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No. 197.-(Vol. VIII.-No. 22.)

LONDON: FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1876.

Published Weekly; Price Twopence.

Contents.

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ļ	Tuesday, 13thFinance Committee, at 6 p.m.
1	COUNCIL MEETING at 6.30 p.m. Wednesday, 14th.—Experimental Research Committee, 6 p.m.
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• Inquirers and members of the National Association and of allied societies are admitted to these scances under conditions which may be ascertained by application to the Secretary. Members are requested to note that the Soirce on the 7th inst. is the last of the season, the Council having resolved to suppend these meetings during the next three months.

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MISS CHANDOS eradicates Consumption, Cancer, Insanity, Dypsomania, Nervons and Infantile Diseases. £1 per visit (within three miles), including specifics. By post, monthly, £2 28. Full instructions in Mesmerism and Electro-biology, postal and private, 17, Brunswick square, W.O.

NOTICE. - CHANGE OF RESIDENCE. -Mrs. Olive has removed to 15, Ainger-terrace, Aloger-road, King Henry's-road, Primrose-hill, N.W. Three minutos from Chalk-farm Station; five minutes from omnibus to Oxford-street or West-end. Scances as usual for clairvogance, modical mesmerism, trance, tests, &c. Private scances by arrangement; public ditto, Tuesdays, 7 pm., Fridays, 3 p.m.; admission, 2s. 6d. Visits within ten miles two guineas, in-elusive.

elusive. PHYSICAL SEANCES, Light and Dark. Mrs. Olive has arranged for a series of *Seances* with Mr. Bullock, jun, on Mondays at 7 p.m. Admission, 5s. Materialisations and other interesting phenomena are now constantly produced under test conditions. interesting conditions.

MISS GODFREY, CURATIVE MESMERIST AND RUBBER, AND MEDICAL CLAIRVOYANT, I, Robert street, Hampstead-road, London, N.W. To be seen by appointment only. Terms on application by letter.

MR. J. J. MORSE, INSPIRATIONAL TRANCE SPEAKER, has returned to England, and is now prepared to receive calls as usual, to lecture in London or the provinces. All Letters to be addressed to him at Warwick Cottage, Old Ford-road, Bow, London, E.

NOTICE.—MONSIEUR ADOLPHE DIDIER, Professor of Curative Mesmerism (80 Years Estab-lished), attends patients daily from 2 till 6, at his own resi-dence, 10, Berkeley Gardens, Camden Hill, Kensington. Som-nambulic consultations for diagnosis of diseases, indication of their causes, and remedies. Persons at a distance can consult by letter.

M. WILLIE EGLINTON, MEDIUM, can be engaged for scances, morning or ovening. Ad-dress, Mr. Willie Eglinton, St. James's House, Waltham-stow.

MISS LOTTIE FOWLER, the Great MASS LOTTIE FOWLER, the Great American Somnambulist, Spiritual Clairvoyante, and Test Medium, whose reputation is woll-known throughout Europe and America. Hours, 1 till 8 p.m., Terms, ono guinea. On Fridays and Saturdays, 10s. 6d. To those of limited means trance scances on Monday evening at 8 p.m., 2s. 6d. Physical scances for Spiritualists only on Thursday and Saturdayevenings at 8 o'clock, 5s. Miss Fowler does not reply to correspon-dence, nor see visitors on Sunday. Address-2, Vernon-place, Bloomsbury-square, London, W.C.

M EDIUMSHIP: ITS NATURE AND VARIETIES.—A Pamphlet containing useful infor-mation for those who hold or who are about to hold spirit circles in their own homes. Published at *The Spirituality* newspaper branch office, 38, Great Russell-street, London, W.C. Price Id.; post free for 1½d.; or six copies post free for 6d.

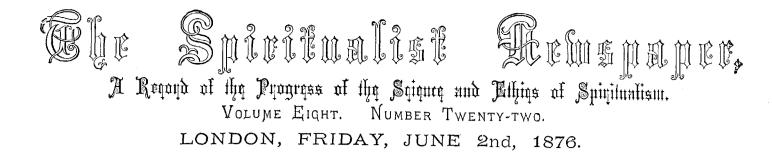
DSYCHOPATHIC INSTITUTION FOR THE CURE OF DISEASE, 19, Church-street, Upper street, Islington. A good "Magnetic" healer, Mr. J. Smith, in attend-ance daily, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Fee, 2a. 6d.; Sundays and Wednesdays free. Mr. and Mrs. Bullock, principals.

SEANCES AT KENTISH-TOWN.-Mr. W. Wallace, formerly known as the Missionary Medium, has made arrangements for a Seance every Wednesday evening, at which Mr. Bullock, jun, will assist as medium. 7.30 for 8 precisely; 329, Kentish-town-road, N.W. (a few doors from the Midland Rallway Station). Omnibuses pass the door. Admission, 2s. 6d.

SUSIE FLETCHER, the great American Trance Medium and Magnetic Healer, has taken rooms at No. 2, Vernon-place, Bloomsbury-square, London, W.O., where, during the month of June. she may be consulted. Terms, one guinea. Treatment to the poor on Saturday morn-ings free. Will answer calls to lecture.

A LADY of Culture, having passed a hospital, is anxious to obtain an engagement as MONTHLY NURSE, where no mental work is required. Reference to Medical man. Terms five guineas a month, or according to circumstances. Apply to the Secretary, British National Association of Spiritualists, 38, Great Russell-street, W.C.

Would not object to trance.-T.Y.,116, Stafford-street, Maryle-bo to-road, W.



THE RELATIONSHIP OF BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS TO THOSE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

In the course of the annual meeting of the British National Association of Spiritualists, the proceedings of which were reported in this journal last week, no subjects of much im-portance were considered outside the limits of the official report. A fertile theme which might well have been debated at such an influential meeting, would have been the position of the National Association in relation to the Spiritualists of foreign countries, this branch of the work of the Association having fallen too much in arrear, and never having received the full attention it merits. The more intelligent Spiritualists in foreign parts view with considerable interest the action of the Association, so far as they have had the means of be-coming fully acquainted with the same, and it is probable that, by means of a little energetic management, a certain proportion of ordinary paying members could be obtained from among the Spiritualists of foreign countries. To this end such work should be done at 38, Great Russell-street, as to cause Spiritualists abroad to take a more lively interest in the Association than at present, and an endeavour should be made to offer certain advantages to those who may enrol themselves as members. This, perhaps, may be brought about by announcing to them that it is the intention of the directorate to make the central establishment in London a kind of international record and statistical office, in relation to Spiritualism throughout the globe. The Council might announce to them that it intends to take in, and to carefully file and bind, copies of every Spiritualistic periodical pub-lished in any part of the world. In the second place it might announce its intention of entering into alliance with some, and into correspondence with all, existing Spiritual societies; that it desires to collect from them, and from its honorary or corresponding members, statistics in relation to the spread of Spiritualism, for the purpose of publishing annually the number of existing societies, the time they have been established, the number of members, together with short reports of the position of Spiritualism in the countries from which trustworthy communications can be obtained. A few of the more remarkable phenomena witnessed during the year in each locality might also be recorded. The statistics might be drawn up in accordance with a printed form, so as to make every local report comparable with every other local report, and to make the whole statistics of the year comparable with the statistics of any other year.

Intelligent foreign Spiritualists should be induced to enrol themselves as ordinary members, on the ground that it is their duty to support an establishment doing public work of such historical value, also on the ground that they would be entitled to receive a presentation copy each of every annual report. A further advantage of a foreign department of the National Association would be, that those of its members who travel in foreign countries would receive encouragement to send to head-quarters all the information of interest which they may collect in connection with Spiritualism.

to send to head-quarters all the information of interest which they may collect in connection with Spiritualism. A duty now devolves upon the National Association of Spiritualists, of a similar kind to that which has fallen upon the Anthropological Institute, and which the latter has performed to some extent. The various races of savages are gradually being improved off the face of the earth by the white man, in obedience to a natural law which the human family has not the power to subvert, for the weaker races always disappear to make way for the stronger. The Anthropological Institute is collecting what information it can about the physiology and anatomy of savages, and their manners and customs; but all the information about the psychology of savage life which has as yet been collected, is meagre, fragmentary, and as a rule, penned by people totally ignorant of the facts of Spiritualism. Canon Calloway, of Natal, has done more than anybody else in the way of recording Spiritual manifestations among savages; his descriptions of their voice circles, of their trance and clairvoyant séances, are extremely interesting. Moreover, he has performed this work without knowing anything about Spiritualism himself. The National Association of Spiritualists should do all it can to secure information about psychological phenomena among savages, before these races, which belong to the childhood of the world, become extinct. If the work be not done in this generation, a certain proportion of valuable information will be lost for ever.

A method of keeping alive foreign interest in the work of the National Association, would be to imitate the plan followed by Mr. Blyton, honorary secretary to the Dalston Association of Inquirers into Spiritualism, who, whenever he has the slightest excuse for so doing, writes to the various newspapers in the locality, and thus succeeds in sustaining a certain amount of outside public interest, and this, too, through the agency of journals not by any means devoted to Spiritualism. The National Association, in dealing with the Spiritual journals of foreign countries, would stand in a better position, for those journals would be glad to receive items of Spiritualistic information from England. For these reasons, it seems to us that steps should be taken to make sure that every foreign Spiritualistic journal — of which there may be forty or fifty alto-gether—shall receive each not less than, say, six letters a year about the proceedings of the National Association, what it intends to do in relation to the Spiritualists among whom the particular journal addressed circulates, and what it desires those Spiritualists should do in return. Steps should also be taken to keep a short advertisement, seven or eight lines long, permanently in the columns of each journal, giving the address of the headquarters of the National Association, and stating such of its objects as are likely to be of interest to Spiritualists in foreign countries. The carrying out of these ideas would throw much extra work upon the already fully employed executive, so perhaps Mr. Algernon Joy, the honorary secretary, who already in that capacity has done so much useful work for the Association, might, if invited, undertake most of the heavy correspond-ence incidental to a well-managed foreign department. Travellers and good linguists should chiefly be selected as members of the committee. The plan is practicable, be-cause among the members of the Council are those who are well qualified to perform the required duties, and the ex-penses will not be great at the outset. Who knows but what it might speedily result in the importation of a live fakir? It is the height of our ambition to see a grizzly fakir buried alive in the presence of witnesses, under the kitchen flags at 38, Great Russell-street, and the stone sealed with the great seals of the Corporation of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury, in addition of tholaton and the Inten-bishop of Canterbury, in addition to the brass door-plate of the National Association. Mrs. Parrott, the housekeeper, would have to be sworn to keep watch and ward over the stone, to prevent any tampering with the three seals, and at the end of six months the hybernating fakir might be dug up at one of the periodical soirces, in the presence of pressmen and doctors, a living witness to certain abnormal psychological powers of the human being.

The cstablishment of friendly relations with Spiritualists in forcign countries is a work with which it is compatible with the dignity of the National Association to deal, for of late a tendency has been shown to occupy the valuable time of persons who have not much leisure, over matters which are scarcely important enough to be worth the sacrifice. Dr. Watts says :—

> Satan finds some mischief still For idle hands to do

On which principle nothing is so good for an organisation as the providing for it of plenty of useful employment.

Strong foreign interest in the work of the National Association cannot spring up at once; it must be a matter of slow growth, and perhaps after all the work may be fully appreciated only by the thoughtful few rather than the less intelligent many. In such case the duty should be undertaken for its own sake alone, so that after ages many may have to record that had it not been for the foresight of the British National Association of Spiritualists in collecting the materials while they were obtainable, most of the periodical literature and vital statistics of the Spiritualism of the nineteenth century would have been lost to the world for ever. ~~~~

DEVIL AND GHOST WORSHIP IN WESTERN INDIA.* BY M. J. WALHOUSE, F.R.A.S. In Two Parts .--- Part II.

In face of the vast array of learning, and instances bearing on the subject, brought together with such marvellous labour and research in Mr. Tylor's chapters on "Animism," one cannot but feel that a paper like this is superfluous. But if the almost universal belief, amongst the lower races, in their continued existence after the death of the body, may have arisen from the conclusion that the figures of the dead, seen in dreams and visions, must be their surviving souls, it may be allowable to reflect how much that supposition would have been strengthened by believing their voices were heard after death speaking to their tribe and followers. It is amongst the most primitive and savage races that such beliefs are at this day current. Modern industry and investigation are piercing somewhat further into the dim and misty morning of the yesterday we have hitherto styled antiquity; but will papyrus roll or burnt-clay cylinder disclose what was the creed and what the gods of the flint-folk, or what the thoughts as to a hereafter of the man who traced the outline of the mammoth on the piece of tusk in the Christie collection? These are beyond surmise, except for as those races, being human, must have dreamed dreams, and seen in them the departed in their habit as they lived; and as there may have been some subject to those strange, delirious ecstacies, natural or produced, in which the very voices of the dead are imagined to be heard again, it may not be too bold to conjecture that the wild cultus and ceremonies described above may have originated in that "dim, back-ward, and abysm of time" and antiquity of man of which only late years have given us definite assurance. A short reference may here be made to the dancing mania, which, beginning in 1374, for two centuries plagued Germany and the adjacent countries. The amazing details respecting it may be read in Dr. Hecker's "Epidemics of the Middle Ages." Whole communities were seized with a disease of frantic dancing, continued for hours and days, during which they neither saw nor heard things external, but were haunted by visions and spirits whose names they shricked out. In-toxicating music increased and spread the delirium, and streets and cities were filled with hundreds of raving dancers of both sexes: the disease was universally ascribed to demoniacal origin. Sympathy and contagion may have been much concerned with this strange phenomenon, often called St. John's Dance, but its roots probably existed in primitive heathen observances connected with St. John's Day.⁺ Beside numberless local Bhutas, there are some thirty especially feared in Canara, possessing temples and shrines in various parts of the province : several are females. The most dreaded and malignant amongst them is Kalkatti, or the Stonecutter, reputed to be the spirit of Jackanachari, a famous stonemason and architect, who, between four and five centuries ago built most of the exquisitely beautiful Jaina temples

* A paper read before the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain. † The subjoined notice of a picture, now in the French Gallery, Pall Mall, entitled "La Saint-Jean," by M. Jules Breton, ropresenting, it is understood, an actual scene in Brittany, is not irrelevant to the general subject of this paper. "The subject is the immemorial custom of dancing round fires on St. John's Day, a custom by no means quite disused in England, and still frequent in France. A group of stalwart and rough country wenches are dancing furfously, and, with the utmost rapidity, circling about a huge bonfire which has been made on a village green. The red and orange flames rise and flash in the air between the figures; the women seem to be singing as if they were mad. In the distance are other figures, bearing and waving torches."

