propaganda by popular lectures and writings will never gain general acceptance for their views, nor convert the world. "Only by the methods of science can we hope to combat the errors of science." Here we know he is right, but what we here understand as methods of science are by no means to be confused with the methods adopted by many Psychical Researchers for which scientific sanction is wrongly claimed. It is but too evident that scientific men in England have approached this subject in a way that has not only militated against constructive success, but has been prejudicial to the wellbeing of mediums and the development of their powers. Their error has been twofold. There has been too little disposition to study the idiosyncracies of the medium, the natural limitations and scope of his powers, and, on the other hand, too great a tendency to attempt experiment on some preconceived lines of study for which the medium may not be naturally capable. Mediums have been, in the hands of some learned investigators, handled without due regard to the delicacy of their psychical mechanism, and at times almost as the "*corpus vile*" of the vivisector. This has not only spoiled the experimental value but has hurt the medium, and who can say how deeply such injury may go? With all this, there has been the wrong angle of approach to the study, and a tendency towards perfecting and multiplying conditions of fraud-detection and fraud-prevention which have not only usurped too prominent a place in these efforts, and so excluded much that might have been of value, but have actually, by the creation of an atmosphere of suspicion, inhibited successful results and at times induced the very evil that the investigators have sought to guard against. No allowance has been made for the powerful reaction of the sitter's mental attitude and habit upon the medium. This alone has been unscientific. We are learning now that it is one of the most important of factors in research; but it is not merely prudence, and the necessity for the conservation of the medium as a fit subject, that should decree the greatest regard for his or her physical and mental comfort—it is the

impulse of true humanity and right consideration for the feelings of a fellow-creature, and a sensitively-organized one, that should dictate the most scrupulous kindness and just treatment of the medium in all cases. No one in whom the head has dominated the heart should be permitted thus to traffic with the health and happiness of another. Sympathy of the most real and most understanding kind should be the first and last demand in all research involving the use of a medium's powers, and the neglect of this should be held a crime. Finally, and we think Dr. McDougall will be with us in this, we would say that each investigator in Psychological Science would do well to remember that he or she has, in himself or herself, a field of psychical study as yet unexplored and inviting exploration, and that the best contribution that anyone can give towards the increase of psychical knowledge is that based upon the more intimate and real understanding of one's own soul and its latent powers, as the interpreter of obscure phenomena in the psychical being of others. Mere observation of effects in vicarious mediumship will never solve for us the deepest psychical problems. It will only do so when aided and enlightened by the study of ourselves.

* * * * *

The "Hope-Price" controversy does not die an easy death. The S.P.R. are surely galvanizing the corpse. They seem now very unhappy, not to say uneasy, in their minds, as to the moral effect of the publicity given by our contemporary "Light"—whose Editor was excluded from the meeting on January 31—and complain that someone was guilty of a serious breach of confidence in communicating to that paper a report which, say they, was "inaccurate in several particulars." What the inaccuracies were we are not informed; they might be discerned with a mental microscope. "*De minimis non curat lex.*"

* * * * *

We read on the covers of the Journal issued monthly by our friends of the S.P.R., the legend "for private circulation among Members and Associates only." It was in this Journal that there appeared the Report by Mr. Harry Price which attacked

the honour of the medium. The Council of the S.P.R. not only endorsed this report but allowed it to be issued as public propaganda, in the form of a cheap pamphlet calculated to blast the character of the medium publicly. If the S.P.R. be willing that their private Journal should be utilized in this manner to break a man who can neither afford the means to defend himself, nor is able, as the law stands, to invoke its protection, is it too much to ask that the report of a meeting at which the grounds for his defence were stated should also in fairness be made public ?

* * * * *

A propos of alleged inaccuracies in the report in "Light," we should like to call our neighbour's attention not to any vague "inaccuracy," but to a positive error in the Journal record (page 29). It is well known that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle did not press his resolution to a division. The Annual Meeting, it would seem, was a packed one, as appears by the official statement, which records the fact that over eighty members, including some of the most "distinguished" members, had sent proxies to be used, if necessary, in opposing the motion. It is idle to take the sense of a meeting when a majority of the votes are given in the absence of any hearing of the arguments adduced. But as to the error alleged: it is stated in this record that Sir Arthur's resolution was finally *withdrawn*. We regret to have to state that the statement is quite without foundation. Readers of the Journal not present might easily suppose from this that it was withdrawn because it could not be sustained, or because it had been manifestly defeated in argument; and that would be the natural inference from the statement. But, as a matter of fact, Sir Arthur's resolution lies on the table, and there remains, as an expression of a conviction largely held by those who have made themselves masters of the evidence, and these include many members of the S.P.R. itself. The resolution is not withdrawn, and it remains permanently on record.

* * * * *

Comments on other matters of general interest are held over from this issue for lack of space.

THE REMARKABLE PHENOMENA OF FRAU SILBERT.

By the Editor.

COMPILED from the official records of sittings from notes made at the moment, during the period November, 1922, to January, 1923, with others contributed by sitters.

(*N.B.*—New readers are referred to the previous record of this medium's work in July and October issues of *PSYCHIC SCIENCE*, 1922.)

The second visit of Frau Silbert to England has proved a marked success. The time of year was favourable for the display of her natural gifts, whilst the increased familiarity with her English surroundings and the growth of a sympathetic link with her friends at the College, have doubtless tended greatly to facilitate their development. On our part a more intimate acquaintance with this lady has but strengthened our appreciation of her personal qualities, and inspired a greater confidence and attachment. Frau Silbert will always, we believe, feel at home with her English friends, and we shall look forward to her return at no distant date.

Readers of this publication will desire an ordered summary of the leading facts of her mediumship rather than a dry official record, and it is the task of the present writer to present in readable form the more remarkable and characteristic instances, omitting nothing that seems worthy of special note. For this purpose it has been decided to group together under their several heads the occurrences of particular interest.

The following records are drawn upon for the purpose of this article: Sittings dated November 24, 26, 28, 30.

December 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19.

January 7, 8, 14, 16, 18.

Sitters' names are in each case recorded, but are reserved from publication at this stage. At each one certain practised investigators have been present, so that the standard of evidence acceptable to the scientific world is fully maintained. To this must be added the testimony of the private sitters, which is valuable as corroborative evidence, but unless specifically stated will not be given primary weight in this report.

CONDITIONS ATTENDING THE PRODUCTION OF PHENOMENA.

Fortunately for the cause of Psychic Science, Frau Silbert works to the accompaniment of a good red light, and as far as her personal preference goes, she would desire an even stronger light were this allowable by her "controls." Unless otherwise stated, the reader may assume this condition. Frau Silbert shows an obvious disinclination to use the cabinet, and her "control" has to contend with this manifest unwillingness. She sits at a table around which sitters are grouped, with the cabinet behind her.

Her state during the time of the more striking manifestations of power is one of light trance, but many interesting items have been recorded in periods of normal consciousness.

It has been the constant practice to place a variety of small articles on the floor beneath the table around which the medium and sitters are grouped. This table is sufficiently large to give plenty of space between the objects and the feet of the sitters. Among these objects were generally a bell, a small trumpet, a slender steel graving instrument, and a variety of articles contributed by sitters—watches, metal matchboxes, cigarette cases, etc., being specially asked for as their metal surfaces could be engraved by the "control"—"Professor Nell." Many now bear his signature.

Entire darkness has now and then been asked for, but this was a very exceptional condition. The red light used is a sixty candle-power, covered with a red shade, directly over the centre of the table, which illumines the whole room sufficiently to see the objects in every part. Many objects were raised from the floor in a full white light of sixty candle-power.

The medium's hands and feet were either under perfect control by sitters on right and left during the production of most of the phenomena, and when not controlled were under observation by all or some of the sitters.

NATURE OF THE LEADING PHENOMENA.

These may be grouped under the following heads:—

- (a) Appearance and disappearance of objects from points in space, with apparent interpenetration of solids.
- (b) Display of psychic lights, sometimes with explosive effects.
- (c) Ectoplasmic projections visible to sitters in red light.
- (d) Telekinesis (movement of objects), with accurate projection of aim (euthody), in the accurate engraving of initials on selected surfaces.

"DIARSIS."

By this short and simple Greek word we propose to denote the act and process involved in the lifting of objects by psychical means from any position in space, and their transfer in an occult manner, or by an invisible path, to any other point in space. The word is

used by a Greek writer in the sense of "raising up," and being built from the words *διὰ* — "through," and *ἄρσις* — "a raising," implies just what it is meant to imply and no more.

For the phenomenon in question it has been customary to employ the word "dematerialization," a word not only uncouth and clumsy in itself, but implying a process for which there is no warrant of assumption. Let us agree to avoid so unscientific a term in our future reference to this class of phenomenon. If "diarsis" does not satisfy all occasions, then we have "exarsis" which would mean in this connection a "raising out of space," or "metarsis" which implies a raising from one place and a setting down in another, and is found in the Greek writings as the equivalent of "transplantation." "Exarsis" then is proposed to denote the evanescence of objects, "diarsis" their apparent penetration of solids, and "metarsis" their reappearance in another place, or from another point in space.

PHENOMENA : GROUP "A."

The disappearance of objects ("exarsis"); their apparent interpenetration of solids ("diarsis"); and their reappearance from any point in space ("metarsis.")

All these are outstanding features of Frau Silbert's séances, and are likely, we think, to attract, more than any other of her phenomena, the close attention of science. It may be assumed for the present that the removal of objects from point to point is accomplished by the "control" with a minimum expenditure of energy, and that it takes less force from the medium to perform a visible movement than to execute the "exarsis" of objects. That is a theory we must test. At present the greater number of instances of removal seem to point to simple transfer of position in space by aid of an ectoplasmic "push" or "grip," and there is no need to invoke the presence of a more recondite movement for these.

EXAMPLES OF PHENOMENA "A."

From the records we select the following more notable instances of this class of phenomenon :—

- (1).—November 24th. The medium in trance is seen under the red light to rise slowly from her chair, extending her hands in full view of the sitters to a level a little above her head. She then turns to the right and, moving her right hand slowly in the direction of the cabinet, she appears quietly to grasp some object which is not seen. She then closes her hand and brings it back into contact with her left, and she folds them together. All this time her hands are held about a foot in front of her. She brings her hands down to the centre of the table-top and immediately a gold wristlet watch, previously under the table, is seen to drop from them. This watch is found to be engraved (see D. 1).

- (2).—An hour later almost the same process is repeated with a silver wristlet watch, which is dropped upon the floor in full view of sitter No. 7. This watch was not found to be engraved.
- (3).—The medium in full consciousness is seen to put her hand forward to the centre of the table surface, and a cigarette slowly appears between her finger and thumb. Almost immediately a second cigarette appears in exactly the same way. The medium, when questioned, says that she saw what appeared to be a white object appearing *within* the surface of the table and she put her hand near to it. All was done smoothly and quietly. The cigarettes were taken from a case placed below the table, but the owner unfortunately did not make note of the number he brought, though he knows there were several in the case exactly similar to those produced by the medium.
- 4).—Fifteen minutes later (10 p.m.). The medium in trance slowly extends her hands over the table in full view of the sitters (seven in number), and displays her empty palms. Next, placing both hands quietly on the table-top at its centre, she makes the motion of grasping some object, and bringing her palms together, raises her hands quickly, still clasped together, up to the electrolier, and there opens them showing to all for the second time the silver wristlet watch (property of sitter No. 1). This watch is now found to be engraved (D. 2). The medium, throughout this sitting had been seated at the table with both hands in full view of the sitters, and her feet guarded by her neighbours (1) and (7).
- (5).—*November 26.* In presence of eight sitters, the medium in trance lifts her hand, which had been lying on the table, and shows a gold ring between finger and thumb. She turns her hand towards the curtain and the ring disappears without a sound, and on the turning on of the white light later, is found lying on a ledge within the cabinet. It had been placed under the table (a solid mahogany one) before the sitting.
- (6).—The sitters then noted that a gold wristlet watch had disappeared from its place beneath the table. The medium later said that she saw gold shining over the centre of the table. Two sitters had sensations of touch about their feet and legs. Seven minutes later, the medium again said she saw something shining in the centre of the table. She said she saw a hand coming from the cabinet. Sitter No. 7 saw a flash of light in the cabinet and all heard a light object drop. This may have been the ring, as this was now discovered (see above). Immediately afterwards the medium again went into trance, and rose from her chair with her hands open above her head. In this position sitter No. 7 saw the wristlet watch dropped into her hands as from the air. Still entranced, the medium walked around the circle with her hands above her head in full view of all, in the red light, and handed the wristlet

watch to sitter No. 6. On the turning-up of the lights the article was found to be much bent, but going, which had not been the case when it left the sitter's possession. After the bending, she had it placed again beneath the table, with the request that it might be returned to her in going order, but otherwise in the same condition in which it had been before the sitting. The bending of the metal was not rectified, nor was the watch seemingly touched.

- (7).—*November 30.* A table with a rectangular aperture 8" × 10" and provided with a movable zinc cover was used from this date forward for all sittings. This cover being closed, Frau Silbert placed her hands upon it, slowly turning the palms over to show them empty; then slowly rising with hands extended, palms uppermost, she made a quick upward movement as though to catch some object, then quickly brought her hands together, turned them over, and dropped on the surface of the table a locket which had been among the objects placed below.
- (8).—*December 3.* Six sitters present. The medium, apparently in trance, had been walking around the circle and had fetched a portrait of "Professor Nell" from the mantelpiece and given it to a sitter. On returning to her chair she leaned over the table, and the sitters Nos. 2 and 3 saw in her hand a glass locket which had been under the table. This she seemed to lay down upon the portrait, but on lifting her hands, it was seen that there was nothing there. Later, in the red light, the zinc cover was seen to be moved up and down. It was gently opened by sitter No. 3, and the medium, placing her hand over the opening, received the locket from below. The medium closed the cover and laid the locket upon it. The curtain behind the medium moved slightly and the zinc cover moved again. Sitter No. 3 opened it and as he did so, the locket seemed to slip and disappear into the opening, but whether this happened naturally or by supernormal agency he cannot affirm. Again the curtain moved, and the medium seemed to be watching for something to come from below the table. Suddenly the little graving-tool is noticed to be in her hands. She turns towards the cabinet with a motion as of throwing this into it, but no sound of its fall is heard. She then receives from below the table another object of a shining nature, which sitters think may have been the locket. This also she throws into the cabinet, but again without a sound.
- (9).—Later, in the full white light, sitter No. 6 sees something like white toes moving a cigarette case for a distance of about eighteen inches along the strip of paper on which some modelling clay has been placed, under the table. The medium then says that she sees the cigarette case moving about the room, and then, in one of the corners of the room opposite to her and behind

the sitters. She leaves her chair quickly and darts around the room behind the circle, with her hands up, hither and thither, as if trying to catch something elusive, whilst all the sitters watch her. Something is seen to fall into her hands with a slight sound. It is the cigarette case, and No. 6 sees the reflection of it in the large mirror over the mantel, just as it falls into the medium's hands. The medium then places it on the table and it is put underneath for further experiment. At this point it is intimated by raps in the cabinet that all light is to be extinguished. The medium stands up and is held by sitters Nos. 1 and 6 with hands on both shoulders. No. 1, who is on the medium's left, feels the cigarette case pushed up under his hand whilst it rests on her shoulder. It proves to be his own cigarette case.

On the lights being turned up, the case is found to be engraved with a triangle and the word "Nell," whilst on the crystal face of the locket, which had been perfectly smooth when placed beneath the table, markings were seen which appeared to be an attempt to write the word "Nell" (D. 5 and 5A). This locket had been handed up from below the opening in table just before, the zinc plate having been moved aside for the purpose, in the red light.

- (10).—The silver watch which was among the objects beneath the table had been missed five minutes after the séance opened, but was now verified to be again there. After a few minutes, on further examination, it was found to be once again missing. The medium leaves her chair again and, repeating the same motions as with the cigarette case, is seen to catch the watch, as it were from the air, at a point behind the chair of sitter No. 3, and she gives it to him. The watch is found to be engraved with the word "Nell" (D. 6).
- (11).—Among the objects placed beneath the table were a heavy gold watch belonging to sitter No. 1, and two keys of his which it was requested might, if possible, be interlinked. One of these keys is missed on inspection, and raps ask for darkness. In the brief time this lasts and while medium is held, when light is turned up the second key has disappeared and the watch as well. Darkness is again asked for. The medium goes into the cabinet and comes out again, her hands held by sitters. She complains of having her hair pulled and of a sensation of burning in her hair. The white light is restored and the medium remains standing as her "control" had held her in darkness. A search is made in the cabinet, and under the medium's chair and the table, but nothing is found. Sitter No. 3 rises to look more closely at medium's dress, and is confronting her, both standing, when the medium makes an exclamation, throws up her hands above her head, and at the same moment sitter No. 3 sees the two keys and the watch

come towards her as though from above, and at an angle, and strike her head. She brings down her hands and one of the keys is seen to be held between them, and to be joined at a distance of seven or eight inches to the other, by six or seven hairs, evidently her own. The second key is also joined by the hairs to the ring of the heavy gold watch. The medium lays all three upon the table for examination. The knots are found to be single ones and they are at once slipped out. It is a matter for surprise that the watch could have been held by them. The watch is found to be graven with the word "Nell" (D. 7).

The sitting at which these phenomena occurred was considered to have been one of the most eventful, and it is worthy of note that there was a special sense of harmony among the sitters. (12).—December 4. Present: nine sitters and the medium. The medium was seated, in trance, when she moved her hands with an outward motion before her over the zinc cover, exhibited her empty palms, then turned round towards the curtains behind her, stood up, went into the cabinet and sat down. Coming again out of the cabinet she held her hands over the cover, and a long and bright object was seen in her fingers, which appeared to be the graving-tool, and seemed to have come through the closed cover.

She returned to the cabinet without having deposited anything on the table. Again she moved her hands, showing them to be empty, the curtains being partially closed. She came back to the table and removed the zinc cover, when a ring was handed her through the orifice, to the accompaniment of a knocking sound. Frau Silbert then several times moved her hands backwards and forwards from the table to herself and *vice versa*, as though removing and replacing things from a low shelf before her. Nothing was seen to pass to or from her hands. She now walked round the circle to Mr. McKenzie, who was seated on the outside, behind another sitter, keeping her hands open and moving them to and fro as if trying to catch something that eluded her grasp. Although the floor was more or less in darkness behind the sitters, it was noticed that she never stumbled. When she reached Mr. McKenzie she appeared to take something from his right shoulder which reflected the light (red). It appeared to be the ring. She walked to the table and dropped this into the aperture, when several sitters agreed that it was the ring. The medium then closed the cover. On turning up the white light, all objects were found in their right places under the table. After some other phenomena raps were heard from behind the medium, and some of the sitters, placing their hands over the zinc cover, were sensible of heat. Frau Silbert asked, from the cabinet, that all objects below the table would be certified to be in place. This was done. She then came from the cabinet and with her right hand appeared

to catch something from below the edge of the table, and to pin it into the curtain behind. This was thought to be the graver. She then lifted the cover and seemed to put some object through the hole. The cover was seen to return slowly to its position. Frau Silbert placed her hands over the closed cover, partly opened it, and the silver matchbox was placed in her hands.

- (13).—She walked around the circle, showing her hands several times to be empty, made a sudden dash in the air, and on opening her hands the matchbox, which had been again placed below the table, dropped from them upon the surface of the table.
- (14).—A silver cigarette case appeared in Frau Silbert's hands and was again lost to sight. It reappeared from her hands on the surface of the portrait of " Dr. Nell " which had been placed on the table, inviting " Dr. Nell " to take it from her, and this was at last done. On subsequent inspection in the light, of the objects below the table, this case was found engraved with the initials V.A.D., the letters being connected with a continuous line as in automatic writing.
- (15).—*December 5.* Ten sitters. The medium, in trance, appeared to gather something off the *closed* cover—having previously exhibited her empty hands. Apparently now holding some object, she turned towards the cabinet and back again to the table, and with a loud stroke brings down a large pocket knife belonging to sitter No. 1, heavily on to the table.
- (16).—Whilst still in trance, she again gathers an object from off the closed cover, having previously shown her hands to be empty; raises her hands together above her head, rises from her chair, and goes round behind sitter No. 9. Nos. 9 and 10 both see something appear to drop into her hands. She comes back to the table and in her hands is seen the gold watch belonging to No. 5, which had been under the table.

INCOMPLETE RETURN OF OBJECTS.

- (17).—Several times the glitter of some object has been seen either in the hand of the medium or in her near neighbourhood, and the object has not been recovered, but somehow " slips " again out of visibility. We have now an instance, and so far perhaps a solitary one, in which a sitter has shared this strange experience with a medium.

At 4.30 p.m. during the same sitting (*December 5*), the medium took off her ring whilst in trance. The cover over the hole in the table opened or was opened by her (here the record is ambiguous), and a hand appeared in the orifice which took the ring from the medium's fingers. After an interval, the cover was again opened, no doubt by the medium herself, and the medium asked sitter No. 1, a well-known investigator, if he could see the

ring inside. This sitter saw the ring, and so apparently did the medium, but it eluded his grasp. Neither he nor the medium could get hold of it. The medium then went into the cabinet and appeared to take the ring from one of the curtains. She brought it back and exhibited it to the sitters.

- (18).—Another instance of partial return of objects then occurred. This time the return was to audibility and not to visibility. The sequence would seem to have been planned by the "control." Frau Silbert appeared again to gather some object in her hands from the upper surface of the closed cover. This she held between her palms, and brought them close to the ear of sitter No. 1. He was at once aware of the ticking of a watch and says it is a watch. The medium then goes round to all the sitters in turn, holding her hands to their ears in the same way. All hear the ticking of a watch with the exception only of one of the ten in the circle, who happens to be deaf. On coming to the last sitter, Frau Silbert opens her hands and all see that there is nothing in them—no watch is visible. She then approaches the cabinet and seems to pick it off one of the curtains; then returns to the table and shows the watch to all.

Addendum to No. 17. Mr. E—— (sitter No. 8) has contributed the following note of his testimony:—

"For my purpose it is important that my notes of the sitting with Frau Silbert should be in agreement with the official notes; hence my asking for a copy of the latter. I find that the two are in accord except as to the manifestation given at 4 p.m. I heard a *startling metallic tearing noise* and at the same time I saw the knife appear on the tin covering over the aperture of the table, and the impression borne in on my mind was that *the former had been passed through the latter* from underneath the table. I was so firmly convinced of this that I have not only thus described the occurrence in my notes, but in my verbal account of the séance to friends. Even now I cannot think that my senses deceived me, for this, of the many wonderful phenomena, impressed me most."

It would be tedious and scarcely profitable here to record the many similar happenings which present no additional features of novelty. Passing over some of these, the next that calls for notice occurs in the record for *December 10*, with a group of seven private sitters, three College officials being, however, present. In this instance the reappearance of the object is out of void space and is accompanied by a brilliant flash of light.

