

JOURNAL

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

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COUNCIL MEETING.

At a Council Meeting held on the 6th of March, the following Members were present:—Messrs. Alexander Calder, Walter H. Coffin, Edmund Gurney, Chas. C. Massey, Edward R. Pease, and Frank Podmore. Mr. Calder was elected to take the chair.

The minutes of the previous Meeting were read, and with a slight alteration signed as correct.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Gurney, Professor H. Sidgwick was elected a Vice-President, and a Member of the Council, in accordance with Rule 18.

Five new Members and eight new Associates were elected, whose names and addresses appear on another page.

A letter was read from Major G. Rowan Hamilton, a Member of the Society, expressing his wish to resign, mainly on account of being so much abroad.

It was agreed that Mrs. Wingfield should, at her request, be elected as a Member instead of as an Associate.

Information was received of the death of Mrs. Jennings, who joined the Society last year as a "Library Associate."

Presents to the library were on the table from—Mr. E. Heron-Allen, Mr. H. A. Kersey, Mr. John Moule, Members of the Society; from the Phasmatological Society of Oxford; and from Dr. Monckton, of Maidstone. The books are specially acknowledged in the Supplementary Catalogue on another page. The thanks of the Council were directed to be given to the donors.

Mr. Gurney reported that he and Professor Barrett had been permitted by Mr. Husk to examine the iron ring on his wrist. They found that five fingers could be inserted between the ring and the wrist. Their opinion was, that, though the ring in its present shape

could certainly not be drawn off without considerable violence, if at all, yet, if it were hammered or forced into a more convenient form, the insertion or withdrawal of the hand might be possible. The question on which Professor Barrett and Mr. Gurney had to report was restricted to this one point—how far the mere fact that the ring, when they saw it, was round the wrist, could be regarded as a conclusive test of its having got there by some unknown agency. They considered that in itself the test was not conclusive.

Subject to a suggested alteration of one phrase, a new edition of the "Objects" was agreed to, embodying a statement of the new arrangements with regard to the research work of the Society.

The Finance Committee presented a report, accompanied by an estimate of receipts and expenditure to the end of the year. The following is a summary of its principal points:—

The Committee reported that they had met and had examined the financial affairs of the Society. After making what they considered a reasonable estimate of the number of new Members and Associates who might be expected to join the Society during the remaining months of 1885, the unappropriated income of the Society, including the balance now in hand, might be set down at £868, without calculating on the receipt of any important donations.

Keeping efficiency in view, they submitted a proposed distribution of this sum, which included the items of rent, general meetings, salary, and necessary current expenses on the scale of last year, the issue of two more Parts of *Proceedings*, and the monthly journal, leaving only a comparatively small amount available for experimental work. This result, however, is attained only by the inclusion of an offer on the part of Professor Sidgwick to defray in the first instance, certain items of expenditure connected with the work of the Literary Committee, to be repaid by the Society in the event of there being a sufficient surplus at the end of the year.

The report of the Committee also states: "It will be observed that no allowance is made in the estimate for lectures, nor for library purchases. . . Should donations be received provision can be made for these items."

The usual monthly cash account was presented, and various accounts passed for payment.

On the application of Mr. Edmund Gurney, a grant not exceeding £10 was authorised to a Committee for Mesmeric Investigation.

It was agreed that a General Meeting should be held in the month of April, at the Rooms of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk-street, Pall Mall, the chair to be taken at 8.30 p.m., and that the Council should meet on the afternoon of the same day.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

It has been arranged to hold the next General Meeting on Friday, April 24th, at the Rooms of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall. The chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

MEMBERS.

- ASHBURTON, THE LADY, Kent House, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.
BEAUMONT, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER S., South Norwood Park, London, S.E.
CHILTOFF, A., M.D., University of Kharkoff, Russia.
JAMES, ARTHUR GWYNNE, LL.B., 2, Temple Gardens, London, E.C.
PORTER, MISS, 47, Brompton Square, South Kensington, London, S.W.

ASSOCIATES.

- DARBISHIRE, SAMUEL D., M.D., 60, High Street, Oxford.
ELLIOT, WILLIAM SCOTT, Jun., 29, Hyde Park Place, London, W.
GUINNESS, MISS HENRIETTA, 23, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.
HOFFMANN, OSKAR VON, 7, Augustus Platz, Leipzig.
MAX, PROFESSOR GABRIEL, 17, Heustrasse, Munich.
NEVILL, THE LADY DOROTHY, 45, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, W.
PROTHERO, MRS., Trumpington Street, Cambridge.
SMITH, H. B., Trinity College, Cambridge.
WATERHOUSE, CHARLES H., M.D., 23, Opernring, Vienna.

CASES RECEIVED BY THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

In our January number notice was given of the intention of the Literary Committee to publish in the *Journal* a selection of the reports of phenomena which they from time to time receive. The following narratives, collected by Mr. Podmore, are obviously of very unequal evidential value; but even those which, from this point of view, are most defective, have one or more features of interest for the investigator.