that exist in Canara. Much legend has gathered about him, but he undoubtedly lived, and must have been a craftsman of marvellous skill. The tradition runs that he and his wife, having quarrelled with their son respecting a temple then in process of building, they both committed suicide, and became Bhutas so malign and feared, that none dare attempt an exorcism when their presence is suspected. The next most dreaded Bhuta is *Panjurli*, *i. e.*, pig-rider, whose origin is forgotten, but is probably the perturbed spirit of some one once notorious. Guliga is regarded as an aboriginal or earth-born demon, and has power during certain minutes on certain days to pass through the air, and strike those he meets with a rod, thereby causing fits, paralysis, or even death. His glance also causes sickness, but the hours in which, in Shakspere's sense, he can take * or injure, are limited. *Chamundi*, signifying mistress of death, is a female earth-spirit, † and when the Kolla ceremony is offered to her, a large pile of wood is kindled, and after it has become a heap of glowing embers, the Dhér who represents and is possessed by her, dances and rolls upon them for some minutes without injury. Munditaya is the ghost of a Balala, or high casteman, who died by some accident, and is reputed very troublesome; sandal-wood powder and water, taken from the cot hung up to him, are however believed, when rubbed on, to cure snake-bites without further remedy. Most Bhutas haunt large trees, and it is of this last one, I think, that a story is told regarding a large solitary Banian tree near a village in the province. A demon was said to live in its branches, and none dare climb it. Some Mussulmans, however, laughed at the story, and one of them climbed up, but when he had got well up in the branches the goblin was suddenly revealed to him in a monstrous and frightful shape, on seeing which he screeched, let go his hold, fell to the ground, and remained raving with terror for three days; his back was injured by the fall, and he became humped-backed, but lived to be 90, and would often tell the story. The tree is now half dead, and limbs and branches often fall from it, but none will go near or pick them up. So in Den-mark and Norway the elf-people frequent large linden trees, and it is not held safe to break their branches or go near them after dusk. The Dharmastal Temple, ‡ situated in a wild forest track in Canara, is one of the most famous in all that part of the peninsula, and is the abode of seven or eight very powerful Bhutas, who are so dreaded that none will assume their names. In civil suits, when the evidence is balanced or hopelessly contradictory, it is very usual for one of the parties to offer to decide it by taking an oath as to the justice of his contention before one of the Dharmastal detting this when accounted and done with centrin for deities; this, when accepted and done with certain for-malities, is always held satisfactory and decisive; for the litigants know well that no one would dare to risk abiding the vengeance of those terrible Bhutas by a false adjuration. With respect to assuming their names, it may be explained that it is very common to name children after any Bhuta who may be very popular at the time, probably with the idea that the compliment might induce him to regard the child and family with favour. I remember that a good many years ago a notorious and greatly dreaded dacoit was hung in Trichinopoly, who after death became so fashionable a Bhut that for some time half the children born were named after him. I may perhaps mention two or three out of the instances of the belief in Bhutas that came before me officially as judge. In a trial for murder before the Sessions Court the prisoner was charged with having intentionally caused the death of his younger brother, whom he struck down as they were ploughing. In defence the prisoner stated, through his vakil, or pleader, that the deceased whilst at work in the field was struck by the eye of a Bhut, of which he died; and his witnesses deposed that they had known similar instances. In another murder case the evidence of a material witness was objected to because he was well known to be under the curse of a Bhut, and in con-

^{*} A paper read before the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain. † The subjoined notice of a nicture near in the T

⁺ Round stones are sold at this temple, which are believed to carry the power of the Bhutas with them; they receive offerings, and can be invoked against any enemy, who will forthwith be visited by all sorts of misfortunes.

sequence a desperate man, whose statements could not be believed. Again, a Potél, or village head-man, was charged with having entered the death of a boy in his register as natural when he had really committed suicide: in defence the Potél asserted that the boy had died from a blow by the village Bhuta, and named several instances. On being punished by the magistrate, he appealed to the Sessions Court, reasserting his plea, and desiring to call witnesses to prove it. These men were far from unintelligent, and the vakils, or native pleaders, acute and well able to conduct a legal argument. But we can hardly ridicule them much, legal argument. But we can hardly ridicule them much, when we reflect that within the last eighteen months a young when we reflect that within the last eighteen months a young farmer was sentenced to six months' imprisonment at Dor-chester for savagely beating an old woman because she "hag-rode" him; another man in Somersetshire was charged for twice stabbing a woman who had "over-looked" him, that he might break the spell with her blood; and there were four other convictions in Somersetshire and Devonshire alone, for assaults committed, or payment taken, on account of, or to cure, having been bewitched; and all the persons connected may presumably have been at school, and attended some church or chapel.*

Very often Bhutas become a sort of house-spirits, such as are heard of in many popular mythologies, more or less mischievous, and delighting in Robin Goodfellow's pranks. Howlings and unearthly shricks and noises that cannot be traced are attributed to them. Household utensils are thrown about, and stones flung by invisible hands,[†] and pots and cooking vessels found filled with dirt. Women put away their best clothes carefully, and in the morning find them unaccountably on fire and smouldering away. All these are ascribed to the Bhuta, as well as what would now be called a kind of levitation, which is declared to be very frequent. Infants are missed from their cradles, and presently heard crying in the loft of the house, or on stacks of straw outside. Once riding through a village I found the people in great excitement at a prank played by a Bhuta two days before. A woman lying apart in her room, expecting her confinement, was suddenly missed, and could nowhere be found, till some children heard her voice proceeding from a dry well in a field hard by. She was drawn up with con-siderable trouble, quite unhurt, and safely confined the same day. She said she found herself all at once at the bottom of the well, but could not in the least tell how she came The people insisted on showing me the well, which there. was about 100 yards from the house, large and square, one used for irrigation, but then dry, and from 20 to 25 feet deep. Roman Catholics are very numerous in Canara, but quite as subject to these demoniacal annoyances as the One clerk of the Civil Court, a grave, elderly man, Ĥindus. affirmed to me that, when passing at evening along a lane near a Bhutastan, he encountered a dark, monstrous, shadowy shape, which grew larger and larger, on which he uttered some religious verses, when it gradually diminished and disappeared. Another story was the talk of the town, and the parties concerned assured me of its truth. Two high native officials, both Roman Catholics, were sitting at noonday in the verandah of the house of one of them, when ashes and earth came pouring in quantities from the roof. The master of the house exclaimed the Bhuta was repeating his tricks, and, bringing a gun, fired it in the air to frighten the goblin away, when instantly, as if in answer, a quantity of powder was exploded in the midst of the open yard before them, and immediately stones and pebbles were flung by invisible agency towards the house from without. These fell on the verandah, and then, my informant asseverated, went "lcap-ing like frogs" into the house, to the great amusement of the children who had assembled, and who would cry out,

* Since writing this it has struck me that some apology is due, both to our English and Indian west country rustics. Within the last few menths a work (*Glimpses of the Supernatural*) has been published by a well-known elergyman, the vicar of an important London parish, in which stories of witcheraft and injuries done by witches, the calling up and dismissal of spirits by magic rites, appearances of demons, demoniacal possession, and the like, are recounted with apparently full belief. In a remarkable article on • Demonolatry and Dovil-dancing," in the *Contemporary Review* for February of the current year, Mr. R. Caldwell asks whether instances of demoniacal possession, such as are related in the New Testament, may not occur to-day in India and loss civilised countries. † One Bhuta is specially named Kaluruti, *i.e.* stone-thrower.

"One more !" when another stone would instantly fall and go hopping in! This sort of Bhuta annoyance was declared to be not at all unfrequent. It is curious, anthropologically speaking, to observe how general this strange belief in a grotesque sort of goblin, rejoicing in a particular kind of grotesque sort of goolin, rejoicing in a particular kind of odd, mischievous pranks, has been in widely separated countries and ages. In China such disturbances are common, and ascribed to "kitchen-gods;" in Arabia and Egypt to the jinnee or genii, who, Mr. Lane says, are believed to throw stones and furniture about in houses. He also relates that pious and learned Muslims, on locking the doors of their houses storegraph and ensut a character with the houses, storerooms, and apartments when going out, habi-tually ropeat, "In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful," to secure their property during their absence from the mischief and depredations of the Jinn. The Germans have a special name for such spirits, calling them Polter Geist, or racketing-ghost, and the stories about them and their impish persecutions, all much alike, current in Germany, France, and England, are endless. Amongst published accounts it is enough to mention the Stockwell Ghost, the Demon of Tedworth, and the extraordinary disturbances at Woodstock, commemorated in Scott's novel. Some years ago the London papers had accounts of similar mysterious occurrences in a house in Bayswater; and even as far back as A.D. 1188 the *Itinerary through Wales* of Giraldus Cambrensis, translated by Sir Richard Hoare, mentions like stories and manifestations.

Charms or amulets against the evil influence of Bhutas are-wearing the tooth or nail of a tiger on the neck or near the loins, or an iron ring set with pearls on the finger. In all ages and countries iron is sovereign against evil powers. A lime in the turban, or a figure of Hanuman, the monkey-god, engraved on any ornament, are also efficacious, especially on Sundays and Tuesdays. But the most powerful remedy must have been when, in the days of the Rajahs of Coorg, a principality bordering on Canara, it was customary for the Amildars, or native heads of divisions, to issue notices and orders to the Bhutas, in the name of the Rajab, not to molest any particular individual, to quit any tree they haunted which was required to be felled, and to desist from any particular act or annoyance. It is stated that these behests of the Government were never disobeyed, which, indeed, is not unlikely, as the last Coorg Rajah was not a man who understood being trifled with, either by man or demon. After his deposition, the native officials continued the same style of orders, in the name of the British Government, for some time before the authorities were aware of it !

To conclude this subject, the idea is quite familiar that Bhutas may be perturbed ghosts, "doomed for a certain term to walk the night," but longing to escape from their thraldom, and be laid to rest. For the repose of any such unhappy spirit the following ceremony is prescribed :- An image of Vishnu must be engraved on a gold plate, arrayed with a yellow cloth, and washed with water from a lioly stream. Around this, placed in the centre, similar images of the other principal gods must be arranged, arrayed, and washed in like manner. Then a sacrifice of all manner of perfumes, and quantities of ghee and milk, must be offered, and all the funeral ceremonies in honour of the deceased gone through, and the funeral cakes offered anew in presence of the golden images of the gods. Next a banquet must be given to thirteen pure Brahmans, presenting each with a mattress, a horse, and a gold pot full of milk. Their united mantrams (*i.e.*, incantations) will then release the soul from its unclean Bhuta state and remit it to salvation. But all this seems a device of later times, invented by the Brahmans to increase their influence and the authority of their gods over the low-caste deities. It would also be a costly ceremony, and I never heard of its having been actually performed.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE EDITOR OF "THE REVUE SPIRITE."-Miss Anna Blackwell, in the course of a private letter to Mr. Harrison, says:-"In a few lines received last week from M. Leymaric he says: 'I have this day completed a month of my imprisonment-one-twelfth of my term. My health has not yet suffered, and my courage is steady. To feel that one suffers in a noble cause is in itself a great consolation, and, besides, the making of twelve dozen match-boxes per day (my appointed task) leaves me but little time for lamentation.'"

DALSTÓN ASSOCIATION OF INQUIRERS INTO

SPIRITUALISM.

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ON Thursday evening last week Mr. J. J. Morse, trance medium, gave an iuspirational address to the members and friends of the Dalston

gave an inspirational address to the members and friends of the Dalston Association of Inquirers into Spiritualism, 74, Navarino-road, Dalston, London, under the presidency of Mr. John Rouse. Mr. Morse's controlling spirit selected the subject of "The Expe-riences of Spirits in the Spirit World." He recognised the fact that the revelations on this subject given through various mediums were con-flicting, and stated that the contradictions were partly due to the imperfect means of communication, and partly to the lack of competency to teach on the part of the majority of communicating spirits. He claimed that the spirit world was a natural world, wherein living beings were surrounded by natural conditions, that is to say, conditions governed by law; it was not a supernatural world, neither were the conditions supernatural. Those who passed the boundary line between the world of time and the land of immortality did not enter an insipid heaven of irrational enjoyments, neither did they become salamanders in a region of fire. Men of purely animal instincts, with no affection for anything but the things of the earth, remained earth-bound spirits after death. Others—good average people—entered into a state of for anything but the things of the earth, remained earth-bound spirits after death. Others—good average people—entered into a state of existence of a semi-spiritual type, partly tied down to the spiritual con-ditions of the earth, and partly related to a higher state. Above these were spirits of a philosophical order of mind, from whom commu-nications of greater value could be obtained whenever they were able to communicate

When the first address was concluded Mr. Morse came under the control of a jocular spirit, who said:—I am the Strolling Player, or at least—after all I have gone through lately—what is left of me, whitled down to a fine point. A point has no extension, so I may call myself a mathematical ghost. "One good turn deserves another," as the cat said when she was under the rollers of the mangle, and as our philo-sopher has worked one half of the medium's brain in giving you one address, now I come in to work the other, and to say a little about scandal-mongers. I know people who are very cat-like. Stroke them down, they purr and mee-ow, and look like a number one angel; but show them a mouse, their eyes flash, their tails cock up, their claws come out, and they look as if they mean business. The mouse soon finds itself in the mouse's heaven, if there is one. The cat subsides, and looks like a number one angel again. As the shades of evening begin to close over the scene, that same cat hears a voice in the distance disturbing the quietness of the stilly air; with tail erect it rushes along When the first address was concluded Mr. Morse came under the begin to close over the scene, that same cat hears a voice in the distance disturbing the quietness of the stilly air; with tail erect it rushes along the gloomy corridors to the street door, to greet the owner of the voice, and to swallow the delicate morsel of deceased horse. Many people are like that cat; they look like a number one angel till they have some-body's reputation to pull to pieces—then their eyes flash, and in ten minutes there is not an atom of the reputation left. It's a "feelin" subject, isn't it? After all, it's a good thing that they sometimes seize a rat in mistake for a mouse; then, may be, sundry damages are done to the cat, and the intended victim gets off. Still, it is rather hard upon the victims of scandal-mongers that the attempt should be made to eat them before the impracticability of the project is proved. It is almost as bad a position as mine—as the taking charge of a medium. I am a ghost, and find that attending to my medium is like attending to a white elephant. Apart from the trouble of looking after him and trying to protect him, I have to receive my share of the compliments—and otherwise—of a great many friends down here. Shortly afterwards the proceedings closed.