- (19).—The record is as follows:—Various sitters having been touched sitter No. 6, looking under the table, notes a luminous appearance around the medium's foot. Raps sound upon the table, and the zinc cover is drawn back several inches by a force exerted from below. The medium's hands are in full

view, as also those of all the sitters. Now the medium rises from her chair, takes the portrait of "Professor Nell" from its place and walks with it around and behind the circle for several minutes as though she were in search of something. She approaches the rear of sitter No. 2's chair, and leaning a little forward over the table, she places the portrait on the surface of the table, balancing it upon its edge. For the space of between one and two seconds, the portrait seems to stand or be held in this position, and then there comes upon its surface a brilliant flash of light. Simultaneously with this, a gold cigarette case of heavy make, which had been deposited below the table by one of the sitters, drops with a thud on the table, in the sight of all the sitters who are closely watching events. The medium then returns to her seat and comes out of trance.

- (20).—After several other phenomena have taken place, the bell, which is always kept under the table, is rung in time with the music of the zither. It seems, by the sound, to be taken into the cabinet and then around the table, where it is rung in all directions, but no one is able to see it whilst this happens.
- (21).—The medium now rises and taps upon the zinc cover, holding her hands over it. The opening is closed. Suddenly there comes the sound as of a fuse, and with it a brilliant flash. In the medium's hands appears a gold watch and fob belonging to sitter No. 6. The watch, on examination, is found to be engraved with the word "Nell" (D. 10).
- (22).—Examination below the table shows the graving-tool and the fob chain both there. But only a minute later, whilst the medium is standing at the table, she holds up her hands empty, and the fob chain falls into them, being seen by one sitter to appear in the air about a foot above her hands before it falls.
- (23).—At a further sitting on *December 11*, ten being present, there were similar phenomena. The medium appeared to receive something through the closed zinc plate, Nothing is seen, but she says she sees a cigarette case, and it then appears in her hands. Later it is heard to fall on the floor, and shortly afterwards again appears in her hands and a flash of light follows, seen by all present. A watch with luminous dial is lifted between sitters Nos. 1 and 2, vanishes and reappears, and then having been turned face downwards on the floor by sitter No. 3, is obtained by the medium through the zinc cover and she throws it into the cabinet. No sound of a fall is recorded. She then walks into the cabinet and comes out with the watch in her hand. Again she holds her hands over the zinc cover in the table, and the sound of a falling object is heard. Presumably this is the luminous watch.
- (24).—The medium makes dumb show as of a bracelet on her wrist and seats herself in the circle, showing her hands empty. Suddenly a wristlet watch appears in her hands, accompanied

by a flash of light. The zinc plate is opened from beneath by some force, and the medium holds this watch bracelet over the opening, then seems to change her mind and throws it away into the cabinet. No sound of its fall is heard. Shortly afterwards a pendant, belonging to sitter No. 8, is suspended from the ear of the zinc cover in the table-top by its ribbon and is carried under the table. A dull noise is heard in the cabinet. The medium becomes distressed and moves around the circle. She approaches the table, from which she seems to obtain the wristlet watch, which she then hands back to sitter No. 5.

- (25).—One of two small bells which had been placed beneath the table undergoes some puzzling changes of position. It is heard to ring and then seems to be in the cabinet, being used as a knocker. Then it rings in the cabinet. A little later it is rung again under the table, and is placed in the medium's hand when held with that of sitter No. 10 slightly below the table-top. The medium drops it on the floor with two other articles, and a moment later puts her hands together and the bell is heard to ring. No one could see whence it had come. It had certainly been on the floor just previously. The bell is again taken from the medium and is heard ringing beneath the table; then once more is brought back to her and finally eludes observation and is heard yet again ringing beneath the table, some other body on the floor apparently dancing and keeping time with it. The medium goes to the entrance of the cabinet and the other bell mysteriously appears in her hands. The tongue is missing.
- (26).—A chain bangle is brought from below the table through the zinc cover into the medium's hands. The cover is absolutely closed at the time.
- (27).—*December 12.* The official record is supplemented by notes taken by the sitter on medium's right. Frau Silbert took his right hand and with one of her own she encircled his wrist whilst the other she placed on the back of his open hand, guided him to the cabinet, and lifting his hand up to the wall over his head, he felt his watch, which he had a few moments before placed beneath the table, come into the palm of his hand. Both the medium's hands were still holding his own.
- (28).—The same watch (three had been placed beneath the table) was the subject of a further manipulation. In the red light the medium arose and waved her hands over the zinc flap which was closed. Then, placing her palms together, she seemed to receive the watch, and walked around the circle allowing each sitter to hear the ticking in her hands. When they were satisfied that the watch was there, she opened her hands and nothing was to be seen in them. Sitter on right says that she then returned to her place and smashed her hands down upon the zinc cover, causing him to remark "My poor watch!"

She turned up her hands and there was nothing there. The medium, says this sitter, now seemed to go into deeper trance, and coming to him, rubbed her open hands down his right arm—perhaps to indicate that she had no watch in her hands. She walked to the further end of the room behind the sitters, exhibiting her empty hands two or three times. There came a bright recurring flash of bluish flame, and from the point of its appearance the medium took his watch and placed it on the table. It was found to be engraved (D. 11).

- (29).—The medium walked round the circle in an agitated manner, and when between fireplace and door she waved her arms excitedly in the air with rapidity. Then, as from a quick-firing gun, came explosions of light, and from the point at which they appeared the little silver matchbox which had been beneath the table came into her hands.
- (30)-(32).—A small gold watch appeared and again disappeared (30), and a ring came into the medium's hands more than once, finally falling into her hands from a point at which, as from a focus, a succession of flashes had been seen by the sitters.
- (33).—A penknife was brought into the medium's hands, apparently through the table or closed cover.
- (34).—*December 17.* Seven sitters. (Special preparations had been made for this séance as it was intended that an attempt should be made to photograph the ectoplasmic projections. For these see page 41.)

Frau Silbert placed her hands over the zinc cover, pressed upon it and immediately the gold watch, which only five minutes before had been placed under the table, was seen in her hands. She proceeded to walk around the table, and with her hands stretched out over the table in full view of all, she made a motion of picking up some object. Nothing was seen. The medium made a motion as of engraving with this object. A click was heard by all as of some light object falling, but no object was seen.

- (35).—With her hands in full view the medium sits as though awaiting something. She places her hands on the zinc cover, then turns to the cabinet and makes the motion of throwing something into it. She enters the cabinet, whose curtains are open, and dashes about in it as though feeling for something, which at last she gets. When her hands were on the cover, it was observed that she made show of turning or unscrewing a cork. She now returns from the cabinet and bangs down on the table an object which proves to be the glass scent bottle with glass stopper that had been with the rest of the articles below.

Several other articles were the subject of similar treatment at this sitting. The same may be mentioned of the sitting on *December 18*, in which the "apport" of a spectacle case from

the group of articles on the floor was anticipated in dumb show by the medium making motions as of putting on spectacles. In this the transfer of the article was checked at the critical moment by the contact of the foot of sitter No. 1 with the spectacle case. He had wished to make sure that it was in its place by touching it with his shoe. The moment he did this, the medium, who had been standing in the opening of the cabinet in trance, with her back to the sitters, turned round and came out of the cabinet wide awake.

It was evident to the circle that the momentary contact made by the sitter just when, as indicated by dumb motion, the medium had obtained rapport with the article, had dissolved the psychical link and broken the trance. A similar occurrence is noted in the record for Friday, *December 15*.

Mr. Drayton Thomas has contributed his own notes of this interesting sitting, and we print them *in extenso* at the end of the present paper. His queries are of special importance. His report of another sitting on *December 19* is appended.

(36).—The phenomenon of the ticking of the watch was repeated at a private sitting on *January 7*, and again on the *8th*.

GENERAL NOTE ON PHENOMENA OF CLASS "A."

Our readers will now have sufficient material with which to form a fairly complete idea of Frau Silbert's capabilities as a medium for the transfer of objects from point to point by some supernormal channel, and their apparent interpenetration in the traversing of solid obstacles such as the zinc cover and the flesh of the medium's closed hands. The phenomena may surely be regarded as related aspects of one and the same process. In the cases in which an object appears in the air, no solid body may have intervened, but in either case, space is traversed, and where solid obstacles exist we must suppose these to be either interpenetrated or else avoided by the momentary "diarsis" of the article, or a "lifting through" by virtue of its transfer out of our visible space of three dimensions into that unknown "fourth dimension" which philosophic thinkers have suggested as the best working theory for the explanation of effects which can find no other solution that will cover all the facts.

The alternative would be to adopt the idea of a temporary dissolution or dissociation of the particles of the solid bodies, implying perhaps the "ionization" of their atoms and molecules and their resolution for the time being into their ætheric constituents.

This seems a very difficult thing to suppose, and it is evident that such a process of "dematerialization" would demand the exercise of forces of inconceivable potency, whilst we should have to assume also the presence of a power of orderly reassemblage of these dispersed particles—an assumption which would seem altogether most improbable and unscientific.

THEORY OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION.

But how vastly easier it is to suppose the raising of objects a little way out of space if we can bring ourselves mentally to admit the possibility of a region beyond, or shall we say *within*, the innermost of all particles of matter. The theory, when understood, will be found to allow fully for all that we should class as "interpenetration" of solids, and for the disappearance of a body at any point in space and its reappearance at any other, no matter if the intervening space were the steel walls of a Milner's safe, or a perfect globe of crystal in the hollow centre of which the object lay. For this fourth dimension, although our material senses cannot conceive it, (being limited by the laws of matter in itself three-dimensional in its manifestation), is demanded by the reason in the explanation of electric and magnetic phenomena, and all vital processes such as germination, growth and nutrition.

Now, according to theory, this added dimension would be in absolute contact, not only with the outside of every particle of matter but with its interior, and would impinge upon our three-dimensional space at every point. The process then, which on this theory we should conceive as being at work in the operation of lifting solid objects out of our space and dropping them into it again at some other point, may perhaps be best apprehended by analogy of what would happen if a plane object like an exceedingly thin film or smooth sheet of some cohesive "matter" were to be taken—that is "lifted" out of the plane in which it lay evenly with other films of the same kind, and by the clever manipulation of a being who could look down upon it, be transferred bodily from the flat area in which it lay, as in a frame, to another and more open area in the same plane. We are thinking of an object possessing—in effect—only the two dimensions of length and breadth, but it is evident that in order to have substance, or to be laid hold of by the being in the superior dimension who looks down upon it, such a body must possess at least a minimum thickness in the third dimension, and so there must be to some extent a sharing of conditions.

In the same way, if we are to suppose that beings in the ætheric spheres, which are the home of these psychical or metapsychical forces that are displayed at séances, are able to lay hold of our physical matter, which does not, as far as we are able to judge, enter as such into their ordinary constitution; if we are to suppose that they can lay hold of it, and produce effects with our matter, it must be by virtue of the fact that our matter has a certain minimum "substantiality" of the higher kind in that direction, by virtue of which alone it could be objectively real to the people in that higher world, or could be handled by those who had found the way to do it. For, to them, three-dimensional substance would be no substance at all. It would be nothing more than a shell, a film, an unreality, and perhaps so indeed it is.

Well may it be the case, if our hypothesis be a true one, that some of us whom we term mediums, are possessed of bodies whose material

substance has a greater consistency in this extra "dimension," and can thus become the instruments of forces acting from that higher dimension upon our limited spaces.

The appeal of this paper being to various classes of readers, not all instructed, the writer trusts he may be excused for trying to put in the simplest terms he can find, the ideas and analogies he would convey. It remains, then, to discover some convenient illustration or symbol of the sort of process which observers of these phenomena have, for want of a better term, called "dematerialization" of objects; a word which one would fain see abolished in this connection once for all, and replaced by one less uncouth in form and more properly descriptive of all that is certain in the process. The symbol that seems most telling is the following:—"On the surface of a sheet of still water, exposed at every point to light and air, there exists, let us say, a world of tenuous beings of delicate film-like constitution, almost diaphanous in texture, some totally invisible to anyone looking down. These creatures glide on the smooth surface and, having a certain order of intelligence, are conscious of contact with other filmy beings touched by their outer rim, on which their feelers lie. They know nothing of the meaning of "thickness," having to all intents and purposes only two dimensions of free motion. They cannot pass over one another, and would not understand what was meant by "over." They would think it meant passing "through" one another because they could not know what thickness was.

Now let us suppose one of these flat film-like creatures to be enclosed in a ring of similar substance. It cannot escape unless that ring be opened at some point. But if a three-dimensional being, hovering over the surface of the water, were able to see it and by the use of some sort of flat "dipper" which he could place under the creature as a temporary support, were to raise it right out of its plane for a moment and then let it down again gently into its plane so that once more it could glide away freely on the surface of the water at some other point, then we should see a process somewhat analogous to what may be taking place when things are taken out of space and brought into it again in these séances.

So if we think of our matter, so solid and substantial to our senses (because we only see the outside surfaces of it), as being in truth but a three-dimensional film, the hollow and tenuous shell of something much more real, a shell having a slight substance only in that higher region of reality; then we can see how by a slight displacement of the shell it may be made to pass "over"—we should say "through"—other solid shells of matter, and yet not interfere in the least with its particles. The three-dimensional shell would merely be sliding upon a four-dimensional foundation, the unseen support of the cosmos in which it has its place. It may just be taken far enough out of space for it to glide past the other solid body in close contact or adhesion with its interior parts, or it may be lifted right away from contact with three-dimensional space, raised

on the ætheric "dipper" to a greater or lesser "height" above our sphere or shell, before it is again dropped into its own environment, at which moment it would become fully visible, tangible and objective.

But there might be a previous moment at which, although in contact with the sphere of matter, it had not regained full adjustment—a moment at which it was just in process of reuniting itself with the world of the three dimensions, but had not quite got into place. There might also be a slip in the adjustment, and the higher being might sometimes fail in his attempt to replace the lower entity or object, so that it would possibly more than once escape his somewhat difficult and precarious hold. Would not such an analogy tend to explain in a more or less rational way the frequent disappointments of Frau Silbert in grasping at elusive appearances, her loss of objects when already made visible; the ticking of watches not yet perceptible to the eye; the escape of the ring from the hand of the sitter; the absence of weight or noise of falling when Frau Silbert throws an apparently solid object into the cabinet, and other curious things as well which may be gleaned from the study of these records?

The fact, for example, that in some of the recorded instances of the apparent "passage of matter through matter" heat has been generated, would in this scheme of analogy, be interpretable as meaning that the mode of transference had been comparable to a drawing or sliding of the film or shell over, and in close adhesive contact with the whole range of interior particles of the body or bodies over which the object had been made to pass, and that from this contact a degree of frictional heat had been generated in the course of movement upon the three dimensional shell.

Again the bending of the watch-metal—assuming this to have taken place during its unseen transit would be a most significant fact, and one indicative of an enormous superiority of force exerted during this process of "diarsis." The bending would not, in such case, seem due to mechanical violence as we should understand this, but would, on our theory, be analogous to the wrinkling of a tender film in the process of being lifted from its support in transference from one point to another, either because it had been for a brief space deprived of that support and so collapsed of its own weakness, or because the forces employed in its removal were of greater magnitude than its own forces of cohesion or were not perfectly adjusted to the delicate experimental work of controlling such movements. But we would not wish to overemphasize the importance of an isolated phenomenon which cannot be more fully attested.

EXAMPLES OF PHENOMENA IN CLASS "B."

(Display of lights, with occasional explosive effects).

Phenomena of this class are varied and striking.

- (1).—November 24. The medium said she saw spirit-forms moving around outside the circle, towards the sitter on her left.

During this time a series of flashes like electric discharges were produced in various parts of the room—one from below sitter No. 3, another reflected near the window, and two more below the centre of the table. These were bright enough to light up the whole floor, showing objects hidden in the shadow of the red lamp. Each flash lasted about half a second in the estimation of the recorder, and was of a brilliancy equal to ten candle-power or thereabouts. No sound accompanied the flashes. The forms claimed to be seen by the medium were not visible to the sitters, but No. 1 said she saw a faint phosphorescence. Occasional lights were visible during the sitting on *November 28*, and on the 30th one sitter saw a phosphorescence on the backs of his hands, whilst later, on Frau Silbert's touching the shoulder of sitter No. 1, there was a brilliant flash twice repeated, and

- (2). apparently a materialization, since the sitter started violently each time, and afterwards said he felt at each flash as if he had been hit heavily by a block of wood. The colour of the flash appeared yellow to the male sitter who took the notes, but was declared by a lady sitter to be green. No noise accompanied the flashes. It is noted that they took place between a male and female sitter (? positive and negative). Other flashes appeared beneath the table and in the cabinet.
- (3).—On *December 3* a bright flash appeared whilst the medium was in the cabinet, and shortly afterwards when she had returned to the table she lifted "Nell's" picture from it and carried it around the circle touching it with her disengaged hand three times. On each touch a sound was heard as of the discharge of a fuse and a brilliant light formed and concentrated itself upon the face of "Nell," and this was seen by all. The effect was most dramatic. The medium took the portrait to the mantelpiece and as she placed it there she again touched it and a fourth brilliant flash was seen. The flashes were not diffuse as usual, but concentrated, having the aspect of bright electric lights. When the medium was again seated she was told of what had happened whilst she had been in trance. Now, in her normal state, the cover over the opening was seen to move, and the graving-tool was handed up to her through the orifice with a brilliant flash from below. She said she saw light on the portrait on the shelf, but this impression was personal to her.
- (4).—On *December 4*, two bright flashes of yellow colour were seen as the medium passed by the organ on a walk round the circle.
- (5).—On *December 11*, lights were noted beneath the table, between sitters Nos. 1 and 2, and again behind the medium. A flash of light accompanied the return of a wristlet watch.
- (6).—Later in the same sitting the medium dictated a message which she said she saw in letters of flame. Flashes of light were seen

and the zinc cover in the table was opened whilst the medium's hands were held. The message taken down by the two sitters with knowledge of German, reads, when translated, thus:—

“All birth is accompanied by pain. The medium will receive compensation for her pain. The union of the supersensuous world with the sensuous is needed for the production of phenomena.”

There were then further flashes of light seen by sitters.

- (7). (cp. A 31).—*December 12.* As the medium walked around the circle waving her hands in the air, there came “explosions of light” as from a quick-firing gun, and from their focus a silver matchbox appeared in the medium's hands. The independent recorder says that the recurrent flash which attended the reappearance of his watch (A 29) was of a bluish colour.
- (8).—The recovery of the scent bottle (“A” 35, *December 17*) was accompanied by a bright flash and the sound of a fuse. Later in the sitting, on the medium turning to resume her seat, a flash of light was seen to rise about her. Afterwards on going into the cabinet two brilliant flashes appeared within it and the same fuse-like sound was heard. Then there was a most brilliant flash, accompanied by a loud crack, which alarmed the medium, who came out and sat at the table. She saw a light behind the circle and also described several small lights which seemed to her like glowworms. It was at this sitting that the first series of plates for the ectoplasmic projections were exposed. After the second exposure a flash of light was seen close by the medium's eyes, immediately after the photo-flash.
- (9).—Just before the exposure of the last plate, during ten minutes of darkness there came a wonderfully brilliant flash of light behind and all around the medium, and the zinc cover was moved.
- (10).—On *December 18*, brilliant flashes are recorded. One of these appeared on the portrait of “Professor Nell” when the medium touched it.

The powerful flashes of light attending in some instances the reappearance of objects may be due to something in the dynamic conditions attending their precipitation. It is perhaps too early for us to form any theory on the subject. We will now pass on to the third category noted.

PHENOMENA OF CLASS “C.”

(*Ectoplasmic projections visible to sitters, and materialization of hands, etc.*)

The records are fairly full of appearances of this kind. One of the most frequent phenomena is the appearance of a properly-formed hand, often seen rising into the opening in the table-top when an object is being handed to, or taken from, the medium. The pressure

or contact of unseen materializations is often recorded. We select the following instances, all well vouched for.

- (1).—*November 24.* Under the red light, several of the lady sitters were touched upon the foot, ankle and knee by what seemed to be a firm hand. Sitter No. 3 felt repeated touches upon her hands, and these impressed her as being like the touches of a child's hand. It seemed easier to touch female than male sitters, the latter if of an extremely active mentality, often seeming to repel the structure, or dissolve it.
- (2).—*November 27.* A hand appeared several times at the edge of the table between the medium and sitter No. 1. Half-an-hour later, in darkness, a hand showed itself at the opening in the table and produced a cigarette case. This was seen by the glow of cigars being smoked by sitters Nos. 1 and 10. Frau Silbert occasionally allows smoking if it tends to produce ease in the sitters.
- (3).—*November 26.* Sitter No. 1 was touched on the knee, and on placing her hand beneath the table she felt a rough and moderately warm hand placed in hers. It remained there for several seconds.
- (4).—*November 28.* Whilst the medium's hands were stretched out over the hole in the table, a hand appeared, plainly visible to all, moving under the table. It came up to the opening and appeared to hand Frau Silbert a small lady's watch (D 4), within the closed cover of which "Nell's" name was afterwards found to be engraved.
- (5).—*December 3.* The cover over the orifice in table was pushed up and all sitters saw a well-formed hand holding a cigarette case, which was again dropped. This hand, or another, again appeared on two occasions. On its fourth appearance it held the trumpet and was well seen. It was an average human hand in shape, and apparently also in colour.
- (6).—*December 4.* On the medium holding her hands over the orifice in table, a partly materialized hand was seen by all the sitters in the opening. This appeared several times.
- (7).—A bell is passed up through the opening by a small white hand. Sitter No. 6 takes the bell from the hand and places it on the table. She feels a slight resistance when taking it. The cover had previously been removed without contact by sitters or medium.
- (8).—(cp. "A" 17.)—A hand takes the medium's ring from her hand.
- (9).—*December 7.* A small white hand is seen by several sitters below the opening in the table.
- (10).—*December 10.* On sitter No. 2 putting his hands over the opening, something like a large thumb or finger is seen by several of the sitters within the opening. Later, on sitter No. 6

holding a bell over the opening, a hand darts at it several times, but he keeps his hand on the bell. A little later something pushes the bell, which he still holds, with great force away from the opening. He then holds the handle of the bell down through the opening and the bell is taken from below.

- (11).—*December 12.* Several sitters plainly see a white hand under the lip of the opening. The red cloth is placed over the opening, and immediately the medium draws it up, and with it is enclosed a silver knife. The cloth is replaced and a gold watch is then drawn up beneath it by the medium. A well-shaped white finger is seen beneath the edge of the opening. On one occasion when the opening is uncovered, a hand and arm suddenly make a movement below the opening causing the medium and the sitter on her right both to start.
- (12).—*December 17.* On placing his hand within the opening a sitter feels a hand placed in his. It is warm and strong. Two sitters think they see part of a face looking round the curtain on the medium's right.
- (13).—*January 8.* The red cloth over the opening is seen in motion. Several sitters see a hand. The medium feels a hand touch hers. Several place their hands over the cloth. One feels her hand caught and withdraws it hurriedly. Others feel touches from below. The cloth is slightly pulled aside by the sitters and two hands appear in the orifice.
- (13A).—The solidity of these hands is evidenced in the instances given in the reports of the shoe laces of sitters being untied, this performance lasting a full minute, and of shoes being removed and handed to the medium through the table opening.

