

Spiritual Notes.

A Monthly Epitome of the

Transactions of Spiritual and Psychological Societies,

AND

AUXILIARY TO THE SPIRIT CIRCLE, MEDIUM, AND LECTURER.

REPORTS—ANNOUNCEMENTS—REVIEWS.

Vol. I.—No. XXIV.]

JUNE, 1880.

[PRICE TWOPENCE.

BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(ESTABLISHED 1873.)

38, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.
(Entrance in Woburn Street.)

President:—ALEXANDER CALDER, Esq.

This Association was formed in 1873 for the purpose of uniting Spiritualists of every variety of opinion in an organised body, with a view of promoting the investigation of the facts of Spiritualism, and of aiding students and enquirers in their researches by providing them with the best means of investigation.

The Association possesses a Library, which now contains a large collection of the best works on Spiritualism and occult subjects, and a Reading Room, where Spiritualist and other newspapers and periodicals from all parts of the world are regularly supplied.

The Secretary is in attendance to receive visitors, and answer enquiries, every day. Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; other days, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Well-organised Séances, to which a limited number of enquirers are admitted free of cost, are held weekly under strict test conditions.

Discussion Meetings are held fortnightly during the winter months. Admission free to Members and Subscribers, who can introduce one or more friends to each meeting.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Country members, with privilege of voting for members of Council, and of receiving the reports of the Association	0 5 0
Town members, do., do.	0 10 6

Members, with use of reading-rooms and library, and the right of purchasing tickets for the séances, and taking out one volume from the lending library

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Town members to be understood as those residing within the metropolitan postal district.

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All communications and enquiries should be addressed to the Resident Secretary, Miss C. A. BURKE, 38, Great Russell Street, W.C., and Post Office Orders made payable to her at the Great Russell Street Post Office.

Prospectuses of the National Association can also be procured from the Hon. Secretary of the Dalston Association, 53, Sigdon Road, Dalston, E.

CALENDAR FOR JUNE, 1880.

Wednesday, 2nd.—Concluding Séance with Mrs. J. W. Fletcher at 7 p.m.

Monday, 7th.—Discussion Meeting at 8 p.m. Paper by the Rev. W. Stainton Moses on "The State of the Law as it affects Public Medium, and some Reflections thereon."

Tuesday, 8th.—Finance Committee at 6 p.m. Council Meeting at 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday 15th.—Adjourned General Meeting for the election of the New Council.

C. A. BURKE, Secretary.

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BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(ESTABLISHED 1873.)

38, GREAT RUSSELL ST., LONDON, W.C.

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Proceedings of Societies.

BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the B.N.A.S. was held at 38, Great Russell Street, on Tuesday, May 18. A. Calder, Esq., the President, occupied the chair, and amongst the other members present were Mr. M. J. Walhouse, Mr. J. Dawbarn, Herr Christian Reimers, Miss Withall, Mr. E. Dawson Rogers, Rev. W. Stainton-Moses, Mr. T. H. Edmands, Mrs. and Miss Maltby, Mr. E. T. Bennett, Mrs. Fitz-Gerald, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Fitz-Gerald, Mr. G. R. Tapp, Mr. E. J. Davey, Mr. W. H. Coffin, Miss Georgina Houghton, Mr. H. J. Stevens, Mr. W. H. Harrison, Mr. F. Podmore, Mr. Morell Theobald, Mr. S. Collingwood, Mr. G. F. Green, Mr. C. Long, Mr. G. P. Allan, &c.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the Council presented the following report and statement of accounts:—

REPORT OF COUNCIL, 1880.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In presenting the Sixth Annual Report of the proceedings of this Association, the Council is happy to be able to congratulate the members on a record of quiet and successful work. The progress of spiritualism during the past year has been steady, and the meetings, séances, and soirées held in these rooms have contributed not a little to present the subject favourably to enquirers, and to stimulate the interest of those already familiar with its ordinary phenomena.

Election and Death of Members.

Since the last Annual Meeting 39 ordinary members have been elected as against 28 in the previous year. We have added to our list of honorary members, which includes a long roll of names eminent in the ranks of spiritualism in many countries, the name of Dr. Robert Friese, of Breslau, the friend and fellow-worker of Prof. Zöllner; and that of Mons. C. Rappard, of Paris, one of the editors of a journal published in German, and devoted to the advancement of the cause of spiritualism—*Licht, mehr Licht*.

The Council has added to its members Mr. J. J. Meugens and Mr. F. Podmore; and has lost the assistance of Mrs. Beeby, Mr. Bonwick, Mr. March, and Mrs. Wiseman.

Three members of the Association have been removed by death during the past year—Mr. T. White, of Leeds; Mr. H. Cook (the father of Mrs. Elgie Corner); and one of our original members, a vice-president and most energetic worker in the cause, Mr. Benjamin Coleman. During the closing years of his life Mr. Coleman had suffered much, and the change came to him as a release from anxiety and pain. He maintained to the last the most lively interest in the progress of spiritualism in general, and of this Association in particular. His work was of the greatest value to the movement, and his name can never be mentioned in connexion with it, and especially within these walls, without eliciting sentiments of esteem and grateful regard.

Letting Rooms.

The spare rooms, three in number, have been for a year in the occupancy of Mrs. Maltby. That lady has, however, apprised the Council that she desires to retire from her tenancy on the 12th of July, and the rooms will thus again be vacant.

Reports of Proceedings.

In pursuance of an arrangement reported at the Annual Meeting last year, full accounts of meetings both of Council and of soirées and discussions have appeared in SPIRITUAL NOTES; and the Council entertains no doubt that members will have received with appreciation reports, at once fair and sufficient, of the general proceedings of the Association.

Change of Constitution.

On September 9, 1879, the Council received a memorial signed by 13 members of the Association praying that a general vote be taken as to the advisability of reducing the Council in number. To this a reply was sent pointing out the extreme inconvenience of having a general election of members of Council at a time when the planned work of the session was about to commence; but promising that the question should be considered at the proper time, viz., at the Annual General Meeting. Accordingly the Council has had the matter under its consideration recently, and is prepared to recommend that steps be taken to reduce the working body to 36 members, of whom one-third shall retire annually. This, it is believed, will keep up a constant interchange of sympathetic feeling between the Council and the great body of members, and will provide adequately for the representation of all phases of opinion.

Revised Scale of Subscription.

Experience having shown the advisability of making some change in the rates of subscription, a Special Council Meeting was held on Jan. 13th, at which the following rates were decided on:—

Country members, with privilege of a vote for members of Council, attending Discussion Meetings and introducing friends, and the right of receiving reports of the Association's work.	0	5	0
Town members, Ditto, Ditto	0	10	6
Members, with right to use Library and Reading Room, purchasing tickets for séances, and taking out a volume from Lending Library	1	1	0
Family tickets, with all privileges	2	2	0

As a matter of convenience the hours of closing have been slightly altered, and the rooms of the Association are now open daily from 2 to 9 p.m., except on Saturdays, when they open at 11 a.m., and close at 4 p.m.

Work of the Association.

The special work of the Experimental Research Committee must of necessity proceed slowly, and has been checked of late by the difficulty of finding mediums suitable for its investigations. It is hoped that this temporary difficulty will pass away, and that the Committee may be enabled to prosecute researches in some of the many directions in which spiritual phenomena present themselves.

Meantime, the Committee has arranged and carried through a very successful series of Discussion Meetings during the present session on the

plan adopted in previous years. These have been of sustained interest and value, and have been very fully attended, especially by enquirers. The Council is of opinion that the careful papers so read, and the free interchange of opinion that succeeds each discussion, are of great value, and form a very useful part of the work of the Association.

The following ladies and gentlemen have rendered their valuable aid in reading papers. Mr. Desmond Fitz-Gerald has discharged the duties of Chairman, and the general arrangements have been made as before by Mr. Stainton-Moses. To all these the Council feels that thanks are due for much fruitful work.

- Nov. 3, Mr. CALDER, Pres. B.N.A.S., "The New Epoch."
 ,, 17, Mr. TAPP, "Philosophical Spiritualism."
 Dec. 1, Mr. G. F. GREEN, "Spiritualism and Positivism in Relation to Problems of Government."
 ,, 15, Rev. MAURICE DAVIES, D.D., "Spiritualistic Positivism."
 Jan. 19, Mrs. FLETCHER, "Startling Evidences of the Communion of Spirits."
 ,, 26, Rev. W. STAINTON-MOSES, M.A., F.R.S. Lit., "The Present Position and Future Needs of Spiritualism in England."
 Feb. 2, Rev. W. MIALI, "Treatment of Spiritualism a Test of Mental and Moral Qualities."
 ,, 16, Mr. PODMORE, "A Voice from Laodicea."
 Mar. 1, Mr. E. T. BENNETT, "Spiritual Power as a Curative Agency."
 ,, 15, Mr. A. T. T. PETERSON, "The Philosophy of Spirit Control."
 April 12, Mr. FLETCHER, "Some of the Ghosts I have seen."
 ,, 19, MADAME DE STEIGER, "Religious Aspects of Spiritualism."
 May 3, Mr. J. A. CAMPBELL, "Psychonomy in its Relation to Religion and Ethics."
 ,, 17, Mr. D. H. WILSON, M.A., "Psychometry."