Shortly afterwards the proceedings closed.

MR. EGLINTON, the medium, has recovered from his attack of illness, but is not strong.

DR. SEXTON lectured on Sunday last at Keighley, under the auspices of the British National Association of Spiritualists.

MR. J. J. MORSE has delivered three trance lectures during the present week in the Island of Jersey.

MR. CÖLMAN is giving *séances* in the light, on Tuesday afternoons, at Mrs. Woodforde's, 90, Great Russell-street, London.

MR. MARTHEZE, of Brighton, asks us to caution Spiritualists against a young man named James Curtis, who is using Mr. Martheze's name without his sanction for the purpose of obtaining loans of money.

THE names of Mrs. C. Fitz-Gerald, Mr. E. Dawson Rogers, and Mr. H. Withall, were last week accidentally omitted from the list of mem-bers present at the annual meeting of the British National Association of Spiritualistic of Spiritualists.

of Spiritualists. THE SPIRITUALISTIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE.—Last Monday evening the first meeting of the Scientific Research Committee of the British National Association of Spiritualists was held at 38, Grcat Russell-street, London, under the presidency of Mr. Desmond Fitz-Gerald, M.S. Tel. E. Mr. D. H. Wilson, M.A., and Mr. Gray were elected members of the committee. Mr. Fitz-Gerald suggested that the committee should first give attention to the ventilation of the séance room and cabinet. He remarked that every man consumed more than 1,900 cubic inches of oxygen per hour, and that when many people were shut up together in a small room at a dark séance, the conditions were most unhealthy. He suggested that the séance room should be ventimost up together in a small room at a tark searce, the conditions were nost unhealthy. He suggested that the séance room should be venti-lated by means of two or three large pipes, so bent that they would let air out without letting light in. He further suggested that the cabinet should be ventilated by the slow discharge into it of pure oxygen gas throughout the séance. It was then resolved that the committee should first give attention to the ventilation of the séance room and cabinet. It was place resolved that the committee the place into the place into the seance. It was also resolved that observations be commenced upon the physiolo-gical conditions influencing manifestations. It was further resolved to ask the Council to sanction the formation of a special fund for scientific purposes.

INCIDENTS IN THE EXPERIENCE OF A NORTHUMBER-LAND SEER.

REMARKABLE AND WELL-ATTESTED EXAMPLES OF NORMAL CLAIRVOYANCE.

WE have received the following communication :

To the Editor of "The Spiritualist."

SIR,—As the subject of seership is of profound interest to the student of the spiritual philosophy, and the hitherto collected evidences of this gift are but meagre, I venture to introduce to the intelligent readers of *The Spiritualist* an extraordinary exponent of this wonderful power—Mr. Joseph Skipsey, of Ashington Colliery, Northumberland. He is a modest, unassuming individual, and follows daily the occupation of a miner. Although living in comparative obscurity it is but just to state miner. Although living in comparative obscurity, it is but just to state that Mr. Skipsey is one of those rare specimens of working men who have utilised their opportunities, for one cannot be five minutes in his have utilised their opportunities, for one cannot be five minutes in his society without feeling that we are in the presence of a cultured mind. To a sympathetic spirit our friend unites a practical conception of human nature, and, moreover, to a dignified demeanour characteristic of the man, a knowledge of the classics; and this is not the least con-spicuous of his acquirements. Mr. Skipsey is also the author of two volumes of poems, which have been largely circulated in the north of England, and some of which have been styled by the press "the most impassioned lyrics of the 19th century"

century."

century." Supplementary to this gift of inspiration which he enjoys so largely, it is my province to write of the higher endowment of seership, which he carefully developes for beneficent uses. Mr. Skipsey cannot remember the time when he did not see these "impalpable impressions on the air;" did not feel a "sense of some-thing moving to and fro;" did not observe crowds of strange visitors thronging constantly around him, eager to assure friends through him of their objective identity. His attention was drawn to the more practical phases of Spiritualism by reading a work on apparitions, which Mr. Newton Crosland, of Blackheath, sent to him. Upon reading this and other important contributions to the literature of Spiritualism, he began to bestow upon his dramatic visions the closest scrutiny, and the result to bestow upon his dramatic visions the closest scrutiny, and the result has been that in many instances the life history of those "who have lived and died" has been detailed circumstantially. Mr. Skipsey holds in his possession a number of affidavits from respectable individuals who have attested the truthfulness of the details given to them, he having had no knowledge of the friends of these persons in the physical

form. I will refrain from detailing any private proofs which I have enjoyed myself, and append three particular cases which have been obtained by to in reference to the matter.

I may add that Mr. Skipsey keeps a journal, and at a great sacrifice of time faithfully records the phenomena which he interprets; therefore it may be better to allow him to relate these matters in his own words. It will be seen that two of the narratives relate to individuals who have passed away. The third case is an analysis of the spiritual surroundings of an individual who is still living, and may be communicated with. The narratives are sent in reply to a letter from myself to Mr. Skipsey, asking him for information. WILLIAM H. ROBINSON. Chester-le-Street

THE APPARITION OF AN HEROIC MINER.

The following is the first of the narratives from Mr. Skipsey's diary, enclosed to us by Mr. Robinson :-

On the 27th of last month (November), while on a visit to Mr. G. Smith, of Delaval, there came before me the apparition of a young man, between twenty and thirty years of age, with light hair, dark eyes, a nose somewhat straight and well up from the cheeks, a finely-curved mouth, with a beard, but no whiskers, a thinnish, not sharply-cut, face, an open countenance, and characterised (especially in his eyes) by an expression of a high order of intelligence. The dress he had on consisted of a large checked grey cloth coat and light trousers and vest, and in his hand there was what I at first thought was a small tin can, but which a second glance showed was a safety lamp, but a safety lamp unlike those in use in our northern coal-fields, at least in those of Northumberland Iu use in our northern coal-fields, at least in those of Northumberland and Durham. It had a glass tube up the inside of the gazze, and was larger and more unwieldy than the lamp in use in these districts. There was sufficient to attract my attention to this apparition, even if I had not observed what—ere I had well taken cognisance of the par-ticulars just given—I did, that the archetype had had the misfortune to have his forehead driven in, and that an ugly gash extended across one side, from which the blood oozed and streamed down his face, giving the appearance of another gash at one side of the month. I will not the appearance of another gash at one side of the mouth. I will not say that there was not a cut at one corner of the mouth, but the blood say that there was not a cut at one corner of the mouth, but the blood oozing from the other wounds and settling there was in itself sufficient to give that appearance, without the existence of any actual wound. I described what I saw to the company present, and the apparition was identified by John (brother to George) Smith as that of a comrade, whose name, though no kinsman, was also John Smith. He was a young man who had been an official in Oaks Colliery, and who had lost his life while in search of the bodies of the men who had perished by the awful explosion which, a few years ago, as is well known, took place there. The two John Smiths had borne a striking resemblance to each other, and the John who is yet in the flesh spoke in high terms of the intelligence and humanity of his sometime departed comrade.

THE SPIRIT OF A WESLEYAN MINISTER IDENTIFIED.

Another extract from the diary is appended :-

I will here transcribe from my note-book a paragraph which will possess a special interest for our Parkinsville friends :--- "After a con-

troversy upon the truthfulness of clairvoyance, which had been elicited by the reading of a paper of my own at the late conference of Spirit-ualists at Choppington (Nov. 27, 1875), a person named Richard Ram-say, a back or sub-overman at Parkinsville Colliery in the county of say, a back or sub-overman at Parkinsville Colliery in the county of Durham, arose under the influence of a control who calls himself Chris-topher Ritson, and stated that he (Mr. Ramsay) had been forced thither that day, in order that he might, through Mr. Skipsey, have the per-sonal appearance of his controlling spirit while on earth, described. Three gentlemen had accompanied him, viz., Mr. Laidlaw (a brother sub-overman from the same place as himself), and Messrs. J. Batey and J. Wilson, from Austen and Fatfield respectively; these had known C. Ritson when he was yet in the flesh, and were able to say whether the clairvoyant's description was correct or not. The entranced medium directed my attention to an apparition before me, and requested me directed my attention to an apparition before me, and requested me to say what I saw. I then, in the presence of the assembly proceeded to describe the complexion, the manner of wearing the hair, the beard, the form of the features and the dress of a person I had never known or heard of, except that while on earth he had been a Wesleyan minister. I, however, did not see him in his conventional costume, but as he usually appeared in the domestic circle; instead of a white cravat, he had a common tie on his neck, and instead of a Bible he had a bass wielin in his hand, and he stood in the act of playing this violin, after my description was given. Another peculiarity which I noted, and of which of course I had not previously known anything, was that during life he had had the misfortune to have an injury done to one of his eyes. Every particular thus noticed was identified, and the parties went away delighted with the conviction that Mr. Ramsay's control was none other than the person he pretended to be, viz., their old Christopher Ritson.

THE LIFE OF OLD RALPH, THE FURNACE MAN, REVEALED BY CLAIRVOYANCE. Mr. Robinson has also forwarded us for publication the following interesting letter from Mr. Skipsey:

Ashington Colliery, near Morpeth, May 11, 1876.

Ashington Colliery, near Morpeth, May 11, 1876. MR. ROBINSON-MY DEAR FRIEND, To tell you more than you already know in regard to my seership would require an elaborate treatise. You know that I get my visions in the normal state, chiefly in the light, at all hours of the day or night, and with my eyes open. Nearly all external objects, whether crystalline, opaque, smooth, or coarse, polished or otherwise, serve as mirrors or media in which, or through which, I may see. One thing I have not explained to you, and that is, that when I am in my best moods for seeing, I very often feel as if my face, beard, and other parts of my body, and more especially the eyes, were anointed or steeped in oil. This I experience let my visions be what they may, whether of a celestial, a human, or a demo-niacal character. The great majority of my visions are human, more especially since I began to make Spiritualism my study. Visions of a symbolical character and of spirit-life I believe I have had, but I have been always very careful what conclusions I drew from the study of been always very careful what conclusions I drew from the study of such phenomena. Some seers are very fond of such visions; but, before they ask me to listen to their descriptions, I should feel obliged to them if they would relate something they have seen which can be proved to have had an objective existence. The description of the past life of the Samaritan woman by the Nazarene at the well, is to me of a thousand times more value than the unnatural visions of the St. John of Revelations, which, by-the-by, are no revelations, but riddles, in the unriddling of which the reader is guided by no principle drawn from

the philosophy of life. I should tell you, as you are so much interested in the welfare of Spiritualism and the development of mediumship, that I believe the seer-gift to be special, and that a person must be born with it to become a good seer. I may also tell you that, rare as this gift appears to be, its inheritor must also be well-endowed in other respects, and possess a cultivated mind, before he or she can make a proper use of it; and that it is folly, because a person has displayed some symptoms of seeing, to encourage lim to cultivate it before he has become possessed of good mental training. Very many a seer has incurred the imputation of imposture, endured the doou of the lunatic, or has died the death of the suicide, almost entirely from lack of culture and of the philosophic acumen requisite to enable him uot only to give to others but to himself an accurate exposition of the phenomena he has witnessed. Let the an accurate exposition of the phenomena he has witnessed. Let the first object of the Spiritualistic philauthropist, then, be to educate the person whose mediumship he would develope, otherwise he may, with the best of intentions, place himself in the position of the good-natured, but none the less foolish nurse, who gives the object of her care a box of lucifers to play with. This remark may be applied to the cultivation of all kinds of mediumship, but emphatically so to that of the seer. On this last word, "seer," I would here remark that I lay particular stress, as being the word for the representation of that faculty by which some people are applied to see spiritual things. It is a true English word. people are enabled to see spiritual things. It is a true English word, as well understood by the masses as by the learned, and covers the whole of the ground occupied by such terms as clairvoyance, mind-

whole of the ground occupied by such terms as clairvoyance, mind-reading, and crystal-seeing. I have nothing particular in the vision way just now, so shall content myself by transcribing for your perusal a dialogue which I held some time ago with Ralph Johnson, our old furnace man. Having while a short time in his company, during two or three successive nights, observed what I soon found to be a spiritual panorama of his life—a life to which I had hitherto been a stranger—I ventured to broach the matter to him, and began by saying, "Ralph, your mother was an old woman before she died." "She was," he said. "Did she not keep a school some time before that eccnt?" I added. "No," he replied, "she never kept a school." "Then a near relation did." "An uncle of mine did," he said. "And this uncle of yours lived in close connection with your mother?" "He lived with my mother." "Very ucll," I said, " and while he lived with your mother, did she not help him to teach in the school ?" "That is very likely." "There was a stout, well-built, dark

woman in your family?" "Dark-haired and dark-eyed?" "Jet black?" "She was a sister." "There was also a man rather taller and fairer than yourself, and one who used to shave thus?" (here I de-scribed how this man used to shave himself.) "My brother Tom," he replied, "was just such a man, and that is the way he used to shave." "Beside these, there was a big boned man. A bony faced man used to visit your house. I see him in connection with the dark woman." "You mean Bob Main; you know Bob Main, he is married to my sister." "Then I see this man and you—now mark what I say—I see this man and you. some thirty years and, with snales on your shoulders, oning arcan visit your house. I see him in connection with the dark woman." "You mean Bob Main; you know Bob Main, he is married to my sister." "Then I see this man and you—now mark what I say—I see this man and you, some thirty years ago, with spades on your shoulders, going away to dig worms to fish with." "About that period, many a time, as you say, that very man and I took spades upon our shoulders, and went away together to dig worms to fish with." "I will change the subject. Can you tell me who that borny blue-eyed lassie was who used to veen her fuxen hued locks hanging loosely over her shoulders, and whom you used to caress on the sly now and then?" At this question poor Ralph drew a heavy sigh, seeing which I said, "Well, we will not go into that sad matter now, but come at once to the widon." Here I described a person whom he identified; he laughed, and said, "Well, she was a queer one !" I replied, "She was; but she was a woman who had some good qualities, and if she had been properly treated, she would have made a good wife." "Do you think so?" "I am certain of it. She had good pluck in her, and was not at all afraid of work." "Well, that's true." "Then, as to certain matters between you and her—" "I was never married to her mind." "I know that, and I will describe to you the man who succeeded you in her affections. He was a this, bury, massive-fratured man, black-a-wised, with the sides of his face shawed, but with a bushy beard on the chin." "You have hit Blair off to a T." "Was his name Blair ?" I inquired. "It was; but he was not married to her meither." "I know that, too." "But how do you know, Skipsey ? You have told me things that nobody knew but myself, and I am sure that I have not told you; how do you know these things?" "As I have intimated, I see them." "You see them?" "I see them." "Dear, dear, I thought you were a queer man." "I am no wizard, Ralph; there is no witcheraft in it; I am no wizard." I think the old man re-joined, "You are a very good one, and if I could do half what you do, I would mother was a Forster, and she came from Tweed-side." "It is through your mother that you are descended from those big folks, but they came down in the world, every succeeding generation becoming poorer and poorer, and yet you have had some token that your mother's friends were once well to do !" "I spent," he replied, "the last £200—no, not £200, but the last £160—I got from them, upon a drunken spree!" Such, with the exception of a little alteration in the phraseology, is all but a replacing this strange dialogue