ECTOPLASMIC PROJECTIONS.

- “B” (14).—These have frequently been seen by sitters in the red light. The writer can speak from personal experience, and his observation is attested by a precisely similar impression obtained by the sitter on his right, Mr. S——. The writer, on this occasion, was seated on the medium's right, and he kept his foot against the side of hers, whilst her other foot was guarded in like manner by the sitter on her left. The zinc cover was slipped aside so as to allow of a narrow beam of red light to shine upon the carpet immediately in advance of the medium's feet. Both her boots were plainly visible and no movement of her feet was observed. Her black skirt came down to her ankles and nearly touched the instep. Once a patch of dull light, like a rather solid phosphorescent cloud about the size of the back of an average hand was seen to form a little way in advance of her left foot and to move across a few inches to the right, where it vanished. The trumpet lay there on the floor. Then, four times in succession, there came

from below the medium's skirt a luminous tentacle about four inches long, curling itself forward in the direction of the trumpet which it was evidently trying to touch. In this it did not succeed. The materializations vanished very quickly. Their colour seemed a dull yellow. In one of the official records the sitters note the appearance of what looked like white toes. These may have been similar tentacles and of the same nature as the projections, a photograph of which has been most fortunately secured (see special Note accompanying the Plates).

Mr. Hewat McKenzie notes that on one occasion when only one other person, a lady, besides himself was present with the medium, he was able to get below the table and watch the structure as it built up immediately below the skirt of the medium. The structure on this occasion was highly luminous, and had the appearance of a human hand, but although the thumb and palm were well defined the four fingers were not so clear. This object protruded from below the skirt, and grasped various objects lying about a foot in front of the medium, carrying them below her skirt and between her feet. A box of quarter plates was lifted on another occasion by this structure and was seen beating time to some music which was played. The plates, on development, were not in any way affected.

PHENOMENA OF CLASS "D."

(Telekinesis with accurate direction.)

This class covers the unique phenomenon of the engraving of initials with a hard stylus upon the surfaces of various metal objects deposited by sitters. Quite a large number have received the monogram of "Dr. Nell" in this manner, and now and then the letters have been found engraved upon the inner faces of watch cases, cigarette cases, etc., showing that these have been opened by psychic means and closed again. The opening of a watch cover if at all stiff is by no means an easy problem, one would think, for the "control." But as to the happening itself there is no doubt. We have space only for a few instances of special importance:—

- (1).—November 24 (cp. "A" 1). The name "Nell" was traced in somewhat irregular lines on the back of a gold wrist watch, and it appeared that much pressure had been used, as the metal was indented. A silver watch was similarly engraved. In both cases it is certified that the articles were unmarked before the sitting.
- (2).—November 26 (cp. "A" 4). A cigarette case was engraved on the inner face with the name "Nell." The graver was found stuck in the carpet.
- (4).—November 28. The closed watch of a lady sitter is engraved on the inner face of the case with the name "Nell."
- (5).—December 3 (cp. "A" 9). A cigarette case is found engraved with a triangle and the word "Nell."

- (5A).—On the glass cover of a locket were seen markings, not there previously, which were an attempt at the same name.
- (6).—A silver watch was also engraved.
- (7).—*December 3* (cp. "A" 11). A gold watch, precipitated from the cabinet, is found tied by the medium's hairs to two keys, and engraved with the name "Nell."
- (8).—At the same sitting one of the party, looking beneath the table sees an object, resembling a row of toes slightly bent, over the modelling clay placed there before the sitting. The toe-like objects move as if writing. On examination, the word "Nell" is found written on the clay as with a smooth firm object such as a finger, but no skin markings are visible.
- (9).—*December 4* (cp. "A" 14). A cigarette case was engraved with the initials V.A.D. The letters were connected by lines showing that the instrument had not been lifted and the pressure had been continuous.
- (9A).—*December 5*. The medium takes the hand of sitter No. 10, holds it a little way beneath the table, brings it up, and writes on the table the word "Nell," then the medium turns her hand round and shows clay on her fingers. Finger marks are afterwards discovered on the clay.
- (10).—*December 10*. A watch is engraved (cp. "A" 21).
- (11).—*December 12* (cp. "A" 28). Sitter's watch is lightly engraved.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA "E."

(*Blowing of the trumpet. Sensation of a dog.*)

On *December 10* the little trumpet was blown by psychical agency for the first and last time. This happened in darkness, but the medium's hands were held continuously by sitters Nos. 1 and 7. The trumpet was blown three times with vigour, and the sound appeared to come from a point several feet above the table.

Both sitters Nos. 1 and 7 have given assurance that they never let go of the medium's hands, and all the other sitters were linking hands at the time. Again the trumpet was blown several times in succession, and as this happened, the medium raised sitter No. 7's hand and placed it on her lips. The trumpet was then heard to fall outside the circle.

On turning up the lights it was found lying in a line between sitters Nos. 1 and 2, at a distance of several feet behind them. This also happened on another occasion, and indicated a full materialization, which, however, was not self-luminous as has been seen at the medium's home.

During a sitting on *January 7, 1923*, one of the sitters, the one on the medium's left, said she felt something push past her and go towards the cabinet. It seemed to her like a dog. This has been experienced by others.

The notes of this séance, with those of the sittings of *December 18* are printed *in extenso*.

**SITTING WITH FRAU SILBERT AT B.C.P.S.,
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1922, AT 8 P.M.**

Notes by Rev. C. Drayton Thomas.

PROCEEDINGS were on the general lines described in *PSYCHIC SCIENCE* for October, 1922, page 260 ; and in " *Light* " for December 9, 1922, page 778

Among articles placed below the table was a sheet of luminous card, upon which we placed my friend's watch, my cigarette case, on which there were luminous paint streaks, spectacle case, ivory needle case, pocket knife, bolt, finger ring, pencil and paper, bead necklace and a fresh rose.

An aperture in the table had a zinc slide which closed it at will, and we had a red cloth which could be used instead of the zinc to cover the hole. The purpose of the hole was to enable an object to reach the surface of the table without coming out into the light of the red electric lamp too soon. This light was over the table and enabled sitters, and pictures on walls, to be seen.

The medium was frequently in light trance during the evening. She did not once stoop down. Her boots were high and laced. A lady sitting at her right and I on her left were in full visual control of her movements, including her knees and lap ; like all the sitters, we kept the medium's hands in view easily all the time.

The following were among the more striking incidents :—

(1) As F.S.'s hands were upstretched in the full light of the lamp we suddenly saw within them the ivory needlecase. Her hands were closed to the light and we had seen them empty a moment earlier. How did this case reach her hands from the floor ?

(2) My cigarette case was handed up through the aperture in the table and taken by F.S. I had placed it on the floor close to my feet and it had been there when I looked for it shortly before this. The medium had not stooped, nor reached down her hands towards the floor. At the previous sitting I had clearly seen something at this aperture which looked roughly like a finger and thumb, possibly the gripping extremity of an ectoplasmic arm proceeding from F.S.'s feet or knees.

(3) While F.S.'s left hand was moved towards me I watched it receive the spectacle case which came from the shadow of the table just beneath my eyes and about four inches lower than the table top. I could not see the " hand " which held it out, but its free end just slid into F.S.'s hand in a horizontal direction. Even had I looked for the " hand " which thrust it out, I question if it would have been visible, because it did not project beyond the shadow of the table top.

(4) F.S. took my hand and held it close to where the above case was given her. Suddenly we heard a small thud close by, and I stooped to pick up the pocket knife which had fallen just underneath our hands. It had apparently been attempted to place this in her hand at a height of two feet from the carpet.

(5) The heavy iron bolt came with a sharp knock against the woodwork of the cabinet near my foot.

(6) While I was in the act of placing something upon the zinc slide, the latter was slightly opened from below and the sitter on the right saw a "finger" there.

F.S. always seemed to divine the object which was going to be moved, and generally the place in which it would appear. She drew my attention to the floor between us, and I at once saw the luminous marks of my cigarette case moving slowly to and fro as if to attract attention. It was about half way between the floor and table top. After moving about there for some eight seconds, I saw it go round F.S.'s knees towards Mrs. H—— on the right, who told me that she saw it rise up into F.S.'s hand. F.S. then placed it on the table. This had been so easily watched by me that I am clear F.S. was quite still at the time, and that her hands had nothing to do with the movements until the moment when the case reached her hand; but for the luminous markings I should have seen nothing of the movement of this object until the medium grasped it. I had glanced at it from time to time and had always found it where it was first placed not far from my feet.

Query.—Are objects similarly placed in her hand when F.S. finds them high in the air above the table? or do they become visible there after being invisible? If they have not been invisible, why did we never see the object until it was in, or almost in, her hands? I say "almost in" because, at one sitting, when the bead necklace had suddenly appeared in her previously empty hands, the sitter nearest at the moment told me he seemed to see the beads first at a distance of about four inches from her hands. May we suppose that the objects are only invisible to us on account of the subdued light? Or that we do not see them on account of the *speed* with which they flash up to her hands?

(7) Here is an instance bearing upon the foregoing query. F.S., by dumb show, indicated very clearly that she was thinking of a ring; we knew there was one beneath the table, and, therefore, were expecting to see one appear. After the dumb show, F.S. rose, and slowly turned towards me, bringing her hands together quite leisurely near my coat. Just as her fingers touched its right lappet the ring appeared in her hands, the hands upon which our united gaze had been fixed. When did the ring leave the carpet and reach her hands? I am very familiar with palming tricks, but see no room for them here.

I think F.S. is in slight trance when she goes through her dumb show; it usually begins after an interval of quiet, during which she seems to listen and peer in various directions as if looking for the object's appearance. Probably she first sees it clairvoyantly, or gets the idea of it through a psychic projection from her body coming into touch with the object on the floor; may we suppose that she knows subconsciously that the object which has become present to her trance-consciousness will shortly rise and come towards her hands? When she begins the dumb show her expression changes to contentment, as if she felt she was successful.

(8) Occasionally this dumb show ends in a failure and she "loses" the (imaginary) object and fails to produce it actually. For instance, there was dumb show of using pencil and paper, then of throwing these away, after which her hands went on feeling out for them as if she expected to receive them in material form. Still in light trance she murmured words meaning, "Give it me, give it me," and continued feeling out for them and peering into the air, her hands half open in attitude of appeal. But nothing happened.

F.S. slid away the zinc cover and asked for something to be handed up to her from below. Though nothing reached her hands this time we all heard something drop smartly on the carpet; it was as if some object had been raised almost to the level of the table and then dropped.

(9) We had been enjoying Miss Eissner's playing upon the zither up to this point, but now the instrument was placed beneath the table, and the aperture covered with a cloth. At once a sound came from the zither, at first confused as if several strings had been sounded at the same time, but shortly after came one clear note smartly struck. Meantime Mrs. H—— was touching both

F.S.'s feet with her own, and felt something touching her ankle. Then we heard two zither notes sound simultaneously. During our singing there came several zither notes, with some attempt to strike those which would harmonize with our singing. During a second hymn some half-dozen notes were sounded,

(10) While the cloth was over the aperture in the table several sitters placed a hand lightly thereon with the request that their fingers might be touched through the cloth. It was very curious to note how F.S. was able to "see" the touch approaching, and even to indicate which of the sitters would immediately feel it. She was said to see it in the form of an approaching light; but this must, I think, have been clairvoyant vision. Undoubtedly it was accurate. For instance, she told a sitter that he was about to be touched, and a moment later he felt a grip through the cloth on which his hand rested. Again, while she was explaining that she saw a light coming up, two of the hands resting there got a sharp nip which caused their owners to withdraw them with exclamations of surprise. They told us that there was no doubt as to the reality of what they felt, viz., a strong pinch as from muscular fingers. Then others were touched, and described it as being like two fingers trying to press theirs.

The red light was almost immediately over this cloth-covered aperture in the table; normal vision could see nothing through the cloth, but F.S. was able to see the approaching nippers! Or could it be that the nipping "fingers" being merely a psychic extension from her own body, F.S. "felt" what they were about to do and received this feeling in the way of "seeing a light"? Whichever the method may be, it is probably the same which enables her to divine the general direction in which objects are about to come into her hands from the air. Were this all we should expect that she would unerringly realize the place and moment at which she could grasp the coming objects, but if, as is assumed, there is a "control" who all the time makes use of her psychic extensions, we have to take his volition into account; there are two wills, and not F.S.'s alone. This would account for the uncertainty which F.S. shows at times during the phenomena.

(11) Taps were now heard, apparently coming from the back of the medium's chair. We were told that the "control" wished to give a message by the alphabet method. Miss Eissner wrote down the letters as they were tapped out, one for A, two for B, and so on. F.S. called the letter each time, I counted many of them and they were correct. The taps were rapid and distinctly heard by all; the medium sitting motionless meanwhile. The translation was, "Tell these people for their comfort that we are come here to prove to them that we are alive."

(12) F.S. placed her hands on the table before the cloth-covered aperture, then slowly advanced her fingers to its centre and dipped them, drawing them together as if to hold something placed there from below. Withdrawing them she showed us my friend's watch. This watch had been carefully placed by us upon my luminous card at Mr. P——'s feet where he had looked at it from time to time. Only a few seconds previously he had seen it there plainly. F.S.'s movements had been exactly as if she could see the watch approaching through the cloth. Did it come *through* this cloth in which there were no holes?

(13) Mrs. McKenzie now suggested that, as it was late, we should stop, but as we were about to do so F.S. again gripped at the cloth and again brought, apparently *through* it, another of the small objects which had been beneath the table.

(14) The zither was replaced on the table and Miss Eissner recommenced playing it. F.S. went into light trance, rose from her seat, and looking steadily towards me, commenced slowly to move in my direction. My eyes were fixed upon her outstretched empty hands; just as she came to my side with her hands rather above the level of my head, I made a swift turn in my seat so as to more easily follow them, and, simultaneously with my catching sight of her hands again, there appeared within them the rose which the sitter on the right

had worn during the early part of the evening, and had placed beneath the table at a point furthest from me. F.S. returned to her seat and placed the rose on the table.

(15) F.S. next went through dumb show of playing with a necklace. Remembering that this had been placed on the carpet near the sitter on right, I suggested to her that with a small electric torch she should examine to see if the beads were still there. She did so carefully and reported that they were nowhere to be found. F.S. now went into the cabinet and returned. Her movements all this time suggested that she was searching in the air for some object, and from the nature of the previous dumb show we expected that this would be the necklace. She walked slowly towards me with outstretched hands, and when her hands came close to my ears all the sitters suddenly saw the beads of the necklace within her hands, and she returned to her seat with an expression of gratification and placed them on the table.

Note.—The expressive face of F.S. is worth watching during these trance periods. It very beautifully shows the progressive states of her trance-mind, anticipation, enquiry, seeking, bewilderment, comprehension of the intention of the "control," anxiety as to where the object will appear, gratification when it comes into her hands. Satisfaction and pleasure when the feat is finished and she resumes her seat before coming out of trance.

(16) F.S. now commenced a dumb show of placing spectacles on her face. Guessing that it was again the spectacle case, which had been replaced on the floor after its previous appearance, and remembering exactly the spot where I had placed it, I decided to feel for it with my foot. Gently reaching out I was soon able to touch it, but at the moment when I did so and announced that it was still there, F.S., who was at the moment within the cabinet and in trance, came out of trance and returned to the table. Mrs. McKenzie recalled that a similar thing had occurred at an earlier sitting, and suggested that one's touch upon the object under experiment might break the psychic connection instantly.

Although the "control" expressed, by knocks, his desire to continue the sitting, we now closed. Next day I was told that F.S. had seemed disturbed after this sitting as if from the remains of the unexpended power. We left off when phenomena were coming quickly and strongly; but on resuming next afternoon, F.S. complained of headache, often referring to it, and was not at her best.

The sitting had lasted about two and a half hours.

Additional Notes on Sitting of December 18, 1922, recorded by Mrs. McKenzie. (The chief episodes are numbered in agreement with Mr. Thomas's, for more ready identification.—ED.)

Nine sitters present.

Weather: Damp

Objects deposited:

Luminous cigarette case (empty).

Iron bolt.

Luminous card.

Small bag.

Cigarette case (sitter No. 9).

Trumpet.

Spectacle case.

Rubber ball.

Diamond ring.

Graving tool.

Gold watch.

Ivory needle case.

Rose.

Glass stoppered bottle.

Knife.

Bell.

String of glass beads.

Wooden darning instrument.

Paper and pencil placed under table.

Note.—Some of the articles were placed on the luminous card to facilitate watching. Others were placed on the carpet.

8.12 p.m.—Sitting commenced in white light. Knocking is heard at once. *Red light.* — The medium appears to take something from No. 1, and to throw

it outside the circle. She then places her hands on the zinc plate, seems to get something and puts it on No. 9's shoulder in dumb show.

- (1). The medium stands up, and shows her empty hands clearly over the table and about four feet above it. The ivory needle case appears in full view of all.

(The bell is heard to ring, apparently around the cabinet. A touch is felt by sitter No. 9, between herself and No. 8.)

The medium stands up. She goes outside the circle with her hands raised, takes the picture of "Nell" off the mantelpiece, walks back with it to her seat, and as she passes sitter No. 1 she touches the picture with her hand, and a brilliant flash is seen upon its surface. She then returns to the mantelpiece and replaces the picture.

She places her hands on the closed zinc lid and holds them together for a minute, then opens them, and exhibits the glass bottle, which clearly must have passed through the metal.

- (2). (cp. sitter No. 1's note.)—The medium now seems to have some other object between her closed hands. Something is handed up to her through the aperture in the table. It proves to be the luminous cigarette case. This had not been on the luminous card. She now closes the zinc lid and places the torch upon it.

(Medium opens the zinc flap, and the bell is handed up to her by an invisible hand. She holds the torch over the aperture, but it is not taken from her, and she lays it down.)

- (3). The spectacle case is placed in the medium's hand when close to sitter No. 1, from a point four inches below the table top.

(Taps are heard in the cabinet, keeping time with the music. The medium goes into the cabinet. She makes excited movements. A rattle of beads is heard and a flash of light seen, followed by another flash. The medium again seats herself at table. She takes sitter No. 1's hand

- (4) and draws it about two feet below the table. Something is heard to drop. Sitter No. 1 picks up the knife from the floor.)

(Sitter No. 6 asks "Nell" if the luminous card makes any difference in the power of lifting articles, but he answers "No," by raps.)

The beads are again heard to rattle in the cabinet. The medium places her hand on the zinc cover and makes a dumb show as if she had the beads, playing about with them, stretching them out, gathering them in her hand, and shaking them. She makes a motion as of throwing them away, and then goes round behind the circle again and catches the beads in her hands in full view. (On another occasion the article was seen by two sitters at a distance of two feet above her, approaching in a curve. This in white light.)

The bell is heard to fall close to the curtain. The zinc lid is opened and the torch is held near it. An unsuccessful attempt is made to take the torch. The graver is now seen in the medium's hand. On inspection it is found that nothing has been removed from the luminous card. A loud knocking is heard beneath the table. White light asked for then.

- (5). Red light. A loud knocking is heard in the cabinet on the woodwork and then on the zinc plate.

- (6). The luminous cigarette case is now moved up in front of the medium to a height of about a foot from the floor. Sitter No. 1 sees it move away to the other side of the medium, and it comes into her right hand by the side of sitter No. 9, who also sees it moving.

The medium takes something from the air. Apparently it is the graver. The object is seen in her hand by several sitters. She throws it away. The curtain moves slightly. One of the sitters is touched. The diamond ring is taken off the luminous slate and placed on the carpet.

- (7). The medium makes dumb show of getting something small from the zinc lid. She makes a movement suggestive of a ring on her finger. A ring

seemed to appear in her hand. Sitter No. 9 saw it plainly and wondered whether the medium had taken off her own ring. The medium turns towards sitter No. 1 and touches his coat with her hands. She holds them up, and the diamond ring is seen and laid on the table.

- (8). Some small object is obtained by the medium from a level a little below the table, but we cannot see anything. The medium makes a movement as of writing with a pencil. She then makes a movement of throwing the pencil away. The pencil is heard to drop beneath the table after the medium has opened the zinc lid. She seems to catch something from the air, and she throws it into the hole in the table.
- (9). The zither placed under table is heard to twang. It is again plucked and several notes are sounded in time with the musical box.
- (10). The sitters' hands are placed upon the red cloth, which is stretched over the aperture, and the contact of fingers from below the cloth is felt by several sitters.
- (11). A message is rapped out in alphabetical code in German, which is translated thus :—" Say to the people that it is to bring comfort that we come, and to prove that we live."
- (12). The medium places both her hands over the red cloth and closes them. On opening her hands the gold watch is seen. She then clutches the
- (13) cloth again, and this time turns it right up and draws it off the hole. The lead pencil is seen in the cloth.
- (14). The medium rises and goes outside the circle to the left. She gets the rose into her hands apparently from the air above her. She again makes dumb show with the beads. On inspection, the beads are not
- (15) found beneath the table. She goes into the cabinet, the curtains being partly open. She comes out of the cabinet and suddenly catches the beads at a point outside the circle.
" Nell " is asked to close the sitting, but continues to rap " No, no, no."
- (16). The medium makes a dumb show as of spectacles over her eyes. We anticipate that this refers to the spectacle case which had been lying across the corner of the luminous card. Sitter No. 2 thought the case had been moved slightly from its ascertained position. The medium turned towards the cabinet and stood just between the curtains. Sitter No. 1 said " Yes, the spectacle case is there on the floor. I have just felt it with my foot." As he spoke, the medium, whose back had been turned towards the circle, turned round and came out of the cabinet wide awake.

We realized that the momentary contact made by sitter No. 1 with the article in question, at a moment when, as appeared from the dumb show made by the medium, she was in psychic contact with the article, had ruptured some essential link with her, and so broken her trance. The same phenomenon had been observed on the foregoing Friday sitting, when the accidental touching of an article had produced a similar result.

It is noteworthy that the medium Eusapia Paladino possessed this same power of previous perception of the articles about to be moved, or when an impression was to be made upon the clay.

SITTING WITH FRAU SILBERT. 3 P.M., JANUARY 7, 1923.

Eight sitters present.

Objects provided :

Trumpet.	Cigar case with one cigar.
Bell.	Cigar case with three cigars.
String of beads.	Small box of plaster.
Scent bottle.	Wrist watch and large watch.

White light. Knocks were heard, keeping time to music.

Red light. The medium takes up something. The cigar case is placed on the feet of sitter No. 2. The sitter lifted it up and showed it to the group.

The glass scent bottle is placed in the medium's hands apparently by a hand from beneath the table. The bell is heard to ring. A cloth is placed over hole in table instead of zinc cover.

The sitters place their hands over the aperture in the table. They feel something like a hand through the cloth. The sitter on medium's left says she feels something pushing past her and going towards the cabinet. It seems to her like a dog.

Sitters' hands are again placed over the cloth across the opening in table, and all except sitter No. 1 are touched from below.

There is a flash of light, followed by two more flashes. The medium goes into the cabinet and a flash is seen in her hand. Coming out the medium places her hands on the red cloth over the opening. She gathers some object in her hands. She puts it against one ear of each sitter. All except sitter No. 1 hears the ticking of a watch. Sitter No. 7 says that he would judge it by the sound to be a large watch.