The numbers attached to the different narratives are for the convenience of members of the Literary Committee. The letter L that stands before each number indicates that these narratives belong to that part of the collection which is distinguished by the Committee as relating to "Phantasms of the *Living*." It will be remembered that the Committee include under this term apparitions or dreams occurring at or about the time of the death of the persons whom they represent. The letters that follow the number refer to the classification of these "Phantasms" adopted by the Committee as the most convenient. They indicate that the state of the Agent (A) and of the Percipient (P) is either *normal* (n), *dying* (d), *sleep* (s), or some peculiar *excitement* (e).

We shall welcome any communication tending to throw further light on any of these narratives.

L.—79—Aⁿ P^s and ⁿ

(Amended Version.)

From Miss Deering, Louisville, Kentucky.

I very distinctly remember that one day, a few years ago, my father lay down for a few minutes, as at that time usual before going to his office in the afternoon. Seated on a stool beside him, and with my left hand enfolded in one of his, I read the book in which I was at the time interested, for five or possibly seven minutes. At the end of that time he turned his face toward me, and seeing that the room was shaded, remarked: "Anna, you will injure your eyes reading in this dim light." "And I do not particularly like this book," I responded. I held in my hand a historical novel, the name of which I am sorry I cannot recollect, but I remember vividly that the passage I had just read purported to be one of the last scenes in the life of Marie Antoinette, and I remember as distinctly that in that scene a tall man carried a coffin from a room in which Marie Antoinette and some attendant ladies were at the time standing. I remember that in the story that tall man stood prominently in the foreground, and that my mind was strained under the part he took in that scene almost to the verge of repugnance.

In reply to my father's question why I did not like the book, I replied in substance as in the foregoing, and he immediately told me

that he had just seen what I had described, and had opened his eyes and turned his face toward me to dissipate the scene, which for the moment he had looked upon as an isolated phantasm.

ANNA M. DEERING.

Louisville, Kentucky, U.S., *October 18th, 1884.*

From Mr. Deering.

While I lay with my daughter's hand in mine, as she relates in the accompanying memoir, I fell into the semi-slumber usual with me on lying down to rest for a few minutes after my luncheon, early in the afternoon. At these times I very seldom fall asleep, but simply into a species of slumber, in which I frequently find myself in a kind of rayless or moonless moonlight, looking, and this usually with serene pleasure, at near-by gardens, slopes, rivulets, and various little vistas, which more times than otherwise vanish at my bidding, and, except I fall asleep, are immediately replaced by others. Sometimes these are peopled with apparently living figures, and frequently these also dissolve at my bidding, and are replaced by others. There is, however, this difference, any control I exercise for the purpose of a change seems to be more immediate and more absolute over a change of figures than over a change of scenes.

I am quite sure that at these times I do not fall into any condition that fairly can be called pathological.

Under the slumber now under consideration, my attention became fixed on a tall thin man, with head uncovered, beardless, and dressed in black. He came toward the foot of the bed on which I lay from the left; and perhaps I should note that my daughter sat upon my left. Immediately I saw several other figures; and though these stood outside the lines or field of my direct vision, I remember distinctly that they made on me an impression of sympathy with powerlessness. I might think that the sympathy touched me through the countenance of the man, were it not that he impressed me with also the opposite of powerlessness. His age seemed to be about 50, his face oblong, a little sallow, seriously thoughtful, and withal indicative of great but quiet firmness in action, whether from a sense of duty based on his own judgment, or duty under a sense of obedience, I cannot determine, though in the absence of any appearance of the vindictive, I think, or at least am inclined to think, that alike his presence and his action were based on simply an obedience to some rightful authority. This action was a reverent stepping forward, and a silent laying of his hands on a coffin that seemed to rest across the foot of the bed. The moment I saw the coffin I thought: I do not like this scene; please go away and let something more agreeable come in. But the scene would not change, and again I thought: Please go away and let something more

agreeable come in ; and again the scene would not change. He raised the coffin, it seemed as easily as though it had been that of an infant, and was in the act of stepping backward, as though withdrawing from a presence, when I thought: Then I will not prolong this slumber ; I will open my eyes and arouse myself. And, on immediately doing so, I spoke to my daughter as she narrates, and then without anything like amazement, listened to her description from the book.

I have been minute, as in the foregoing, because I wish to put every feature of and every impression given me by the scene carefully on record, against a search which I purpose to keep up for the book out of which my daughter at the time sat reading. She did not then or ever read to me what she had read, but simply and in her own language drew the scene ; and this in, perhaps, as few words as she has now written it, nor have we since that time in any particular way conversed about it. My impression is that the book she read was an octavo in paper covers, but its name or author, or whose it was or what became of it, neither of us can recollect ; nor do either of us at this time remember any of the scenes immediately preceding or attending the tragic death of Marie Antoinette as these are, or may be, recorded in history.

WILLIAM DEERING.

Louisville, Kentucky, U.S., *October 21st, 1884.*

This incident was originally related in the *Louisville Medical News* by Professor Palmer, a letter from whom is appended.

Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.,

September 26th, 1883.

The article appearing on the other side is true in every particular. The gentleman, a resident of this city, a man of high nervous organisation, was born in Belfast, U.S.A. Between himself and his daughter exists a degree of attachment rarely seen in such kinship. I related the incident as he gave it to me.

• E. R. PALMER, M.D.,

Professor of Physiology, &c.