As I have said, the decipherment of the phenomena upon which my observations were founded required two or three short sittings, and at each sitting I imparted to the old man the conclusions I had drawn, and the responses they drew forth encouraged me to proceed in the behaviour rate focusion of the upward power of the phenomena.

and the responses they drew forth encouraged me to proceed in the laborious yet fascinating task of the unravelment. About three weeks after the conversatious took place, Ralph said to me one night, "I cannot help thinking about what you told me. I have told several people about it, and they cannot believe but that you must by inquiries have gotten to know the circumstances related beforehand. And man, it is no wonder that they should be so hard of belief; for, although it would have been impossible for you to have so come at the facts you told me, and though I know that they are facts, yet, man, it seems to me so wonderful that I can hardly believe that you told me what you did." Such is the response that is too often awakened, and such too often is the only companyation metad out to the you did." Such is the response that is too often awakened, and such too often is the only compensation meted out to the seer for the exercise of one of the most divine faculties with which the human mind is gifted. The fact is, that the mass of mankind are too much sunk in gross ignor-ance, or are too worldly-minded to be able to appreciate spiritual things ignorwhilst men and women of intellect are too much the victims of mental habits to conceive it possible that the hidden and unknown may be dis-covered by other than the ordinary methods. Singular as it may appear, men of science in general have little knowledge of human nature, and having discovered they can go through mental processes to which the mass of their follows are attended to the conclusion that they and discovered they can go through mental processes to which the mass of their fellows are strangers, they jump to the conclusion that they and they alone should hold the sceptre in the domain of thought, even though that domain be the very reverse of the one over which they have been accustomed to reign. To a superficial observer it will appear quite natural that the man who possesses most knowledge of the external is the person who ought to know most in regard to the spiritual or internal universe, and that he who knows most about the human body should therefore know most about the human soul. As there are few who are inclined or are in a position to dispute the truth of such an assumption, the know-alls, the scientific Docherrys and Bottoms, the weavers of the the know-alls, the scientific Dogberrys and Bottoms, the weavers of the age, lord it over their fellows with a high hand. We are all the victims of hallucination who cannot submit to their *dictum* without a murmur. For our present civilisation the world is undoubtedly immensely indebted to science; but for the crowning glory of that civilisation, for our highest forms of thought, and for those achievements which more thau all else

beside go to prove man's kinship with that Being in whose image he was made, science has little to do. Science will enable us to work out such problems as are solved in the creation of our stcam-engines, our canals, our docks, our railways, but the infinitely highest part of all these—true conception—science cannot give, and if so, how much more helpless is it in itself to give us a Parthenon, a Phidian Jupiter, a St. Peter's Cathedral, a Madonna and Child, a King Lear, a Faust, and all those sublime moral truths which from time to time have been imparted by inspired lips to mankind, and have been forwarding the great work of mental development from generation to generation, for hundreds and thousands of years before the results of the so-called scientific age were imagined. The world is apt to forget these things. But I must dismount my Pegasus, or change him for a less wayward nag.

those sublime moral truths which from time to time have been imparted by inspired lips to mankind, and have been forwarding the great work of mental development from generation to generation, for hundreds and thousands of years before the results of the so-called scientific age were imagined. The world is apt to forget these things. But I must dismount my Pegasus, or change him for a less wayward nag. I have spoken of the terms clairvoyance, crystal-seeing, and mindreading, and I may here add that Mr. Harrison and other members of the British Association of Spiritualists, as well as Serjeant Cox and other members of the Psychological Society would ascribe the revelations made in the foregoing dialogne to some faculty signified by the lastnamed term ; but if they mean by the term "mind-reading" aught else than is signified by the secr-gift, the power to see spiritual phenomena, they would be at fault in such a conclusion. It would be well if those learned men would try to give us a definition of what they mean by "mind-reading" apart from "clairvoyance." The vulgar notion of the term is, that it is the reading what is in the mind—the telling a person what he is thinking about, by a close inspection of the tarious kinds of expression that for the time being are observed to fit over the face. To such a gift I must own that I have very little pretension, and the data from which the foregoing deductions were drawn, consisted of a series of pictures illustrative of old Ralph's life. Joseph Skipser. At spirit circles mesmeric and spiritual phenomena are

At spirit circles mesmeric and spiritual phenomena are more or less blended, and the difficulty is to separate the two. If a seer reveals incidents in the present or *past* and forgotten thoughts of some person present, and tells *nothing* outside such rigid boundary, it is a fair inference that by some kind of mesmeric brain-sympathy, the memory of one individual takes objective form to the consciousness of another. When true revelations are made which never have been known until that moment by anybody present, then the presumption is stronger of the intervention of spirits.

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NEWSPAPER EDITORS HOAXED BY MESSRS. MASKELYNE AND COOKE.

BY THE EDITOR.

In The Spiritualist of April 30th, 1875, I published an article pointing out how Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke's automaton figure, Psycho, is worked by compression and exhaustion of the air inside the glass cylinder on which the figure stands. This cylinder—which has its top and bottom edges accurately ground—is passed round among the observers for examination, after which it is placed upon a piece of green baize. Under the green baize, and under the central axis of the cylinder, is a plate pierced with one large or several small holes, communicating with a pipe, which in its turn is attached to pneumatic apparatus behind the scenes. The bottom of the box of Psycho rests evenly upon the top of the cylinder, and has holes in it opening inside the cylinder. Thus, air blown from the pneumatic apparatus passes through the green baize, exerts compression inside the cylinder, and inside Psycho's box, where it is made either to start or to stop clockwork apparatus at the will of the operator, the compression of the air effecting the starting of the machinery, and the exhaustion of the air its stoppage, or vice verså.

Mr. W. H. Coffin afterwards informed me that he had come to much the same conclusion about the method by which Psycho was worked, and had published them in an American scientific periodical. The chief difference between our two independently-written explanations was that he thought that the whole figure was worked pneumatically, whereas I conceived that it was moved by clockwork, which was merely started or stopped by pneumatic action.

Soon after the publication of my illustrated article, Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke altered their advertisements in the daily papers to the following :---

The most flattering testimonial to Mr. Maskelyne, the sole constructor of Psycho, is undoubtedly the manifestation of public interest as shown in the many communications received enclosing drawings illustrating theories as to how the effects might be produced. Mr. Maskelyne, having no leisure to reply to correspondents *seriatine*, he hereby acknowledges the compliments, and announces that the only guarantee of the practicability of the several theories is to put them into operation, when each theories will discover how widely different are drawings and a working model.

Directly after the publication in England and America of the secret of Psycho, Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke set to

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work to make new apparatus for the modification of the conditions under which Psycho was presented to the public, so as to throw the latter off the sceut, and make them believe that the automaton was not worked by variations in the pressure of the air inside the cylinder. They did not dare to assert in their advertisements that the figure was not pneumatically worked, because the untruth of any such statements would have been detected; they, however, succeeded in hoaxing two newspaper editors into making statements calculated to mystify the public, and then Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke quoted in their advertisements the newspaper assertions which had been made with so much innocence and simplicity, and which the conjurors would not have dared to have written for themselves.

The *Times* newspaper of June 19th, 1875, fell into the trap. An article in the *Times* of that date contains the following paragraph, which Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke afterwards quoted in their advertisements, about the pneumatic theory of the working of Psycho:—

This theory appears to be completely exploded by the new mode in which Messrs. Maskelyne and Cook now exhibit their automaton. A small wooden pedestal under the glass is mounted upon three solid wood feet; it is submitted to the examination of the audience before being placed on the stage, and while Psycho is at work there is a clear view underneath it.

Another newspaper which fell into the trap was the *Field* of June 12th, which made the following statements about the secret of Psycho :—

The secret, according to our cousin Jonathan, is pneumatic pressure. Unluckily for this theory, Mr. Maskelyne has so modified his performance that pneumatic pressure is an impossibility, and, as the song says, "What's impossible cannot be done." It is true that originally the glass cylinder on which the figure rests was fixed to the stage, and it might have been that communication took place between the stage and some person with an air pump concealed below; but, as now shown, the floor has been overlaid with oilcloth in one piece, which can be examined by the audience, and the wooden stand placed upon the oilcloth has legs which enable one to see under it, and also render air pressure from beneath impossible. It seems to us, then, that our transatlantic friends, in trying to expose Psycho, have only succeeded in exposing themselves. Psycho remains as much a mystery as ever. What the controlling force is has not yet been discovered.

In this paragraph, so serviceable to Messrs. Maskelync and Cooke, the editor of the Field exposed his own simplicity more than that of anybody clse. Popular journals make such errors about scientific subjects, and are so liable to be lcd astray thereupon, because they have no representatives competent to deal with them, that these newspaper assertions did not carry conviction to my mind at the time ; but I had not leisure to attend at the Egyptian Hall again for the purpose of witnessing the improved performance until long after the above advertisements were published. On hearing that they placed Psycho upon a moveable platform, I came to the conclusion that however much they might run that platform about the stage before the performance began, they would afterwards be sure to place it where they could insert the nozzle of a pipe into some hollow chamber concealed in the woodwork, and thereby establish communication with their pneumatic apparatus. Or they might have compressed air in the chamber, and use it at will by means of an electrical valve, metallic communication with the battery being made down the legs of the platform. I afterwards saw that they never worked Psycho except when the cdge of the platform was touching the scenic background. One of the apparent under planks of the platform is not a plank at all, but an air chamber. All the performers have to do is to slip the nozzle of a pipe, say through some small and apparently accidental crack in the background, and Psycho is connected with the working apparatus. Or there may be compressed air in the plank-chamber, governed by the action of an electrical valve as already stated. The committee on the stage should insist upon wheeling Psycho about the stage all the time that he is playing cards, to show that the figure is not connected with wires or pipes. Mr Maskelyne would then have to raise his eyes and hands to heaven, and, like the black man in the play, to exclaim—

Psycho's occupation's gone !

In order to show how Psycho is really worked, and how thoroughly the editor of the *Times*, and the editor of the *Field* have been hoaxed, I append extracts from patent specification No. 1804, dated the 14th May, 1875, and entitled, Actuating Automaton Mechanism :

يستريبهم بسريت بسريت المرجع يتحريهم

"We, John Nevil Maskelyne, of the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, in the county of Middlesex, illusionist, and John Algernon Clarke, of Sutton St. Mary, in the county of Lincoln, farmer, do hereby declare the nature of the said invention for 'Improved means for actuating automaton mechanism,' to be as follows :

"The chief object of this invention is to set in action by an invisible agency clockwork mechanism, or trains of wheelwork actuated by weights or springs, and to increase at pleasure the speed of such mechanism beyond what is due to the impelling force of the springs or weights or to retard the action at will, the design being to imitate more closely than heretofore the natural movements of human and other figures. "As the controlling power we employ compressed air or gas, and

we may also use an exhaust in combination with compressed air. Sup-posing that it is desired to control two arrangements of clockwork me-chanism, we fit each apparatus with a locking lever for engaging with a ratchet wheel on the motive-power axle, and between these levers and ratchet wheel on the motive-power axis, and between these levers and near the free ends thereof we set up a vertical sliding rod which is carried by a piston. This piston works in a fixed cylinder which is open at bottom to a trunk or chamber in connection with a compressed air or gas receiver, or with an air pump or bellows. The piston rod carries a tappet for working one of the locking levers in its descent, while the other is worked by the head of the rod striking it while as-

"When air is admitted to the under side of the piston from the when air is admitted to the under side of the piston from the trunk or chamber, the piston will be forced upwards, and to effect the return motion a coiled spring, or it may be a weight, is employed which forces down the piston and its rod when released from the upward pressure of the air. The ascent of the rod to its full height will lift one of the locking levers and allow the mechanism with which it is con-nected to start into action.

"This invention admits of the use of a small pedestal highly charged with compressed air or gas, and capable of a small pedestal ngmy enalged venient position for controlling by the emission of jets of the com-pressed air or gas, the action of separate pieces of mechanism, a valve or stopcock in the pedestal being opened by means of an electrical or other connection worked by the foot of the performer or an assistant."

Our last notice contained Mr. Maskelyne's account of the sleepless nights he had passed in perfecting Psycho. Could "Mr. John Algernon Clarke, of Sutton St. Mary, farmer," throw any light on this point? *Did* Mr. Clarke do all the sleeping, and Mr. Maskelyne all the inventing? The The patent was never completed, for my previous publication (April 30th, 1875) of the secret would have rendered the patent invalid.

Correspondence.

[Great freedom is given to correspondents, who sometimes express opinions diametrically opposed to those of this journal and its readers.]

STRONG PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SPIRIT POWER IN THE LIGHT.

 S_{1R} ,—Mr. Cölman having kindly consented to afford me an oppor-tunity of witnessing the movement of solid objects in the light, through his mediumship, paid me a visit for that purpose on Friday evening, the 12th inst. I invited Mr. Potts and a lady friend to join me in the in.

vestigation. The medium's hands being tightly secured behind his back, by strongly sewing his coat sleeves together at the wrists, he took his seat in a chair placed partly inside the cabinet, the curtains hiding the back of the chair, and falling across his shoulders, but leaving his face and body full in view.