The medium throws something into the cabinet, and shortly afterwards goes in and brings out the watch in her hands.

A metallic clink is heard behind the head of sitter No. 6, and the cigar case appears in the hands of the medium.

[This sitting was regarded as a poor one. It was chiefly remarkable for the fact that sitter No. 1 could not be touched by the 'hand.' He seemed to exercise a kind of repelling force which made it impossible for the psychic structure to come near him. As others, and among them his own friends were freely touched, he deduced that the power used was an intelligent one and most sensitive to certain unknown conditions.—ED.]

SPONTANEOUS PHENOMENA WITH FRAU SILBERT.

Notes by Mrs. Hewat McKenzie.

As with so many physical mediums, most interesting phenomena sometimes happened when there was no preparation for, nor expectation of such. We are particularly careful at the College not to encourage this, but to conserve the power for the regular sittings: but the following incidents show that when the medium has plenty of psychic force, and the conditions are harmonious, power is used seemingly without her conscious volition.

Five minutes after her arrival on November 22, 1922, there were knockings on the dining table and loud scraping sounds, and even distinct touches were felt by others present.

I hope readers will excuse the scarpiness of the following notes as space is short, but a simple record of the facts is of value, when made in conjunction with the happenings at the regular séances.

On Sunday, November 26th, at supper, four persons were present besides Frau Silbert. At the second course, Frau Silbert made a sudden movement as if clutching something, and brought into view her spoon, which she held in her right hand, and which she said had been caught suddenly from her hand by something which came from her left side, but she had caught it back again. She resumed eating and suddenly the same spoon was taken violently from her and thrown across the table, striking a tumbler on the other side. Frau Silbert always dislikes these violent manifestations, and they are of rare occurrence with her.

A dozen flashes of light followed these manifestations, chiefly appearing under the dark hollow space of a sideboard on Frau Silbert's left hand, about five feet distant. These may be produced near her body and only reflected there, but to the sight of the sitters they seemed to appear in that spot.

On December 4, at 6.30 p.m., I went to Frau Silbert's room to speak to her. On opening the door I found the room dark, and thought she had left the room. I noticed, by the light of the fire, a slight movement in an armchair and saw her there asleep, and at the same moment heard a sound as of a fuse, and simultaneously a brilliant flash of light appeared between the armchair and a dressing

table three feet from it. I switched on the light, and Frau Silbert stretched and woke up, saying that she had been sleeping for an hour and did not see the light. I heard the sound at the same moment as I saw the light.

The same afternoon, the maid M—— took tea to Frau Silbert at 4 p.m., and reported that as she spoke to her both saw a brilliant flash of light. The girl described the accompanying sound as a tick.

At lunch, at 1 p.m., on December 5, five persons were present besides Frau Silbert. All came into the room at the same time. The meal began and Frau Silbert held up her table knife and indicated that there was no fork. I handed her one from my own supply and she began eating. Two or three minutes later she gave a sudden clutch at her left side, and all heard a clatter on the floor beyond her. I went immediately and picked up a cheese knife, dessert fork and table fork, which she said she had felt strike her side about the upper limb, before falling on the floor.

I at once asked the maid whether everything had been laid at Frau Silbert's place as usual, and she answered "Yes." The maid is always careful. One person stated that just before Frau Silbert asked for the fork she heard the slightest tinkle from Frau Silbert's side of the table, and looked over, thinking her tumbler had been touched. The articles may have been removed at that moment as Frau Silbert believes they were all there when she sat down.

A loud scraping under the table and continuous knocks accompanied the discussion regarding this incident, and in a few minutes the whole heavily laden table, which itself weighs two and a half cwts., was lifted up two inches at the side opposite Frau Silbert, with two legs off the ground. Everything on the table shook. Frau Silbert says this is not accomplished by "Professor Nell," but by some other force.

A question asked of "Nell" elicited a reply by raps that it was not produced by him.

On Sunday, January 7, after a séance with Frau Silbert, we proceeded to supper. Three persons were present with Frau Silbert. Talking about an occasion upon which Frau Silbert said that a glass filled with wine had been placed under the table and lifted up by psychic means, Mr. McKenzie half filled a large wine glass and, placing it on the floor, said, "Well, 'Professor Nell,' perhaps you can do the same again." Mr. McKenzie sat at the foot of the table and Frau Silbert on his right on the long side, a College resident beside her, and myself at the head of the table. Full electric lights over table and at side. A slight sound was heard—the slightest dull shuffle, for a quarter of a second, and soon Frau Silbert said, "Why, I feel something across my legs," and bending down a little way between herself and the other person, brought her hand straight up holding the wine glass exactly as it had been put down, and at a distance of four feet from the spot on which it had been placed. No sound was heard by anyone beyond the slight one indicated, although all were carefully listening.

On one occasion spontaneous flashes of light were produced in the street when Frau S. was walking with Mr. McKenzie and myself. Also at the cinema one evening, some quite unaccountable flashes were noticed by Mr. McKenzie as he sat next the medium. The member who accompanied her to England has a record of many spontaneous lights appearing during the journey, many on board ship.

On Wednesday, January 17, Mr. S——, a member of the College, very kindly took Frau Silbert in his car for a run to Worthing and Brighton. He invited three others, including myself, to accompany them. The party was happy and harmonious. Lunch was taken at Worthing, and while the party was seated round a heavy mahogany table with a centre leg, the table laden with food began to tilt about an inch or so. The maid, standing near, smiled amusedly, thinking one of the party was playing pranks. This was not so, and Mr. S—— testing the weight of the table, found it was all he could do, using obvious force, to move it. Frau Silbert, from whose side the tilt seemed to come, was quietly eating her food, and she seemed a little ashamed of the occurrence in such a public place. This happened several times, always a definite and clear lift. A slight turning motion of the table towards her right was also noticed. Leaving the table we walked along the corridor, used as a smoking lounge, containing seats against the wall and small tables, with brass combined ash and match trays standing upon some. On the opposite wall were old prints which the whole party stopped to examine. Suddenly all heard a loud clatter, and ten feet in front of us, and as if it had just fallen from a height, lay one of the ash trays with all the matches scattered upon the floor. No one was in the corridor except our own party, and we were all together.

Later in the afternoon we went on to Brighton, and while having tea in a teashop we sat at an oblong marble-topped table—a slab resting on a heavy iron trestle, with legs at each end. This began to move up and down several times, decided lifts as in the case of the mahogany table. This was the whole table, slab, supports and all—and again much force was needed to produce such a movement when a member of the party tried to lift it. One short end was against the wall and the lift seemed to come from it.

I sat opposite Frau Silbert and twice during tea I was gently stroked on the limb from the knee downwards—a gentle, regular touch, such as I have experienced both at séances with Frau Silbert and at my own dining table when she was present.

On returning home, Frau Silbert and I had a meal together, and raps were loud and frequent on the table, as if to indicate that “Nell” had been with us during the day.

THE accompanying reproduction of the features of "Professor Nell," Frau Silbert's chief "control," obtained under the following circumstances in her own home in Graz three years ago, will be of interest to those readers who have studied the records of her work in England.

The account has been sent to the College by Dr. Einsbrunner, of Graz, a well-known medical man, and the group which received this manifestation was composed of a few people of good standing who are accustomed to sit regularly with Frau Silbert.



Plaster-cast of features said to be those of "Professor Nell," Frau Silbert's "control": obtained psychically under conditions stated in letterpress.

The record must be received as it stands, on the testimony of sound witnesses. The only evidence we had at the College that such a manifestation might happen was when fingers were seen writing on soft clay provided, and the word "Nell" was found upon examination. I found on the record coming into my hands that it agreed fully with the account received from the lips of Frau Silbert herself regarding the matter. She often bemoaned the spoiling of the cheek through the cast being broken, and also the loss of detail of the beautiful lace collar which was clearly seen on its reception.

"DR. 'FRANCISCUS' NELL."

"SUPPLEMENT TO NOS. 10, 11 AND 12 OF THE UEBERSINNLICHEN WELT, 1919."

(THE "TRANSCENDENTAL WORLD").

"This relief was obtained under peculiar circumstances. Many of Frau Silbert's sitters have long desired to know what 'Dr. Nell' looked like in the flesh, but hitherto there has not been sufficient power for the production of materialization. On one occasion, therefore, 'Nell' asked the sitters—most of them prominent doctors—to place under the table a basin of soft sculptors' clay. They were then to link hands, and concentrate their thoughts on the production of the portrait. Three sittings were required to obtain the relief here reproduced. In the first sitting the ear became visible in the clay. In the two following sittings the rest of the features appeared, partly in a lighted and partly in a darkened room. The basin of clay stood under the table. The hands and feet of the medium were strictly controlled, so that neither deception nor fraud was possible. A plaster cast was taken of the clay relief and the block for the above illustration was prepared from this cast without any retouching whatsoever. Had the sitters held a fourth sitting, many details of the relief would doubtless have been perfected. Yet, even in its present state the relief shows the unmistakable features of a profound thinker and man of strong will. The cut of his beard shows the date when he lived as also does the faintly indicated cloak collar. In view of the rarity of such results this relief of 'Dr. Nell,' obtained under such strict conditions, must be regarded as a remarkable proof of the possibility of spirit or thought action on physical material."

FIRST PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIMENTS WITH FRAU SILBERT.

Notes by J. Hewat McKenzie.

THE painful effects of flashlight photography upon physical mediums when ectoplasm is extruded is well known, and because of this it is only with a very few that it has been possible to employ this valuable method of securing a permanent record of these ectoplastic structures.

It was with considerable timidity that on this visit we experimented with Frau Silbert, as she had never before submitted herself to this process, and we did not wish to interfere with the excellent results being obtained through her mediumship. This medium, with whom it has always been such a pleasure to experiment, made matters easy by entering whole-heartedly into the venture. She anticipated no ill-effects, and as far as we could see none followed. Some points are, however, worth noting as coincident with the photographic experiment. The Editor, in his excellent report, has spoken of the remarkable lights which were so often seen. These, I noted, were produced from the extremities of the hands and feet of the medium. The sound and flash noted was somewhat similar to the crackling and sparks produced by the brush of an electric dynamo. During the last ten days of her stay no flashes of any kind were produced, either at the séances or spontaneously, and as this time synchronized with the period of the photographic experiments we were bound to note the fact. A few days, however, after her return to Graz we heard of the luminous phenomena being in force again*.

*See Report on Materialization appended.—(ED.)

Just previous to this final fortnight the physical medium, Evan Powell, gave some séances at the College, and at one of these Frau Silbert was present—sitting with a friend outside the circle. Evan Powell has himself the power of producing remarkable lights, but these are usually of a bright phosphorescent nature. On this occasion, when Frau Silbert was present, the lights were so brilliant and continuous that it was with difficulty that he could remain under "control," as the whole room, and sitters and medium were illumined. One must suppose that Frau Silbert contributed something to this effect. Immediately after this the photographic experiments took place, and no more luminous effects were noted at her own séances, so we are left in doubt as to whether these interfered, or whether she was exhausted by the force used on the night of the Powell experiment, and that her powers were diminishing towards the end of the visit.

I am greatly indebted to a College member, Mr. H. C. Scofield, for his valuable assistance in the flashlight experiments. He has spared neither time nor trouble in perfecting the apparatus used, and having considerable experience of Frau Silbert's phenomena as a member of the Research Group, and being also an excellent photographer, he was well equipped for the delicate work.

As the ectoplasmic extensions emanated from the medium's lower limbs, the two cameras which were used simultaneously, were placed on the floor at right and left corners of the séance table, about three feet from the medium's limbs. Four different experiments were carried out, and half a dozen plates exposed at each. The two cameras used were a

$4\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ Houghton Reflex, with Cooke lens (4.5).

$3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ Marion Reflex, with Goerz lens (4.5).

The negatives were exposed at varying apertures, ranging from F6.3 to F11.

Experiment No. 1, which took place in darkness with the medium's hands and feet controlled, produced no results. The "controls" probably had to adjust themselves to the new conditions, and the medium may have been slightly timid and hindered the extrusion unconsciously.

No. 2. The zither, often played at the séances, was laid at the medium's feet, and a request was made to "Professor Nell," that when he was ready the strings should be "twanged." We had found previously that this could be done. The "twang" was heard, and the flash was instantaneous, with the satisfactory results seen in Figs. 1 and 2. These are separate exposures. Owing to a mishap the plates in the second camera were not exposed.

There is no doubt that the flash dematerialized the ectoplasmic hand, which instantly attempted to withdraw, and so we have a rather weird-looking result. But evidently a fine, fully-formed hand was used to touch the zither, and comparison with the normal photograph of a child's hand (Fig. 1A), which has moved during a photographic exposure, shows the same talon-like effect. Photographs of tennis players have also shown this effect. On the very first occasion on which the zither was placed on the floor, at a previous séance, the strings were struck in full white light, and Mrs. McKenzie, quickly looking under the table, saw clearly a well-formed human hand retreating under Frau Silbert's skirt.

Fig. 2 shows a less pronounced effect, but there is evidence of a structure attempting to lift an object, and at the same time slightly raising the medium's skirt.

Fig. 3 is another photograph taken at the same experiment, showing the medium's dress and adjacent sitter, but no psychic effect.

No. 3. On this occasion the medium seemed nervous of the dark, and the red light was retained during the exposures. The bell was rung under the table and I felt a heavy pressure on one foot lasting several minutes. When fully assured of this I gave the signal, but no result appears on any plate exposed.

No. 4. On this occasion the medium seemed very brave, and said, in trance, that the "control" would give the signal at the right moment for the exposure. The instructions given by the medium were carried out faithfully, in darkness, but no results were obtained, to our great disappointment.

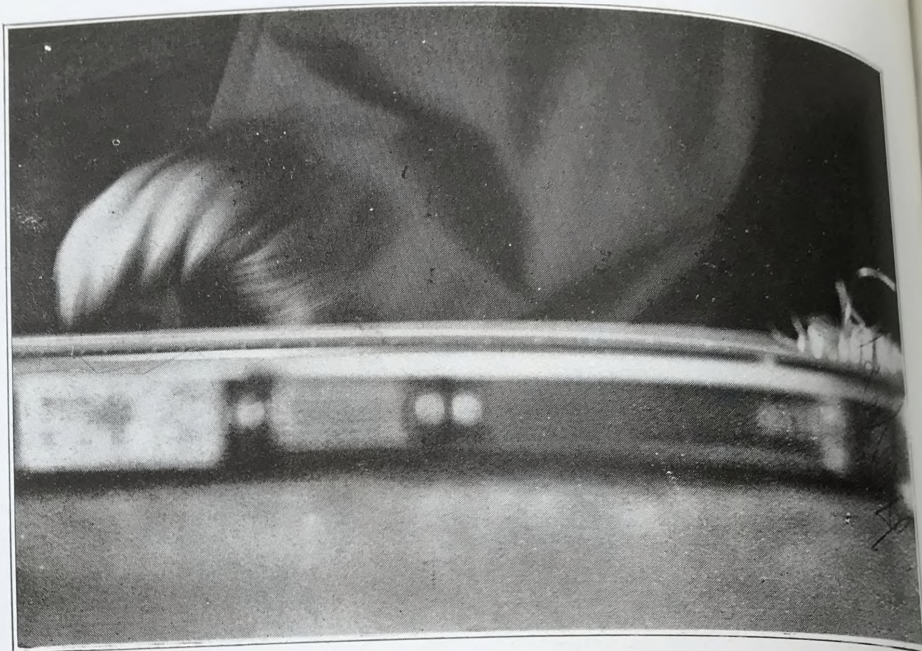


Fig. 1.—Flashlight photograph of ectoplasmic hand, touching strings of zither at Frau Silbert's feet (medium's left side).

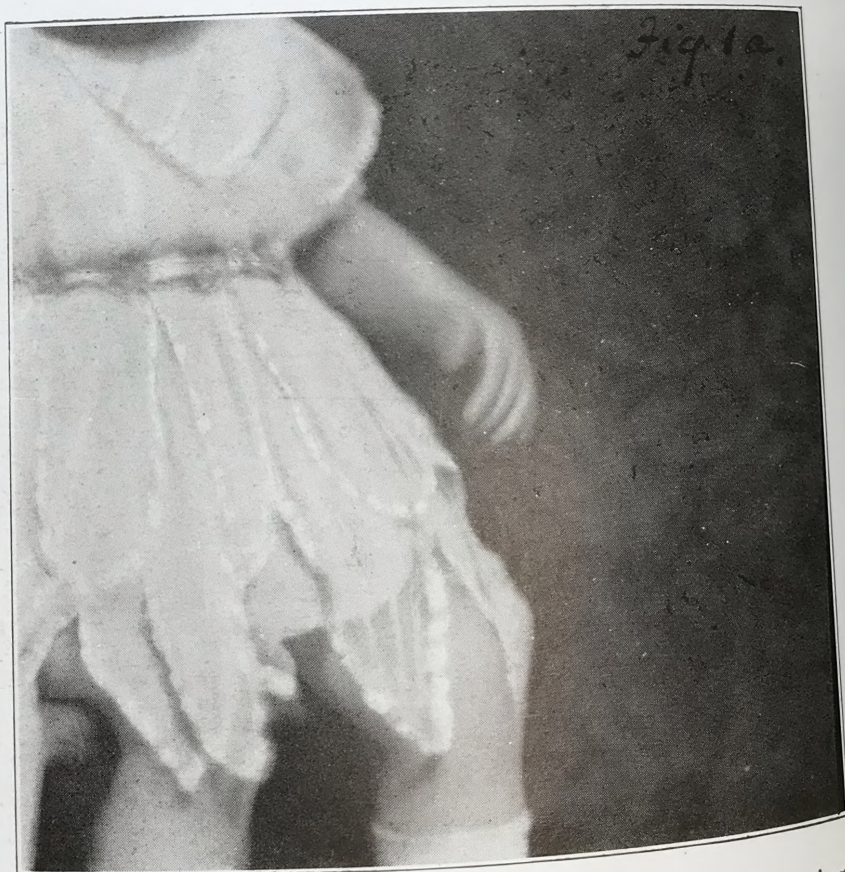
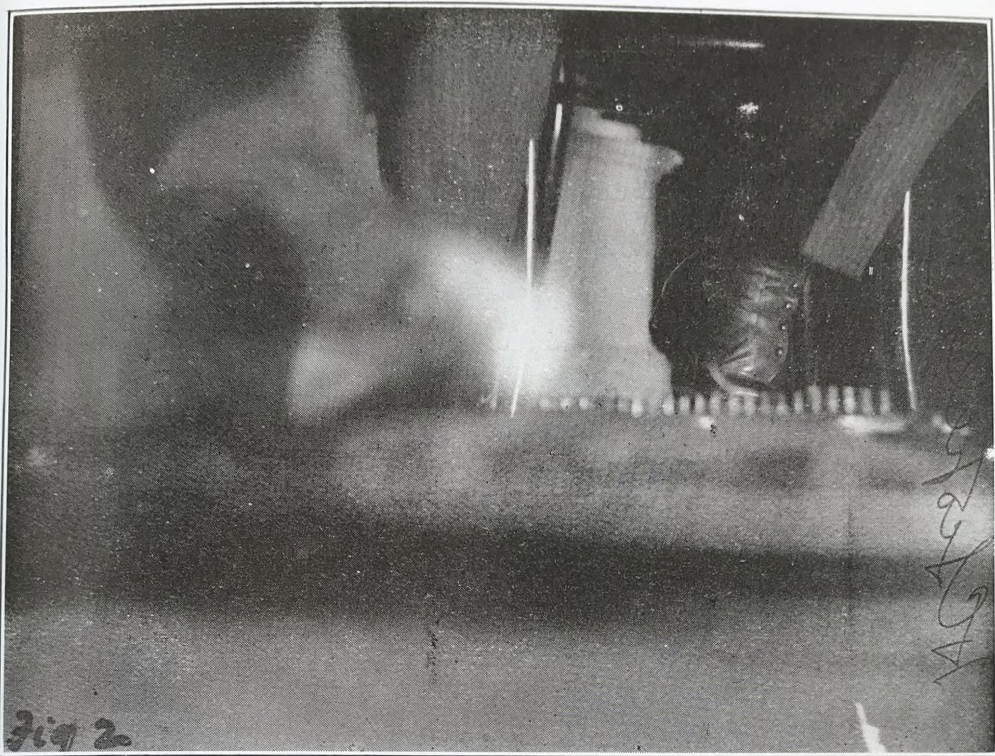
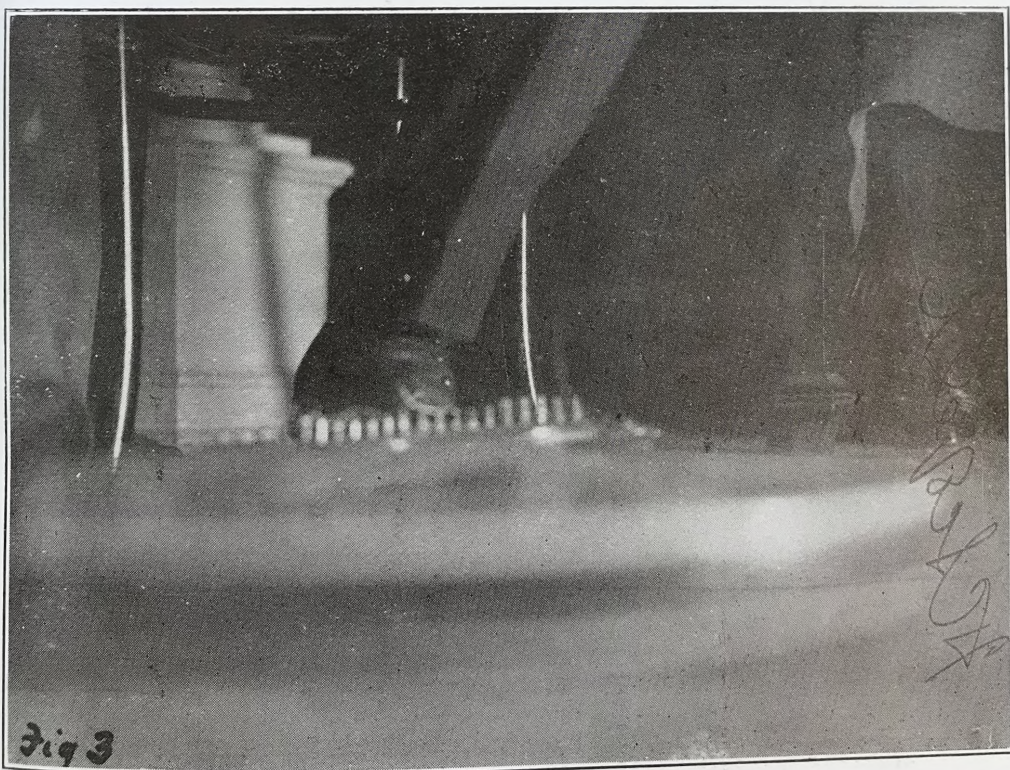


Fig. 1a.—A normal photograph of child's hand showing effects of movement during camera exposure (cp. Fig. 1).