University of Louisville, U.S.A.

[We have not as yet come across any historical novel containing the incident referred to, and we can find no trace of it in any history or memoir of Marie Antoinette.—F. P.]

Note.—It is obvious that the value of this narrative, as affording evidence of Thought-transference, must be proportional to the degree of exactness with which the correspondence between the dream and the description in the book can be made out. It might, therefore, be considerably increased if the book could be discovered. Even as it stands the coincidence is certainly remarkable ; but as Miss Deering's description preceded her father's account of his vision, it is possible that its similarity to the description became unconsciously somewhat stronger in recollection than it was in reality.

L—1047—A^d P^s

From Mr. F. Teesdale Reed, Longfleet, Poole.

I had an uncle who, after spending thirty-three years on board ship, left the sea, got married, and settled down near London. His only son and myself were constant playmates, and for a short time school-fellows also. My cousin's one great wish was to go to sea, but this, so far from being encouraged, always provoked a stern rebuke, if even the topic only was mentioned. At last Cousin Jack seemed to have got over his yearning for the naval service; he quietly bore with a good grace what to him was a bitter disappointment. As he was now a big lad it was necessary to find him something to do. A post was found for him under my father in a house of business in the City. Here he did well, and soon won golden opinions from all about him. One day—it was Lord Mayor's Day, and the City was too excited to settle down to sober business—Jack asked my father for half a day's holiday and an advance of five shillings. The holiday was granted and he was told he could take the money and enter it in the proper book. After that he went, as was thought, for a few hours' pleasure. He never returned. Inquiries were made at every likely place, but to no purpose. His parents were utterly disconsolate at his disappearance. We all guessed that he had gone off to sea, but none dared give utterance in the father's presence to the thought, knowing how unwelcome such an explanation would be. Months passed by and no news came. At length—perhaps it was twelve or eighteen months afterwards—my thoughts were again directed to my missing cousin. It was in this way. One Sunday morning my father invited me to go with him to see my uncle and aunt. On the road he told me that during the night he had had a most remarkable dream, and he wished to test it as far as he could, for he was strongly persuaded that it would be fulfilled. At the same time he urged me to notice the date and preserve in my memory the details as far as possible. I may just say, in parenthesis, that we continued our journey, paid the visit, but found that nothing had been heard of my cousin. The dream, so far as I can recollect it at this distance of time, was somewhat as follows: The scene is in a foreign port (guessed at the time to be Spanish). On board a British man-of-war that is anchored there a young man (my cousin Jack) is giving instructions to some men at work in the rigging. He is apparently dissatisfied with what they are doing, for he hurries up, makes some slight alteration, and then descends. A rung of the rope ladder gives way as his foot touches it, he falls backward, head first, and dies instantly. The surgeon hurries to the spot, examines the body, but leaves it as he can do nothing there. Then arrangements are made for the burial. The coffin is taken on shore, some of the officers and men accompany it, and it is solemnly lowered into the grave. There

the dream ended. Some time after my father (he had already ascertained the time it would take for a letter to come from the Spanish coast to England) asked me one morning if I still remembered his strange dream. He then made me repeat it to him. After that he said: "Well, if there is anything in it, your uncle will have heard something about it by this time, let us go and see him." When we reached the house we could see at a glance that something had happened. My father at once asked if there was any news yet of Jack. Yes, that morning's post had brought a large envelope bearing the Lisbon post-mark. It was written by one of the officers of a man-of-war that was then anchored at Lisbon, and its purpose was to make known the death of my cousin. After a very kind and favourable notice of Jack's general conduct and abilities, it gave full details of his death and burial. Those details tallied exactly with the details given in my father's dream, and it occurred the very date of the dream. I was perfectly amazed. I inspected the letter and could not see any point in which there was the slightest contradiction or even divergence. Of course my uncle was then informed of the dream, and I feel sure the talk we then had about the matter helped my uncle to bear his bitter trial with more serenity than he would have done if we had not been there with our visions from dreamland.

F. T. R.

Longfleet, Poole, 28th October, 1884.

I can quite understand your desire to verify, as far as possible, every statement made, but unfortunately I shall not be able to furnish much corroboration. I have just a little; what there is I will place before you. I found the inclosed "inspector's certificate." I see it corrects my story in one point, and confirms it in another. I said that the event happened about thirty-two years ago; this document is dated 1847, *i. e.*, thirty-seven years ago. At the time of writing the paper I did not sufficiently think over the question of time. I would add that the family consisted of my uncle, aunt—who are both dead—my cousin John (of whom I have written), and his sister, who is still alive in Australia. She may be able to furnish more particulars. Her address I will procure and forward to you in a few days' time. However weak it may be in collateral evidence, I am positive as to the fact of the dream, and that I have fairly represented it in its essential points.—

Yours truly,

F. T. REED.

The inspector's certificate shows that John Tabner, seaman, died at sea on board H.M.S. Canopin on the 24th of April, 1847.

Note.—We have here, in the absence of an independent account of the death given in any detail, and of written notes of the dream, to rely almost entirely on Mr. Reed's recollection as regards the degree of correspondence

between the two. Considering the length of the time since the event occurred, this is, of course, natural. It will, however, greatly add to the evidential value of the narrative should we succeed in obtaining from Mr. Tabner's sister an account of her recollection of the circumstances, corroborating and supplementing Mr. Reed's.