I then placed a volume of Hafed, Prince of Persia, on Mr. Cölman's knees, and we took our seats immediately in front of him. After waiting a few minutes a scarcely perceptible movement was noticed of the book; the movement increased until the book lifted itself up, opened, the book; the movement increased until the book lifted itself up, opened, and the leaves turned over. This having been repeated several times, we each placed our hands, in succession, on the cover of the book, and distinctly felt a strong pressure from within, pushing the cover up. The book also answered "Yes" and "No" to questions, by flapping the cover or jumping up—three times for "Yes" and once for "No." It apparently manifested pleasure at the success of the experiment, by dancing about on the medium's knees in a lively manner. Next a hand appeared over Mr. Cölman's head, affectionately stroking his hair. We were allowed to take hold of it, and in no respect did it differ from a living human hand. Yet I doubt that, even if the medium's hands had been free, he could have placed his hand upon his head in the position in which this hand appeared, and strongly secured as he was, it was simply impossible for him to raise a hand even to a level with his shoulder-blades. We nevertheless carefully examined his wrists after each manifestation.

each manifestation.

each manifestation. A pencil and paper were next placed on Mr. Cölman's knees, resting on a volume of newspapers to form a flat surface, and we drew our chairs close to him, our knees nearly touching his, the lamp meanwhile giving a good light. Scarcely had we taken our seats before the pencil was raised by invisible agency, and commenced writing by itself, before our very eyes. The writing fuished, the pencil was shot out vigorously, and fell on to the floor. On examination the writing on the paper was found to be a private communication for Mr. Potts. A similar experi-

ment with another piece of paper resulted in a communication being written for me.

Each writing was signed with the Christian name of a deceased relative.

relative. We then placed a small folding slate (having a piece of pencil about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long attached to it by a string) on a chair, the slate was shut up with the pencil inside. The chair was put at the entrance end of the cabinet, the two front legs only being inside the cabinet; in fact, as far as possible from the medium, so as to admit of the curtains being pulled over it to keep it in darkness. It was absolutely impossible for Mr. Cölman's hands to reach the chair, or, in fact, for him to touch it with any part of his person, secured as he was, even with the utmost stretching of his body. This fact we proved. Taking our seats, and listening attentively, we heard the sound of the pencil writing on the slate, Mr. Potts all the time keeping his hands on Mr. Cölman's knees, so as to detect the slightest movement on his part.

On examination, the following words were found to be written on

the slate:---"My dear friends, persevere in your good work.--John Scott." I then stood behind the medium's chair, and placed my hands on his hands secured behind his back. Mr. Potts sat directly in front of him, and held the book, *Hafed*, flat on the palms of his hands, quite removed from all context with the medium's loady.

and held the book, *Hafed*, flat on the palms of his hands, quite removed from all contact with the medium's body. The book then, while held in Mr. Potts' hands, repeatedly opened itself, and the leaves turned over, my hands being, as already stated, on those of Mr. Cölman. This in full light. A bundle of newspapers was then placed on Mr. Cölman's knees, and at Mr. Potts' request one of the papers was handed to him. He then held it towards, but not touching, the medium, and requested that it might be pulled out of his hand, when a violent tug pulled it from his grasp. grasp.

grasp. Mr. Cölman then seated himself quite clear of the cabinet. We three sat close to him, almost knee to knee, the lamp was placed on a table beside us, and the book put on his knees. It was then, under our very noses, opened and shut by invisible means, and the leaves turned over in every imaginable way. With a view to test the intelligence of the power producing the manifestations, Mr. Potts requested that the book should be opened and the leaves turned over three times in a particular manner. This was done, although with evident difficulty, the power being well-nigh exhausted, but nevertheless it was done entirely to our satisfaction. entirely to our satisfaction.

I forgot to mention that, in addition to the hand that was placed on the medium's head, as described above, a hand and arm was pushed out from the bottom of the curtains, level with the medium's feet, and the hand shook ours with unmistakable cordiality, and felt exactly like a living human hand, and at times the curtains were agitated and banged about in a violent manner, as if half a dozen people were inside knocking them about.

knocking them about. In closing this account, I beg to draw your attention specially to the fact that the manifestations all occurred in a good light. The medium was secured in such a manner as to render deception on his part a simple impossibility; he was critically examined after each manifesta-tion, and we were sitting close to him the whole time. Neither must I forget to testify, which I do will very great pleasure, to his perfect willingness to submit to any test that I thought fit to impose. Even had I never before witnessed any of the phenomena of Spirit-ualism, the experience of last Friday would alone have sufficed to convince me, beyond all doubt, of their genuineness. In fact, nothing could be more conclusive than the proof we had of unseen intelligence, and I feel that this account does but feeble justice to the wonderful manifestations we witnessed. JOSEPH COTTERELL.

10, Addison-street, Melbourne-square, Brixton, 16th May, 1876.

In endorsing, which I do most emphatically, the statements contained in the above letter, I beg to state that the phenomena we witnessed, as described by Mr. Cotterell, occurred under such stringent conditions as to render deception on the part of the medium an absolute impos-sibility. We had proof, beyond all doubt or cavil, of the operation of an invisible intelligent payment and a part with the truther tender and sibility. We had proof, beyond all doubt or cavil, of the operation of an invisible intelligent power, and a power withal that understood and wrote intelligibly the English language. HEWLETT Ports.

14, Adolaide-road, Haverstock-hill, N.W.

AN ALARMING VISION.

Sig.—The vision I am now going to describe had its roots evidently in the impression produced on me by some lines in the *Medium and Daybreak* some weeks ago. I there found, in most convincing phrases, a little disturbance on our planet predicted to take place on the 17th of September next, when, among other trifles, part of the moon will come down upon us with a terrible smash. I did not see at once the "hoax" at the bottom of it, for the names of eminent men of science—including that of the Astronomer Royal—were so fittingly brought in that the big "humbug" walked in most stately foshion into my mind and I did hig "humbug" walked in most stately fashion into my mind, and I did not see that it was only a lark to frighten old women out of their wits. In contemplating the inconvenient possibilities of the "smash" in question, I resolved to find out in the almanac the phase of the moon on question, I resolved to find out in the almanac the phase of the moon on the 17th of September, hoping to please the scientific readers of the Medium with the glad tidings that only the first quarter of the moon could be despatched, thereby considerably reducing the amount of damage—no mean consolation for the troubled assurance offices, too. But now, of course, I let the affair alone, and have even given up the idea of using my "circle" to establish a rapport with the "Man in the Moon," to court his kindly protection. To return to my "vision." In a vivid dream I beheld an immense crowd of people in hot debate about Spiritualism. All tests were set at nought, and every attempt of demonstration cried down with "Swindle! Conjuring! Unconscious muscular cerebration!" and other "ations"

Paris.

held out by those scientific professors who could get hold of a lamp post to preach from, in deafening shouts about "unchangeable natural laws." The noise grew terrific (the approach of runners to the grand stand at Epson being a mere whisper to it), and I thought I would wake myself with a jerk out of my dream, when all of a sudden all faces were turned to the sky, where the dense clouds dispersed as quickly as those in a theatre, and—Oh! Wonder! Big black letters covered the whole horizon, and I read the following words :-

"DEAR MANKIND,---Whereas no test whatever seems strong enough to convince you that we spirits still preserve some powers of our own, and since you have crucified, burned, tormented, and ill-treated all those who had a convince you that we spirits such preserve solid own own own what and and mission from us to put down your conceit, we will give you a proof which will force you to accept what you now deny. If not, the whole lot of you shall be swopt away as before, with the difference that no Noah's ark nor Boyton's apparatus shall be of any avail, for we will set all on fre. We have arranged, in order to suit all shades of intellect, a terrible little earthquake, which, after crumbling Deansgate in Manchester, will more or less smash Oxford-road, give Owen's College a sound shake, and, after leaving a crack wide enough to be approached only with caution, will proceed to London-road station, which will tumble down like a card-house. Then it will go by express on the North-Western line to London, play football with the Royal Academy, and upset gleefully the whole of the West-end, leaving (as a special test for the survivors) the British Museum and surroundings untouched. There will be thousands killed and many more crippled. Date not yet fixed. Earth-quake to commence at 12 (midnight) punctually (Greenwich time). Refresh-ments provided. Coffee at eight. (Signed.) Manager of the Occult Forces of the Universe. CHRISTIAN REIMERS. 2, Ducle-avenue, Manchester.

HEALING MEDIUMSHIP.

Sin,—It affords me great pleasure to be able through your valuable paper to testify to the effect of the healing mediumship of Dr. Monck, in a severe attack of rheumatism, through which my father was unable to do his work for several weeks, it being in his arms and shoulders. He tried many things to remove it, but failed till I sent to our friend Dr. Monck, who kindly gave his advice about the case. He said that it would be better to have a mesmerised shirt than a piece of mesmerised farmed as the nein did not strey in one phose but wort from one It would be better to have a mesmerised shirt than a piece of mesmerised flannel, as the pain did not stay in one place, but went from one shoulder to the other. He sent, at my request, a mesmerised shirt, which, I am glad to say, has removed it effectually. I give this testi-mony so that other friends suffering from similar complaints may be induced to try the same remedy. A. BODELL.

Belper, Derby.

It is said of St. Paul that he sent "aprons unto the sick," and they to said of St. Failt that he sent "aprons this this tick, and they recovered; and if cures of the kind montioned in this letter are ever so pro-nounced as to be beyond mistake, the power at work would seem to be of the same nature. Might not the attacks of rheumatism have departed without the use of the mesmerised shirt?—ED.]

A MATERIALISATION SEANCE AT CHALK FARM.

SIR,—Mr. Bullock, jun., having been engaged at Mrs. Olive's, 15, Ainger-terrace, Ainger-road, Chalk Farm, to give a series of physical séances weekly, I had the pleasure of attending that held at her house on Monday evening, the 15th inst. The manifestations obtained were of such a character as to induce me to think they will interest your readers, so I herein give you as many of the particulars as I can recollect.

reachers, so I herein give you as many of the particulars as I can recollect.
Mrs. Olive's exceedingly witty and humorous control, Hambo, having amused us for a short time, Mr. Bullock's controls—Lily and Daniel Watts—gave unmistakable proofs in the dark of their presence, and in various astonishing and interesting ways; such as fanning us, touching us with hoops, tubes, and guitars, placing hoops around the necks of two gentlemen, playing the guitar and several bells to the tunes of a musical box, and to our singing; at the same time floating the guitar over our heads and touching the ceiling with it.
They also wound up the musical box, set it going, stopped it, made it play fast or slow, in answer to our audible and mental requests, and bumped it against the ceiling, although it weighed upwards of 20 lbs. They concluded this part of their performance by taking off Mr. and Mrs. Bullock's boots, laying his in my lap and with hers patting the sitters on their lenes, &c., and taking my chair from under me and placing it on the table, at the same time laying me out at full length on the same.

the same. Lily then said that if we put the medium in the cabinet Daniel would try to show himself. The lamp was lighted and placed in a corner of the room, so that we could distinctly see every object in it. A gentle-man then secured the medium by tying tape round his wrists, and fastening him to his chair, sealing all the knots in the tape. He was then placed in the cabinet, with the bells, hoops, and paper tube, and was the only visible occupant of it. Very shortly after the curtain was closed the various instruments were heard, some of them being protruded through the aperture of the curtain, and some shown at the top of it. The materialised face, hards, and arms of Daniel Watts were successively shown, and after we had sung a hymn or two he himself drew aside the curtain and advanced into

sung a hymn or two he himself drew aside the curtain and advanced into the centre of the circle, holding close to him in front a long white robe with one hand, whilst with the other he pushed it forward before his with one hand, whilst with the other he pushed it forward before his feet. He remained in view two or three minutes, and then retired back-wards. From the position in which I was sitting I could see underneath the robe, and it seemed to me that he was naked except in front, his side and legs being plainly visible to me. Lilly then asked me to come into the cabinet and see the medium, and Daniel at the same time. I did so, taking hold of Daniel's hand with my right, whils I laid my left on the medium's head. Daniel afterwards controlled the medium, and asked me if I was cortain that I saw him and the medium of the came time distingth.

certain that I saw him and the medium at the same time distinctly. I

answered that I saw and touched both the figure and the medium at the same time.

This interesting séance was brought to a close by some more physical manifestations, in which Hambo joined Lily and Daniel in producing an orchestral accompaniment to our singing, by playing the guitar, bells, and tambourines in unison therewith. GEO. STARNES.

22, Sparsholt-road, Crouch-hill, N., May 23, 1876.

A NEW AND EXTRAORDINARY MANIFESTATION OF SPIRIT POWER.

A NEW AND EXTRAORDINARY MANUFESTATION OF SPIRIT FOWER. SIR,—After having often described phenomena, purely psychological —phenomena which are of the highest importance, inasmuch as they seem to prove to us in an irrefragable manner, the existence of the soul and its immortality—I will now describe some physical manifestations, certainly less interesting than the others, but very remarkable. I say "seem to prove," because it is not yet sufficiently proved that the spirits who manifest to us, are not different beings in creation to ourselves, beings who never have lived upon our earth, although they say so and persistently affirm it. When so important a question is at issue, we must examine it thoroughly, and not come to a hasty conclusion. I begin by relating a manifestation which took place for the first time in one of our recent séances. Eight persons were seated round a table in complete darkness—of these eight, three were mediums. The first manifestations were of the usual commonplace nature. For the sake of variety I asked the spirits if they could change the places of the eight persons round the table. They replied that they would do so at once, and each individual found himself immediately in a different place, without having felt that he moved at all.

once, and each individual found himself immediately in a different place, without having felt that he moved at all. Two Portuguese, who were present at a séance for the first time, and who were even more astonished than we at witnessing so extraordinary a proceeding, requested that it might be done again. The spirits con-sented, and these two gentlemen, in order to prevent the experiment succeeding, caught fast hold of the table, interlacing their arms in those of their neighbours. Upon two raps being given we struck a light, and not only were our two novices removed in the same position as well as the others but they were discovered in the same position those of their neighbours. Open two raps being since the places light, and not only were our two novices removed from their places as well as the others, but they were discovered in the same position that they had taken in order, as we said, to neutralise the power. They looked at one another in astonishment, they were stupefied, and we clearly perceived what their sensations were. How indeed could one fail to be astonished at witnessing such a phenomenon? What are the means used by the spirits to produce it? Besides, how did they manage to prevent persons so rapidly moved from feel-ing any movement whatever? This is what we will not at present take upon ourselves to explain; it is what perhaps no one will ever be able to do. Nevertheless, as we have cut the gordian knot of other phenomena, in a manner that the spirits have acknowledged to be correct, we should endeavour, if possible, to solve this problem. C. PEREYRA.

MR. MASKELYNE (MASKELYNE AND COOKE) ON "GENUINE PHENOMENA."