Flashlight photograph of unformed ectoplasmic cloud at Frau Silbert's feet (medium's right side).



Flashlight photograph at same sitting as 1 and 2, shows sitters on medium's right and portion of medium's skirt (left), but no ectoplasmic effect.

However, we were glad that No. 2 was successful, and nothing will go so far to establish the prestige of Dr. Crawford and his work with Miss Goligher and her circle—so severely attacked by Dr. Fournier d'Albe—than these remarkable photographic results with Frau Silbert, which are in harmony with all the effects produced in her séances and with the testimony of those who had the good fortune to view the extrusions from the medium's limbs. That I could feel the heavy weight on my foot—and yet that no photographic record was obtained of this, harmonizes with Crawford's "rod," which had weight and temperature in the hand, and yet could not be seen by the eye.

Frau Silbert, who was very happy during this visit to the College, has promised another visit later in the year, when I hope it may be our good fortune to continue these valuable experiments.

APPENDIX.

RECORD OF A MATERIALIZATION IN GRAZ, at the house of FRAU SILBERT dated JANUARY 23, 1923, and attested by four independent sitters of good standing.

"FRAU SILBERT had returned, with her daughter, from a concert in the best humour and spoke much of London. She sat at a table, the rest of the sitters around it and some on a sofa. All heard, at short intervals, the "five knocks," signifying "make dark." Frau Silbert feared to fall into trance in the dark, and would not consent to this; but on the expression of a general wish that the lights should be extinguished for a short time only, she took the hand of the recorder and made him sit on her right, requesting that he should hold her hand and shake it to prevent her falling into trance. Whilst she spoke, the table moved to each of the sitters. The light being still on, she turned five times towards the recorder and requested, with energy, that it should now be turned out. Next moment she leaned to him as though alarmed, and a figure appeared on her left side. She was forcefully touched on the forearm and shoulder, as the recorder was able to feel for himself when he placed a protecting arm around her shoulder. Then the contact ceased, and a noise was heard behind her chair. Whilst all present were noting this, Frau Silbert fell into trance. This condition first affected the medium's head, which fell forward upon her breast as though she slept. Her hands and fingers moved convulsively in those of the sitter on right, becoming more and more rigid, until at last they fell upon the upper part of the thigh. She remained thus for a brief space. Suddenly an intense light astonished all present. The medium stood up, lifted her arms and hands, and went towards the door. A sitter offered to help her, tried to speak to her, but abandoned this idea, as the daughter said to speak might affect her mother injuriously.

Frau Silbert soon reached the door, returned, and called several times in a peculiar and commanding voice "Memelik!" putting the accent on the first two syllables, with a pause before the last.

Her arms were now no longer lifted up. Flashes as of lightning were visible, coming from the region of the door. As she seemed to walk with difficulty, a sitter gave her assistance, and together they arrived, after a little delay, close to the door, which was shut.

Suddenly the door opened of its own accord, neither person touching it. It was just as if the wind had pushed it open. The sitter returned and allowed Frau Silbert to come back unaided. The lightning flashes were constantly repeated, being too many to reckon. The illumination became glaring, and the figure of a tall ("grand") man appeared, slender in form—the head, neck and arms well materialized ("in plastical form" as our correspondent puts it.)

and of a pink colour ; a white robe, like a shirt, lightly enveloping the body. The face was upturned, the arms at the sides and crossed over the head, the fingers being interlaced and resting on the crown. A blaze of light shone from the hands and encircled the whole contour of the form, which was perhaps 10 cm. in breadth.

The impression given by this figure was as striking as that which is made when a figure on the stage is suddenly illuminated by the ray from a projecting lantern. The intensity of such a light could not be artificially produced, neither could the darkness of the background have been imitated. Frau Silbert came back to the table, and reeled, murmuring unintelligible words. The recorder noted a remarkable odour like sweat, or perhaps more comparable to old, rotting leaves.

Frau Silbert now again returned to the door, calling once more the name "Meme-lik!" and spread out her arms around as though in search of something. The recorder stood close behind her, and again noticed the same intense odour. He then saw, above her shoulder, a number (all sorts) of veiled forms, transparent and, as it were, coming from the floor, with trailing "rags" of drapery. These reached a height of over six feet (two metres), and the appearance of eyes could be seen as they approached. The medium suddenly turned herself against the recorder, pushed him back, and when he had reseated himself—his seat being six feet away from her—all present saw this fine appearance in full light. Whilst in admiration of the fine figure described, he was principally astonished to see Frau Silbert dwindled to a height of scarcely half a metre. He could not distinguish the outlines of her form, but she seemed, as he says, "cowered" on the floor, after the disappearance of the phenomenon, and she "hovered" to her place at an angle of forty-five degrees. Her feet did not move. Their heels slid along and he caught her in his arms without feeling any weight. Sometimes she seemed warding off (something by) the door, saying, in a frightened voice, "No! No! Meme-lik!" She then became quieter and hid her face (our recorder says "herself") as though in anxiety of something she saw in or by him. She then called for lights, whilst still in trance.

The trance state lasted a long time, and the medium began searching in all corners of the room, a smile playing on her face. She then began the action of playing with a little child. At 12.38 h. she fully awoke, having been in trance since 12.20. She retained not the slightest recollection of what had taken place, and was the most astonished of all. She talked freely and felt exceedingly well. During the deep trance the knocks were not heard, but as soon as she was fully awake, triple knocks were heard in the table and in all objects in the room."

(The original transcript, of which this is a slightly amended version, rendered into more grammatical English, is in the possession of the College.

The above account is in complete harmony with a record of materializations produced through Frau Silbert's mediumship, given in a new volume by Dr. Schrenk Notzing: "Materializations—Phänomene (1923)." (In German.) The record has been supplied by Dr. Auer, of Graz, who has been a constant sitter with the medium for some years. The combination of the medium's own force with that of a mediumistic daughter may produce these remarkable forms which, so far, have not been observed in the light during visits to the College.)

A NEW DEPARTURE IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

METHODICAL experiment has been the means whereby the great advances in the physical and natural sciences have made their astonishing progress during the nineteenth and the present centuries.

Such experimentation is governed by the working principle that the mode of matter or energy which it is desired to study should, as far as possible, be isolated from the reactions of other forces. The effects produced by the single force in play are then apparent, and in these effects a theory of their action inevitably presents itself to the mind.

This theory, at first a mere hypothesis of causation, is tested by further experiment on what should happen if the hypothesis be true, and that hypothesis is adopted, with or without modifications, until some facts are discovered which are incompatible with it. The general public, unaware of this invariable procedure, looks upon the tentative theories which are put forward to explain phenomena as *reversals* of previous scientific conclusions, which they are not. One sometimes hears, for instance, that "the Atomic Theory has been completely exploded by the discovery of the electron." Nothing is further from the truth. Dalton discovered that chemical "elements" combine in certain definite proportions by weight, and are always found in their compounds in these proportions. Common salt, for instance, consists of twenty-three parts of sodium and thirty-five and a half parts of chlorine by weight. Therefore, the smallest possible amount of salt (the molecule) consists of one "atom" of sodium—weighing twenty-three units, and one of chlorine—weighing thirty-five and a half units. This law, which covers the whole field of chemistry, is found to be true in every single one of millions of chemical reactions and experiments, and the whole of modern chemistry is founded upon it. It is as true as ever it was so long as we are considering the reactions of ordinary matter. All that is changed is that the "atom" is no longer indivisible and the "element," therefore, no longer thought of as a final form. We are thereby introduced to a new form or forms of matter and energy.

These researches are unhampered by scepticism, though they involve explanations that are really much more difficult of credence by the average mind than anything that psychic research has brought forward. Planetary velocities of some ninety thousand miles per second, in a space ten thousand times smaller than the

microscope can reveal are more difficult to imagine than the idea of a discarnate intelligence acting by some other mechanism than the brain; but they are received without question.

Why? Because they have no moral content and do not interfere with our customary modes of life.

Contemporaneously with the recent advances and discoveries in physics, psychical research has also revealed a new form of organic matter which has received the non-committal name of "ectoplasm" or "ectoplasma." It is a physical fact established by experiment just as certainly as the electron.

In this country there is only one experimentalist—the late W. J. Crawford, D.Sc., who has published a series of experiments directed, less to prove its existence, than to determine the modes of its appearance and action, under one aspect alone—that of its dynamic properties apart from all its inherent vital possibilities. His experiments, conducted for three years, are received on the Continent as conclusive. Here they are attacked under the supposition of "fraud."

This obsession of fraud sterilizes research in Britain. On the Continent, in Paris, in Warsaw, in Munich, and, I understand, in Italy also, experimenters, released from this obsession, are making great and far-reaching discoveries in the realm of psychical research, by the application of the principle of methodical experiment directed on one particular series of phenomena at a time.

One of the most remarkable of these which constitutes an entirely new departure is Dr. Eugene Osty's experiments on supernormal cognition *directed upon a human objective*. Under the misnomer of "psychometry" this faculty has been long known and as long denied or "explained" as due to "subconscious thought-transference," regardless of the fact that there are many instances of incidents revealed and afterwards verified which were totally unknown to any living person far or near. Dr. Osty's book, "La Connaissance Supra-normale," of which an English translation will be issued by Messrs. Methuen this autumn, is an experimental investigation into this faculty applied to the cognition of other lives. He says:—

"Investigation of supernormal cognition reveals this faculty under widely different aspects. It is with considerable surprise that the psychologist will note its fragmentary character.

"Theoretically a psycho-physiological unity can be assigned to the faculty of hyper-cognition by referring all its varieties to the potentialities of the human dynamo-psychism; but in practice it is found that the range of faculty in each sensitive is very restricted and specialized. The sequences artificially made among phenomena do not correspond to progressive degrees in actual hyper-cognition. A sensitive capable of the higher manifestations is not necessarily capable of producing the lower; Subjects who present the most puzzling phenomena, entirely inexplicable by physiological science, are not generally able to

produce those other minor manifestations which seem almost intelligible from physiological data.

"This fact is not unimportant—each variety of specialization of individual supernormal faculty gives us as many human subjects for study as there are specialized capacities. I would particularly emphasize this fact of specialization, because its neglect, of which I have come across so many instances, sterilizes enquiry. It is scientifically useless to undertake investigations with the nature of hyper-cognition by endeavouring to obtain a prearranged set of phenomena without previously ascertaining the type of human subject employed." Every person possessing the faculty is a special instrument for the investigator, who, if he is to get reliable results, must know its modes of working and the conditions under which it can be employed."

"Nor," says Dr. Osty, "can we here follow the method of ordinary science, working from the simple to the complex, for this merely creates illusions and wastes time." Everything connected with it is complex, and our knowledge of psycho-physiology may be taken as *nil*, despite the self-sufficiency of certain scientists. For this reason, after taking a general survey of the output of the faculty in various subjects, he confines himself to its application when directed upon a human personality as its objective. He deliberately sets aside "the whole of that misleading terminology which invests the diverse manifestations of supernormal cognition with names that prejudge the method of their production, or allow anyone to interpret them in any sense that he may prefer. 'Double sight,' 'second sight,' 'vision at a distance,' 'telepathy,' 'clairvoyance,' 'lucidity,' and the like, are all words which mean too much or mean nothing, and should disappear from scientific use."

His experiments, which he expressly states are repeatable, and should be repeated, are conducted by giving the same personality for delineation to various sensitives; by giving the same sensitive a variety of personalities to cognize; by varying the link connecting the percipient with the person under analysis, some preferring actual contact and presence, some preferring to act by a material link such as a few lines of writing or an article of apparel; others using mechanical devices such as the crystal or cards, the lines of the hand, etc., etc., all of which he has found to be mere personal choices for putting the same faculty into play.

His analysis proceeds on facts, and on facts alone—the human objective being sometimes present, sometimes distant in space, or distant in time; sometimes known, sometimes unknown to the experimenter. The objects selected to start the faculty into action were entirely various: not necessarily having ever been on the scene of the events which the percipient cognizes.

For instance, in one case given in great detail, an old man totally unknown to percipient and experimenter wandered off into some woods and could not be traced. The only clue possessed by the sensitive was a neckerchief taken from the old man's wardrobe.

The sensitive correctly described the place, the disposition of the houses, the roads, the appearance and dress of the old man, and the place where his body would be found, all in extreme detail.

In other cases exact description of physical condition were given in obscure cases of disease, more especially of neurasthenia, indicating the source and functioning of the disturbing cause when ordinary methods of diagnosis were at fault. These cases have a section to themselves in the book, with a number of most interesting examples. These cases were also diagnosed indirectly by means of a few lines of writing by the patient, or by some article of apparel, without any personal knowledge, and in some cases without the presence of the medical attendant.

Delineations of character also receive very special notice. Some of these deal with latent intellectual character in children. One little boy of four years of age was declared to have great mathematical and scientific aptitudes. Up to the age of fifteen his school career was profoundly disappointing—idle and uninterested in anything. *Every sensitive consulted during these ten years gave the same analysis.* At the close of the fifteenth year the latent faculty came into fruition, and the young man is now a brilliant mathematician, an eager student of science and sure of a distinguished place in the highest technical school in France.

Another case is worth giving in fuller detail—which I here condense. Mr. G—— while, on his travels abroad, became engaged to a beautiful and attractive lady, and asked Dr. O—— to give him his impressions of his prospective bride. The doctor, with the commendable caution of the profession, naturally said that an hour's conversation did not justify an opinion on anyone's personality, but that if Mr. G—— was enquiring with the view of improving his chances of happiness with the lady, supernormal cognition might give useful clues, and would test the percipient's powers.

A few lines from one of her letters were put into the hands of the sensitive, who said (abridged) :—

“The writer is imperious, overbearing, and full of pride and ambition. Her amiable and simple manners do not betray her dominating desire for a brilliant life—they indicate great powers of dissimulation and the will to win confidence to gain her ends.

“In intimacy these give place to an irritable and despotic temper. Too satisfied with herself to doubt her own charm, and too accustomed to homage to think that any man can resist her, she acts with capricious independence. Changeable, impulsive and incapable of moderation, her taste for adventure leads her to extravagant actions. She perverts the truth and has no scruples in calumniating others to clear herself.”

Mr. G—— was stupefied and entirely refused to believe the portrait. He was told : “This faculty is human and, therefore, liable to error, but marriage is a serious matter and common prudence would suggest some cautious enquiries. He declared that he trusted his fiancée absolutely.

A month later the engagement was broken off, the lady having shown unexpected traits, which led to the discovery that she had been divorced by her husband whose life she had spoiled, and whom she had wounded with a pistol-shot. At the time she was engaged to Mr. G—— she was also pledged to a wealthy manufacturer with the view of marrying the richer of the two.

Many of these delineations extend from a remote past to a more or less distant future. The faculty is independent, or nearly independent, of space and time. Some percipients fasten on minute and trivial details of the immediate past or future, some take a general survey of the sequences of a whole life. The method of calling the faculty into action exercises no appreciable difference on the results, which depend on the temperament and idiosyncrasies of the sensitive. Dr. Osty's conclusion agrees with that of Professor Richet, that human beings have methods of cognition which do not come through any hyper-acuteness of the normal senses, but are totally distinct from these. He says :

“From one point of view there may be legitimate uneasiness that private lives should be so easily unveiled. The number of ill disposed men is so great that one fears to think of the evil that might result from general employment of such percipients. But from the standpoint of science, the secret history of Mr. X. or Mrs. Z. are matters of no interest. The only important matter, and that which takes precedence of all others, is that certain individuals are endowed with means of cognition through psychic channels so different from those we call normal, that we cannot even in theory find any common measure between the two modes.

“I can imagine a time when the days of mysticism and absurd scepticism are past, good percipients shall be taken out of the trade of fortune-telling ; and, selected, judiciously trained, and rationally prepared, will become, in the hands of men of science who understand their use, valuable psychic instruments for exploration of the latent transcendental basis of human beings, and perhaps of all that lives.”

He adds :

“Precognition of the future of a human individual is an experimental fact. It is so contrary to our mutable opinions that I understand that it should not be accepted till after severe experimental test ; but I own I am astonished that, on the grounds of our paltry ‘knowledge,’ men should refuse *a priori* to verify that human beings possess a transcendental plane of thought not bounded by cerebral functions and, therefore, perhaps not extinguished by the death of the body.”

Dr. Osty is neither for nor against survival—but he deprecates the obscuring of experimental results by prepossession either way. Those who, on other grounds, consider that the reality of the soul

and its survival are the only hypotheses that cover the whole range of metapsychic facts will infer that these powers of supernormal cognition are faculties of the soul, and are carried with it into that After-life in which we are to know as also we are known, and that explains what "dwelling in the light" really means. Such persons will, doubtless, draw the further inference that as we have to enter sooner or later that Palace of Truth where all character is naked and open, it is as well to prepare for it by the honesty and truthfulness which have nothing to conceal, and further, that it fits with A. R. Wallace's supreme conclusion that the purpose of evolution is *visibly* the development of a spiritual being *fit to survive death*. It is curious that the Churches should vigorously oppose a form of scientific knowledge which supports the essence of religious teaching because it is not in accordance with much theological dogma.

STANLEY DE BRATH.

BOOK TESTS.**RECEIVED THROUGH THE MEDIUMSHIP OF MRS. COOPER.****By Mrs. Hewat McKenzie.**

[Mrs. Blanche Cooper has been one of the College Staff for nearly two years, exercising her gifts as a "voice" medium. Further records of her work will appear later, but the "book tests" seem, in view of their comparative rarity, to make an interesting beginning.—ED.]

Book tests, which have been a feature of Mrs. Osborne Leonard's mediumship during the last few years, have excited much interest as providing the most complete answer yet received, to those who hold that the telepathic theory is a sufficient explanation of mental psychical phenomena. These are of fairly frequent occurrence in Mrs. Cooper's mediumship, and arise spontaneously in the course of an ordinary séance. No sitter has deliberately tried for them, as in the case of Rev. Drayton Thomas' newspaper tests with Mrs. Leonard, and I should imagine that definite attempts to secure them would result in failure at the present stage of Mrs. Cooper's development. Many of these received have, however, a strong family likeness to those produced through the mediumship of Mrs. Leonard, some of which have been the subject of such careful reports by Lady Glenconner in "The Earthen Vessel," and by Rev. Drayton Thomas in "Some New Evidences for Human Survival," while others will be dealt with in an S.P.R. report by Mrs. Sidgwick, now due.

Probably quite a number of such tests, whether correct or incorrect, or partly so, have been given in general sittings and not reported to me. I have to rely on members who have taken the trouble to inform me of these occurrences. Those before me are probably some of the best. The instructions given were carefully noted at the time and verified usually the same day. They were all found in books in the homes of the sitters, in not one of whose rooms had Mrs. Cooper or any one belonging to her, or, indeed, anyone at the College, ever been.

As these book tests arise spontaneously, there is no leading up to them in any way. They are clear and crisp—usually the position of the book in the bookcase, the page, with the usual suggestion that the reverse of the number is to be looked for, if the first be a failure, and then, a hint as to the kind of evidence that will be found. The communicator usually purports to be one who has passed over and often one who would have a knowledge of the books referred to.

A PERSONAL TEST.

I. The first with which I shall deal happened to myself, and took place on the first and only occasion in which I sat with Mrs. Cooper at Mrs. Leonard's house for "voice" phenomena in the early days

of the former's development, January 1921. I had not met Mrs. Cooper previous to this; Mrs. Leonard was one of the group, but remained unentranced during the sitting. A voice purporting to be that of my son, who was killed in 1918, spoke to me and then to my husband. After greetings the voice said "86, page 86. I want you to remember it." I said, "Is that going to be a book test?" I had barely heard at that time through Lady Glenconner, of such things being received at Mrs. Leonard's ordinary trance sittings. The voice, "Yes, the second shelf, fifth book, black, 86." "Where is the book; in our sitting room?" V.—"Yes." "Is it a large book?" V.—"Yes." "Is it a novel?" V.—"No, I see H. & S." "Is it a history?" V.—"A kind of history." "Has it pictures?" V.—"Yes, a few." Page 86 was again reiterated and that something of interest to us about him would be found on the page. On returning home, in the presence of my husband and a friend, I immediately turned to the bookcase, and counting from the left side, although this had not been stated, I took out a book, which surprised me, as I rather thought it would have been put away in the lower part of the bookcase, or given away with other educational books. It was not large, 7 in. by 5 in., and contained one hundred and fifty pages, the binding was very dark blue—in some lights it would look black, or memory might recall it as black. The title was "History of Biology" ("a kind of History"), by Miall, and it was in a History of Science series, mentioned on the cover ("I see H. & S.") It contained several portraits of scientific men. Turning to page 86, I noticed at once my son's name William, but there are other Williams mentioned in the book. A little lower down a surgeon was mentioned "who was blest with leisure and a good microscope." Higher in the page appeared the only reference to *magic* in the book, and mention of the use of the microscope accompanies this reference.

The relevancy of the matter appeared to me at once, for my son, who was destined for a surgeon's career, had a good microscope, his most valued and valuable possession before entering the Army. But a surprise awaited me when my husband said, "Well, you know I have had his microscope out this week—a friend and I were examining something with it the other night, and he asked me if I would like to sell it to him." This was quite unknown to anyone but these two men. Was this book test a means of letting us know that this discussion over his property was known to him, and given in this way could not possibly be called mind-reading? The book was published in 1911. I remembered buying it before my son entered "Bart.'s" in 1913, and asked him to read it, as a beginning on a subject he would soon be called upon to study. Neither Mr. McKenzie nor myself had ever read a page of it. The colour and size of the book—which were only approximately right in my estimation—were the least important parts of the test, and such mistakes might be made by any one of us in casually estimating the appearance of a book. But the position on the shelf and the shelf itself, and the bookcase, the kind of book and indicating marks,

the pictures, the page, and the significance of the contents in relation to himself, and at that moment in relation to the microscope, were all absolutely correct, and seem to me to carry us far beyond the long arm of coincidence. They indicated an intelligence deeply anxious to get through something which could be verified as coming directly from himself.

I found it difficult on that occasion to say whose psychic power was used, as "Feda" was much in evidence at the sitting, but as it took place in Mrs. Cooper's presence, and Mrs. Leonard was not in her trance condition, I place it on record here. It was probably produced by a happy combination of powers possessed jointly by Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Cooper.

OTHER BOOK TESTS RECORDED.

The following book tests were all received at the College solely through Mrs. Cooper's mediumship, and I quote from the actual reports in my possession. All the communicators are persons upon whose accuracy and judgment I can rely. I regard the majority of them as capable observers, desirous of receiving evidential communications. The book tests in almost every case given, only served to clinch other evidence of personality received at the same sitting.

II. September 22, 1921. "Mrs. Cooper's Guide, 'Nada,' spoke to me, asking me to look on the fourth shelf, seventh book from left to right, page 14, where I should find a message for myself. I was told that the words were something like 'The sun shone on the glorious mountains,' and I would find the words in the centre of the page. I asked if she meant the fourth shelf from the top or bottom of the case, and the answer, 'from the top' was given. I was just about to ask the name of the book, when, as if my thoughts were read, the voice said 'We are unable to give the name of the book.' On reaching home I explained the content of the test to my sister, who picked out the book as indicated. It was a 'School Anthology' and on page 14 we found ourselves in the Wordsworth Section, and in the very centre of the right-hand page (page 15) we read the lines:

'Never did sun more beautifully sleep
In his first splendour, valley, rock and hill.'