L.—1049—A^d Pⁿ

From Mr. Wm. Garlick, F.R.C.S., of 33, Great James Street, Bloomsbury, W.C. (Known to F. P.)

In the early morning of August 29th, 1832, when lying in bed half asleep and half awake, I was suddenly startled by perceiving the form of my brother George, then absent from home, standing beside me. The room was quite light, and my recognition of the figure was complete and clear. He looked at me, and then seemed to fade slowly away. My brother (who had a special warm affection for me) was at that time a sailor on board the merchant ship "Eliza," bound for the East Indies. I had no reason to suppose anything was wrong with him, nor was he specially in my thoughts. The vision, for I felt certain that I was awake and not dreaming, made a very strong and painful impression upon me, so much so that the family where I was staying asked the cause of my troubled looks. I told them what I had seen, and at my hostess's * request made a note of the occurrence. Months afterwards we received the intelligence that my brother had died at Baroda, near Sumatra, of dysentery. The date and hour of his death (as nearly as could be calculated) coincided exactly with that of his appearance to me at Stroud (Gloucester). I am of a calm and unimaginative temperament, and have never had any similar experience before or since. The coincidence was well-known to various members of my family, but I do not now remember that I mentioned the matter to anyone else at the time.

WM. GARLICK.

From Mrs. Garlick.

I was present at the breakfast table on the 29th August, 1832, when my mother, Mrs. Humpage, questioned Mr. Garlick on the cause of his unusual gloom and quietness. He then told us that he had seen his brother—who was at that time at sea—in his bedroom an hour or two before. My mother remarked, "You will be sure to hear something, so note the date."

Some months afterwards I remember that a letter came for Mr. Garlick, forwarded from his mother, announcing the death of this brother on that day, the 29th August. I heard of this, of course, as soon as the letter was received.

L. GARLICK.

November 18th, 1884.

* Afterwards my mother-in-law.

At a personal interview, Mr. Garlick explained that the figure remained in his sight, apparently, about ten minutes. He has a very vivid recollection of the features, but cannot recall the dress. He infers from this that the dress was that which his brother usually wore, as he would certainly have noticed and remembered any unusual detail in the costume.

He was about 18 years old at the time.

The "note" referred to was a mental note only, but he is confident of the accuracy of his memory.

The precise hour of his brother's death was only a matter of inference. Mr. Garlick showed me the entry of the death, with the date, in his family Bible.

Mrs. Garlick's confirmation is given above; no other is obtainable.

Mr. Garlick has never experienced any other hallucination, veridical or otherwise.—F. P.

November 18th, 1884.

Note.—The long interval—52 years—between the date of this experience and the date of its record, and the irremovable uncertainty as to the coincidence in time between the vision and the corresponding death, are obvious defects from an evidential point of view; still, this and similar narratives are of value as confirming a generalisation based mainly on more recent and more precise evidence. The same remark applies to No. 1055.

L.—1050—A^d Pⁿ

From Mr. S. S. Falkinburg, Uniontown, Ky., U.S.A., house painter and decorator, &c.

[Mr. Falkinburg's mother is dead. I have written to his brother to ask for his account of the circumstances.—F. P.]

Your favour of August 29th at hand and contents noted, and, in reply, will give you, to the best of my recollection, a full history of the circumstance.

The circumstance of which the *Dream Investigator* speaks was this, and let me assure you it is impressed upon my mind in a manner which will preclude its ever being forgotten by me or the members of my family interested. My little son, Arthur, who was then five years old, and the pet of his *grandpa*, was playing on the floor when I entered the house a quarter of 7 o'clock, Friday evening, July 11th, 1879. I was very tired, having been receiving and paying for staves all day, and it being an exceedingly sultry evening I laid down by Artie on the carpet, and entered into conversation with my wife (not, however, in regard to my parents). Artie, as usually was the case, came and laid down with his little head upon my left arm, when all at once he exclaimed,

"Papa! papa! Grandpa!" I cast my eyes toward the ceiling, or opened my eyes, I am not sure which, when, between me and the joists (it was an old-fashioned log cabin), I saw the face of my father as plainly as ever I saw him in my life. He appeared to me to be very pale, and looked *sad*, as I had seen him upon my last visit to him three months previous. I immediately spoke to my wife, who was sitting within a few feet of me, and said, "Clara, there is something wrong at home; father is either dead or very sick." She tried to persuade me that it was my imagination, but I could not help feeling that something was wrong. Being very tired we soon after retired, and about 10 o'clock Artie woke me up repeating, "Papa, grandpa is here." I looked, and believe, if I remember right, got up, at any rate to get the child warm, as he complained of coldness, and it was very sultry weather. Next morning I expressed my determination to go at once to Indianapolis. My wife made light of it and over-persuaded me, and I did not go until Monday morning, and upon arriving at home (my father's) I found him buried the day before (Sunday, July 13th). Now comes the mysterious part to me. After I had told my mother and brother of my vision, or whatever it may have been, they told me the following:—

On the morning of the 11th July (the day of his death) he arose early, and expressed himself as feeling unusually well, and ate a hearty breakfast. Soon after leaving the table he said he believed he would "clean up and put on a clean shirt, as he felt some one was coming to see him that day." He washed, went upstairs and put on his best clothes, and came down and told mother he would go in to the parlour and read, and if any one called to see him notify him.