MR. MASKELYNE (MASKELYNE AND COOKE) ON "GENUINE PHENOMENA." SIR,—I do not know whether attention has ever been called to some remarkable admissions by the Egyptian Hall conjuror, in a published correspondence, arising out of a challenge from a well-known Spirit-ualist, or whether the former has been called upon, publicly or privately, for an explanation of his meaning. Mr. Maskelyne is popularly sup-posed to attribute all occult phenomena to trickery, and though I have attended several of his performances, I never heard him tell his au-dience, as he says he is accustomed to do at every performance, that he "produces some phenomena in a genuine way," *i.e.*, as he afterwards explains, without trickery. Here are the passages referred to, taken from the published correspondence, in pamphlet form, entitled, "£1,000 Reward. Maskelyne and Cooke. An Exposé of the Falseness of their Pretensions. By Iota. (Proofs corrected by Mr. Maskelyne). London: J. Burns":—

"In accepting this challenge, I wish you distinctly to understand that I do not presume to prove that such manifestations as those stated in the Report of the Dialectical Society are produced by trickery. I have never denied that such manifestations are genuine, but I contend that in them there is not one iota of evidence which proves that de-parted spirits have no better occupation than lifting furniture about. parted spirits have no better occupation than litting ituriture about. Such phenomena are made the basis upon which swindling adventurers support their plots, schemes, and villany to rob the credulous." In a subsequent letter—"I have never stated that you cannot produce some phenomena in a genuine manner; I have done this, or assisted in doing it, mysclf, and tell my audience so at every performance; yet I am not a medium, but I know that, if I were scoundrel enough, I could soon become one and should have not difficult in humburging. become one, and should have no difficulty in humbugging Spiritualists to an alarming extent." To which Iota replies: "You say you tell your audience at every performance that you admit that we have some genuine phenomena. I confess that I have never been able distinctly to understand your remarks on this head. You seem to me to say that most of the so-called phenomena are humbug, but Inc to say that most of the so-called phenomena are humbug, but some few genuine; that the genuine ones are produced by trickery, exactly as your own stage performance is. Nor can I gather any more from the admissions in your letters." The only answer to this is in a postscript to Mr. Maskelyne's next letter—"How genuine phenomena can be produced by trickery I am at a loss to know. If you understand me thus, my remarks must be a contradiction, and I must look to them." If Mr. Maskelyne really would do as he professes—tell bis suidance that some of the phenomena, even of those witnessed on look to them." If Mr. Maskelyne really would do as he professes—tell his audience that some of the phenomena, even of those witnessed on his stage, are genuine, and would also explain what he means by genuine, it might lead to an intelligent appreciation of them on the part of the public from the "psychic force" point of view: for this, it is nearly evident to me, is what he hinted at. He denies their Spiritualistic origin, and to me, at all events, it is quite credible that the same

force, the manifestations of which, under the control of a foreign intelligence, yield us the objective evidence of Spiritualism, can by practice be projected at the will of the person from whose organisation it pro-ceeds. The well attested fact of transcorporeal action would cover most of the manifestations which I have witnessed at public séances, and I am disposed to think that in the majority of cases spirit agency is rather employed in disengaging the interior fluidic body of the medium than in building up an independent organism, which, however, it is probable can be done when occasion requires it. The fact that direct writing is frequently the *facsimile* of the medium's own, is nearly conclusive upon tlus point.

this point. Having considerable admiration, and, I confess, some kindness for Mr. Maskelyne, I am sorry to be obliged to assent to "Iota's" conclu-sion—that either he knows nothing of Spiritualism, or wilfully mis-represents it, to curry favour with the ignorant public, and am afraid that the last alternative is the more probable. Can he be altogether ignorant of the fact that mediumship, which he identifies with fraud, is not confined to those who make money by it: but that the same—aye, ignorant of the fact that mediumship, which he identifies with fraud, is not confined to those who make money by it: but that the same—aye, and far more wonderful, phenomena occur in the presence of persons of independent means, position, and education, who do and can derive no possible material advantage from the gift? At all events it may be supposed that, his mission being to expose Spiritualism, he has attended the *séances* of the best professional mediums in this country and America. It would add greatly to the attractions of the Egyptian Hall if Mr. Maskelyne could emulate what I have recorded of Dr. Slade. But there would be one drawback; the public, at length, Jusing its common sense, would find out that he was a medium, and not all his disclaimers (which from the above quoted admissions would seem almost to turn upon a quibble on the meaning of mediumship) would persuade them that he was not. Whether he really is a medium is a question with me undecided. If I had never seen other phenomena than his, and under his conditions, I certainly should not accept them as the products of an occult force, being ignorant of the resources of conjurors. When a conjuror does something, no person unacquainted with his art can say with certainty that he does not do much more than he appears to do; so, when he is concealed from view, you cannot say what he can or cannot do. But when, as in Dr. Slade's case, the medium sits perfectly passive, in a brilliantly lighted room, while the phenomena are occurring at a distance, I am entilled, notwithstanding my ignorance of conjuring, to infer a different cause—not because I cannot detect the *modus operandi*, but because there is no operation, no manipulation whereby my observation can be deceived; and, though I had never heard of Spiritualism, in that case the man's protests that it was all trickery would pass by me, as do Mr. Maskelyne's denunciations, like heard of Spiritualism, in that case the man's protests that it was all trickery would pass by me, as do Mr. Maskelyne's denunciations, like the idle wind. C. C. M.

Tomple, May 27th.

LORD GARVAGH AND CHARLES DICKENS ON PRE-EXISTENCE.

Sin,-The following are extracts from The Pilgrim of Scandinavia, by Lord Garvagh (Sampson Low and Co., 1875) :-

" This was Thingualla, the largest lake in Iceland, so celebrated in "This was Thingualla, the largest lake in Iceland, so celebrated in the past. My own impressions on first seeing this distinctly were that I had seen it before: an island in the centre, another one toward the side, a promontory, every winding of the shore, each part of it, the whole scone, struck me as familiar, and as if in some previous existence I had visited and dwelt upon the spot, or recollected living there, and had known it from a child. We find a similar experience in the life of Charles Dickens, who describes it on his first sight of Ferrara :—' On the foreground was a group of silent peasant girls, leaning over the parapet of a little bridge; in the distance a deep bell; the shadow of approaching night on everything. If I had been murdered there in approaching night on everything. If I had been murdered there in some former life I could not have scemed to remember the place more thoroughly, or with more emphatic chilling of the blood; and the real remembrance of it acquired in that minute is so strengthened by the imaginary recollection, that I scarcely think I could forget it." The above is found in pages 42 and 43. Again, Lord Garvagh says,

The above is found in groups, and sang in chorus many of their ancient "The men stood in groups, and sang in chorus many of their ancient songs, one with a tune like the 'Hardy Norseman;' another very lovely song, '*Vort land! vort land! vort foster land!*' which recalled to me

· Ere, sure as Hindoe legends tell, I left our parent climes afar, Immured in mortal form to mourn-So that I called for it again.' "

The above belief in the recurrence of ancient impressions, first in the case of seeing a place never before visited during life, and secondly, in the case of hearing an ancient patriotic song for the first time, seem worth recording, as here two of the senses were acted upon in the same manner, upon the same person, and in the same direction. SCRUTATOR.

THE LATE MR. GUPPY.

Sin,-I append some more of the messages given through Mme. De Veli's writing mediumship, and purporting to be given by the late Mr. Guppy :-

Well, I feel honoured and monstrously obleeged by your delicate attention in recalling me to the tender memories of those I left behind me, whether enemics or friends, and I hope that if I have said anything worth repeating or listening to, it may not be without fruit, for if we only knew when on earth how often a mere word carelessly breathed by us may be the means of good or evil, how differently would we measure our expressions of thought, wishes, or will. Tell that gentleman, of whom you were speaking, that I am glad he approves my confession of ignorance, as it may make him look out for lumself.

-What regulates the length of time a newly-arrived spirit has QUES.-

QUES.—What regulates the length of time a newly-arrived spirit has to pass before waking up? ANS.—All depends upon our having been prepared or not. Many are prepared without being consciously Spiritualists; the inward life, the inward convictions, have prepared such to open their eyes immediately on reaching these shores; they awake, stand up, and are ready to begin their work. Others, on the contrary, including so-called philosophers— men of intelligence—arrive on this side in a state of sleep; much time has then to elapse before they can be awakened to the conscious-ness of the change of existence, and when awake they know nothing, understand nothing, have all to learn, and all to unlearn (the latter being the more difficult task of the two). Then, when they understand their position, they are overpowered, and perceive that those who on earth they looked upon as perfectly ignorant are placed much above them. QUES.—What kind of a house are you living in ? ANS.—Am I in a house? Well, house is not the expression. I am where others are. I am in a hall, as it were, without roofs or walls. How can I describe it? There are no limits, no beginning, no end, no top, no bottom. No words can express my meaning, so it is useless trying.

trying. Upon reference being made to something he had said when in the flesh.

it was written :-

Pray, my dear friend, do try and forget my double-dyed asinine remarks. Good God, when you say these things it is like a stab, as I feel that I was an ass. I feel now so thoroughly small, so idiotic, so to feel that I was an ass. I feel now so thoroughly small, so idiotic, so to say, that you must not be astonished at my recurring so continually to my ignorance. It is such a shock to feel that one has passed for a cunning sage, when one has been a perfect empty-headed fool. How-ever, I am now allowed to see what truth is, and as we take in this new revelation we expel and endeavour to destroy all our old and false convictions. I perceive now how subtly I ignored any good thoughts which wished to gain control, when I could have chosen between a good or a bad act,—and you are astonished that I feel so small! I tell you, that could we spirits close our eyes, knowing that we should never open them again, we would do it in order to avoid seeing the blots, the black, grimy colour of our earthly thoughts, wishes, and actions.

QUES,—Can you explain how the writing on the scroll in your spirit photograph is done?

Ans.—By sympathy. My thoughts, like photography, make an im-pression—a lasting one, I mean—although fluidic, not evanescent. QUES.—Can you tell us anything about pre-existence?

Ass.—Just leave that question for the present. I am struggling with my preconceived ideas and judgments; I hope to throw them off like an old coat—to shut out old Samuel, and find myself a young Sammy,

prepared to begin my A B C, and be guided and led by the hand. QUES.—How is it I cannot get any of my other departed friends to communicate with me?

Ans.—The old question—the old answer. I am awake, up, and look-ing about me; they are I know not where—perhaps still asleep, or, if not asleep, at least drowsy. J. N. GLEDSTANES. Basic Paris.

A MATERIALISED FORM FLOATING IN THE AIR.

Sin,—By request of our spirit friends, I have great pleasure in sending an account of a séance held on Thursday evening, May 25th, at Mrs. Woodforde's, 90, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, London, Mr. A. Cölman medium. There were seven present, without the medium, in-cluding Mrs.Woodforde, who sat in the circle. At about eight o'clock the sincle arg formed (no to blo used). I gitting appeal to be a formed in the circle was formed (no table used), I sitting opposite to Mr. Cölman; the door was secured, and the gas turned off. Presently the musical box was wound up and floated a considerable distance away from the sitters, and a quantity of liquid scent was sprinkled on each of us; we all sat with our hands joined, and the medium clapping his hands, proving that he had nothing to do with the movement of the objects.

had nothing to do with the movement of the objects. An interesting test was given to a gentleman present by a spirit, who told him where he had been, and the company he had kept, and pro-posed a test that would convince him, viz., that he would go and fetch a hand-bill from the spot; in a few minutes we heard the rustling of the paper, and a veritable hand-bill was put into the hands of the gentle-man. The moral of this is that nothing is hid from the spirits, and every word and action are known by those who surround us, invisible to our moral kept. our mortal ken. Lesson-Cultivate purity of life, and be careful of the company you keep. The spirit known as John Scott said that as the conditions were very

favourable he would give a good séance, which was verified by what followed. After a short break Mr. Cölman went into the cabinet (which followed. After a short break Mr. Colman went into the cabinet (which was the ante-room of the apartment in which we were sitting, and two large curtains were drawn across the opening, about ten feet high, and reaching from the ceiling to the floor). He requested me to fasten him securely, which I did by tying a tape round lus waist, and knotting it at the back; then I made another knot four inclues from the first, and brought this close to the back spindle of the chair, and tied another knot at the back; I then carried the ends of the tape to the leg of the piano, and repeated the same there. The chair was placed about nine feet away from the curtains, so that I guarantee the security of the test, which was made at the particular request of Mr. Colman himself, my feet away from the curtains, so that I guarantee the scenrity of the test, which was made at the particular request of Mr. Cölman himself, my own judgment convincing me of the worthlessness of *tests* except for those who have faith in none but themselves. I then retired to my seat in the large room, when we were told to light three gas jets. In a few minutes there appeared a large naked man's arm and hand, and then a smaller feminine arm and hand, fully nine feet from the floor; afterwards two hands, with a quantity of white muslin; they gradually unfolded it until it reached a depth of six feet, then drawing it up it was shot out to a length of nine feet, and drawn in again. The gas was then put out, and presently a form appeared with a light, which I had frequent opportunities of closely observing. It was a transparent white oval stone, about six inches long by four wide, and one inch thick, which was kept in both hands the whole time. The spirit said that he was William Scott, brother to John Scott, and spoke of the pleasure he had in being able to demonstrate the immortality of the soul in such a manner, adding that the present phase of materialisation was but the beginning. He permitted me to touch his hands and face, and also the white garment, a piece of which was afterwards cut off and presented to me. He placed the stone, which at times was very brilliant, in the folds of the robe, and also in his beard, which was a long and thick one, nearly black at the top, shading down to gray at the bottom. He was walking in our midst for fully fifteen minutes, and talking to us nearly the whole time. He then floated right up to the ceiling, and touched it with his hands and lamp, the light from which enabled us to see the form quite distinctly. He then stood with his back towards us, holding the light in front; we thus saw the form in deep shadow; it was the full outline of a body unclothed, the white robe extending down about four feet. Before retiring he gave me a symbol, the value of which is four feet. Before retiring he gave me a symbol, the value of which is known only to myself, and after asking if we were quite satisfied, he returned to the cabinet.

I took the opportunity of very closely examining the features, and I noticed that the eyes were set close, and the line of sight was quite horizontal, the nose was narrow, but not very prominent, and the (apparent) flesh milk-warm; looking afterwards at Mr. Cölman's features, I found his line of sight is at an angle, and the nose prominent; his fingers also are thicker than those of the spirit, so that the two were write different end were the reader of the spirit, so that the two were (though but in small degree) of the medium's, who has an impediment in his utterance, caused by a physical infirmity in the organs of speech. With this exception, it was unlike the medium's voice, as it was measured and sonorous.