The quotation was most appropriate to myself, for this year I spent my holiday in Wordsworth's country, among the glorious mountains, and I visited his grave at Grasmere. The sonnet itself has special associations for me. To put the possibility of chance coincidence to a practical test I opened about fifty of my books dealing with literature and poetry at page 14, and in not a single one could I find the slightest reference to the effect of light on hills." (S.G.S.)

III. November 15, 1921. "My sister purported to speak to me. She said, 'You know your library; I want you to go to the third

row, the fourth book from left to right ; look at page 56, it is 5 and 6, and so may be 65, but I think it is 56. You will find a line on that page that is of interest to all of us on this side, (meaning my family). It is a test, you will understand when you see it.' I asked if she could give me more particulars so that I might know which third row she referred to. She replied, 'As you sit at your desk it is the bookcase in front of you.' I verified this on returning home, and found that the third row referred to contained Baring Gould's 'Lives of the Saints.' On page 56 of the fourth book, referring to Richard, Bishop of Chichester, who died in 1253, the line occurs 'And so he died in the 56th year of his age.' My father died in his fifty-sixth year, so also did my predecessor in the Rectory, and I am in my fifty-sixth year" (M.).

IV. November 22, 1921. "A communicator whom I believed to be my son gave me a message to look on the second shelf of the bookcase, take the sixteenth book from the left, a red book of poems, open at the middle and you will find an interesting name. I wondered at this, as my son was not particularly interested in poetry. There was a little difficulty in getting the number of the shelf, I thought it was the third, but several sitters present—it was a group sitting—verified it as the second. On returning home I found the sixteenth book on the second shelf was a volume of Wordsworth, bound in red, I opened it at the middle and found a reference to the fate of the "Nortons" which is a family name on my wife's side, and the pedigree of the family had proved an interesting quest some time before my son passed over." (E.J.H.)

V. December 4, 1921. "A communicator, whom I believe to be my mother, said, 'Look in the bookcase, second shelf, fourth book right to left ; you will find a book I was always very fond of. Look on page 62, and there you will see mention of cloud, shadow, light.' On reaching home I went to the bookcase, an old one, containing books I am not much interested in, and taking out the book indicated exactly, found it to be an old copy of "Nicholas Nickleby," a book of which my mother was very fond. Page 62 revealed nothing, but I turned as an alternative to page 162, and there I found the following passage, which it seems to me fits the message exactly :—

'It was a cold, dry, foggy morning in early Spring, a few meagre *shadows* flitted to and fro in the *misty* streets, and occasionally these loomed through the dull *vapours*, and soon were lost again in the *cloud* ; it was dull and bare to see, but it had *light* and *life* for him.'

My friend who was with me heard the directions clearly given." (J.T.M.)

VI. March 21, 1922. At a research group held with the medium, a sitter was told to look in Isaiah, third chapter, verse 8, as a test message. Referring to this after the sitting she could find no meaning in it. Another sitter, looking up chapter thirtieth instead of third, and verse 8, found the following, which had a peculiar

applicability to the lady in question, and who at the moment dimly contemplated the writing of a book, which has now been published. At the time the idea was known to very few, and the book produced deals both with Psychic Science and the Bible. The verse in question runs thus :—

“ Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come, for ever and ever.”

VII. May 7, 1922. “ At a sitting with Mrs. Cooper at the College in April, a voice spoke to my husband and myself. We were told to look in a certain bookcase at home ; the place of the book and the page was given, and the word ‘ trees ’ was mentioned. I was away from home for a month, but on my return we examined the bookcase, and found in the place indicated a small book by Prentice Mulford. On the outer cover were four pine trees and on the given page an article on ‘ Thought Currents,’ a favourite topic of my son killed in 1918. This was our first sitting with Mrs. Cooper. We came from the North of England, and were quite unknown to anyone at the College.” (L.K.)

VIII. September 6, 1922. “ My only daughter passed on with consumption four and a half years ago, after a lingering illness, and during that time we tried many remedies, one of them being that prescribed by Dr. Alabone. On August 18 my wife, myself and two friends attended a séance with Mrs. Cooper. A number of friends who had passed over spoke to us, evidently one of them being my daughter mentioned above. She said, ‘ I have something to tell you about 16.’ A pause followed, and the voice then resumed, ‘ The fourth up, third book from left to right, page 16, read to the bottom and, if nothing there, reverse the figures, as figures are so difficult to me. You will find something which concerns us three,’ meaning her mother, herself and myself. I replied, ‘ Do you mean the bookcase at home ? ’ She answered, ‘ Yes.’ I repeated the test to be quite sure I had it correctly, and she confirmed it. I may say that I had not the slightest idea of the arrangement of the books in the bookcase mentioned. There are three shelves containing books in a perpendicular position, and on the top of these on the third are three stacks of books laid horizontally. Taking these to be the fourth up, the third stack from left to right, and the bottom book, I found to be ‘ The Cure of Consumption ’ by Dr. Alabone. Page 16 gives nothing in particular, but page 61 gives a full and detailed account of the disease in its later stages as experienced by my daughter before passing out. If anything could concern us three, surely this would, and is to us a link in the chain of evidence for survival.” (H.A.T.)

IX. September 7, 1922. “ I was told by my friend to put a flower in a book. I enquired which book, and the answer was ‘ A book of poems,’ and that the letter ‘ W ’ had to do with the writer. I asked where I should find the book, and the answer was, ‘ At home, in the fourth.’ I could get no more. On getting home I began to

search and found on a table five piles of books, about a dozen in each. The fifth book in the fourth pile was a book of poems by Ella Wheeler Wilcox." (W.B.)

[This test is not so clear, but falls in the category of book tests, and at the same sitting some excellent personal evidence was given.]

X. December 18, 1922. "My mother spoke to me, and said, 'You know the bookcase on the wall over the table in your sitting room.' I said 'Yes.' 'Well, look on the third shelf from the bottom, not the third row of books, but the third shelf, the fourth book in the row, left to right, and page 26. There is something in which you are interested, and it has to do with light and brightness. If not on page 26, look on page 62.'

"There are five separate bookcases in the room, but this is the only one screwed on the wall, above a table and on the third shelf from the bottom and the fourth book, left to right, I found a copy of Whittier's Poems, and on page 26 part of a poem on the New Year. This part contains the word 'light' five times, and the idea of light or brightness is in the whole spirit of the poem. As to there being 'something in which you are interested,' there is perhaps nothing in which I am more interested than the cultivation of a general spirit of independence, which I consider makes so much for strength of character. The whole poem is a plea for independence and the abolition of slavery." (L.K.H.)

XI. December 20, 1922. The following was received in a group, not a private, sitting:—

"I was told to look on the first shelf of a certain bookcase and the fourth book, and I would find a reference to a subject in which I was interested. Page 21 was mentioned as being useful to note. The book I found as stated. It was previously unknown to me, and it is a text book on electricity and magnetism. Page 21 gives details of an experiment whereby from one simple electrical current from a single battery in action, the following phenomena may be simultaneously produced, viz.: light, heat, movement by magnetism, sound, and the decomposition of water into its component gases. A note by the author expresses the view that this simple experiment is capable of intricate development to produce many other effects, the essentials being that the initial power be provided and proper conditions maintained. I have on several occasions recently, in discussing the physical phenomena of the séance room with interested people, ventured the opinion that these are produced by the application of quite natural laws probably capable of being resolved entirely into terms of electrical vibration. The book test seemed to be in some way an answer to these thoughts." (W.J.P.)

XII. December 22, 1922. "I was told to look in my bookcase, shelf and book and page indicated, and I would find something of interest to me, but was told I was not so interested in it as I used to be. On returning to my home in the West of England I found the book indicated to be 'Whittaker's Almanack,' the page referred

to turned out to be my own birthday—and I certainly am not so interested in it as I used to be. My communicator had apparently a sense of humour.” (C.)

XIII. January 11, 1923. “ The following test was given when my wife and myself sat alone with Mrs. Cooper. ‘ Second shelf, third book from end, page 23 or 32, your library.’ I examined the books in my study, and found on page 23 of the third book from the left-hand side, and on second shelf, the following verse :—

‘ But we, brethren, being bereaved of you for a short season, in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more exceedingly to see your face with great desire ; because we would fain have come unto you. I, Paul, once and again, and Satan hindered us.’

“ The book is a commentary on Thessalonians. This verse is in large type, the remainder being notes. My son had placed the book on the shelf and neither my wife nor self knew of its existence.

The message purported to come from two friends in the Beyond, and they intimated that it would be specially interesting to my wife. She suffered a great injustice soon after she was born ; was taken from her people to a distant place and brought up by strangers. She has never known her parents or her people in earth life, but during last year several have communicated from the Other Side with conclusive evidences. They tell us they have been striving very hard for a long time to get through to us, and their general attitude towards us is very accurately described by the verse referred to.” (K.)

I think the above report will show that in Mrs. Cooper’s mediumship we have promise of interesting developments in many phases. It is for those who experiment with her to give her that mental and moral support which all sensitives need if they are to maintain their gift at a level which will benefit humanity.

THE PRICE-HOPE CASE—CONCLUSION.

By J. Hewat McKenzie.

THE summing up of the Price-Hope Case in the last number of the Journal has been appreciated by readers, and I will now endeavour to draw the matter to a conclusion.

In the S.P.R. Journal for January, three of the officers, Mrs. Sidgwick, Dr. Woolley (Hon. Secs.) and Mr. W. H. Salter (Treas.), signed an article which purported to be a reply to the historical summary of the case in "Light" of November 25th, prepared by myself.

The answer was feeble in the extreme, ignoring essential points, such as the refusal of the S.P.R. to appoint a joint committee, and the fact that their *imprimatur* went forth on a cheap pamphlet before their Council had had all the facts before them, or had seen any of the original wrappings of the packets or plates in question. It contained a repetition of the statement that the wrappers had never been asked for until October 23rd, when in "Light" of December 16th Mr. McKenzie quoted the letter which invited the S.P.R. in June last to lay *all evidence* before a joint Committee. The article finished by querulously criticizing the S.P.R. members who had—a thing unheard of in the history of the Society—dared to sit on a Committee which judged that Society. I cannot congratulate the S.P.R. upon the official defence of their action.

Readers of "Light" of the issue of February 10th had placed before them in that number a very clear account of the Annual General Meeting of the S.P.R. on January 31st, when Sir Lawrence J. Jones, Bart., occupied the chair, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who, it will be remembered, acted as Chairman of the College Committee, and is himself one of the oldest members of the S.P.R., took occasion to move the following resolution:—

"That this meeting regrets the action of the responsible officers of this Society in regard to the recent case of psychic photography, as being in conflict with the principles of justice, and with the procedure proper to a scientific body."

Sir Arthur said he had no desire to force the matter to a division, but only to ventilate the feelings which he and other members felt in regard to the case in question.

The speech was clear and succinct, and animated throughout by a generous outlook and a desire that truth should prevail. He

deprecatd the remarks in the S.P.R. Journal for January, that he and those who acted with him, who were members of the S.P.R., should not take part in a Committee belonging to the Psychic College, of which they were also members. The fact that they were allied to both Societies ought to make them impartial and valuable referees in the matter. From the time that a joint Committee was refused by the S.P.R. it was the duty of those who desired truth to examine the facts for themselves. Sir Arthur then recapitulated the salient points in the case, pointing out the misery brought upon the families of the mediums by the broadcast attack, and the persistent refusal to show himself or other members of the Society the plates relating to the case or give them the least information regarding the matter. The most elementary principles of justice were disregarded and people persecuted while the evidence was withheld.

Dealing with the question of the marks upon the wrapper, which indicated that it had been opened, it had been inferred that this might have happened at the College during the few hours it remained unexamined. There was every possibility that the wrapper had been photographed by the S.P.R. before it was passed on to the College, and for anyone to have attempted to interfere with it at that stage would have been reckless in the extreme. The only alternative which remained was that the packet was opened while in the possession of the S.P.R., and whoever the rascal may have been who did this, it was for the S.P.R. to put a name to him.

Sir Arthur concluded by asking what would satisfy the requirements of justice in the minds of those who felt that there was a case for enquiry, and answered his own question by making the following request to the Council of the S.P.R. :—

“ That you shall publish in your Journal, that on examination it is found that there are elements in this case which cause the conclusion drawn to be invalid, and that all charges against Mr. Hope are unreservedly withdrawn. This statement should then be given to the Press, including every paper that received the pamphlet, and that some expression of regret be tendered to those concerned. When you have done this you have honourably tried to right a great wrong, and we will not act ungenerously or dwell unduly on the matter.”

The motion was seconded by Mr. George Wright (Organizing Secretary of the L.S.A.), who made some excellent points, viz. :—

The failure of the S.P.R. to submit a report to the B.C.P.S. before publication, to receive any report they might have wished to make regarding the sitting in question. The use of matter received in anonymous packets, and failure to inform Mr. Hope or the B.C.P.S. of these communications. The mistake of allowing such a pamphlet as that of Mr. Price to go forth, including comments by the Editor of the S.P.R. Journal. This was against the rules of the Society. The case, said Mr. Wright, had aroused unprecedented bitterness amongst Spiritualists. The new Research Officer of the S.P.R. was

most eager to investigate phenomena, but owing to the feeling which this case had aroused, no British medium would sit with the S.P.R. Was it too late for them to realize that an injustice had been done?

Mr. Salter was entrusted with the official reply—which was, in effect, a tacit admission that the procedure of the Council and their officers was open to the criticisms that had been passed upon it. He inferred that it would not have been suitable that a Society possessing the “status and traditions” of the S.P.R. should sit in joint Committee with such mushrooms as the B.C.P.S. or the S.S.S.P.

Officially we were told last year, when a joint Committee of Investigation was proposed, that “no good purpose could be served by such a Committee,” though a man’s reputation had been dragged in the mud, and privately we were informed by an official, that it would not do for the S.P.R. to sit on the same body with the Magic Circle, the body to which their associates in the experiment belonged, but now we gather that it was the general feeling of all the Council that dignity would be impaired by such a collaboration. Truth will out if we can only wait patiently!

The S.P.R. has not, however, hesitated officially to take advantage of the College’s resources in mediumship, during this period.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart questioned Mr. Salter, and the Rev. Drayton Thomas questioned Mr. Price with persistence and force, as to certain statements in his report, and appealed to the Council to carefully consider the whole matter in the light of the full evidence now available.

Mr. A. W. Trethewy, speaking as one who has held a judicial appointment, held that it would have been a proper procedure to have informed Mr. Hope of the report to be issued against him.

The Hon. Everard Feilding regretted that a full disclosure regarding the anonymous packets had not been made at the time, although he did not think a joint Committee with the B.C.P.S. would have been workable.

Sir Oliver Lodge said that if he were asked whether he believed in the possibility of psychic photography or no, he would be bound to answer in the affirmative.

Although the matter was not pressed to a division, it will be seen that the discussion was regarded as a most important one, and that those who criticized the recent action of the S.P.R. were able to show the Council and Officers that they had most weighty arguments in support of their contention.

The College has to thank the members of its own Committee and others who spoke so ably on its behalf and on behalf of Mr. Hope.

Judging from the fair manner in which the case was presented, and giving due consideration to the difficulties which undoubtedly existed for the S.P.R., I am surprised that an honourable apology was not immediately forthcoming. Even if this had only gone the length of acknowledging the error of publishing a hasty report of

an experiment conducted in such a slovenly manner, I could have regarded it as a sign of grace.

I can imagine that the best friends of the S.P.R. will for many years regret this stupid attitude, by a continuance of which the Society will fail to secure the services of British mediums for some time to come, as Mr. Wright pointed out, not because spiritualists and spiritualistic Societies would prevent this, but because the mediums themselves, a very small body with many hands against them, recognize that an injustice has been done to one of their number.

It is not perhaps generally recognized how little experience of psychic phenomena the experimenters had when they undertook this sitting. The Research Officer of the S.P.R. who stood at the back of it had a few experiments at the College, one with Mr. Hope, with which I understand he was impressed, before he went to take up work with the American S.P.R. He was one of the S.P.R. experimenters with Eva C——, in London, and the report of this group has been received with some scathing comments by foreign scientists. I understand that in the U.S.A. very little mediumistic material was available for him to sharpen his knowledge upon, and he returned to England hungering for an outlet. I cannot, however, congratulate him upon his first attempt at research work. He has been associated with Mr. Harry Price, the main experimenter, in the republication of an anonymous book, "Behind the Scenes with the Mediums." They wallow in anonymity it would seem. Mr. Price has little practical knowledge of Psychic Science, and of psychic photography he has none, although he has a knowledge of ordinary photography, which helps no more than a conjurer is helped by his skill when he views genuine psychic results. Mr. Price, subsequent to the Hope experiment, sat with Frau Silbert in London, and with Willy Schneider in Munich, and for the first time he and Mr. Dingwall seemed to realize that genuine phenomena could take place. We may yet see a Price-Dingwall combination engaging the Queen's Hall to reach the unconverted. Mr. Seymour is, I believe, possessed of an equal ignorance as to the possibilities of the genuine article.

It is my belief that the fact that the packet had been opened before the experiment is known to one or more of the experimenters, Mr. Dingwall, Mr. Price or Mr. Seymour, and I cannot but think what the course of events would have been, and what the effect on the S.P.R. had the full evidence been laid on the table before a joint Committee in June, or had I asked Mr. Dingwall to deliver the packet of wrappers to me in the presence of my Committee and examined them at once. Fortune favoured the Society in this case, and I trust that the lesson of the perilous brink on which it stood may not be lost.

It is a matter of personal regret to myself that I have not been able to get such advice from chemists as would warrant my saying

at what time the label of the package of plates was disturbed. Our Hon. Secretary and two members of the Committee discussed the matter fully with two representatives of a firm of analytical chemists who, after further lengthy consideration alone and in collaboration with others, have replied to the following effect, under date January 25th:—

84—86, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.

“ After consultation with Dr. M—— and certain other colleagues of ours, we arrived at the conclusion that the chances of success with regard to the determination of the time of the resealing of the Imperial Company’s label are not such as would warrant this necessary expenditure of time.

“ We express regret at our being unable to be of any real assistance in clearing up this mystery.

“ (Signed) F. W. V. FITZGERALD.”

The Imperial Dry Plate Company was then consulted, and the following reply was received from them, dated January 30th:—

“ Though we are of opinion that an adhesive other than our own may have been used on the wrapper after it left our possession yet it would mean a costly and difficult analysis to prove it, and one which we do not think would be conclusive.”

The matter must, therefore, remain at the present stage, unless any further evidence is forthcoming which would oblige me to reopen the case. Copies of the above reports have been sent to the S.P.R. Secretary, and the wrapper has been restored to their possession.

I have sought and desired the truth regarding this experiment from the earliest moment that the case was brought to my notice, but I regret that I have not discovered among the officials of the S.P.R. an equal zeal for truth and fair play. Rather there has been a policy of delay and evasion, for which no adequate reason has ever been forthcoming, which leaves the suspicion in unbiassed minds that this policy was manœuvred by some one or more persons in order to cover up the tracks of the guilty party. For this the Council may not be responsible directly, but indirectly they must share the general odium which has come upon the S.P.R. through the publicity perforce given to the matter in the interests of truth.

ANCIENT LIGHTS.

By Mrs. St. Clair Stobart.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND PREFACE BY SIR OLIVER LODGE.
(London: Kegan Paul & Co.; New York: Dutton & Co. 1923.
344 pages. 7s. 6d. net.)

MRS. STOBART'S brave leadership of the Serbian refugees in 1915 will be remembered as one of those acts which are typical of the true world mission of the British people, and this fact alone will secure her new book a sympathetic reception. She now breaks other ground as a student of psychic science and a woman of religious mind and broad intellectual outlook.

With great assiduity our author has collected and marshalled all the instances of revelation through psychical agency, and of intervention of spiritual beings in the Old Testament record, from Abraham onwards to the end of Chronicles II, *i.e.*, those more or less historical books which deal with the early story of the Hebrew race; her object being mainly to show that the great familiar figures of that history are recorded and remembered only on account of the psychical powers and experiences which influenced their lives, such records being valued and preserved as reminders to a people prone to materialism of the constant care and watchfulness, as well as the power, of Jahveh, their tutelary Deity. Thus she argues that, had it not been for these psychical faculties possessed by the patriarchs, seers and prophets of old, we should never have heard of them, and there would have been no Old Testament record.

In like manner, but in a more cursory way, Mrs. Stobart makes a study of New Testament miracle, demonstrating the necessity of this mode of proclaiming the power and authenticity of the Teacher, not, of course, for the glorification of the human personality, but that the reality of the supra-mundane might be kept constantly in view and the people shaken out of their habitual materialism of thought and habit.

She concludes, therefore, that the gospel of Jesus was only able to take root by virtue of such demonstrations of "miraculous" power, and thus, logically, the Christian religion itself needs them, and, in a materially-minded world, must stand or fall by them. Hence, without the phenomenal psychic element to excite that "wonder" which, as one of the lately-discovered "Logia" says is a means of entrance to the Kingdom, we might never have heard of

Jesus Christ and there would have been no Christian religion. In this conclusion, so expressed, we cannot agree ; we would rather say that the Great Revelation for which the world was then ripe would have come nevertheless, but it may be, in another form. We appreciate, however, the strength of the author's contention in regard to the usefulness of miracle as an aid to conviction of spiritual realities and the truth of this is evident among us to-day.

The author has her own view of the "inspiration" of Scripture ; she claims that this consists, not in the inspiration of scribes and recorders, but in the fact that Scripture is a Chronicle of inspired happenings and inspired personalities, and thus of spiritual interventions by and through the psychical faculties of man. Scripture is thus primarily a record and reminder of the higher and Divine law always at work in human affairs. Hence her appreciation of the Old Testament is entirely on these lines, and she frankly admits her belief that as a moral treatise its value is infinitesimal, and its historical value may not be much greater. But she is speaking, of course, of "morality" in the sense of current sanctions, conventions, and custom. If obedience to Divine leading and influence, conveyed through psychical channels, be a part of the higher morality, then, no doubt, she would be the first to admit that in this specialized sense, the Bible is a book morally inspired. Her thesis is reasonable and attractive ; it is also at the present time most valuable for the reassurance it will be able to impart to the many who have been perplexed and rendered despondent by the appalling failure of institutional religion to realize and to teach the truths of Scripture in a sense applicable to the life of to-day, and to present the Faith as a living verity, its miracles and its prophets as truly with us now as they were two thousand, or three thousand, years ago.