He took the Bible (he was a Methodist minister) and went and remained until near noon. He ate a hearty dinner and went to the front gate, and, looking up and down the street, remarked that he could not, or at least would not be disappointed, some one was surely coming. During the afternoon and evening he seemed restless, and went to the gate, looking down street, frequently. At last, about time for supper, he mentioned my name, and expressed his conviction that God, in his own good time, would answer his prayers in my behalf (I being at that time very wild). Mother going into the kitchen to prepare supper, he followed her and continued talking to her about myself and family, and especially Arthur (my son). Supper being over, he moved his chair near the door, and was conversing about me at the time he died. The last words were about me, and were spoken, by mother's clock, 14 minutes of 7. He did not fall, but just quit talking and was dead.

Then mother's dream of the extraordinary large coffin came to her memory. She told me that she was going somewhere and saw the coffin, and asked myself and brother, Who was dead? who that large coffin was for?

My brother replied it was for father. This so impressed her mind that it was a source of much discomfort to her. "To think," she said, "that I was warned so plainly, and yet did not have the least idea of his nearness to death."

Now what was so mysterious to me was the anticipated visit or arrival of someone on that particular day, as though he was impressed with the idea that someone would come.

In answer to my inquiries, my son Arthur says he remembers the circumstances, and the impression he received upon that occasion is ineffaceable.

SAMUEL S FALKINBURG.

Box 142, Uniontown, Union Co., Ky., U.S.A.

The account in the *Dream Investigator* states that "when he (Arthur) awoke he told me grandpa had been there, and that he (my father) told him that he was very cold, and that he was frozen stiff."

I drew Mr. Falkinburg's attention to this discrepancy, and received the following reply:—

1st. (In answer to "hallucination" questions.) I do not remember ever having any experience of that kind before this happened, but I have frequently since. My little boy does not know, and it is difficult to get him to understand what is meant. He says he often has dreams.

2nd. My mother's dream occurred the night preceding my father's death.

3rd. My understanding at the time of the occurrence was that it was my father that was cold and complained of being frozen, and not the boy, as it was in July, and extremely sultry.

Many times since then I have imagined I have heard my father call me, and have looked for him almost expecting to see him. So my son says he has also.

My dreams are very generally of, and with him, and there is hardly a night passes but he and I are together in some way. I will write you one of my dreams in full in a few days.

S. S. FALKINBURG.

From Mrs. Falkinburg, Uniontown.

September 12th, 1884.

Mr. Frank Podmore.

SIR,—In answer to your request, I will say that I cheerfully give my recollection of the circumstance to which you refer.

We were living in Brown County, Indiana, 50 miles south of Indianapolis, in the summer of 1879. My husband (Mr. S. S. Falkinburg) was in the employ of one John Ayers, buying staves.

On the evening of July 11th, about 6.30 o'clock, he came into the

room where I was sitting and laid down on the carpet with my little boy Arthur, complaining of being very tired and warm.

Entering into conversation on some unimportant matter, Arthur went to him and laid down by his side.

In a few moments my notice was attracted by hearing Arthur exclaim: "Oh, papa, grandpa, grandpa, papa," at the same time pointing with his little hand toward the ceiling.

I looked in the direction he was pointing, but saw nothing.

My husband, however, said: "Clara, there is something wrong at home; father is either dead or very sick." I tried to laugh him out of what I thought an idle fancy, but he insisted that he saw the face of his father looking at him from near the ceiling, and Arthur said, "Grandpa was come, for he saw him." That night we were awakened by Artie again calling his pa to see grandpa. Well, my husband has given you a detailed account, except that a short time after he started, Monday, to go to Indianapolis, I received a letter calling him to the burial of his father; and some time after, in conversation with his mother, it transpired that the time he and Artie saw the vision was within two or three minutes of the time his father died.

This, with my husband's, is about as near as I can call to recollection.

Hoping this may be what you requested, I remain, respectfully,

MRS. CLARA T. FALKINBURG.

Note.—The subsequent hallucinations of both percipients—if more than mere illusions—are an important feature in the above narrative, however they are to be explained. We may infer from them that both Mr. Falkinburg and his son have a certain predisposition to hallucination; hence perhaps somewhat less weight is to be attached to the fact that Mr. Falkinburg does not recollect having had any similar experience before the one described. In any case the transfer or suggestion of the phantasm from the son to the father is a phenomenon psychologically interesting.

L.—1051—A^e Pⁿ

From Captain P. (Known to F. P.)