The General Purposes Committee has had before it a large amount of work, principally the discussion and arrangement of questions referred to it. In this way the labours of the Council have been greatly facilitated, and questions have been carefully considered in detail before being finally settled at the monthly meetings of Council. In addition to arranging a large number of minor details, this Committee has considered and brought up recommendations to Council on the following questions referred to it:—The terms and arrangements for sub-letting our rooms; the issuing of a circular to members explaining the course pursued with regard to Mr. Harrison, and rebutting certain charges made in *The Spiritualist* against the governing body; the revision of the scale of subscriptions; the drawing up a letter to *The Times* in reply to the strictures of Sir G. Sitwell and Mr. von Buch on an occurrence (to be hereafter further adverted to) at one of the sances on our premises. The Committee has further exercised a general supervision over the affairs of the Association, and has thus been enabled to relieve those ladies and gentlemen who for a long series of months attended at these rooms to receive enquirers and assist in the work of the Association.

But perhaps the most important work of this Committee has been the consideration of the law as it affects public mediums, and the drafting of a memorial to Government on the subject. The case of Mr. F. O. Matthews, now undergoing a sentence of three month's imprisonment at Keighley, in Yorkshire, professedly for the exercise of his gifts as a clairvoyant medium, caused the subject to be brought under the notice of Council. It was universally felt that the Council was the proper body to take up the broad question of the state of the law as it affects mediums, and to draw up such a memorial as would at least draw attention of Government and of the public at large to a grave injustice. While aiming at this as the chief object, and moving for an alteration in the law, it was considered that such a memorial would afford a favourable means of stating the evidence on which Spiritualists rely, and of placing together, in a connected form, arguments and facts on which they would desire to inform the public mind.

On the motion of Mr. Dawson Rogers, the whole question was referred to the General Purposes Committee, and that body empowered its chairman to take counsel with any Spiritualists outside our own body, and to bring up a draft with recommendations for its adoption, signature, and presentation. This, through the valuable aid of Mr. C. C. Massey, has been done, and a form of memorial has been adopted for presentation and circulation.

In taking this action, the Council confidently anticipates that the members of the Association will recognise the duty incumbent upon them of supporting their executive in the protection of mediums from unjust prosecution. The Council believes that this is one of their most urgent duties; and it is one that they earnestly desire to discharge in the most efficient manner. They were not slow to move when one of our most prominent mediums, Henry Slade, was threatened, and they look back on no part of their work with more satisfaction than on the help they were enabled to render to him, and through him, to the cause of Spiritualism at large. They have no doubt that you will maintain and support them in pursuing the same line of action whenever it may seem necessary.

The Séance Committee has carried out a series of enquirer's sances with Mrs. Elgie Corner. These were largely attended, and some very good results were obtained. But on one occasion, the Council regrets to say, the reverse was the case. On January 9th, of this year, Sir G. Sitwell and Mr. Von Buch, being present at one of the series, made a seizure of the form which purported to be the materialised body of Marie, a controlling spirit, and therefore distinct from Mrs. Corner. The seizure revealed the fact that the supposed spirit was, in fact, Mrs. Corner herself. These gentlemen concluded that they had exposed a case of conscious fraud on the part of the medium, and wrote to the public newspapers in that sense. To this, the Council replied in a letter which appeared in *The Times* and other journals, urging a view more in accordance with the well known phenomena of trance, and the character hitherto borne by Mrs. Corner.

To avoid the repetition of such a scene, it was deemed advisable to take stringent precautions, and at the meeting of Council immediately following

a resolution was unanimously passed, on the motion of Mr. Stainton-Moses, abolishing the use of the cabinet at enquirer's séances.

On the 17th of March, Mrs. J. W. Fletcher commenced a series of séances, which she is generously giving to the Association and which are a source of very great interest. The séances are on the model of the Banner of Light Free Circles, at Boston, U.S.A. Strangers are admitted by free tickets on the introduction of a member of the Association or some well-known Spiritualist; and the rooms have on every occasion been crowded. The Council feels that the Association is greatly indebted to Mrs. Fletcher for her kindness.

Several very successful soirées have been held at intervals during the year under the auspices of the Soirée Committee, and have been largely used as a means of facilitating friendly intercourse among members and their friends. The Association is indebted to the Misses Withall for much valuable assistance in this department.

Such, Ladies and Gentlemen, is an outline of the work performed by this Association during the past year. The Council confidently submits, that it is a record of which all concerned may be justly proud, as having helped on the cause of Spiritualism in various directions. For valuable aid rendered in this work, thanks are due to our President, whose efforts have been unflagging as his interest is unflagging; to the members of the various committees, and especially to Mr. M. Theobald, for much time and care devoted to our finances; to Mrs. Maltby, for much valuable assistance; as well as to those ladies and gentlemen whose names have been previously mentioned.

Income and Expenditure.

It only remains for us to lay before you the financial accounts of the year and ask all members to continue and increase their efforts for the well-being and usefulness of the Association.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the Year ended December 31, 1879.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Rent, Rates, Coals, and Gas	146	19	2
Salaries and Wages	88	9	0
Stationery and Printing	12	17	0½
Postages	8	9	11½
Advertising	27	7	8
Furniture and Repairs	22	15	9
Depreciation, 10 per cent	33	14	0
Charges	2	16	10
Housekeeping	9	6	6½
Research Committee	1	6	4
Library Expenses	8	10	9½
	£362	13	1

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Subscriptions	278	16	9
Donations	13	14	0
Soirées	9	3	0
Séances	23	16	0
Capital for Balance	37	3	4
	£362	13	1

Balance January 1, 1880.

Liabilities—	£	s.	d.
To Spiritual Notes, owing December 31 ..	10	11	3
Capital	311	5	7

£321 16 10

Assets—

To Cash	18	10	3
Petty Cash	0	0	7
Furniture and Library	303	6	0
	£321	16	10

We have audited the above accounts and find the same correct.

MORELL THEOBALD.
JOHN WM. GRAY.
G. H. POTTS.

Mr. DESMOND FITZ-GERALD moved, and Mr. E. DAWSON ROGERS seconded, the adoption of the report, which was agreed to unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. M. THEOBALD, seconded by Mr. STAINTON-MOSES, Mr. J. W. Gray and Mr. G. H. Potts were re-elected auditors, with thanks for their past services.

Mr. EDMANDS moved, and Mr. TAPP seconded, a resolution confirming such alterations or additions to the rules, regulations, and bye-laws as had been made by the Council during the past year, and the motion was agreed to without discussion.

Mr. Dawson Rogers referred to a memorial presented some time since to the Council, urging that the number of members of whom the Council was constituted should be reduced to about twenty. He said it was quite true, as that memorial had suggested, that the Council was now so large that when the third part of the members retired every year and were offered for re-election there was scarcely any alternative but to re-appoint them, because of the difficulty of finding members for nomination in their stead. This fettered the action of the general body of members, as it virtually deprived them of a voice in the selection of their governing body. Still, he thought that, if fixed at twenty, the number would be too small, just as the present number, which was actually fifty-two, with power to make it a hundred, was too large. He would therefore move—

“That the Council as now existing be dissolved, and that a Council be elected to consist of thirty-six members, of whom one-third shall retire at the expiration of the first year, another third at the expiration of the second year, and the remaining third at the expiration of the third year, and so on successively; but that in every case they shall be eligible for re-election.”

Mr. STAINTON-MOSES seconded the motion, expressing his opinion that the members ought certainly to have the opportunity of pronouncing on the constitution of their governing body, which practically was not the case at present.

Mr. E. T. BENNETT feared the effect of the proposed reduction would be to make the Association merely a metropolitan association, and there were several names on the Council which, though they were the names of friends who seldom attended, were nevertheless influential and representative names, which we could ill afford to lose. He moved, therefore, as an amendment, “That the Council shall consist of sixty members, twenty of whom shall retire annually.”

Mr. FITZ-GERALD seconded the amendment, while Mr. J. Dawbarn and Mr. Tapp supported the original motion.

Mr. HARRISON expressed an opinion that the

general body of members should be asked to say what they would like the number to be, and he moved as a further amendment, "That the question of the size of the Council be referred altogether to the members, and that no member shall have any difficulty if he desires of voting on paper for the reduction to twenty-one."

This amendment was seconded by Mr. THEOBALD.

After some remarks by Mr. Coffin, Miss Houghton, and other friends,

The PRESIDENT said that voting papers had already been sent to the country members asking them to vote for or against the motion for a reduction to thirty-six. Several papers had been returned, and perhaps this would be a convenient time to have them opened.