For the unity, the continuity, and the present-day reality of the dealings of the Spirit with man, our author makes an impressive appeal. Recognizing the inter-relation of soul and spirit, and convinced deeply that it is through the medium of the human "psyche" that the Divine Spirit has ever dwelt with man, and spoken by him, she demonstrates the true mediumistic nature of the prophets and patriarchs of old time, and notes many instances of the assembling of groups for the reception of the inspired messages. In the jealously-guarded seclusion of the "Holy of Holies" she would see the prototype of the carefully-prepared chamber for spiritual "séance" in which, with no intrusive external element to disturb the peace and tranquility of the regular priestly communion, the highest of all Powers might be invoked.

In this connection it is interesting to note one point duly emphasized by Mrs. Stobart. It has perhaps often struck the unbiassed reader of Old Testament narrative that the claim so usually made by the prophet "God spake to me," "The Lord said unto me," etc., is not necessarily to be interpreted as the direct utterance of the Almighty, but rather as a convenient mode of asserting that the vision, or utterance recorded, was authentic,

based on the spiritual sanction of Jahveh, and in accord with His will. The personality of the actual unseen messenger may vary. At times it is "The Angel of the Lord." The word "Lord" (Adonai) is only a reverent substitute for the ineffable "Jahveh," a Name which was too holy for common usage. Granted this premise as to a spiritual intermediary in these revelations from a higher world, all such utterances fall at once into the same category as the best and truest of the mediumistic communications of to-day.

Broadly speaking, what the clergy all along have been doing has been to offer us a supernatural religion, held in a category of things quite apart from mundane happenings, wherein all that is claimed to be spiritual is held as a revelation, and a final revelation, of God Himself, apart from human instrumentality, save so far as the mysterious grace of "orders" of the priesthood convey this intermediary power. This view has dis severed the spiritual from the psychical, and we know its fruits have been the segregation of the religious life from everyday life—the "sacred" from the "secular." Consequently all the ordinary activities of life have become secularized, with what catastrophic results we know.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's book will, we trust, strengthen the impulse in a contrary direction, namely, that of making life and religion one in practice as well as in theory; thereby revitalizing our conception of Heaven as a state possible to men even in the flesh; and the Communion of Saints, and Church Invisible as a reality attainable by us here and now, by individual acceptance of truth realized by intellect and heart as well, when once we have dissolved the barriers of false authority, built between God and man by the selfish professionalism of the priesthood, and have taken from the effete hands of their jealous custodians, the "lawyers"—that is, the legalists of the temporal organizations of religion, those keys of the Kingdom of Heaven which they have been too ignorant or too fearful to use themselves, and which they have denied to the laity. These keys we shall take, and taking them we can and shall open for ourselves the Gates of the Kingdom; and entering in, we shall behold it, not as a vague region of eternal rest in a nebulous hereafter, but as a wondrous sphere of new activities and joyous achievements, a sphere in which each soul whose name is written in the Book of Life shall have his predestined work and function in the raising of all that lives to a status fully expressive of all the Divine energies and possibilities of spirit.

Sir Oliver Lodge contributes to the work under review a Preface and an Introduction, both well worthy of careful perusal as the latest pronouncement of one who has realized the essential unity of the religious and scientific aims. He is convinced that the work will do good, and voices the hope that the greatest minds in the Church will recognize the earnestness of the writer and will be inclined to admit that a revival of power would accrue if Christendom opened its heart more literally and directly to a perception of the manifold modes of activity capable of being employed by the

dominating and Ever-Present Spirit of the Risen Lord. "The activities," he says, "of lofty spirits must be manifested usually through fallible human agents; and Divine control must be exerted by natural means. . . . but the study and conscious utilization of such activities and subliminal powers are carried on at present outside all recognized Western religions."

We cannot altogether congratulate our author upon the title chosen for her book. "Ancient Lights" is a well-known technical term in law affecting house property, and it is not improbable that some surveyors will order her book under the impression that it refers to the building regulations. It is rather as it might be if Mr. Maskelyne or Mr. Marriott, writing on the seizing of materialized figures, were to dub their book "Habeas Corpus." Let us hope that any such misunderstanding in the present instance may redound to the advantage of the truth. We shall have no cause to feel sorry if Mrs. Stobart's work, for this reason, finds its way into new circles and meets the surprised eye of the practical man of affairs.

THE EDITOR.

EVAN POWELL.
THE WELSH PHYSICAL MEDIUM.

By the Hon. Secretary.

THE present report deals with some séances given at the College by Evan Powell during January and February of this year, and the fine photograph of this remarkable psychic, again made possible to our members through the kindness of Mrs. Dora Head, will show to many the kind of man "Evan" is in outward appearance.

For "Evan" he is and will remain to great numbers of his own countrymen, and to adherents of the Spiritualistic Churches throughout England, who knew him and his work long before he swam into the field of our vision. He is now a man in the early forties, well built, with fair complexion and hair, good features, and with excellent brain capacity. He is highly sensitive, and quick tempered, but pleasant and agreeable to meet and converse with, for he keeps well abreast of all general knowledge, and more especially with all that pertains to the Spiritualistic cause.

I will not presume to give a sketch of his mediumship—that must come from those who know his early triumphs better than myself, but I have heard from his own lips that the happiness of his early childhood was often marred by the fear of the unknown which assailed him when he went to bed. He was always conscience of presences with him, breathing and in tangible form, and no reasonable explanation was available to soothe the child. In a Welsh mining village in those days neither gas nor candles were plentiful. Light would probably have dispelled the physical forces at work. When in his distress he called on his grandmother to come to him, the only comfort he could get from her was that it was probably "the cat again."

He entered the colliery at an early age, like other Welsh boys, and grew to young manhood, without realizing what these strange happenings of his childhood meant. He was interested in his native Church, in politics, in miners' problems, and read and discussed all manner of subjects with the greatest eagerness.

Some chance talk drew him to some Spiritualistic gathering, and to a circle of investigation, and very soon it was found that the young man became deeply entranced, and that a "control"—an Indian—spoke through his lips, promising the group that Evan would become a powerful medium, if they would agree to sit with

him regularly. The circle asked what length of time would be required, and a space of nine months was requested. This was agreed to, and then ensued a period of the most regular and unremitting attendance of this group of Welsh folk. The leader of the circle, a man of great ability, was the most rigid disciplinarian, and demanded punctuality to a minute, or a locked door faced the delinquent, and absence, unless under dire stress, was not condoned.

Amongst the group were some fine singers, and the inspiring rhythm of the sacred airs made excellent conditions, which the medium misses to this day when he has to endure the feeble choruses of the Southern people. It looked at first as if their labours would be in vain, but just as the allotted time came to a close, the first independent physical manifestations took place and steadily improved. This circle kept well together for nine years, a remarkable example of the patience exercised in developing mediums by home circles. A Judge has recently stated in the courts that no one knows what the training of mediums consists in, and decides that a legacy for such a purpose is not of public benefit. Let him ask those who remain of the group which developed Evan Powell what the training consisted in, and whether they consider the result has been to the public benefit.

"Apports," lights, movement of physical objects, materialization of hands and of full forms, were of frequent occurrence with the medium even in a degree of light, I believe; whilst "voice" phenomena, carrying most evidential communications purporting to come from deceased friends, became an outstanding feature of the sittings. These "voice" phenomena were both "direct"—reproducing often the very voice of the deceased person named—or made audible by the use of the trumpet, which unfortunately somewhat distorts the voice, although it may increase its volume.

The editor of a well-known Welsh daily paper is amongst those who have in recent years received some astounding demonstrations at Evan Powell's séances. Later, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle confesses to having received in Merthyr the inspiration which sent him round the world as a lecturer on fire with his subject. In "The Wanderings of a Spiritualist," he says, "For two hours my wife and I had sat listening to the whispering voices of the dead—voices which are so full of earnest life and of desperate endeavours to pierce the barrier of our dull senses. They had quivered and wavered round us, giving us pet names, sweet, sacred things, the intimate talk of the olden time. Graceful lights . . . had hovered over us in the darkness. It was a different and a wonderful world to us now. . . . God had given us wonderful signs, and they were surely not for ourselves alone."

Merthyr Tydfil became one of the strong centres of Spiritualism, and Evan Powell was for many years resident pastor of the Church. His trance-speaking and answers to questions under various "controls" became a source of attraction to the young miners, and

much healthy instruction on liberal lines was given by this means on religious and philosophical problems. An accident to his hand, combined with his general excellent standard of education, almost entirely self-won, procured his release from underground work, and he then became a colliery clerk.

Within recent years he has established a business of his own, and is now resident in the West of England. His séances as a trance speaker have been at the disposal of the Spiritualistic cause for years, both for ordinary services and for propaganda work, and this voluntary service still continues.

The College is fortunate in having the advantage of his gift at intervals, and many in London, through this arrangement, have for the first time had the pleasure of meeting one who is in himself such a repository of spiritual gifts.

This medium to-day requires darkness for physical manifestations which take place through him, and he insists on being roped to his chair at every séance, and his thumbs tied together with thread. This rule has been enforced by him since the séances began to be held in darkness for the production of "voices," for it seems that earlier in his career complete darkness was not necessary. Urged again and again to sit quietly with only personal "control," he answers that it has been tried, but with no success, that unless tied he cannot let himself go into the trance condition necessary for manifestations. Whether this is the result of long-continued habit, or of some more real cause, it is impossible at present to ascertain.

To many persons, amongst whom can be numbered prominent Psychical Researchers, this rope-tying is an abomination. They say, "Why doesn't he sit and be controlled personally? anyone can get out of ropes." My answer to the first remark is that I do not know, but it is a feature of much good mediumship, private and otherwise, that the touch of other hands is distasteful; with other mediums again it does not seem to matter. The answer to the second is that perhaps anyone can get out of ropes with enough practice, but what conditions do they require, and can they get into them again? I have sat in St. George's Hall, and seen Mr. Maskelyne's best rope-trick performer endeavour to show the audience how Will Thomas, another Welsh physical medium, got out of the ropes which bound him, during a test the "Daily Express" carried out with him some years ago. The conjurer was well tied up by two members of the audience, with occasional advice thrown in by the victim, with a rope much thicker than that used by Thomas or Powell. His thumbs were not tied together. A screen was then placed round him—and in a minute or two he emerged, profusely perspiring and as red as a turkey cock, looking for all the world as if he had been mangled. He probably lay on his back and perhaps had nails conveniently placed to undo the knots, and then the audience was blandly informed by Mr. Maskelyne that this was exactly what took place in the séance room. I noticed that he did not offer to *re-enter the ropes*, so that they might be pronounced

intact by those who tied them, as happens in genuine mediumship. How Mr. Maskelyne's conjurer would manage in the limited space afforded a medium I do not know.

When a séance is held with Evan Powell he sits outside a curtained cabinet. Sometimes this is only a curtain slung across the corner of a room. In the recess is placed a small table, on which are placed sleigh-bells and a vase of flowers, and on the floor is a cardboard trumpet. It frequently happens that about half an hour before the séance the medium feels a kind of nausea come upon him, and can scarcely touch food of any kind, but a short time after the séance is over, he usually feels very well and very hungry. On the whole his digestion is his weakest part, as has been noticed with so many other mediums.

Here follow notes from a record made by Dr. Ellery Pollard, of Birmingham, a member of the Birmingham and Midland Psychical Research Society. This was Dr. Pollard's first séance with Powell, and he came with a good knowledge of what to expect, and with a good idea of what should be done to render the medium secure. Dr. Pollard has given me permission to use his report. He says:—

“On Saturday, January 6th, I had the pleasure of a sitting with Mr. Evan Powell at the British College. I was invited by Mr. McKenzie in company with another member of the circle to examine Mr. Powell prior to his entering the séance room.” [At each séance the medium is examined by his own wish—two of the men sitters are chosen to do this, they differ on each occasion, and the medium never knows who is to undertake this duty.—ED.]

“My companion and myself most carefully examined him, stripping him and making sure that in his clothing and pockets there was nothing which might be of any assistance to him in his coming séance. Mr. Powell lent himself to anything we desired, and expressed a wish that we should leave nothing undone which we might wish to do. I, personally, am satisfied that neither in his clothing nor on his person could he have concealed anything from us.” [Dr. Pollard does not mention it, but I believe he examined the mouth also.—ED.] “He took my arm on the way to the séance room after examination, and until we were all seated in the circle I was in constant contact with him. At Mr. McKenzie's further request, I and my co-partner in the examination tied Mr. Powell in a chair and also to the pillar which formed part of the cabinet.” [I believe Dr. Pollard tied the ropes in a manner specially recommended by a conjurer as being impossible to escape from. This consisted I understand, of passing the ropes through the rings of the braces of the medium.—ED.]

“After tying Mr. Powell in the chair, his thumbs were tied together with thread, and the length of the thread was taken.” [The medium's feet were controlled as is usual during the séance by one foot of the sitters on his right and left being placed against his feet.—ED.] “Soon the ‘control,’ ‘Black Hawk,’ spoke through Mr. Powell's lips. Heavy breathing and hissing sounds were heard from

the medium, and several of the sitters at a distance from him were touched by what seemed to be flowers and hands. I was touched on face and hands simultaneously, a bunch of flowers was pressed to my face on several occasions, and then a vase was pressed into the hands of my wife and myself as we sat side by side. My wife sat next Powell on his right. I followed, and other members of the circle all joined hands during the séance. My wife and myself had our arms tightly squeezed. During singing by the circle a deep bass voice joined in harmony and occasionally a soprano. These were "independent voices." A voice spoke to my wife with deepest affection and this was heard by all in the circle. Two arms were placed round her neck and an affectionate conversation took place. I was also spoken to and hands were placed on my shoulder and my head patted. A pause followed this manifestation—and 'Black Hawk,' who always uses the medium's lips to speak, said that he would produce something that had not been done before. Soon a fairly large light appeared and disappeared, lights seen by all passed round the circle and were seen where tappings were heard on the electric globes, a height of six feet. Then a light something like an electric globe in the shape of a tulip enclosed in a fine piece of linen came from the cabinet and above it was a very dim shadow like a head and face—the features were too misty to be recognized, but the voice said it was our son and gave his Christian name. The light returned to the cabinet and then reissued in front of my wife and myself, but we could see nothing of the face. My wife said it was as if a body pressed on her back and the arms were lovingly pressed around her neck, when she was kissed and spoken to most naturally. On examination of the medium at the close of the séance the ropes and thread were intact and in position as placed." [Dr. Pollard omits to mention that at every séance the cabinet and room is examined by the sitters, and the doors locked and the keys taken possession of. The flowers and vase and bells were out in the Circle at the close.—ED.]

SEANCE WITH RESEARCH GROUP.

Here is a short record of conditions at another séance with a special Research group on January 9th. Weather damp and cold. The medium was thoroughly examined by two members, Mr. S. and Mr. M., and these gentlemen tied the medium. The ends of the rope were sealed with wax, which was imprinted with Mr. M.'s private seal. The medium's thumbs were tied together. A string was tied around his right wrist and held throughout the sitting by a sitter. A second string was tied round his left ankle and held by another. In this way a perfect control was exercised, and any movements of the medium easily noticed. On the table, with the other usual objects were placed three photographic slides containing plates previously initialled by Mr. S. and Mr. M. When the light was put out the shutters were drawn by Mr. S. so exposing the plates, and

the medium's "control" was requested to attempt to get these affected by some of the psychic lights, so frequently seen with the medium.

A very clear low voice was heard in the trumpet, and a few words were spoken in German, evidently addressed to Frau Silbert who was present, and a name was given, which she partially recognized. The bells were taken from the cabinet and carried around the circle, being taken up to the ceiling, the cabinet and the electric light fittings. They were rung with great power. Bright lights, some seemingly with a pink and blue colour in them, were seen. Flowers were carried around and outside the circle to where Frau Silbert sat with a friend at a distance from the other sitters. Brilliant flashes of light were seen in the cabinet—reflecting on the ceiling. The curtains, previously open, were closed by an unseen force, and one curtain was pushed out, touching the sitter on the medium's left. Two of the lights were so brilliant that they showed the medium clearly sitting in his chair as he had been tied. A brilliant light moved around the circle and seemed to be in the midst of flowers, which could be seen, felt and smelt. They were brushed three times across one sitter's face. The lady beside Frau Silbert outside the circle played a zither occasionally. She reported that her tuning-key was lifted and dropped in front of her, and she found several of the strings loosened. Some psychic force drawn from Frau Silbert may have been used for this manifestation.

At the conclusion of the sitting the medium was examined carefully, and all knots and seals and cotton were found intact. The three slides, whose shutters had been replaced before the light was turned up, were taken and the plates developed by Mr. S. One was obviously a good deal affected by light, and although it does not appear clearly in the print, there is a fairly clear suggestion of a face (Fig. 1). No. 2 was slightly fogged (Fig. 2) and the third was perfectly clear and totally unaffected. The three slides lay side by side on the table.

RECORD OF A FURTHER SÉANCE.

The medium had been most carefully examined, and when in addition to the usual tying, the controlling ropes were carefully held—one passing across the entrance to the cabinet and held by the second sitter on the left of the medium—the small heavy table placed in the cabinet was brought out by an invisible force and lifted over the cords. It was made to jump about the middle of the circle in a very lively way. This demonstrated an intelligent force acting in complete independence of the medium or any of the sitters, all of whom were well-known persons. At this sitting the light had not been out thirty seconds when the sitter on the left of the medium felt a heavy hand upon his knee, while the sitter on the medium's right was spoken to by a clear voice, heard by all at the self-same moment.

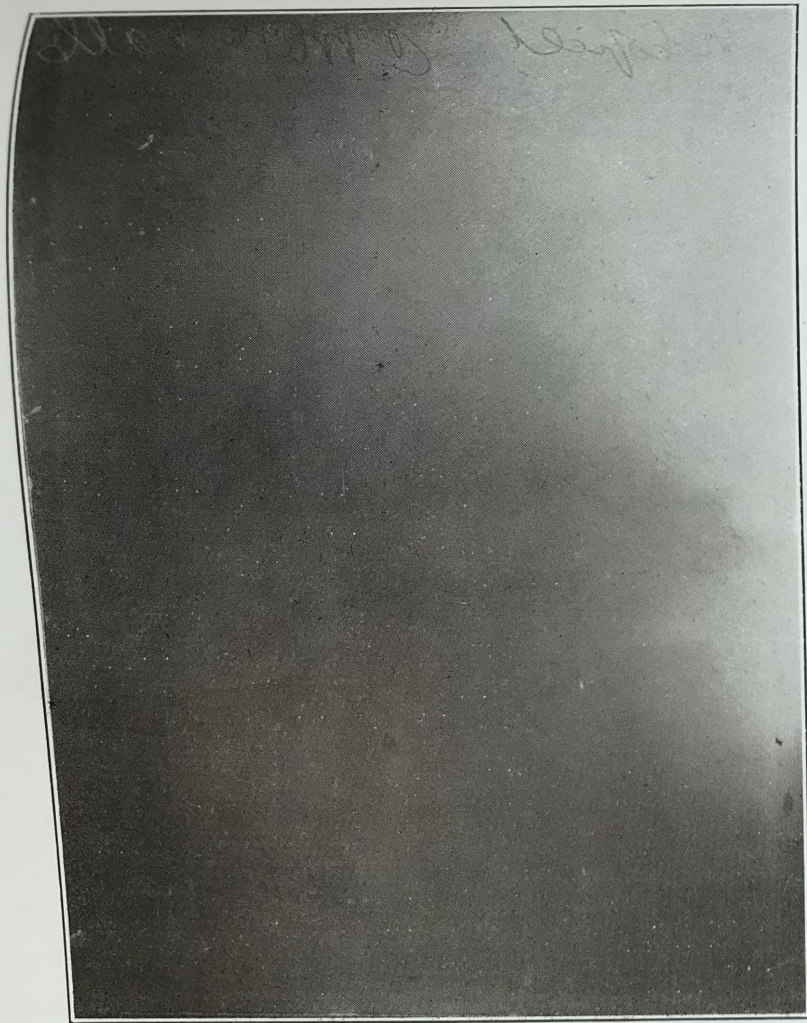


Fig. 1—Psychic effect, probably by light, upon plate exposed without camera in cabinet during séance.

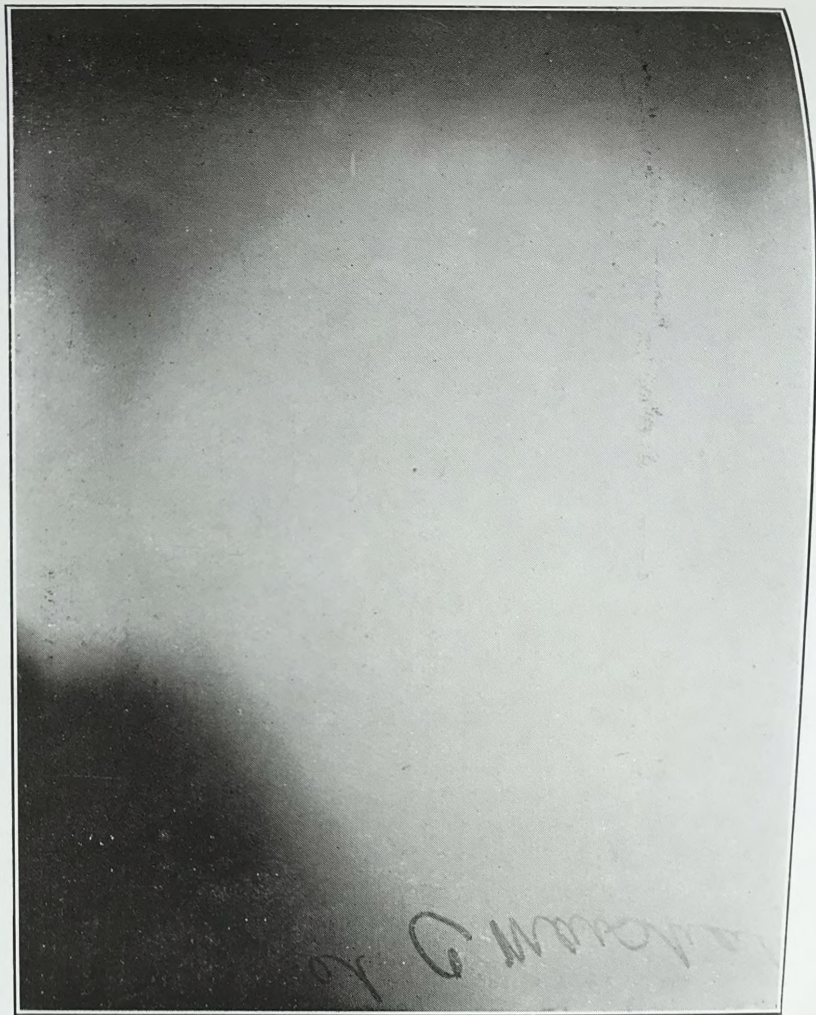


Fig. 2—Another psychic effect. Conditions as Fig. 1.

During the February visit, the above table-phenomenon was repeated on two occasions, the table jumping repeatedly with all four legs off the floor, according to the hearing senses of all the sitters. It was also pushed vigorously against some of the sitters who tried to control it with their feet, but were constantly resisted. This at a distance of some feet from where the medium was held by other sitters. On occasion various voices, very different from the medium's were heard either "direct," and close to a sitter—or through the trumpet, and sometimes very near the ground. These voices gave names, and often evidential messages to those present.