Some time at the end of 1868 I was discussing with a lady of my acquaintance the question of making compacts to appear after death. I doubted whether such compacts could be fulfilled; she stoutly maintained that they could be. Finally we agreed to make such a compact ourselves—that whichever of us first died should appear after death to the other. At the beginning of the next year I went on a voyage in the merchant ship, Edmund Graham, of Greenock, to Australia, and, on the 22nd of June, when we were between the Cape of Good Hope and Australia (lat. 40deg. S., long. 22 E.), and the ship running before a heavy gale of wind, the sea swept over the deck and washed seven of

us, myself among the number, overboard. I gave myself up for lost, and I remember well that I thought of the panorama of their past lives which drowning men are said to see, and hoped that the show would commence. Then I regretted I was without my oilskin, as the water would have time to wet me through before death, and I expected to find it very cold; as far as I can recollect, this was all that passed through my mind. The next moment I caught hold of a loose rope that was hanging from the ship, and hauled myself on deck. The others were drowned. This took place between 3 and 4 a.m. on June 22nd. A few months afterwards I had a letter at Bombay, from my friend, in which she mentioned that on the night of the 22nd June she had seen me in her room.

When I saw her again, I received from her a full account of the circumstance. She told me that she woke up suddenly in the night, and saw me at the other end of the room, and that I advanced towards her. Whether she noticed the dress which I was wearing I cannot say. I have often since heard her describe the incident. As far as I can recollect, she told me the precise time of the appearance; and my belief is that it coincided in time with my being washed overboard. Though I cannot recollect calculating the difference of time, by reference to the longitude, I think it most likely that I did so and found the times to correspond. I was certainly, at that time, quite alive to the fact that 22deg. of longitude would make a sensible difference in the apparent time.

M. P.

The following is a portion of a letter from the percipient to Captain P. :—

I enclose the papers you gave me to look at the other night, and in looking over the printed notes of the Society I see (as a Catholic) I can have nothing to do with it.

You can tell your friend the reason I decline saying anything about it is because I am a Papist, and that I consider those sort of things much too sacred to make the topic of conversation at any modern scientific meeting.

Note.—We have here a fair specimen of the large and varied class of obstacles which the present state of thought and feeling on the subject of apparitions places in the way of our investigation.

L.—1052—Ad P^a

From General H. (Through Miss Leith.)

In 1856 I was engaged on duty at a place called Roha, some 40 miles south of Bombay, and moving about in the districts (as it is

termed in India). My only shelter was a tent, in which I lived for several months in the year. My parents, and only sister, about 22 years of age, were living at K., from which place letters used to take a week reaching me. My sister and I were regular correspondents, and the post generally arrived about 6 a.m., as I was starting to my work. It was on the 18th April of that year (a day never to be forgotten) that I received a letter from my mother, stating that my sister was not feeling well, but hoped to write to me the next day. There was nothing in the letter to make me feel particularly anxious. After my usual outdoor work, I returned to my tent, and in due course set to my ordinary daily work. At 2 o'clock my clerk was with me, reading some native documents that required my attention, and I was in no way thinking of my sister, when all of a sudden I was startled by seeing my sister (as it appeared) walk in front of me from one door of the tent to the other, dressed in her night-dress. The apparition had such an effect upon me that I felt persuaded that my sister had died at that time. I wrote at once to my father, stating what I had seen, and in due time I also heard from him that my sister had died at that time.

November 11th, 1884.

J. C. H.

In answer to further inquiries, General H. writes :—

By the context of the narrative you will see it was 2 p.m., broad daylight. My vision corresponded with the exact time of death.

I have never seen any other apparition.

You must excuse my sanctioning my name being appended to the account, though I am as certain of it as I am of my own existence.

General H. further informs us that his parents are dead, and that there is no friend living who may have seen his letter.

L.—1053—A^e P^s

From the Rev. J. C. Learned, 1748, Waverley Place, St. Louis, Mo.

August 24th, 1884.

To Prof. W. F. Barrett.

It was in 1863 that I took charge of the Unitarian Church in Exeter, N.H. Five miles away, Rev. A. M. Bridge was preaching at Hampton Falls,—with whom I sometimes exchanged pulpits. After a year or so he gave up the work in this little parish, and somewhat later entered upon an engagement in the town of East Marshfield, Mass., as the railroad runs, nearly 80 miles from Exeter.

On Wednesday, December 13th, 1865, on waking in the morning, I remarked to my wife upon the very vivid and singular dream which I had had, and related it fully. I had seen Mr. Bridge taken suddenly

and violently ill. He seemed to be in a school-room. He sank down helpless, but was borne away by friendly hands and laid upon a couch or lounge. I was by him, and assisted others in whatever way I could. But he grew worse; even the open-air did not revive him; a leaden pallor soon spread over his features; peculiar spots, which I had never noticed before, like moles or discolourations of the skin, appeared upon his face, and after much suffering he died.

Immediately after breakfast, and while we were again speaking of the dream, a ring at the door admitted to my house Mr. Wells Healey, an old parishioner of Mr. Bridge's, at Hampton Falls. I guessed the nature of his message. He had come to ask me to attend the funeral services of his former minister, who had suddenly died two days before (Monday), at East Marshfield. Mr. Bridge's family had not removed there, but he would be buried among the people he had so recently left.

I attended the funeral as requested. I learned from the family and friends the particulars of his death, which coincided remarkably in several points with the dream already repeated to my wife; and when I looked at the face of the dead man as he lay in his coffin, my attention was arrested and fixed by *the peculiar spots upon the face* to which I have alluded, and which were stereotyped upon memory by the dream.

September 4th, 1884.