Mr. E. T. BENNETT raised the question of whether, by the rules, voting papers could be taken on the motion from absent members. He thought they could not.

Mr. DAWSON ROGERS thought they could, but rather than discuss the matter he would be quite content to take the papers, not as binding votes, but as expressions of opinion; because, he apprehended, that meeting would be greatly if not entirely influenced by the known views of the members.

The voting papers were then opened. There were forty-three of them, of which forty were in favour of Mr. Dawson Rogers' motion and three against.

Mr. Bennett's amendment for a Council of sixty was then put to the meeting, and was negatived by a large majority, as was also the amendment proposed by Mr. Harrison.

Mr. BENNETT then moved a further amendment—"That at least one-third of the members of Council be chosen from persons residing outside the Metropolitan District."

This was seconded by Mr. FITZ-GERALD.

Mr. DAWSON ROGERS thought that such a provision would be altogether impracticable. The members, moreover, could select *all* the Council from persons residing outside the Metropolitan District if they chose to do so.

The amendment was then put and negatived, and Mr. Dawson Rogers' motion was carried almost unanimously.

Mr. BENNETT said that he should propose that a poll be taken of all the members, and he hoped that his motion would have the support of one-fourth of those present, as required by the rules.

The motion was seconded by Mr. FITZ-GERALD.

Mr. STANTON-MOSES was sorry to be compelled to say that this looked very like a vexatious proceeding, and he sincerely hoped that the business would not be further delayed, especially as they had practically obtained the opinions of the members already.

The motion was then put and lost.

It was resolved that the election of the new Council should be taken at an adjourned general meeting, to be held on Tuesday, June 15, at 6.30 p.m.

It was also further resolved—"That the newly-elected Council shall be empowered to make the necessary alterations in the Constitution and Rules, consequent upon the changes determined upon at this meeting; and that they shall also, at their first

Meeting after election, determine, in any way they may deem best, which third of their number shall retire by rotation in the years 1881, 1882, and 1883 respectively."

On the motion of Mr. DAWSON ROGERS, seconded by Mr. TAPP, a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the President for his valuable services during the year.

The PRESIDENT, in reply, said that the greater part of the real work of the Association was done by Mr. Stanton-Moses, Mr. Fitz-Gerald, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Dawson Rogers, and some of the ladies. As for himself, he cheerfully did what he could, for which this expression of their approval abundantly repaid him.

The meeting was then adjourned to June 15.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

THE Council met on Tuesday, May 11, Alexander Calder, Esq., the President, in the chair. The other members present were Mr. M. Theobald, Mr. E. Dawson Rogers, Miss Withall, Mrs. Fitz-Gerald, Mr. and Mrs. Desmond Fitz-Gerald, Miss Houghton, Mr. F. Podmore, Mr. C. Reimers, Mr. C. Pearson, Mrs. Maltby, Mr. R. Pearce, Mr. E. T. Bennett, Mr. H. Withall, and the Rev. W. Stanton Moses.

Mr. W. Francis Manners and Mr. W. Howell were elected members of the association.

A letter was read from Mr. Jencken, informing the Council that Mrs. Fox Kane gave sittings every Thursday evening at her residence, 4, Grenville Street, Brunswick Square, at a charge of 5s. to each visitor. The letter was referred to the Experimental and Research Committee.

The Secretary read a circular letter from Mr. H. A. Kersey, Honorary Secretary of the Newcastle Spiritual Evidence Society, in reference to a proposed guarantee fund for the establishment of a new weekly Spiritualist paper. The letter was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

Mr. Stanton-Moses brought up from the General Purposes Committee the draft of a report for presentation by the Council to the forthcoming annual meeting. The report was approved and passed.

Mr. Stanton-Moses said that when the Council referred to the General Purposes Committee a consideration of the means for approaching the Government with regard to the state of the law as affecting public mediums, the Committee authorized him as their chairman to take counsel with friends outside of their body. He had accordingly conferred with Mr. C. C. Massey, who had most courteously and cordially placed at his disposal both his time and his legal knowledge, thus rendering him assistance which was quite invaluable. He had now to present to the Council the draft of a memorial for their approval. The ground on which it had been drawn was this—that the laws against fortune-telling and witchcraft had been twisted from their original purpose to make them applicable to Spiritualist mediums; that the magistrates who administered the law had no special knowledge of the facts as regards Spiritualism; and that, therefore, their decisions were given on false issues, just as Mr. Flowers' decision was against Slade when he said that he decided according to the known course of nature. The memorial, moreover,

afforded a good opportunity of reciting some of the facts on which Spiritualists rely, and of giving a list of some of the most eminent names connected with the subject, thereby suggesting the question—"Can Spiritualism, then, be so silly a thing as many people have been inclined to think it?"

The draft memorial having been read, Mr. Dawson Rogers moved that it be adopted; that it be referred back to the General Purposes Committee to arrange for its signature and its presentation to a minister of state; and that the thanks of the Council be given to Mr. Massey for his kind assistance in its preparation. This was seconded by Mr. Fitz-Gerald and adopted.

Mr. Stainton-Moses remarked that a suggestion had been made about the publication of something in the form of advice to mediums. What he proposed to do was this. At the last fortnightly discussion meeting of the series on the 7th June he would read a paper in which he would review the whole question in as intelligible a manner as possible, and would endeavour to have the relation of the law to mediums clearly and popularly stated. He hoped to see his paper printed in the form of a small pamphlet, believing that it would be of greater service to mediums than any formal cut and dried statement compressed into the narrow limits of one or two pages.

Mr. Pearson, on the part of Mr. Tebb, presented to the Council a bound volume of the *Psychological Review*, to be disposed of as the Council might think best, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Tebb for his gift.

DALSTON ASSOCIATION.

THE Council met for the transaction of the usual monthly business on Thursday evening, 13th ult., Mr. Thos. K. Howden in the chair. Letters of general interest, received since the previous session, were read from Signor Enrico Rondi and Mr. J. J. Morse. With reference to the Presidency, it was unanimously resolved to invite the Rev. W. Miall to accept the office. Messrs. Thos. K. Howden, S. Williams, and Thos. Blyton were deputed to seek an interview with Mr. Miall, and solicit his acceptance of the invitation. Presentations were laid upon the table, and accepted with a cordial vote of thanks to the donors—"M. A. (Oxon)," and Mr. S. C. Hall, F.S.A. The current cash accounts were submitted and passed. A circular letter was read from the Newcastle-on-Tyne Spiritual Evidence Society, respecting a proposed new weekly paper, and the hon. secretary was instructed to reply that the Association has no funds at its disposal to assist the guarantee asked for. With reference to a petition to the Home Secretary in the case of Mr. F. O. Matthews, which had been signed by a few members of the Association, the hon. secretary was desired to return it to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Society. It was also resolved to act in concert with the British National Association of Spiritualists in any measures that Association may deem it desirable to adopt as regards the law in its relation to mediums. It was resolved to invite Mr. Rita to pay the Association a visit on 27th ult., Mr. C. E. Williams being unable to accept an engagement for that date; and Mr. J. W. Fletcher, or Mrs. Edwd.

Elgie Corner, to be invited for the last Thursday evening in current month, 24th inst. The Council then adjourned.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

THE report read at the last quarterly meeting of the Spiritual Evidence Society, showed that the number of subscribing members is 151, life members 3, and honorary members 15. The lectures during the quarter comprised twenty-five trances, and five normal addresses, which had good audiences. The sésances with Miss C. E. Wood had been held regularly and under strict test conditions. She had given thirty-five sésances during the quarter, at which the attendance was 864. Human forms have emerged from behind the curtains, and, after manifesting, have dissolved from sight in full view of all present. Two special sésances have also been given by Miss Wood (by arrangement), in aid of Dr. Monck's Fund and Mr. Matthews' Defence Fund. In January last a member introduced a friend to a dark sésance who endeavoured to mislead the company by imitating spirit-voices. He was detected, and promptly charged with the fact, which he had to admit. This is mentioned in order to impress on members the great need of discrimination in introducing visitors. The quarter closed with public meetings for trance tests and clairvoyance by Mr. F. O. Matthews, which are noticeable as being probably the last held by him previously to his being imprisoned by the Magistrates of Keighley for exercising these well known mediumistic gifts. Whilst deploring that valuable mediums should be thus treated, the committee were doing their best to effect his release, with which view they adopted the petition to the Home Secretary as suggested by Mr. J. W. Fletcher. About ninety copies were put in circulation for signature. The first duty is to endeavour to obtain his release, next to petition the Legislature for the repeal of the Act, failing which, some means must be devised of evading the law. The executive further reported that they had made another year's engagement with Mr. Morse, being the fifth year in succession. The oratorical powers of his "guides" appear to increase rather than diminish. The library now contains 209 vols., of which 125 have been issued to members during the quarter. The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. J. Frost, seconded by Mr. R. Sterling, and carried unanimously. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to their excellent chairman, Mr. J. Mould.