The spirit Lily then again showed her arms and hands, and gave me a private symbol, making three in all; these being unknown to the others, were to me a sufficient test (apart from all others) of the genuineness of the manifestations.

ness of the manifestations. The spirit, John Scott, then spoke, and promised to give me his autograph (which was found in the cabinet, written in ink at the foot of a short note). After he said "Good night," I immediately went inside the cabinet, and, the gas being lighted, Mr. Cölman was still in a deep trance and his body nearly rigid. I cut the tape at the spindle-rail, as I thought to free him, when, to my great surprise, the central loop of the tape, formed by tying round the waist, was *intact*. How this had been removed, leaving all the rest of the knots as I had made them, is a mystery which I do not pretend to solve. The medium's cost sleaves a mystery which I do not pretend to solve. The medium's coat sleeves had been sewed together, with his hands behind his back, at the commencement, and in this condition I left him when I went out of the cabinet. How much or how little of the medium was used by the spirit form I cannot determine; but in any case the difference was so marked that it was impossible to mistake the one for the other, and if it was the medium, then it was nothing less than a transfiguration. WILLIAM OXLEY.

Higher Broughton, Manchester, May 26th, 1876.

MR. EGLINTON 1N MANCHESTER.

Sir,--I observe in your issue of the 26th a letter from Mr. Reimers, headed, "Remarkable Mould of a Materialised Spirit Hand," in which headed, "Remarkable Mould of a Materialised Spirit Hand," in which he tries to vindicate Mr. Eglinton's reputation from the "lobster-fangs of suspicion." Mr. Reimers writes ;—" It is, therefore, to me a pleasant duty to state the real facts as they present themselves to us towards Mr. Eglinton's vindication. Instead of the alleged difference of colour in the mould, we found *none* whatever; the mould was *clean*, the remainder of the paraffin *dirty*. The colouring stuff, also, had sunk to the bottom to a large extent, and the spirit had successfully fished out the clean surface of the mixture." The foregoing explanation by Mr. Reimers proves conclusively, to my mind, what has been frequently observed namely, that enthusiastic in which

mind, what has been frequently observed, namely, that enthusiastic Spiritualists are often *too ready* to testify to certain phenomena as facts, when they have not sufficient proof to support their conclusions, or, in other words, when the facts are, at least, consistent with an opposite conclusion. In Mr. Reimers' case I am sure it is not from any desire to misrepresent facts, but, certainly, more caution seems to be desirable before putting forward such an explanation as the foregoing, since it forces me, in the interests of truth, to appear in the ungracious cha-racter of sceptic towards Mr. Eglinton's mediumship, by appearing to throw doubt on the genuineness of the mould Mr. Reimers describes. If the real facts appear to suggest that Mr. Reimers is mistaken in con-cluding the mould to be *undoubtedly* genuine, I submit that they are

equally insufficient to prove that it is undoubtedly genuine, I submit that they are equally insufficient to prove that it is undoubtedly false. The facts are these: a parafin bath was prepared in the ordinary way, and placed behind a screen, behind which the medium sat in the dark, I being in the light. During a portion, but not the whole, of this time, Mr. Eglinton's hands were in view, through a hole in the curtain cut for the purpose. Presently, after hearing several splashes in the water, or bath, a voice directed me to take out a mould from the bucket of cold water, which I did, and found a complete mould of a female hand floating on the surface. After the medium had come out of the trance I floating on the surface. After the medium had complete inbud of a trianale hand floating on the surface. After the medium had come out of the trance I asked him to give me a mould of his hand, which he proceeded to do. This mould was taken in the same paraffin bath, and when it had cooled I compared it with that of the spirit hand. The result proved conclusively that it was not the hand of the medium, but, strange to say, the wax of which it was composed was found to be considerably different in tone from that of the medium's mould, or the rest of my parafin. It has a dirty white colour, whereas that which I provided was of pearly whiteness. As I did not consider the result a satisfactory test, I did not care to trouble your readers with a report of it, but, as Mr. Reimers has published a version of the story which I do not recog-nise as accurate, I venture to send you this correction.

In justice to Mr. Eglinton, I ought to say that an explanation of this dirty appearance of the mould was given. It was stated that the bucket (which had been used for coals, but previously cleaned out), was dirty, and particles of dirt had floated on to the surface of the paraffin, and, therefore, the first mould taken was dirtier than the second one, and also because in cooling down the paraffin to the requisite temperature to enable the medium to dip his own hand into the mixture, some more of the dirty paraffin was removed from the sur-

face, leaving the rest cleaner for the second mould. This explanation is not quite so satisfactory as I should have wished, because no specks of dirt are visible in the mould of the spirit hand. The whole of the wax is of one dirty hue, whilst all the rest of the wax is clean and pure.

As an instance of the loose manner in which facts are sometimes reported by Spiritualists, I may venture to refer to the following, which appears in your last week's issue. After giving a highly interesting report of a scance, where certainly some astounding phenomena appear to have been witnessed, Mr. Oxley proceeds to say:---"Dr. Monck now retired behind the curtains in the corner of the room, and the light being to have been witnessed. Mr. Oxley proceeds to say:--'' Dr. Monck now retired behind the curtains in the corner of the room, and the light being extinguished a luminous hand appeared and touched some of us; the light reflected from the hand enabled us to distinguish the outline of a head and bust. I then felt what appeared like hair touch my face three times, also the wafting of a fine gauzy garment which passed over my head, and almost enveloped it in passing. This ceased, and a voice (I presume using the organism of Dr. Monck, but it might have been direct for aught I know to the contrary) addressed us for about five minutes, but being unprepared I took no notes, and the statements passed from memory, so that I cannot repeat what was said." Now I think most persons will agree that this portion of the séance, as above described, is of no value whatever to non-Spiritualists, because a child might see that, from the words of your correspondent, nothing then took place which could not be explained by natural causes. In future, it would be very desirable if the precise conditions under which the facts are witnessed were always reported, so that readers may see that there is at least reasonable ground to suppose that the spiritual explanation is the only one which covers the whole ground. I am aware that with tried mediums it is unnecessary for Spiritualists to be always assuming the probability as well as the possibility of fraud, but in reports that are intended to impress non-Spiritualists, the absence of such precautions renders the report quite useless. FREDK. A. BINNEY.

FREDK. A. BINNEY.

Manchester.

A CIRCLE IN THE NORTH-WEST DISTRICT OF LONDON.

Sm,--Spiritualists of the earlier time will remember very well Mr. W. Wallace. A year or two ago a public recognition of his services, partly in his capacity of "missionary medium," was made to him in the form of a testimonial, accompanied with a subscription purse. With the sum so subscribed he endeavoured to establish himself as a photographer. His business is still so slender that he can attend freely to Spiritualism. For some time past he and his wife have held a weekly séance for trance-speaking, personation, and tests. It has been lately pressed upon them to increase their accommodation for receiving investigators, and at the same time add to the interest by introducing, if possible, the phenomena of materialisation.

mena of materialisation. A commencement has been made, and I formed one of the circle of last Wednesday evening. I found that Mr. Bullock, jun., was the medium upon whom they depended for the evolution of the phenomena of materialisation. We had a most satisfactory séance, under strict test conditions. Some of the phenomena were in the light, others in the absence of light; during the latter we had playing of instruments by the spirits in accompaniment to our singing, conversation between the spirits and ourselves, through the entranced medium and with the spirit voice direct; we had also movements of objects. In the light, mode-rately subdued, there was the production, through the openings, central and lateral, of the cabinet, of hands, and of the head and bust of the spirit Daniel Watts. To enable these séances to be continued weekly it was successed that

To enable these seances to be continued weekly it was suggested that It enable these seances to be continued weekly it was suggested that Mr. Wallace should receive a moderate subscription from each visitor, and he has agreed for every Wednesday evening. There seems to be a want of facilities for a circle in that quarter of the suburbs. Mr. Bullock, jun., will continue his attendance. Mr. Wallace's house is in the line of the Kentish Town omnibuses, and a few doors from the Midland Bailway station Midland Railway station. J. DIXON.

8, Great Ormond-street.

BERKELEVISM.

DERRELEVISM. STR,—Mr. H. G. Atkinson asks me whether I agree with him in "the fundamental objection to Berkeley's position, that if the things perceived are external to the percipient they cannot be also per-ceptions." This objection does not seem to me to be a valid one. Dr. Collyns Simon, as quoted by Mr. Atkinson, incidentally pointed out that the expression "external to the percipient" is an improper one, if it be true that the percipient is unextended, "and has therefore neither an inside nor an outside"—a position in which Mr. Atkinson and myself seem to agree. Externality is a relation that holds between phenomena, not between phenomena and the Ego. We may talk of a table being external to our bodies, but hardly so properly of its being external to or not external to ourselves. Instead of "external to," we should say *independent of* the percipient. Put in this shape, any appearance of force that the objection may have had vanishes. Ber-keley's position is, that the things perceived are dependent on the percipient. Now, it can hardly be called an objection to a position to deny it point blank, without reason assigned. Yet Berkeley's position is thus denied at starting by the assumption that the things perceived are external to, or, in other words, *not* dependent on the percipient.

To assume the contradiction of an opponent's proposition, deduce a consequence therefrom, and urge that consequence as a refutation of the original proposition, is not a very reasonable proceeding. The truth is, that the objection here urged against Berkeleyism is of im-portance only from the point of view of the propounder, as expressing the fact that he does not himself accept the doctrine, but not as supthe fact that he does not himself accept the doctrine, but not as sup-plying any reason why others should not do so. But it must not be forgotten that there is a sense of the words in which Berkeley would not declare or allow that the things perceived are dependent on the percipient. When we talk of "the things perceived," we may either mean the sensible impressions we derive from things, which it is generally admitted is all that we can know of them, or we may mean the unknown cause of those impressions, the $voi\mu\epsilon vo\nu$ as opposed to the $\phi a_{iv} o \mu \epsilon v o v$. This cause is, according to most philosophers, a passive something called "substance;" according to Berkeley, it is an active volition of the Deity. The world, on Berkeley's theory, is no unreal phantom, but firm as the fiat of the Almighty, and unalterable as His will. So long as beings exist endowed with similar perceptions to our own, so long our world will last. Remove all such beings, and it would still exist in the mind of God, ready to start into existence again on their reappearance. on their reappearance.

It is, I know, a very prevalent idea that Berkeley's speculations, though ingenious and fanciful, are so immediately felt to be false by the common-sense understanding, as to need no serious refutation. Nowhere is this idea better expressed than by Byron, the exact words of whose witticism I may be permitted to quote. They occur at the beginning of the eleventh canto of Don Juan :-

> "When Bishop Berkeley said ' there was no matter," And proved it—'twas no matter what he said; They say his system 'tis in vain to batter, Too subtle for the airiest human head;

And yet who can believe it?"

What Bishop Berkeley denied was really not "matter" but "substance," but this is a distinction too fine for the many-headed. Not Berkeley alone, but all metaphysicians run counter to common notions. The "moment we begin to penetrate beneath the surface, we find out that "things are not what they seem;" and the only choice left us seems to be between putting up at the half-way house of Locke's Idealism or going the whole length with Berkeley. ST. GEORGE STOCK.

SPIRIT "SFHERES."

SIR,—Will some of your readers kindly furnish me with a reference to some inspirational account of the geography of the spheres? Mrs. Tappan, I remember, has treated the subject in some of her discourses published in the *Medium*. St. GEORGE STOCK.

[In A. J. Davis's Stellar Key to the Summer Land, in Vol. II. of Crowell's Modern Spiritualism, and in Mrs. Hardingo's Spiritualism in America, are assortions (in some cases illustrated by diagrams) about the alleged spirit spheres. They do not agree with each other, and are adapted to hard, mate-rialistic lines of thought,--ED.]

THE " MEDIUMS' BOOK."

THE "MEDIUMS' BOOK." SIR,—I see that Miss Blackwell's last excellent translation from Kardec, the *Mediums' Book*, is advertised in *The Spiritualist*, and I find also, that, at page 251 of the translation, there are extracts from a narrative I had the pleasure of sending Miss Blackwell, contained in a note; but in this note, through an error of type, I am asserted to have sat on the platform at one of Dr. Lynn's entertainments, instead of *near* the platform. Now, as those who have seen Dr. Lynn's enter-tainments would know that he would not be likely to allow a perfect stranger, as I was, to sit upon his platform, and since, in the case of his having requested me to go there, I fear I should not have had the courage to have complied, I think it well to mark the error, because truth should always be seconded by the appearance of truth, and the error will be inevitable in the early copies. THE CLERGYMAN IN QUESTION.

MR. BLACKBURN'S SEANCES.

SIR,—Another of the weekly séances, with Mr. Eglinton as medium, was held on Friday evening last, at the rooms of the British National Association of Spiritualists, 38, Great Russell-street, and was attended by Mr. Terrell, Mr. Fitz-Gerald and Mrs. D. Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. Everitt, Mrs. Parrick, Rev. W. Newbould, Captain Rolleston, Mr. E. Dawson Rogers, on behalf of the Séance Committee of the Association, and muscle. and myself. The medium having been secured in such a way as to prevent the possibility of having the use of his hands or feet, was placed at the entrance of the cabinet, and the curtains so drawn as to conceal his head and body, while leaving his knees and legs in the light. The scance then commenced. Materialised hands were formed, light. Joey and another spirit friend conversed with most of those present. The medium, who has been suffering for some time from illness, and

who, at the commencement of the sitting, had only just arrived in London after a long and fatiguing railway journey, was unfortunately soon exhausted, and the séance was brought to an early close, but not before those present were fully convinced of the genuineness of the manifestations. H. WITHALL.

MASKELYNE AND COOKE.

S1R,-Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke make two statements :- firstly, that their cabinet resembles that of the Davenport Brothers; secondly, that they have never been baffled by any knots whatever.

Permit me, as one of the witnesses chosen to sit on the platform last Wednesday week, to contradict both these statements. In the first place, nothing can be more unlike than the two cabinets.