1. I do not at present know the residence of any member of the family of Rev. A. M. Bridge, nor do I know any persons in East Marshfield who could give me particulars of his death; but the exact date, with the circumstance of the dream, I obtained from my wife's diary.

2. I have often had vivid dreams, always quickly enough forgotten, because nothing came of them. I have no doubt this would have been forgotten but that something did come of it, and so was often alluded to and retold afterward. Indeed, I don't know that any other dream of mine ever had any other significance than to be laughed at.

3. In the case cited, it would seem to me that any occult influence affecting my train of thought must rather have reached me from the living—the mother and children at Hampton Falls—than from the dead father. My impression is that the body was sent to the family on the day after his death, so that it was present with them on the night when the dream occurred. Very likely the circumstances of his illness and last moments had been detailed to them and others by friends in attendance. I was very likely to be thought of in connection with the burial, as I was a near neighbour, and often visited and preached in the little church.

J. C. LEARNED.

From Mrs. Learned.

I distinctly recall the fact of the dream related by my husband, so soon after verified in many particulars. I made it a point to record it in my diary at the time, and we have often referred to that singular experience since.

LUCY W. LEARNED.

Note.—The value of this narrative would of course be materially increased if we could obtain independent evidence as to the circumstances of the death. We should then ask Mrs. Learned to let us if possible have the exact quotation from her diary, which would make the case a pretty complete one. As it is, however, we think it has considerable interest.

L.—1055—A^d Pⁿ

From Mr. E. Stephenson, School House, Market Weighton Yorks.

November 25th, 1884.

I am head-master of the boys' school and organist of the parish at Weighton. My parents reside in Hull, my father being a cooper and cask merchant there.

My mother's maiden name was Jane Cooling. Several years ago (about 10 or 12) she told me a remarkable story which sank deeply into my mind.

I got her to tell me the whole of her story again, and it was exactly the same as that she had told years before. I cross-questioned her, but always got the same answers.

My mother is 65 years of age. Her mind is quite clear and her memory very good. The affair happened when she was about 16 or 17 years old, and she maintains that even yet she can see (in imagination) her brother as fairly as she saw him then.

The following is the story, which I have recently taken down carefully from her own lips. Having subjected my mother to some very close questioning, I feel sure that you may depend upon the statements being trustworthy.

Henry Cooling, the brother of Jane Cooling, was a sailor, and had gone on a long voyage.

Jane was living in Hull in the house of Mr. Kitching, Mytongate. There was a large cupboard in the house, which was on a kind of landing, approached by two or three steps.

Just as she was about to go up to it, she saw distinctly, about 5 p.m., her brother Henry standing in front of the door. His eyes were fixed on her for a short time, and then he disappeared towards the left. He was dressed in his seaman's drawers and shirt. The strings of his drawers were loose; his feet were bare; his hair was

untidy; and his whole appearance was like that of one roused suddenly from sleep.

After the vision had vanished, as soon as she recovered herself, she went home to her father and told him what she had seen. He said it was all nonsense, and told her to take no notice of it.

However, some days later, a letter came from the captain of the ship, stating that Henry Cooling had been washed overboard during a gale in the Bay of Biscay, just as he was called on deck to assist in working the ship, and the time he gave us about the time of the accident corresponded approximately to that at which Jane saw the vision.

The above is the story purely as she told it to me, and she confidently affirms that it is perfectly true in every detail.

Since the above was written, I have found the exact date of my uncle's death—March 27th, 1836. My mother would, therefore, be 17 within a few days.

E. S.

In answer to inquiries, Mr. Stephenson writes:—

December 2nd, 1884.

I remember my mother telling us the story several years ago, while her father was living in our house, and I have no recollection of anything but his fullest assent to what she told. You will remember that in my previous letter I stated that she told her father what she had seen several days before they knew what had happened. He lived with us many years, he knew we were informed of the affair, and I never knew him contradict the story in any way. I could almost swear that I have heard him affirm, but will not do so as I do not exactly recollect the occasion, and do not wish to give you anything but the purest evidence in such a matter.

My mother confidently affirms that she saw the vision at that hour, 5 p.m., and the letter from the captain of the vessel several days afterwards confirmed her statement as to the time, and the being called from his berth.

My mother has not, when completely awake, had any other apparition or hallucination except the one furnished you.

See note to 1049.

L.—1057—A^c Pⁿ

From Mrs. W. (Through Miss A. Leith.)

In 1874 I was in England ill in bed, and I distinctly saw my dear mother, who was at that time at Nice, come up to the foot of my bed; and look earnestly and sorrowfully at me; it was broad daylight, and I noticed the shawl she wore, one I had not seen her wear for many

years. I started up and she was gone. I then knew that her last illness must have come, though I was kept in ignorance of it, as I was so dangerously ill myself. I wrote to her, and her answer told me what I dreaded was true. I was allowed to recover sufficiently to go out to Nice, and be with her to the end. Also, I ought to say, that the morning her dear image appeared to me, a doctor arrived from London whom she had sent to me by telegraphing to him from Nice, and this doctor was the means of saving my life, as I was at that time so ill that he said I could not have lived more than four hours longer.