NORTH SHIELDS.

ON May 8th, Mr. J. J. Morse had another largely attended and successful meeting at North Shields, Mr. J. Mould in the chair. The lecture delivered by his controls, having for its subject: "Spiritualism not irreligious," was listened to with marked attention, frequently applauded, and greeted at its close with a very enthusiastic outburst of approval. Upwards of fifty questions were answered by the medium.

SPIRITUAL NOTES.

VOL. I.—No. XXIV.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

Reports of proceedings of Societies or Committees, and announcements of their prospective arrangements, in as succinct a form as possible, and authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer, are solicited for insertion in *SPIRITUAL NOTES*. Mediums and Lecturers are also invited to forward particulars of their prospective engagements for announcement. Members of home or select circles will oblige by contributing brief records of sances for publication; and Inquirers forming new circles are especially invited to report their proceedings, and to state any difficulties which may arise in the course of their investigations, with the view of permanently recording results and obtaining advice from other investigators.

To ensure early insertion reports should reach the Editor not later than 23rd of the month; and correspondents are requested to write legibly, and on one side of the paper only.

The Editor cannot undertake the return of manuscripts unless the writers expressly request it at the time of forwarding, and enclose stamps for the return postage.

All communications should be addressed to Mr. Thomas Blyton, 53, Sigdon Road, Dalston, E.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Annual Subscription for "*SPIRITUAL NOTES*," post free within the United Kingdom, is 2s. 6d., payable in advance.

Societies can obtain a monthly parcel, for sale or distribution amongst their members or others, on special terms. Particulars on application.

ADVERTISEMENT CHARGES.

Five Lines in column (about ten words to line), 3s. 6d. Each additional line, 6d. Whole column, £1 15s. Whole page, £3. A reduction made for a series of insertions.

Orders must reach the Office by the 25th of the month to be in time for the following month's issue.

THE BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Members of the B.N.A.S. have resolved that the Council shall be dissolved and that a smaller council shall be elected in its place. This change is due to no dissatisfaction with the work which the Council has performed, but simply to the fact that their body was unnecessarily large and that the members of the Association had consequently too little control over its Constitution. For full information as to the manner in which the alteration has been effected we must refer our readers to the report of the Annual Meeting of the B.N.A.S., which will be found in our present issue. We allude to the subject here chiefly with the object of enforcing the claims of the Association on the generous sympathy and assistance of Spiritualists throughout the country. The Council of the B.N.A.S. has in past years rendered very important services to the cause, and, just now, at the very moment of its dissolution, is attempting the accomplishment of a work of the very highest value—namely, the alteration of the law as it affects public mediums. But its efforts have often

been fruitless, because they have not been encouraged by the sustaining influence of others who profess to hold the same faith. There are thousands of Spiritualists—theoretical Spiritualists—in this country who do nothing for the cause, who never give a pound to help on the work, but who at the same time do not hesitate to avail themselves of discussions which are "open" and sances which are "free." We have seen the Council of the B.N.A.S. many a time at a standstill, on the very threshold of an important enterprise, because, after exercising the most rigid economy, it was still without funds. And yet there is no body of Spiritualists in Great Britain who could spend money more advantageously; there is no body of Spiritualists which has contact with such influential persons and such influential circles; and it is therefore a lasting disgrace to spiritualists everywhere that the coffers of the Council are not well filled and frequently replenished. We hope the reconstituted Council will make a plain and forcible appeal for support, that their valuable work may not be of necessity suspended.

We do not yet know who have been nominated for the new Council, but there are several members who have laboured so assiduously in the past that the loss of their services in the future would be a matter for serious regret. Amongst those whom we sincerely hope to see again elected are—

Mrs. Fitz-Geraid.	Sir Charles Isham.
Miss Houghton.	Mr. J. Lamont.
Mrs. Maltby.	„ J. G. Meugens.
Miss Withall.	Rev. W. Miall.
Mr. A. Calder.	Mr. J. J. Morse.
Mr. D. Fitz-Geraid.	„ R. Pearce.
Rev. W. Stainton Moses.	„ C. Pearson.
Mr. Dawson Rogers.	„ W. C. Pickersgill.
Dr. S. T. Speer.	„ F. Podmore.
Mr. W. P. Adshead.	„ C. Reimers.
„ T. P. Barkas.	„ M. Theobald.
„ E. T. Bennett.	„ E. A. Tietkens.
„ W. H. Coffin.	„ M. J. Walhouse.
„ Newton Crosland.	„ H. Wedgwood.
„ T. H. Edmands.	„ D. H. Wilson.
„ J. W. Fletcher.	„ H. Withall.
„ G. F. Green.	

It occurs to us too that Mr. J. Bowman, of Glasgow, and Mr. E. Harrison Green, of Filey, might be added to the Council with advantage. They are good and earnest workers in the cause, and are well known as representative Spiritualists in their respective spheres; and the same remark no doubt applies to others whose names do not occur to us at the moment. We express these opinions, however, simply as suggestions, for we have no doubt that in the coming election the members will vote wisely, and will return to the new Council most of the earnest and efficient workers who have served them so well in the past.

Notes.

WE are desired to draw attention to the fact that the concluding address of the season will be given at the rooms of the B.N.A.S. on the evening of Monday, June 7th, at 8 o'clock, by Mr. Stainton-Moses. He has selected as his subject, "The State of the Law as it affects Public Mediums, with some reflections thereon," and his aim is to put into popular form the chief arguments used in the memorial to the Prime Minister, now being promoted by the Council, and to draw public notice to the state of the law as it affects Spiritualists and especially mediums. We hope to see a large attendance. We shall print Mr. Stainton-Moses' paper in full in our next issue.

WE are informed that Mrs. C. L. V. Tappan-Richmond may shortly be expected in London. Mr. Stainton-Moses has received from Chicago, where Mrs. Richmond has been working for the past four years, a letter from which we are enabled to make the following extracts. It is written by a prominent member of the inner circle with which it is the habit of Mrs. Richmond's guides to surround their medium wherever she is placed:—"Mrs. Richmond has just engaged with us for a term of five years, but with the proviso that we release her for a six month's sojourn in England, and you may expect to see her towards the end of June. Last evening (April 29th) Ouina sent me word to write to you, and I do so with pleasure. . . . Mrs. R., during her four years' residence among us, has endeared herself to all the friends of the cause, not only as the highest of all our mediums, but as a noble true-hearted woman. She is very happily married, is in superb health, and her powers have augmented at least 50 per cent since she came to us. We give her leave of absence only because we feel there is a great work for her to do in England, and we commend her especially into your keeping, feeling that you will be not only a loyal but a judicious friend."

MR. CAMPBELL's paper at the discussion meeting on May 17th was entitled, "Psychonomy in relation to Religion and Ethics." Mr. Campbell, it seems, is not content with any of the words which are current in the vocabulary of Spiritualists, and has therefore coined a new one—Psychonomy. The word, however, as was pointed out in the discussion, is not new, and does not cover the ground occupied by Spiritualism. Mr. Shorter, for instance, said that more than ten years ago he had reviewed a book called the *Psychonomy of the Hand*.

THE paper, which contained many very severe strictures on Spiritualists and especially on mediums, and but little that can be described as useful and true, whether in fact or criticism, met with a rather free handling in the discussion that followed its reading. Speakers from every point of view agreed in dissenting from its statements and conclusions, many of which, however, it is only fair to say, the writer would probably modify on consideration, as the paper bore evident marks of haste in composition. Be this as it may, it was very serviceable in affording material for discussion, and in evidencing the catholicity of the platform at these meetings. "A fair field and no favour" is the motto of those who manage them.

WATKINS, the psychographic medium, is doing good work in America. Mr. Epes Sargent writes: "Mr. Hiram Sibley, of Rochester, N.Y., a millionaire and an

out-and-out materialist, has been having sittings, and his whole character is revolutionized. Having been ridiculed by some of his infidel friends, he came out with a public offer of 100,000 dollars to any one who would produce, under Watkins' conditions, the same phenomena and teach him (Sibley) how to do it himself. A pretended exposé came to him to show him how it was done, but failed utterly and ludicrously. Sibley furthermore offered Watkins 50,000 dollars and a farm out west, if he would tell him how the thing was done, guaranteeing not to disclose his secret nor prosecute him. Of course, Watkins was helpless, though hungering after the dollars. Sibley gave Watkins 100 dollars a-week for six weeks, during which he thoroughly satisfied himself of the genuineness of the phenomena."

WHY was not Maskelyne on the spot? Where was that prop of science and friend of Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Washington Irving Bishop? A hundred thousand dollars gone because a real exposé was not to be found! It sounds sad, and, worst of all, if they had been there, we fear they would have made nothing of the offer. When challenged, the exposé is a very poor pretender, and can no more produce psychic phenomena than he can tell how they are produced in the presence of mediums. He can juggle, and counterfeit some of the simplest of the phenomena, and then he has to sit down.