I forbear entering into tedious points of carpentry detail, at the same time I assert that the two were different in every essential point. Secondly, Mr. Maskelyne, when I offered to tie him more meo, according to a plan which I have thrice adopted with professional "mediums," and which contains a test only known to myself and another person, objected to the knot, and insisted on his own rope being tied "strongly" across the distal extremity of the ulna. I was not to another person, objected to the knot, and insisted on ms own rope being tied "strongly" across the distal extremity of the ulna. I was not to use any description of "bow" or "clove-hitch." I never intended to use a "clove-hitch," and cannot but be struck with the utter dissimilarity of rope tying and tape tying. I do not claim to be an expert at either. I may also state that Mr. Maskelyne's feet were buckled by a strap to the ground. The buckle had a very short tang, and was thoroughly loose

The conditions under which Mr. Maskelyne produced certain phe-nomena were dissimilar to those under which Mr. Eglinton, Mr. Bullock, and Miss Lottie Fowler have been placed by me under "test conditions." In fact, the whole affair was very unlike a séance, as I have hitherto seen it. C. C. B.

ART MAGIC.

ART MAGIC. Sin,—Our Spiritualistic literature is becoming so saturated with medieval absurdities, that it behoves every one who wishes, in the midst of the rubble, to preserve the few grains of truth, to utter a protest against what is false, and is a decadence into what is antiquated, and what we had hoped the world had long outgrown. If anything would tend to warn off earnest inquirers into the truths of Spiritualism, surely the absurdities raked up from remote ages of darkness and superstition, to be found in *Art Magie*, would be enough. I have glanced through the book with sorrow, and grieve to think that any one should have been at the pains to make so voluminous a record of medieval absurdities. of mediaval absurdities. Spiritualism comes to us, as I think, to counteract the materialism of

the day, and, as I hope, to establish the link of something higher and more glorious than *it* can pretend to do between this and the unseen world. If this is to be done by demonology and the exploded pretences of witcheraft, let us have done with it until a higher intelligence can be

of witcherati, let us have done with it until a ingler interligence can be brought to bear upon what may become sublime. Scientific men and Christian people alike scoff enough at the new light; what may we expect if old beliefs in stones, minerals, magnets, and tomfooleries of all kinds, are brought to establish Spiritualistic creeds? and at the same time blot out the Christ of the belief of 1,900 centuries, as well as

"The Christ that is to be"?

MORELL THEOBALD.

G. DAMIANI.

62, Granville-park, Blackheath, 8th May, 1876.

REINCARNATION.

SIR,—At it again? In your issue of 12th instant, Baron Dirkinck-Holmfeld expresses himself thus: "Reincarnation is with the Zulus a belief; they hold that unprogressed spirits are still bound to earthly objects, or animals, a belief quite as crude as that of the Spiritists, but less absurd."

So, according to the Baron, it is more logical to think that a man should become a beast or a thing, than be made a better man. For him the law of progression is absurd, that of retrogression less so. After the enunciation of these ideas, to hear him descant upon the crudeness of the notions of reincarnationists is quite refreshing.

Naples, 15th May, 1876.

EXTRAORDINARY LEVITATION OF SOLID OBJECTS IN THE LIGHT AT SOUTHSEA.

Sig.—We have just had a remarkable sitting with Mr. Eglinton, round a very small table, in light sufficient to see one another, our hands in view. Our circle was composed of three ladies, a clergyman, and a medical gentleman. The direct voice of Joey, the spirit, spoke to and a medical gentleman. The direct voice of Joey, the spirit, spoke to us, and a spectral hand was seen to take up a roll of paper and float it about, touching one and another, and afterwards to take it out of the circle, and let it fall on the dining-table. Then it was suddenly snatched up, and lightly "chastised" us, startling us not a little, for it was a strange sight to see an inanimate object behaving in such a way; the medium's hands were in full view on the table. The musical box was levitated a little. The medium was next entranced, and carried by invisible power over the table several times, the heels of his boots being made to touch the head of our medical friend. Then he was taken to made to touch the head of our medical friend. Then he was taken to the further end of the dining-room, and finally, after being tilted about as a thing of no weight whatever, was deposited quietly in his chair. It was a strange matter to witness, and made us fearful lest the power should fail, and the medium fall. Other wonders took place, on which our clerical friend purposes to report, so I need not do so. C.

Southsea, May 30th, 1876.

THE WEARING OF SILK BY MEDIUMS.

Sin,—Knowing you to be a good authority on such matters, I take the liberty of asking your opinion on the statements contained in the last two numbers of the *Medium* respecting silk as an insulator for mediums, and the extract from Mrs. Tappan's lecture (which, by the way, I could never comprehend) that "flannel is magnetic, and silk electric." In no text book do I find that flannel is magnetic, or a magnetic substance; text book do 1 and that handel is magnetic, or a magnetic substance; neither was I aware that we are electric machines requiring insulation. Experiments have been tried to discover, with the help of the most delicate instruments, whether or not electricity was evolved from the human body in the normal or abnormal condition, and always with negative results. Electricity has always been a favorite study of mien, but as Spiritualism has certainly upset many old theories, I thought it

possible that the ideas advanced by Mrs. Tappan and others may be correct, and that I should have to unlearn much of what I have learned. Young. J. F.

Llanelly, South Wales.

[From the accounts published by Dr. Crowell in American journals, it seems that he let the mediums know what results he expected when he tried experiments with silk; thus, the preconceived ideas of the mediums may have become embodied in the messages; again, tricky spirits—who are plentiful in connection with physical manifestations—may have indulged in their propensity for heaxing. In this country we have noticed that the spirits somewhat commonly object to physical mediums wearing silk dresses, which tends to indicate the existence of some feeble electrical influence. Delicate instruments have failed to detect any unusual electrical or magnetic effects at *séances*, and it is a pity that mediums by the misuse of these two words sometimes utter great rubbish.—En.]

THE TRANSFERENCE OF HEALING POWER.

SIR,-Will you oblige me by inserting the following in your next week's Spiritualist?

week's Spiritualist? For two years I have been a great sufferer from that dread disease, "Blood poisoning," causing the most painful diabetes and spleen, and other sufferings, all said by the most skilful physicians to be incurable; and, from the slight relief I have ever been able to obtain from any source (the most powerful mesmerists included), I began quite to despair of ever knowing rest from pain. I fortunately read of Dr. Monek's great cures, when I wrote him; and I, in gratitude for the relief he has great cures, when 1 wrote him; and 1, in gratitude for the relief he has given me, and a hope that others may also in suffering try his wonderful power, beg to say he has quite cured me of diabetes, and I have every hope of a cure of the remaining painful disease, for I am so much better. All has been done through his mesmerised flannel, without any personal interview, and the *instantaneous* relief it gives even when applied to the most painful ulcers is indeed wonderful. I trust that this testimony may induce others to try this kind good friend in suffering. CHARTER ANDERSON CHARLOTTE ANDERSON.

Sandown, Isle of Wight, May 26th.

SPIRITUALISM IN SOUTH LONDON.

SIR,-A meeting of the members and friends interested in the South London Association of Inquirers into Spiritualism will be held at the Nelson Coffee House, Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road, on Thursday evening next, June 9th, at eight o'clock. J. BURTON, Hon. Sec.

STRITUALISM IN DERBYSHIRE. SIR,—On Sunday, the 28th, afternoon and evening, Mr. Johnson, trance medium, of Hyde, delivered two trance addresses to large and intelligent audiences at New Mills, Derbyshire. The addresses were of a high order, and were listened to with great attention. These are the first addresses which have been delivered in the place on Spiritualism, and caused much excitement. After the close of the meetings, groups of men might be seen in various places discussing with animated gestures the phenomena they had witnessed of a man "talking wi' his een shut."

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Hayfield, near Stoekport.

MISS LOTTIE FOWLER'S MEDIUMSHIP.

SIR,-The following is an account of highly satisfactory materialisash, — The following is an account of highly satisfactory materialisa-tion manifestations, witnessed by a select, harmonious circle of sitters, including myself and Mrs. Regan, through the mediumship of that truthful medium, Miss Lottie Fowler, at her rooms, 2, Vernon-place, Bloomsbury-square, W.C., on Saturday evening last, the 27th inst. All being arranged satisfactorily, we were just about taking our seats, when we were all invited by the medium to search her bedroom, which

she uses as a cabinet on such occasions, and is entered by a door from the *séance* room. Several gentlemen availed themselves of the invita-tion, and, after a thorough search and examination of the fastenings of the same, to guard against anyone entering from without, they all ex-pressed themselves satisfied. The medium then drew the curtains,

pressed themselves satisfied. The medium then drew the curtains, seated herself in the cabinet, and we resumed our seats, at a distance of some eight feet from the curtained entrance. The lights were lowered, allowing sufficient for us to see the time quite plainly on looking at our watches. We felt apprehensive of there being too much, owing to day-light still penetrating the window-blinds of the rooms at the time. However, it did not prevent the materialising of the celestial visitors, for one shortly appeared, in the shape of a man attired in long white robe, with dark, short beard and moustache. He pulled the curtains apart, emerged from the cabinet, and stood silently looking at us. Mrs. Regan thought she knew the outline of the spirit's features, and, on her asking him if he was her dear brother William, who used to materialise at Bastian and Taylor's, he bowed thrice in the affirmative. He then retired to the cabinet for a few moments, and reappeared, placing him-self against the jamb of the door, gazing earnestly at his sister and the

company for some time; after which he held the curtains apart, still gazing at us; he then bowed, but did not speak, and instantly disappeared.

A beautiful nun next appeared, who materialised strongly, and was a well-developed, finely-formed woman! She took each of the sitters by the hand and walked them about the circle, and then led them back to their hand and walked them about the circle, and then led them back to their seats. She materialised a piece of blonde net, about two yards long and a yard wide, before our eyes, and held it up as a screen before her. It cer-tainly was a spiritual treat to behold her. She gracefully bowed, and cor-dially thanked us, and bade us good night in a rich deep voice. The next form to appear was Baron Hendrick, brother to Baron von Vay, greeting us as usual in his deep German guttural voice, telling us that he liked the harmony of the circle much, at the same time impressing us, that he was determined to be consulted in future as to who should be admitted to the scaree out that it was necessary for those wishing to be present to the scance, and that it was necessary for those wishing to be present at the materialisations on Saturday evenings, to send in their names to his medium, Miss Lottie Fowler, not later than Friday. He asked for a cord to measure his chest, but one not being at hand, Captain James handed his handkerchief, after measuring his own chest with it, to Hendrick, who then measured his chest, which was about the same as the captain's, after which he asked for a pair of scissors, and cut a long strip out of his outer garment, handing it to me with the scissors. Mr. Wedgwood then asked him to show the hole, which he instantly did, holding up the robe for our inspection, and showing us the long rent therein; he then shook it out whole again, without removing it from our eyes. After exchanging a few more words with us he retired, and bid us good night. Now for the gratifying and most satisfactory manifestation of all! Pinkey, the Indian girl, and spirit control of the circle, led out the medium entranced—linked arm in arm—into the circle, and out the medium entranced—linked arm in arm—into the circle, and allowed each of the sitters to shake hands with her and exchange a word of greeting, which Finkey graciously acknowledged in her well-known voice, and subjected herself to keen scrutiny, but stood it well. She wore a profusion of brilliants on her breast, and looked all an Indian. On retiring, she left the medium entranced in a reclining position by the entrance to the cabinet, until she awoke in our presence. J. REGAN.

37, Hart-street, Bloomsbury-square, W.C., May 29th, 1876.

It will be seen by an advertisement on another page, that Mrs. Burke has established in the neighbourhood of Bloomsbury a "home" or kind of private hotel for Spiritualists visiting or living in London, an under-taking in which it is to be hoped she will meet with support.

Two or three new private spirit circles have been formed in Sunderland, and they meet regularly. The medial little boy of Mr. Petty, of Newcastle, has been present at one of them, and gave much satisfaction, because of the physical manifestations obtained in his presence in the light.

presence in the light. THE SHAKERS.—The Isle of Wight Times says:—"We are in-formed that the Ryde branch of 'Shakers' (Hordle Community) is rapidly increasing in numbers, and that at last Mr. Town Councillor Henry Knight has received 'The Holy Spirit.' We quote the words, for though we cannot bring ourselves to believe that God manifests Himself a la Shaker, we would avoid profanity or levity on such a serious assertion. If what we further hear be true, the ratepayers are to lose Mr. Knight's services on their behalf, entirely, and the Council Chamber in which things of this world are transacted will see him no more. This means comparative peace in the Council, but also that members will be free to do as they choose almost without check. —Mr. Knight's second son, a young man of good education and ability. -Mr. Knight's second son, a young man of good education and ability, became a convert some time ago, and the little boys of another Union-street tradesman, and several other inhabitants of Ryde, have since joined. We hear that some of the meetings, held in a studio, and projoined. We hear that some of the meetings, held in a studio, and pro-longed to very late hours, have proved a nuisance to neighbours who de-sired bodily rest, but now we understand a house has been obtained, to be transformed into a Shaker Synagogue, near Partland's Hotel, Swan-more.—Mr. C. Knight was escorting two female Shakers to Ryde a few days ago, and one of these interesting creatures went 'in the Spirit' on board the Mauffourer, in which they embarked from Lymington, and board the Mauffourer, in which they embarked from Lymington, and danced for about three-quarters of an hour to the great amusement of the passengers.—The Shakers held a meeting at the Town Hall, Bourne-mouth, on Monday evening, when Mrs. Girling delivered a lecture to a vast audience, and at its conclusion several of the community were seized with their usual manifestations, and commenced dancing. This seized with their usual manifestations, and commenced dancing. This was a signal for a general disturbance, a great number of the audi-ence rushing on to the platform, forms and chairs being broken, and a general *melee* ensuing. One young lady continued to dance, crying out loudly, 'Touch not the Lord's anointed !' Happily, no one was seriously hurt, but the community were evidently much frightened, and at a late hour were escorted by a party of gentlemen, who volunteered their protection, to their wagon and pair, which was waiting. —By a later account we find that the riot was a fearful one, Mrs. -By a later account we find that the riot was a fearful one, Mrs. Girling and party being forcibly ejected from the hall, and damage being done to property to the extent of £30. One of poor Mother Girling's legs was broken, and the police were summoned to protect the building from the mob.-Just before going to press, we hear from a Ryde Shaker that a letter from an authority was received here this morning, and that no mention was therein made of Mrs. Girling's leg.

2000

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.—The reason why some spirits give themselves such great names, wholly unconfirmed by the value of the accompanying messages, is a mystery. Unless such spirits give unquestionable proof of identity, or their messages are of value when judged on their own merits, we do not care to print the revelations, or to enter into controversy about them.

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