On February 6th (weather wet and cold) the Research Group sat again. The medium was examined and tied and fully controlled, by both legs and arms. A pail of liquid paraffin-wax and water was placed in the cabinet with the "control's" permission, to endeavour to secure moulds of materialized hands or feet. The medium had stated that some years ago feet-moulds had been secured by a group of sitters with him, but on this occasion the attempt was unsuccessful. Probably the "intelligence" who succeeded before was not now a member of the band of unseen workers, and new help had to be found. The Research Group was asked to have the wax in readiness upon the next visit.

At this sitting very heavy knockings were heard within the cabinet. Frau Silbert had by this time left England, but "Black Hawk" said that Frau Silbert's guide, "Prof. Nell," was present, and was producing the raps, which are not a usual feature of Evan Powell's mediumship. This statement we cannot verify, but duly note it. The sequence of three raps given was certainly that of "Prof. Nell," and this was known to the medium E.P. A very powerful male voice joined in the singing, and a sweet female voice also. The sitter on the left of the medium reported that he felt what appeared to be two small cold hands stroking his hand and pulling his sleeve, and then his arm was gripped by a large and strong hand which held him firmly and pulled him towards the cabinet. The curtain of the cabinet was pulled out and laid across his knee.

The knots and seals were examined carefully at the end of the sitting and all were found intact. The wax did not seem to have been touched, although raps were heard upon the receptacle.

During this visit, the medium asked half a dozen friends to sit with him privately. The same controls were put upon him at his request—the strings applied to wrists being held as usual—strong twangs on these were reported by the two sitters, and pulling away from the medium. "Black Hawk" asked that the sitter upon his right should place her hand on his right wrist where string was attached and report if she felt any movement. She could feel the wrist perfectly still, while the pull on the cords continued on both sides, showing that these were being affected somewhere out in the circle and by no movement of the medium. The string attached to the left wrist sometimes swung in circles like a skipping rope, and

was pulled with great strength. One "control" called "Ethel" sang two verses of a hymn in a woman's voice in the ear of the sitter on the medium's left, and at the same time, she most carefully noted that the medium's heavy nasal *breathing* (he was suffering from a cold) was heard synchronizing exactly with the voice of the singer. The sitter was not specially watching for this but, hearing the two together, exact observation was made for at least two minutes.

Readers will see from above reports how conscientious this medium is with his work, and how excellent are the demonstrations of the 'independent' movement of matter, of the production of psychic lights and of voices 'independent' of any use of the medium's direct organs. These demonstrations ought to be of the profoundest value to the scientific world—but until that world is willing to give the subject due attention, the records must be made by laymen and women who are not afraid to venture out in researches in these little-trodden paths of Psychic Science, researches which to some of us at least seem to be fraught with the deepest significance for mankind.

WISDOM.

"She is more beautiful than the sun."

Hail! Wisdom; crownèd harbinger of light!
 Breath of th' Eternal: Handmaid of His Will,
 Power of the Highest on His Holy Hill,
 Moving in Realms unutterably bright.
 Angelic Wisdom! radiant in the Spheres!
 Inspirer of the God-illumined mind
 May all—through thee—the One Anointed find
 To counsel us—throughout the night of years.
 Be manifest in man, O Love Divine,
 Who dwellest in the soul-life of the wise,
 That all may waken with a sweet surprise
 To greet the morn and know the mystery line.
 Out of the Golden Heavens, Lord, we pray,
 Send us the Sun of Everlasting Day.

L. F. WYNNE FFOULKES.

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NOTES BY THE WAY.

ALL readers of PSYCHIC SCIENCE will be glad to hear of the pleasure with which it is received in many lands. The United States provides us with an increasing number of subscribers, for the American public are not well catered for in the matter of psychic periodicals such as appeal to the many readers who stand midway between the purely scientific and the spiritualistic attitude to the subject. In the article in the American S.P.R. Journal by Prof. McDougall, dealt with by our Editor, and the temper of which we welcome, the writer almost implies that good spiritualists cannot make good investigators. But that is not so, and the excellent observation work performed by many students at the College, many of whom would call themselves spiritualists, confirms this view.

* * * * *

The American S.P.R. Journal for February devotes a number of pages to a review of the Hon. Principal's report of Miss Ada Besinnet's work at the College (see PSYCHIC SCIENCE, April, 1922), and compares it with the report by the late Dr. James Hyslop. As these record two independent observations at wide intervals of time, and conditions, the variations in the manifestations over a period of years with this medium are of interest. The numerous personal messages received by sitters at the Besinnet séances and the personal manifestations, be they materializations or transfigurations, were not dealt with at all in the Hyslop report, and to many these remain, and will remain, the most satisfying portion of Miss Besinnet's work, but they fail to interest the scientist.

* * * * *

Dr. Geley's secretary writes to us from Paris, asking that two copies of the Quarterly be sent regularly to the "Institut Metapsychique International," as it is so much in request by the members. A letter from Prof. Sydney Alritz, Prof. of Psychology at Upsala, sends greetings and congratulations upon the reports of the work, and expresses a desire to visit the College during the summer.

* * * * *

The "Revue Metapsychique" for November—December, 1922, deals with luminous phenomena produced in Italy by the medium M. Pasquale Erto, and it is significant to note, in view of the brilliancy of the lights recorded with Frau Silbert at the College, how important

and well verified such psychic lights are considered by Continental investigators. Their variation, their form, their colour are all comparable with those produced by many mediums at the College, and a photographic result which accompanies the article resembles very much that shown to our readers as being obtained in a séance with Evan Powell. The writers are Dr. Sanguinetti, of Naples, and Dr. Wm. McKenzie, of Genoa. We note that the medium Erto can scarcely bear to have his hands held while in the psychic state, and that the "control" requires a cloth to cover the head of the medium during the flashes. The power for these rays may come from the hands as in Frau Silbert's case, and so the extraordinary sensitivity to touch; and the strength of the lights may have a tendency to bring the medium out of trance, as noted in the Besinnet and Powell reports, hence the need of covering.

* * * * *

A correspondent sends a copy of a French publication "La Science et La Vie," marking a note upon scientific experiments made with white light upon eggs during incubation. The most harmful effects have been noticed even to the extent of killing the embryo. To those of us who have studied the deleterious effects of ordinary white light upon the ectoplasmic extrusions, which are indeed of "the life," this is a most interesting and valuable discovery in the realm of ordinary science.

* * * * *

We have to record the passing out of one of our earliest members and staunch supporters, Mr. Peter Galloway, of Glasgow. His work remains in that great city in the hearts of many who by his efforts were comforted by the evidences for spirit return, which it was his constant joy to place mourners in touch with.

* * * * *

We have the pleasure of having at the College, this session, a helper—Mr. John C. Sloan, whose work as a physical and voice medium, given freely and willingly over a considerable period in Glasgow, often enabled Mr. Galloway to provide such comfort. Mr. Sloan's work is of a very personal and valuable kind, and a report of it will be given in a future issue.

* * * * *

Herr Melzer, of Dresden, whose strange gift of "apports" of flowers, etc., has not yet been sufficiently studied, is also with us. Some account of his work is given in *PSYCHIC SCIENCE*, July, 1922, and a report of his phenomena will be of unique interest as they take place in good light.

* * * * *

We hear with pleasure that Mdlle. Marthe Béraud, the medium ("Eva C."), of Paris, has become Mdme. Waespé, and trust that happiness will follow the union. "Eva C.," in co-operation with

her friend, Mdme. Bisson, has given much during the past years to the cause of Psychic Research, and has earned the thanks of all students.

* * * * *

A member who visited Belfast recently reports that the Goligher Circle have resumed their family sittings. He had the good fortune to be present at one of these by invitation, and in a good red light, saw the complete levitation and rocking and turning of the table, and was even able to see the ectoplastic rod which supported it. This is good news, and we hope to have further valuable reports of the work of this family group.

* * * * *

Healing Mediumship is one of the oldest and most valuable aspects of psychic science, and recently at the College, the medium "Miss Rose," who is controlled for diagnosis and healing by "Dr. Beale," so ably written about by Miss E. M. Storr, in "One Thing I Know," greatly interested a gathering of members in her gift. Hulham House, near Exmouth, is now a centre for this remarkable work, and "Miss Rose" has agreed to make the College her headquarters on periodical visits to London, when consultations can be arranged. The first visit will be from April 14th to 20th, and applications should be made to the Hon. Secretary.

* * * * *

A lantern lecture entitled "*Psychic Photography—a series of experiments with some unknown mediums,*" by a member, Mr. Staveley Bulford, and presided over by Lieut.-Col. E. R. Johnson, proved of great interest to members at the monthly meeting on February 28. Mr. Bulford raised many interesting points for discussion, and promises an article and some illustrations of his beautiful results for a future number of PSYCHIC SCIENCE. Mr. Bulford stated that his work began after a deeply interesting experiment with the Crewe Circle at the College.

* * * * *

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's book "Ancient Lights," which is reviewed elsewhere, had also its genesis in the College, in a series of talks given by her to members a year ago. This stimulation to private experiments and research—physical and mental—is work of the very best kind and we trust that more will follow from our members.

* * * * *

"Poltergeist seems busy in many parts, but the College protégée remains unproductive. Wisbech has outdone us in moving pianolas instead of tea cups. We hear the S.P.R. are investigating, and without doubt the ghost will now be decently buried. A member resident in Italy writes us regarding violent outbreaks close to her residence, which have proceeded for months, and strange manifestations also take place in an old Italian house where this member

resides. Another friend describes phenomena of the same kind in the North of England evidently gathering round a boy medium. A member from the West of England, noting the remark in the Poltergeist report in *PSYCHIC SCIENCE* for October, "Poltergeist's predilection for throwing away keys was an uncomfortable one," quotes the following from the "Folk Lore of Herefordshire."

"Brownie sometimes took offence at what he considered slights to himself, and his favourite and chief form of revenge was to hide the household keys; there was only one way in which they could be brought back—the members of the household sat in a circle round the hearth, after placing a little cake on the hob, as a peace offering to the Brownie, the party sat in absolute silence, with closed eyes, when the keys would be flung violently at the wall, at the back of the sitters. This was done at the Portway Inn, Stanton-on-Wye, seventy years ago."

* * * * *

The College is to be congratulated upon its newly established permanent Advisory Council, under the Presidency of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Chairmanship of Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, and the Vice-Chairmanship of the Rev. C. Drayton Thomas.

It is just three years since the College was established through the initiative of Mr. Hewat McKenzie, and during that time the burden has been almost solely borne by him. Now that the effort has justified itself by its practical usefulness, those who have received much benefit from its work are ready to help, and so the Council has come into being. We hope that many good ideas for the advancement of the work will be the outcome, and an increase of membership would also be welcome as providing permanent support. Various members have testified to their appreciation of the work during the first quarter of the year by the following donations, which are noted with thanks by the Organizers.

DONATIONS TO THE COLLEGE DURING THE LAST QUARTER.

	£	s.	d.
A Friend (C.)	3	3	0
Mr. Wallis Mansford	1	1	0
Mrs. Duffus	20	0	0
Mr. Holmyard (U.S.A.)	4	4	0
Mr. H. C. Scofield	10	10	0
Member E.	0	11	0
Mrs. Pickering... ..	5	5	0
Brig.-Gen. F. C. Carter, C.B. (for suitable distribution of College Quarterly, <i>PSYCHIC SCIENCE</i>)	5	0	0
Member C.	0	9	6
Mrs. St. Clair Stobart (for suitable distribution of College Quarterly, <i>PSYCHIC SCIENCE</i>)	5	0	0
Mrs. de Leon	3	3	0

£58 6 6

B.

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 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.

" OCCULTISM AND MODERN SCIENCE."

By Prof. T. K. Oesterreich. (Translation.) (Methuen & Co. 6s.)

THE above work was published in 1920, and a second edition in 1921. The author is one of the many Continental professors who keep an open mind as to what can be learned from Psychic Science. It is surprising how few men of the same class in Britain preserve this attitude to the subject. The work of many of the famous mediums is discussed, and while the spiritistic hypothesis is not deduced from these demonstrations, the facts are fully admitted. The Professor is not dogmatic in his conclusions. This is all that we, who go a step further, ask. A valuable appendix for the student outlines the best books on the subject in all languages. Recently, in the "Evening Standard," Mr. Arthur Lynch reviewed this book with something of a jeer, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle replied ably and temperately. Mr. Robert Blatchford, in the "Sunday Herald" of March 4, takes Mr. Lynch severely to task for his ridicule of a subject of which he knows nothing. The book is valuable as a concise record of a large field of work.

" DO THE DEAD LIVE ? "

(An enquiry into the present state of Psychological Research.)

By Paul Heuzé. (Translated.) (John Murray. 5s.)

The Publisher's note to this book is interesting—"The book deals with a subject which is now more than ever causing public interest and discussion. It has had a great success in France as a serious and well-reasoned enquiry into the present state of Psychic Science."

I might say that I gather from reliable sources that this book has not been regarded as a serious enquiry by those who know. M. Heuzé is the journalist who lately wrote a series of articles on the subject in the "Daily Telegraph," which paper allowed no adequate reply to some of the allegations and distortion of facts apparent in the articles. Heuzé had something to do with the Sorbonne Committee, which held a series of investigations with "Eva C," and generally made enormous journalistic capital out of the matter.

He is one who, in the present book, is evidently waiting to see "how the cat jumps," so that if the psychic scientists come out on top, he may gracefully come down on the right side. His bitterest complaint is "Why do not 'Eva C.' or Franek Kluski perform in front of a conjurer or an illusionist?" "If they don't, it shows that all the phenomena are common sleight of hand tricks." When Heuzé appreciates a little more that psychology has the most important part of all to play in mediumship, he may answer his own question differently.

" THE MACHINERY OF THE MIND."

By Violet M. Firth. (Allan & Unwin. 3s. 6d.)

Miss Firth, the author of this little book, is one of the few persons we have met who have practical knowledge of both psychology and psychic science. The wise combination of these two makes the perfect psychic scientist, and no better introduction to psychology can be had in its everyday aspects than this treatise. Miss Firth's lectures at the College during the last two sessions have been a most valuable contribution to psychic science.

“EVERYMAN AND THE INFINITE.”

By L. C. Beckett. (Fowler & Co. 2s. 9d.)

This book will be interesting to those who, perforce, having to leave behind their early religious convictions, find the “way” within themselves.

“GUIDANCE FROM BEYOND.”

Given through Miss K. Wingfield. (Philip, Allan & Co. 5s.)

This volume has the honour of an introduction from Sir Edward Marshall Hall, K.C., the first from his pen on psychic matters, and the public notices of this fact have attracted considerable attention.

The experiences of this eminent lawyer are not recent, as far as one can gather—but they are remarkable of their kind, and seem to have altered his views for many years past as to the possibility of those who have passed over being able to communicate with friends still alive.

Miss Wingfield was well known in her day as a valuable private psychic, who could provide extraordinary tests, and through whose hand also came instruction and guidance on spiritual matters which have been carefully preserved by her friends, among whom is Helen, Countess of Radnor, who writes a foreword of appreciation. One sentence on mediumship strikes us as very beautiful—“There are mediums between the ‘loved and gone before’ and you, for though neither they nor you need a medium with your Creator, still you need a link with each other: you need a hand to clasp and a word to cheer while you are walking in the dark, and they equally love a hand to clasp and a voice to cheer while they are walking in the light. So God sends His ministering angels to give you one hand and them the other: to whisper loving words into your ear one moment and the next turn and repeat it to them, that you may all be one in the ‘Communion of Saints.’”

“THE CASE FOR SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY.”

By SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. (Hutchinson & Co. 2s. 6d.)

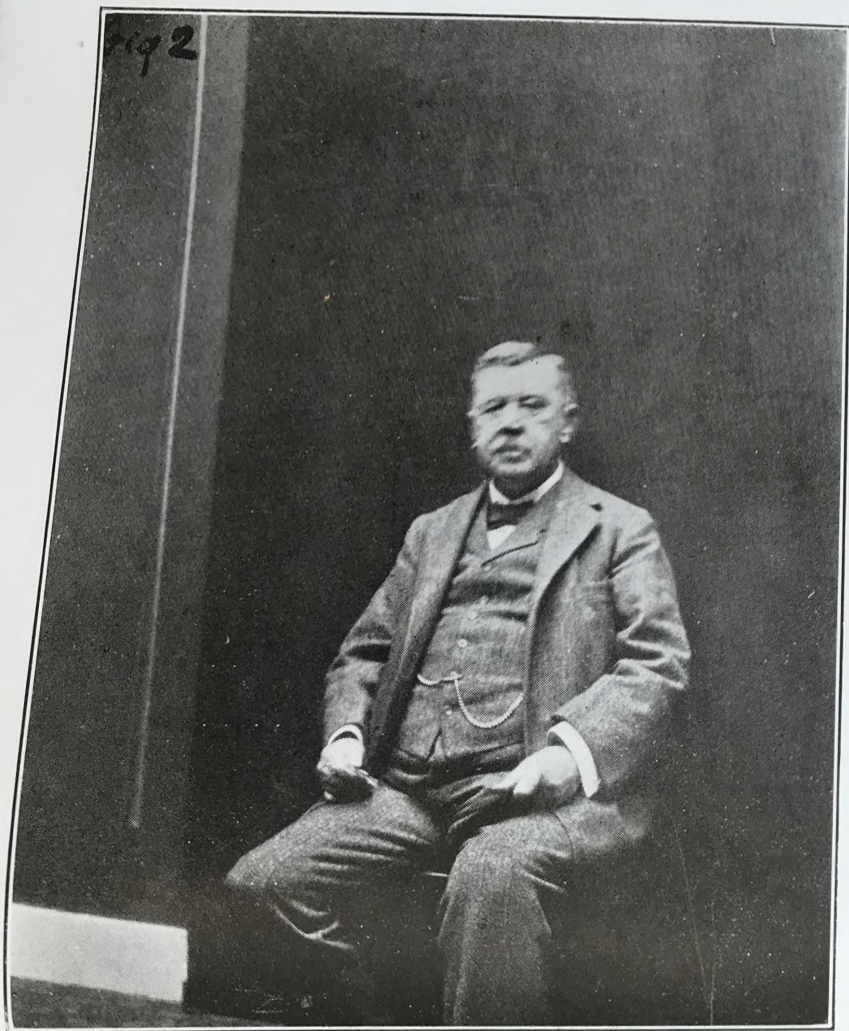
The origin of this brochure lies in the Price-Hope case, so fully discussed in our columns and elsewhere, and the writer is to be congratulated on his courage in placing before the public one of the few books on this phase of phenomena produced in recent years.

“These are the facts on the positive side,” says the author practically, “what can you make of them?” and he gives chapter and verse, or names and data in over a score of well-tested results, from believers and from sceptics, from laymen and professional photographers, who, with one accord, affirm the truth of supernatural photography, and the majority go a step further, and affirm that these “extras” are the likenesses of dear friends who have passed on and who were entire strangers to the mediums. Photographic mediumship is one of the rarer gifts, and naturally one of the most modern, but I believe it is on the increase.

Mr. Fred Barlow, Hon. Secretary of the Society for the Study of Supernormal Pictures, has ably helped Sir Arthur in this work.

I note that a number of the experiments mentioned took place at the College, and with one of these I have permission to deal, from the author and from Susan Countess of Malmesbury, whose experiment it was, and who carried it through with prudence and ability. I may say here, that this experimenter had previously had an excellent result with the same photographer present, brought by herself, so that they knew exactly what to look for in the procedure, and the photographer came on the second occasion prepared to be more than ever scrupulously careful of the conditions. Here is the statement:—

“I sat with Mr. Hope and Mrs. Buxton on Friday, December 9, 1921, and was accompanied by ‘Val L’Estrange,’ a lady professional photographer, who watched the proceedings on my behalf, as I do not understand photography. She states that from first to last she could not detect any fraud. As I sat for



Second plate in stereoscopic Camera,
not affected psychically.



*Psychic effect in stereoscopic Camera
on one plate only.*

the photograph the wish just crossed my mind that I might obtain a photograph of J.H., who died in 1880, and that I could receive a definite sign that it was genuine.

"J.H. died as the result of an operation for the removal of the lower jaw, which had been seriously injured. No one saw him after this terrible misfortune, except five persons, of whom I am the only survivor, and I need not say that no photograph was then taken of him.

"I showed the photograph to Dr. Fielding Ould, who at once recognized it as that of a man who had his lower jaw removed. This opinion was confirmed by several medical friends, to whom he showed the picture.

"I should add that the plates were bought by 'Val L'Estrange' direct from the manufacturer, and that we brought them with us. This lady signed the plate in the dark room on which the 'extra' appears. The exposure was forty seconds. The plate which produced the portrait was manipulated by Mr. Hope under the supervision of the photographer. We both superintended the development and fixing of the negative.

"As an impartial investigator of psychic matters I have stated exactly what took place, without comment.

"(Signed) SUSAN, COUNTESS OF MALMESBURY."

A STEREOSCOPIC CAMERA USED.

The following is an account of a recent result at the College, when a stereoscopic camera was used. Mr. Lyle allows me to give his own statement.

The other plates from a marked College packet were used in Mr. Hope's camera at the same experiment, and a somewhat similar result, but rather more extended in its area, was obtained upon one of these.

At a former experiment at the College, Mr. Lyle obtained a result with his stereoscopic camera, and this was also registered on one plate only.

54, ENNISMORE GARDENS,
LONDON, S.W. 7.

"February 1, 1923.

"I filled my two slides (stereoscopic) with Eclipse plates (very fast—650 H & D) here in my own house; that is four quarter plates in all, two in each stereoscopic slide. I brought these and my own stereoscopic camera to the College. Mr. Hope *never touched* either the slides or the camera except to 'magnetize' the two slides along with the sealed packet of Imperial plates (marked for the College by the Imperial Dry Plate Co.) which he used in his own experiment. Nor did Mrs. Buxton. The exposures (two) were made by Mr. Hope and Mrs. Buxton lifting the black cloth for about twenty seconds—aperture 8/8. I brought back my camera and slides here, and developed them here.

"The prints I send (see Figs. 1 and 2) are from the *first* exposure—one is normal and the other has the abnormality.

"To me it is absolute proof (although I had it before) that these markings are abnormal.

"(Signed) CHARLES LYLE."

B

THE QUEST.

A Quarterly Review.

Edited by G. R. S. MEAD.

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No. 3.

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The Conflict of Science with Religion	THOMAS BROWNE.
The Enigma of Human Existence	THE EDITOR.
The Cup of Wine Symbolism of the Last Supper	...	...	...	DR. ROBERT EISLER.
Some Early Features of Aryan Religion	...	...	...	DR. R. N. SITARANA.
Blake's Imagination	...	...	...	R. M. P. MUIR.
Akhnaton and Bolshevism	...	...	...	ALEXIS ALADIN.
A Subconscious Adventure	...	...	...	A. R. HORWOOD.
Nature and Beauty in Spring	...	...	...	A. R. HORWOOD.
The Somme—1916	...	...	...	C. SAUNDERS.
The Secret of Youth	...	...	...	SARAH BENSON.

Review and Notices.

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

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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