WE see from a letter from Prof. S. B. Brittan that our American brethren are at last about to organize. "The American Spiritualist Association" is the title of a body about to be formed by a number of persons interested in the study of human nature and its relations to the invisible world, the progressive development of spiritual science and all human improvement." That is a very comprehensive platform, and we cordially wish the promoters, numbering some hundred ladies and gentlemen of position in the movement, every prosperity and success.

PROF. BRITAN's view of the state of the movement in America is encouraging. Writing in reference to the spirit of persecution that now manifests itself in England, he says: "In this country I have no fear of persecution. In my opinion the great battle was fought here before 1860. The pulpit no longer governs public opinion even on moral and religious questions, and the opposition of the press—which is the greatest instrumentality in the direction of public thought—is growing feebler every day. Under our institutions, and with a strong tide in the direction of liberal views, we shall be able to take the opposition bull by the horns." So may it be! Here or there it is only a matter of time. Prejudice and bigotry have concluded an unholy alliance against every new form of truth, and have done their best to stifle it in its infancy. But it has always turned and rent its persecutors; and this latest form of truth will be no exception.

WE hear that it is not unlikely that a new lady speaker may take the platform publicly ere long. For some time past her services have been given semi-privately at the meetings of one of the societies in an important seaport of the Principality. To the gift of inspiration she adds a finely cultured and intelligent mind, and though deprived of physical vision she has a clear insight into principles and truths.

DR. R. FRIESE, of Breslau, writing in *Psychische Studien*, concludes his reply to Dr. H. Vogel's attack upon Spiritualism, entitled "*Die Hexenküche*" (the

Witches' Kitchen). He lays particular emphasis upon these memorable words of Vogel's: "I am an opponent, and should remain so even if all the reputed spiritual wonders should prove truths." Pietsch and Vogel accuse the spirits of having written a quotation from the New Testament in bad French, having apparently an English character. The learned writers doubtless wish to insinuate that the passage was in reality written by Slade. It appears, however, that the word "scribes," to which they take exception, is the very word used in the French version of the Bible, and that "ossi," for "aussi," is common both in old and in provincial French; so that these "learned" critics have convicted themselves of ignorance—that is all!

THE *Revue Spirite* reports that at a meeting of the "Literary Circle" of Spa, M. Van de Ryst described the phenomena obtained through Dr. Slade at Brussels in the presence of the speaker and of M. Godin, of Guise, though the utmost precautions had been taken against jugglery or deception. The manifestations embraced writing produced upon any given surface by an invisible intelligent power; the transportation of heavy bodies in space without the intervention of any visible agent; and materialization of the hands or of other parts of "the fluid system" of a spirit. Slade's experiments before the professors of the University of Leipzig are still more conclusive, and include the interpenetration of matter by matter, the deviation of the magnetic needle, and the magnetisation of steel.

Psychische Studien for May contains a continuation of the account of Prof. Zöllner's latest experiments with Dr. Slade on his visit to Leipzig. The results comprised the production of writing between slates carefully bound and sealed together; the descent of a liquid, apparently water, upon Zöllner and Slade; the appearance of smoke at three distinct places, coming from below the table, and having an odour of sulphurous and nitrous acid; the lighting of a candle which had been set beneath the table by invisible agency, and the appearance of a brilliant light proceeding from beneath the table. This last manifestation took place in the presence of Baron and Lady von Hoffmann, Prof. Zöllner, and Slade. The light was of a bluish white colour, like that of an electric lamp. A light of a yellowish red colour was produced on a second occasion. Zöllner recommends that a pocket spectroscope should be at hand at séances of this character in order to examine the nature of the light

WE learn from *Revue Spirite* that M. Jacobs, the celebrated professor of sleight-of-hand, has drawn attention to certain tricks which have a kind of analogy with the phenomena of spirit materialisation. He frankly adds, however, that a shrewd observer could never be deceived by such imitations; and, referring to the exhibitions of the Brothers Davenport, he declares that their imitators have never allowed themselves to be placed in the same conditions, and have never submitted to the same control on the part of the assembled company. This is valuable testimony, coming as it does from a man who is well acquainted with every artifice of the professional conjuror.

MRS. FLETCHER'S séance at 38, Great Russell Street, on Wednesday evening, the 2nd inst., will be the last of the series. The séances which this gifted lady has already held in the rooms of the B.N.A.S. have been uniformly successful, and have fully established Mrs. Fletcher's reputation as a very excellent medium. The Association are deeply indebted to her

for having thus placed her valuable services at their disposal. We learn with some regret that Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher purpose starting for the United States towards the end of July, and that their absence will in all probability extend over a period of three months. We sincerely wish them a very pleasant visit to their native land, but shall certainly be glad to see them back again. They will most assuredly have a hearty welcome on their return.

THE *Globe* has been exulting over an alleged discovery that Mr. Eglinton has been a professional acrobat, and that the manifestations which take place in his presence are thus readily accounted for. Was there ever a more insane suggestion! Mr. Eglinton never was a professional acrobat, and even if he had been, the fact would no more account for the phenomena which occur through his mediumship than a similar phase in the past life of the editor of the *Globe* would account for the curious intellectual feats which are sometimes so puzzlingly apparent in his pages.

THE Hon. Percy Wyndham, M.P., has the courage of his convictions. As president of the Cumberland Association for the Advancement of Literature and Science, he recently delivered an address to a large and influential meeting of that body, taking for his subjects "Psychology, Spiritualism, and Clairvoyance." He testified to the remarkable powers of Mr. J. W. Fletcher, and openly avowed his belief in the reality of the phenomena with which Spiritualists are so familiar. The Hon. Percy Wyndham is a brave man, and in point of courage might well be imitated by some who are very Nicodemuses. The hon. gentleman's address was printed at length in the *Carlisle Patriot* of May 7.

THE Glasgow Association has given practical effect to its appreciation of this journal by ordering a monthly parcel of fifty copies, and if each of the principal societies and district committees were to adopt a similar plan, such a measure of friendly support would prove an encouragement to the generally expressed wish for the more frequent publication and the enlargement of this journal. Will our provincial friends kindly consider the suggestion and communicate with us?

"SERMONS IN STONES."

SOME years ago Mr. William Denton, Professor of Geology in an American University, and author of some "Radical Rhymes," wrote a book called "The Soul of Things." In this work he propounded the theory that every change which takes place throughout the universe produces a permanent impression on surrounding objects—that the bricks and wainscoting of his dining-room, for instance, would preserve for all time a photograph of Mr. Denton at dinner. So far the theory is harmless enough. It is not so very long since we believed that the whole history of our lives was written down in the Book of the Recording Angel. And it really seems a much more convenient arrangement to have an automatic register—we do everything by machinery nowadays. But Mr.

William Denton went on to say that there were certain persons who could interpret these impressions of past events. Such men could rival Professor Owen in *Palæozoic Anatomy*; could trace the origin of a meteorite better than Sir George Airey; or reconstruct the history of a dead race from a few fragments of stone. And the general impression was that Mr. William Denton was going it tolerably strong. Nobody ever professed to have read the manuscript of the *Recording Angel*. Besides, Mr. Denton was an American, and even Spiritualists looked with suspicion on that Galilee and this Galilean. So the book, and the subject of which it treated, never seem to have attracted much notice here, and may be said to be almost forgotten. Indeed, the indifference of Spiritualists to psychometry is a daily miracle only less marvellous than the indifference of the outer world to Spiritualism.

On Monday night, the 3rd May, a paper was read before the B.N.A.S. entitled "Psychometry." The writer, Mr. D. H. Wilson, described various experiments which he had conducted with a psychometric sensitive—a friend of his own. He detailed numerous instances in which this gentleman, on being presented with a letter enclosed in a blank envelope, gave a satisfactory diagnosis of the character, and mentioned various personal idiosyncrasies of the writer of the letter. Passing on from these, he described a series of experiments, in which some common object was wrapped up in several folds of newspaper, and placed in the sensitive's hands. The effects produced seem to have been of a most extraordinary nature. This is how the sensitive describes the sensations called up by a small goose's feather. [It is to be noted that, as all the objects experimented with were previously enclosed in large paper parcels, the sensitive could have no idea of their nature.] "A feeling of something very small. I seem to shrink up rather than grow out. Now I have an idea of a bird. I have an inclination to fly, but my body is too heavy to fly. It is not adapted for flying. I could only fly a very short distance." The influence of a string of the Egyptian sacred beetle, or *Scarabæus*, was so powerful, that it was with difficulty that Mr. Wilson could restrain "the sensitive" from prostrating himself in worship. What depth of adoration is this that can thus stretch its dead hand through the centuries, and bow down those of an other race, and a purer faith! If these things be true, then, in a larger sense than the poet's,
 "All we have willed or hoped or dreamed of good
 shall exist;
 Not it's semblance, but itself; no beauty, nor good,
 nor power,
 Whose voice has gone forth, but each survives for the
 melodist.
 When Eternity affirms the conception of an hour.
 The high that proved too high, the heroic for earth too
 hard,
 The passion that left the ground, to lose itself in the
 sky,
 Are music sent up to God by the lover and the bard.
 Enough that He heard it once: we shall hear it by-
 and-by."

In many cases, the psychometrist could not so accurately analyse his sensations, and in others the personality of the experimenter seems to have overpowered all other influences.

Mr. Wilson suggests three explanations of the phenomena which he has witnessed. They may be due to simple thought-reading—in cases where the experimenter is aware of the history of the objects examined. Or it may be that "the psychometrist is a kind of clairvoyant; that he obtains some vague perception of the object under examination, and that his imagination furnishes it with a history." Or, lastly, we may adopt the psychometric theory proper, as indicated above. Mr. Wilson is of opinion that his own experiments are not sufficiently definite to decide the question, though they appear to favour the last hypothesis. But the other two suggested causes may serve to account for a great many cases. For "although the psychometric faculty may be (and very probably is) neither the power of reading other person's thoughts, nor of looking through a brick wall, yet there may be (and very probably is) some force or influence employed in its activities which is common also to the other two powers. Whether or not this is the case, a scientific examination of the phenomena on the hypothesis suggested would determine." Which scientific examination is a thing devoutly to be wished for.

An interesting discussion followed the reading of the paper. Referring to a question raised by the writer, why, in the case of an article wrapped in paper, the influence of the paper did not sometimes predominate over that of its contents, Mr. C. Reimers narrated a case in which he had sent a letter for an analysis of the writer's character, and the sensitive had sent back a description of his own character.

Mr. Tapp gave some account of the power of reading character from writing and locks of hair, &c., possessed by Dr. Murray Speer, in which he was corroborated by Dr. Wyld.

Mr. Frank Podmore drew attention to the prevalence amongst poets and novelists of an intuitive belief in Psychometry, which he illustrated by Dickens' tale of "My Uncle Tom" falling asleep on the steps of an old mail coach, and seeing in his dreams scenes of its past history. Mr. Podmore went on to suggest, that this quality inherent in material objects, if it really existed, would explain many apparently anomalous apparitions, viz., those of innocent persons, whom no strong tie of passion can be supposed to bind to the place of their appearance, and when no obvious motive exists for the attachment, often through long periods, of the spirit to earth. In such cases it would be no longer necessary to assume the actual presence of the departed spirit, for the photograph of itself, impressed in earth life on its inanimate surroundings, would still exist for the psychometric sensitive. On this hypothesis we might almost entirely eliminate ghosts from ghost stories.

No phenomenon of greater interest was illustrated by the discussion than the prevailing ignorance amongst Spiritualists—an ignorance frankly acknowledged by Dr. Wyld—of the alleged facts of Psychometry.

SPIRITUALISM IN THE PROVINCES.

DURING the past month two circulars have reached me in reference to the starting of a new weekly paper. One is put forth by the Newcastle Society, which promises £100 towards a capital of £500, as being required to start a penny weekly paper. The plan proposed is that all societies shall unite in subscribing the funds, and that the projected journal shall be the property of the societies so subscribing; the editorial management to be directed by a representative committee. The energy of our northern friends is most commendable, though the causes which are calling it forth are in this instance to be regretted. The other circular is from a London committee of gentlemen, who are desirous of more shares being taken up for the establishment of the weekly journal mooted a year ago. That such names as those of the Rev. Stainton-Moses, A. T. T. Peterson (the well-known "A. T. T. P."), E. Dawson Rogers, of London, Signor Damiani, of Naples, Mr. T. Grant, of Maidstone, Mr. J. Mould, of Newcastle, Mr. Lamont, of Liverpool, Mr. J. Bowman, of Glasgow, Mr. E. H. Green, of Filey, Mr. Fittin, of Manchester, are to be found in the list of subscribers is fair evidence of the general interest in this matter. An independent paper which reflects the working of the cause is without doubt a necessity at the present time. Could not the above-named efforts be united?

Mr. T. M. Brown, and his daughter, Miss E. A. Brown, have left us for Australia, where no doubt a warm welcome will be given them. Mrs. Brown and family remain at home a short time longer. I notice, in certain reports of Mr. Brown's farewell speeches, some remarks in reference to organisations making slaves of mediums. The words must be assumed to have not quite conveyed Mr. Brown's meaning, as there is no organisation the writer knows of that has ever been imprudent enough to make any attempt at enslavement. As a co-professional medium the writer heartily wishes Mr. and Miss Brown success and God speed in their Antipodean enterprise, and further expresses his gratification that a certain journal has so far laid aside its dislike to professionalism as to cordially endorse Mr. Brown. It is a hopeful sign.

Mrs. Julia B. Dickinson finds her residence in Liverpool so satisfactory that she intends remaining there for some time longer. Her list of patients is large, and her cures are numerous. As a medical clairvoyant she is most successful.

The latest phase of spirit manifestations in the provinces is the production of flowers and ferns in the circle, the materials required being a plant to act as "medium" and some loose earth, the spirits, it would seem, producing the flowers and ferns in a manner similar to that adopted by Indian Fakirs in performing the celebrated mango feat, as narrated by travellers and others in India. Mrs. Esperance, the medium in whose presence this astounding phenomenon occurs, is undoubtedly a wonderful medial instrument, and it is to be hoped that the excitement produced by the above phenomena may not be permitted to injure her usefulness through an indiscriminate admission of strangers to her circles. Newcastle has always been fortunate in the matter of mediumship, and with two such excellent media as Miss Wood and

Mrs. Esperance, it has almost become to our cause what Mecca is to the Mohammedan.

Mr. E. W. Wallis was accorded the use of the Society's Hall in Newcastle for an entertainment which he gave on behalf of the testimonial fund his friends are raising for him. Mr. H. Burton occupied the chair, and made a telling speech. It is a matter of regret that Mr. Wallis has been obliged to be the recipient of a testimonial; for if our speakers and workers were fairly remunerated they could, like other folks, tide over periods of stress without asking as charity what is theirs by right.

Mr. Robert Harper, of Birmingham, has taken to the platform as a profession. As he is at home on questions of Co-operation, Woman Suffrage, Currency, and Reformatory and Spiritual subjects in general, no doubt he will have plenty of calls.

"What has become of the historical controls?" is often asked me. Perhaps their amiable and cultured recorder could tell his many admirers. I long since advocated their collection into book form. The sudden cessation of their appearance has excited much comment, as also has been the case in the withdrawal of Mr. Oxley's "Philosophy of Spirit" articles.

I am in receipt of a copy of verses from the veteran writer, Mr. S. C. Hall. They are in the vein of genuine feeling their writer knows so well how to express. Mr. Hall's many services to Art, Literature, Temperance, and Spiritualism, make a favour from him ever welcome and to be esteemed.

An unknown friend has my thanks for a copy of a discourse on "The Doctrine of Individuality," delivered at Crediton, by William Maccall, on May 28, 1843.

J. J. MORSE.

YORKSHIRE NOTES.

BY A YORKSHIREMAN.

THE first annual conference of the Yorkshire District Committee will be held at the Spiritualists' Progressive Lyceum, Sowerby Bridge, on Sunday, July 11th. The effective work done during the past year is a clinching argument in answer to objections raised against organisation. Spiritualism will never exercise that power in England which it ought to possess until every county has a district organisation similar to the one in Yorkshire. An annual conference composed of representatives from each district might meet at some central point to consider matters of national importance. Should Spiritualism ever reach this influential position, short work might be made of those obsolete laws which disgrace the statute book, and which six weeks ago drafted one of our most reliable clairvoyants to a felon's cell.

Yorkshire is fully alive to this great need of the movement. The country is ripe for it. Who is there bold enough to face "the powers that be," and possesses sufficient energy and wisdom to set the machinery in motion? I am told that the "B.N.A.S." will do so. Am I right?

The visits of Mr. J. J. Morse to Keighley are welcome to all. I had the pleasure of hearing him during his last visit there. Both lectures were intellectual treats, and were listened to with great

attention. Ample evidence of his popularity is shown by the large and increasing audiences at the Temperance Hall.

The friends at Bingley though small in number are earnest, and prompt in action. Regular meetings are now held in the large ante-room of the Oddfellows' Hall.

The movement in Bradford was never in a more healthy state. The Spiritualist Church, fortunately under proper management, is making good headway. The Spiritual Lyceum, though not enjoying such a full share of prosperity, is doing more work than might be expected of a new society.

Mr. F. O. Matthews, clairvoyant medium, will be liberated from the prison at Wakefield, on July 1st. A grand entertainment and reception to welcome him is being arranged by the friends. Those willing to assist may do so by writing to Mr. A. Morrell, the Public Baths, Keighley.

Mr. W. H. Lambelle has just completed a tour in Yorkshire for the District Committee. Everywhere he has been well received, as, indeed, he deserves to be. He has the love and esteem of all true spiritualists in Yorkshire.

PETITION TO THE HOME SECRETARY.

THE petition which the Newcastle Spiritual Evidence Society circulated praying for the release of Mr. F. O. Matthews has been presented to the Home Secretary by Mr. Ashton W. Dilke, M.P., junior Member for Newcastle, and brother of Sir Chas. Dilke. The petition contained 2,110 signatures, which were contributed by the following places and as follows:—London 88, Cambridge 7, Great Yarmouth 21, Northampton 48, Leicester 29, Nottingham 7, Derby and Belper 34, Birmingham 54, Walsall 104, Cardiff 55, Macclesfield 53, New Mills and Hayfield 54, Liverpool 56, Manchester 41, Whitworth 48, Rochdale 46, Oldham 34, Burnley 7, Bolton 29, Halifax 30, Sowerby Bridge 28, Ossett and Batley Carr 53, Leeds 20, Keighley 188, Bingley 33, Glasgow 58, Edinburgh 7, Newcastle-on-Tyne 330, Gateshead 97, North Shields 20, South Shields 5, Felling and Heworth 83, Ouston 54, West Pelton 23, Hunwick 27, Shildon 57, Consett 54, Choppington 30, Ashington 47, New Delaval 31, Seghill 12, Wideopen 8. It is only fair to London to state that Mr. J. William Fletcher has a precisely similar petition for signature. It will be noticed that the two counties of Northumberland and Durham alone contribute 878 signatures to the first-named petition. Many persons in different parts declined to sign because of the statements in the papers as to the evidence against Mr. Matthews, the accuracy of which he twice publicly denied. Spiritualists should be more careful how they accept as true the statements which appear in the general press concerning their body, as it is surely well known that the press generally twists anything relating to Spiritualism to suit their own purpose and to make fun out of it.

H. A. KERSEY,

Hon. Sec. Newcastle Spiritual Evidence Society.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM DR. PEEBLES.

To the Editor.

SIR,—Since you do me the favour of forwarding me monthly a copy of SPIRITUAL NOTES, it is but meet that I should make at least the feeble acknowledgment of saying, "Thank you, gentlemen." I read it with deep interest, and wonder why you do not enlarge it and issue it more frequently.

Spiritualism, so far as the phenomena are concerned, is a fact—a demonstrated *fact*; and yet, in America, it is making little or no progress as a distinctive organization. Not only most of the State organizations, but nearly all of the childrens' progressive lyceums, are literally dead; and yet, as a liberalizing, quickening force—as a diffusive principle of progress and Spiritual culture—Spiritualism was never, in my estimation, marching on in such rapid strides as at present.

In religious matters this is the drift period of the world, and Spiritualists, feeling the contending currents, often become contentious and destructive rather than constructive and religious.

Some of our so-called Spiritualists in America are more Secularists or Materialists than calm, cultured Spiritualists. They are as great Bible-haters as Bradlaugh, and more violent Christ-haters than were Polish Jews of the 17th century. Accordingly, many of our best American Spiritualists are in the churches, and they will remain there so long as they can there find better music, sweeter devotion, and richer Spiritual food than elsewhere. Are they to be blamed? Charles Partridge, one of our oldest Spiritualists in New York, and original publisher of the *Spiritual Telegraph*, remains in the Church. Others choose to do the same. Just at present Dr. Buchanan, Dr. Brittan, Dr. Crewell, Epes Sargent, A. E. Newton, Mrs. Brigham, Mrs. Watson, and others are moving to the front, and giving Spiritualism more of a religious bias. This is a hopeful sign. I fancy that M. A. (Oxon's) new work, "The Higher Aspects of Spiritualism," will harmonise with, if not directly inculcate, this line of thought.

As I understand Spiritualism, it is a phenomenon, a philosophy, and a *religion*—the latter being its crowning glory.

It is generally conceded to be easier to preach than to practice—easier to believe than to demonstrate. I believe in being rigidly honest—believe in paying my debts promptly; and yet I am owing letters to Mr. Tebb, Mr. Theobald, Mr. Dawson Rogers, Mr. Everitt, Mr. Morse, Mr. Wallis, Mr. Lambelle, and others—all kind and fraternal. Full confession, however mortifying, is good for the soul. I plead for charity, reminding those to whom I am indebted that delay must not be construed as neglect or non-appreciation.

May I be allowed to say, in connection with the above, that I was never so crowded with literary and lecture labours as at present? During the Sundays of March I addressed the Spiritualists of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Tuesday evenings the New Society of Spiritualists in New York City, meeting at the corner of 124th Street and 3rd Avenue; Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays of the same weeks in Woodville, N.Y. This month, April, I

am speaking on Sundays in Stafford, Conn., and in Westfield, and all of the week day evenings except four I lectured upon "Travels in Foreign Lands." During May I am to speak the first Sunday in Boston, and the four following in Springfield, Mass., lecturing in the meantime on nineteen of the week day evenings upon the falsity of the Darwinian theory and foreign travels.

The odd hours of the last three months I have occupied in arranging and compiling a new book of hymns and songs designed for camp meetings and congregational singing generally, with appropriate readings for funerals.

Just at present I am reading proof sheets of my new book, to be entitled "Immortality, or our Homes and our Employments Hereafter." This volume of some 400 pages, soon to appear under the imprint of Colby and Rich, Boston, will contain, among other communications from nearly all parts of the world, messages from the spirits controlling Messrs. Morse, Lambelle, Wallis, Fletcher, Mrs. Woodford, and others in England. Thus occupied year after year, I find no time, even were I so inclined, to selfishly seek the condemning of others—to peddle in current scandals, or take part in the petty snarling squabbles of *unspiritual* Spiritualists.

It is just barely possible that I may take a steamship run over to Liverpool and London in July, but must return in August to attend Lake Pleasant and other New England camp meetings. This must not be construed as a promise, only a possibility.

I am trying to arouse an interest among our American Spiritualists on behalf of the Dr. Monck testimonial. We should certainly do as much for the doctor as Englishmen did for Dr. Slade. Peace and good will be with you all.

J. M. PEEBLES,

Hammonton, N.Y.

Arrangements for June.

*** Secretaries of Societies, Mediums, Lecturers, and others, are requested to furnish their notices to the Editor of SPIRITUAL NOTES by the 23rd of each month to ensure their publication in the following issue.*

BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(Secretary: Miss Burke.)

(For the Calendar of Work for June see Advertising columns.)

BRIXTON PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

6, Akerman-road, Brixton.

(Hon. Secretary, H. E. Francis)

The object of the Society is to promote the study of Psychology and Spiritualism, and kindred subjects. Members have the privilege of attending sances with well-known mediums, and are entitled to the use of books on Spiritualism from the Library.

CARDIFF SPIRITUAL SOCIETY.

(Heathfield House, 1, West Luton Race, Cardiff. President: Mr. Rees Lewis. Hon. Sec.: Mr. A. J. Smart.)

Sundays.—Public meeting, at 6.30 p.m.

Wednesdays.—Developing circle.

Thursdays.—Materialisation, or Physical Manifestations (for members).

DALSTON ASSOCIATION OF ENQUIRERS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

(Hon. Secretary: Thos. Blyton, 53, Sigdon Road, Dalston, E.)

Thursday, 3rd.—Ordinary Weekly Experimental Séance, at 8.

Thursday, 10th.—Session of Council, at 6.45. Ordinary Weekly Experimental Séance at 8.

Thursday, 17th.—Ordinary Weekly Experimental Séance, at 8.

Thursday, 24th.—Special Séance with Mrs. Edward Elgie Corner, at 8.

GLASGOW ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(President: J. Walker, Esq. Hon. Sec.: Mr. J. M'G. Munro, 32, Daisy-street, Govanhill.)

June 5th.—Mr. J. Coates, at 6.30.

— 12th.—Mr. Morse.

— 19th.—Mr. J. Griffin.

— 26th.—(Not fixed).

The Sunday meetings will be discontinued in July, but will be resumed as usual the first Sunday in August.

GREAT YARMOUTH ASSOCIATION OF INVESTIGATORS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

(Secretary: Mr. R. R. Dale, 3, Waterpark Terrace, Southtown Road, Great Yarmouth

Sundays.—Instructive Séances, at which Discourses are delivered.

Tuesdays.—Investigators' Séance.

Thursdays.—Development Séance.

GOSWELL HALL.

Sundays—Morning Conferences, at 11. Evening Trance Addresses, at 7 (with an occasional normal address). Admission free; collection to defray expenses.

HACKNEY SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

(6, Field View, London Fields, E. Mr. C. R. Williams, Manager.)

Particulars as to séances to be obtained of Mr. C. R. Williams.

HOLBORN LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

(38, Great Queen-street, W.C. Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. M. Fells, 68, Melbourne Terrace, Barnivell Road, Brixton, S.W.)

Thursday, 27th.—Lecture, "Spiritualism," Part II. Mr. B. Howard. Chair at 8.

MARYLEBONE PROGRESSIVE INSTITUTION AND SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

(Hon. Sec.: J. M. Dale, Quebec Hall, 25, Great Quebec-street, Marylebone-road.)

Sundays.—Conference at 11.15 a.m. Mr. Iver MacDonnell will conduct a series of meetings, at 7 p.m.

Friday, 11th.—Social Réunion, from 3 till 10. Miss Bessie Williams will give diagnoses of disease of sufferers. A variety of useful articles, with a quantity of old coins on sale for benefit of Society.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

Weir's-court, Newgate-street. President: J. Mould. Hon. Secretary: H. A. Kersey.)

Sunday, 6th.—Mr. J. J. Morse, Trance Address, at 2.30 and 6.30.

Monday, 7th.—Mr. J. J. Morse, Trance Address, at 8.
 Sunday, 13th.—Mr. T. P. Barkas, F.G.S., "The Invisible in Nature," at 6.30.
 Sunday, 20th.—Mr. James Wright, Trance Address, at 2.30 and 6.30.
 Monday, 21st.—Ditto, at 8.
 Sunday, 27th.—Local speaker, Trance Address, at 6.30. Admission free. Collection to defray expenses.

WEEKLY SEANCES AND MEETINGS.

Sunday.—Séance, at 10.30. "Form Manifestations," Miss C. E. Wood.
 Tuesday.—Séance, at 8. "Physical Manifestations," Miss C. E. Wood.
 Wednesday.—At 7.45, Spiritualists' Improvement Class. Discussion.
 Thursday.—Séance, at 8. "Form Manifestations," Miss C. E. Wood.
 Friday and Saturday.—Developing Circles, at 8. For Members and Friends. Admission free.
 No strangers are admitted without an introduction by a Member. Spiritualists from a distance are requested to write to the Secretary before coming, and arrange for so doing.

The Library of the Society is open every Wednesday evening from eight to nine o'clock, for the issue of books to Members.

YORKSHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

(President: Mr. B. Lees. Vice-President: Mr. W. Backhouse. Auditors: Mr. J. Clayton and Mr. R. Jarvis. Acting Secretary: Mr. C. Poole, 28, Park Street, Barkerend Road, Bradford.)

BRADFORD.

(Wade's Meeting-room, Bowling, at 2.30 and 6 p.m.)
 June 6th.—Mr. Walter Pell, Bradford.
 — 13th.—Mrs. Butler, Bingley.
 — 20th.—Mr. Farrar, Pudsey.
 — 27th.—Mr. Robert Harper, Birmingham, at 2.30.
 — 27th.—Mrs. Jarvis, Bradford, 6.0.

(Spiritual Lyceum, top of Heap Lane, Tennyson Place, at 2.30 and 6 p.m. Secretary: C. Poole, 28, Park-street.)

June 6th.—Mr. Armitage, Batley Carr.
 — 13th.—Mrs. Hollings, Churwell.
 — 20th.—Mr. Dent, Heckmondwike.
 — 27th.—Local 2.30; Mr. Robert Harper, Birmingham at 6.

HALIFAX.

(Spiritual Institution, Peacock-yard, Union-street, at 2.30 and 6.30 p.m. Secretary: Mr. Charles Appleyard, 6, Albert-street, Gibbet-street.)

June 6th.—Mr. Robert Harper, Birmingham, at 2.30; Local at 6.30.
 — 13th.—Mrs. Dobson, Batley Carr.
 — 20th.—Local, at 2.30. Mr. Howell, Manchester, at 6.30.
 — 27th.—Mrs. Illingworth.

OWERBY BRIDGE.

(Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum, Hollins-lane, at 6.30. Secretary: Mr. Joseph Sutcliffe, Sowerby-street.)

June 6th.—Mr. Robert Harper, Birmingham, at 6.30.
 — 13th.—Mr. Armitage, Batley Carr.
 — 20th.—Mr. Howell, Manchester, at 2.30.
 — 27th.—Mr. A. D. Wilson, Halifax.

On the third Sunday in June there will be a special service at 2.30 in the afternoon.

BATLEY CARR.

(Batley Carr Association, Town-street, at 6.30 p.m. Secretary: Mr. J. Armitage.)
 June 6th.—Mrs. Jarvis, Bradford.
 — 13th.—Mr. Robert Harper, Birmingham.
 June 20th.—Mrs. Dobson, Batley Carr.
 — 27th.—Mrs. Armitage, Batley C

OSSETT.

(Spiritual Institute, Ossett-green, at 2.30 and 6. Secretary: Mr. G. Cooper, Prospect-road, Ossett.)

June 6th.—Miss Hance, Shipley.
 — 13th.—Mr. Robert Harper, Birmingham, at 2.30; Local at 6.
 — 20th.—Mrs. Jarvis, Bradford.
 — 27th.—Mrs. Hollings, Churwell.

MORLEY.

(Spiritual Mission Room, Church-street, at 2.30 and 6. Secretary: Mr. Joseph Ward, Cross Hall.)

June 6th.—Local speaker.
 — 13th.—Mr. Dent, Heckmondwike.
 — 20th.—Mr. Robert Harper, Birmingham, at 2.30 and 6.
 — 27th.—Mrs. Dobson, Batley Carr.

BINGLEY.

(Ante-room Odd Fellows' Hall, at 2.30 and 6. Secretary: C. Illingworth, 4, Lindum-terrace.)

June 6th.—Miss Harrison, Shipley.
 — 16th.—Mr. Howell, Manchester, at 6; Local at 2.30.
 — 20th.—Mr. Armitage, Batley Carr.
 — 27th.—Mrs. Butler, Bingley.

LANCASHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

PLAN OF SPEAKERS FOR JUNE.

LIVERPOOL.

(Perth-street Hall, West Derby-road. Secretary: Mr. H. Morris, 35, Cobden-street, Everton Road. Cor- Sec.: Mr. J. Chapman, Dunkel-street, West Derby Road.)

Sunday, 6th.—Mr. J. Clegg, of Liverpool.
 — 13th.—Mr. Clegg.
 — 20th.—Mr. Johnson, of Hyde.
 — 27th.—Miss Hall and Mr. W. Johnson.

ROCHDALE.

(Assembly Rooms, Co-Operative Store, corner of Milnrow and Oldham-road. Secretary: Mr. L. Firth, 16, Equitable-street.)

Sunday, 6th.—Mr. Johnson, of Hyde.
 — 13th.—Miss E. A. Hall, of Manchester.
 — 20th.—Mr. Morse, of London.
 — 27th.—Mr. Tetlow.

BOLTON.

(Reform Room, Duke-street. Secretary: Mr. James Cross, 42, Poplar-street.)

Sundays, 6th, 20th, and 27th.—Local Speaker.
 — 13th.—Mr. Johnson, of Hyde.
 Wednesday, 23rd.—Mr. Morse, of London.

NEW MILLS.

(Secretary: Mr. John Lithgow, Hayfield.)

Sundays, 6th and 20th.—Local speaker.
 — 13th.—Mr. Tetlow.
 Thursday, 24th.—Mr. Morse, of London.
 Sunday, 27th.—Mr. Johnson.

OLDHAM.

(Society's Hall, 186, Union Street. Secretary: Mr. Thomas Kershaw, 8, High Street.)

Monday, 21st.—Mr. Morse, of London.

WHITWORTH.

(At Mr. Clegg's, Victoria Terrace, Market Place, Healey.)
 Tuesday, 22nd.—Mr. Morse, of London.

MANCHESTER (at Miss Johnson's).

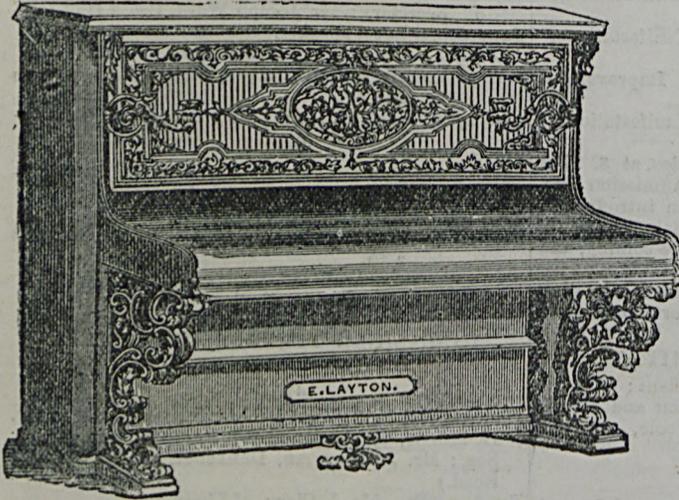
Friday, 25th.—Mr. J. J. Morse, of London.

MR. MORSE.

June 6th and 7th.—Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 — 13th and 14th.—Glasgow.
 — 20th to 25th.—Lancashire District.
 — 27th.—London.

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