C. M. W.

In a letter dated the 23rd January, 1885, Miss W. writes in answer to our inquiries, that her mother "does not know anything about the shawl forming part of my grandmother's dress at the time she saw the apparition." She adds that Mrs. W. has seen no other hallucinations, and that she had no reason to suspect her mother's illness at the time. Miss W. writes: "I clearly remember, in 1874, my mother in her dangerous illness seeing my dear grandmother come up to the foot of the bed. My mother has often told me since that her mother was wearing a certain crimson shawl she was very fond of, that her spectacles had dropped, and she looked over them at my mother, with sad inquiring eyes. My mother gazed at her for a minute, and then cried out when the apparition vanished; and when the nurse came in, having heard her cry, my mother insisted on being told the truth about her mother, for she said she knew that she had come to tell her she was dying, which was indeed the fact, though she lived long enough to enable my mother to see her before she died."

E. M. W.

Note.—The above narrative, taken in connection with the two that immediately follow (No. 1058), constitute an example of a small, but especially interesting class among the cases collected by the Committee; which appear to suggest that certain persons are peculiarly and constantly liable to spontaneous telepathic impressions. In the case above given, however, it is not quite clear how far the vision coincided with a sudden and marked change in the state of the agent. Also it is possible that the doctor's visit, or the expectation of it, may have called up her mother's image to Mrs. W.'s mind, and that her illness may have rendered her specially liable to hallucination. It would remain noteworthy (unless there was special reason to fear the attack of fatal illness) that the apparition produced a true conviction in Mrs. W.'s mind as to what was occurring to her mother.

L.—1058—A^e P^s

From Mrs. W. (Through Miss A. Leith.) Cf. L. 1057.

A.

When I was in the South of France, in 1878, I had a dream that a sister, who is especially dear to me, was in a carriage accident, and in my dream I saw her killed, but on reaching her I found her unhurt;

and as she smiled at me I dreamed I was dying of the agony of mind I had gone through. I never can forget the dream, the suffering was so intense. I awoke with pain in my heart and faintness, and woke my husband and told him. (I think my cries in my sleep awoke him.) I wrote to my sister, and when her answer arrived she gave me in it the account of the danger she had passed through.

C. M. W.

B.

One night I was awakened out of my sound sleep by a voice close to my ear, saying, "Rise, you have no time to lose"; and words to the effect that the child of this very dear sister was dying, and that she needed my prayers. I cannot remember the exact words, but I felt it was conveyed to me that I had to help her with all the earnestness I could, and there was an awe about it I cannot describe. Afterwards I found that at this very time on that night her most beloved child had passed through the crisis in diphtheria.

Nothing of importance ever happened to any one very dear to me without my feeling it, though I may be far from them.

C. M. W.

On one occasion I received an anxious letter from my sister inquiring if anything had happened to me, as she had dreamed of a serious carriage accident in which I was in danger. This letter was received by me before I had informed her of the danger in which I had been placed, and the serious consequences which mercifully were averted by the presence of mind of my coachman.

BESSIE S.

On another occasion my sister was awakened by a voice which said distinctly, "Rise at once. You have no time to lose. One you love is in sore need." She did rise from her bed to pray for me, and afterwards knew that my child had passed through the crisis of diphtheria at that very time, and that her life was in imminent danger.

BESSIE S.

I perfectly remember both these "prophetic" dreams of my mother's, as she related them to me before receiving the answers to her letters to my aunt.

E. M. W.

In a letter dated January 23rd, 1885, Miss W. writes in answer to our questions:—

Mother is not in the habit of dreaming of accidents, and as far as she can remember it was the only time she has ever dreamt of an accident. The carriage did not upset. The facts are as follows:—My aunt has a very light cab built by my uncle especially for her, and on

one occasion my aunt was driving along a narrow road, when her coachman whipped up the horses, and began driving at a furious pace. My aunt alarmed, looked through the little window at the back of the carriage, and saw a great dray with a runaway horse tearing after the carriage. Just as it must have run into it and smashed it the coachman turned the cab into an opening in the road. It was the only place in the road where the cab *could* have stopped, and it was the coachman's only hope to reach it, and the dray rushed by, leaving the cab unharmed. It did a great deal of damage, and the driver was killed. You see mother did not dream exactly the facts of the case, but only that my aunt was nearly killed by a carriage accident.

As to the "other intimations of danger," &c., they are this, that whenever anything happens to those dear to her she always knows there is *something* happening. For instance, I was laid up with a very bad cough and cold when away from her last year, and she wrote me an anxious letter, saying, she knew I was ill, for she had an idea I had inflammation of the lungs. Last month I was suffering dreadfully from toothache and determined I would go and have two teeth out without saying anything to mother for fear of worrying her; she thought I was going for a walk, but all the time I was gone she was so unhappy about me, and S. told me when I had come back that mother had cried and been wretched all the time. You see the things are not big enough to attract much attention, but we in the house know them to be true.

Note.—We have no evidence in the case of the dream of the carriage accident that it took place on the night of the day on which the accident occurred, and even if it did so, we should have to suppose either a deferred impression or that Mrs. S. was in sleep repeating her experience of the day. But probably no one who accepts the general fact of telepathic communication will be disposed to conclude that the coincidence was a merely accidental one. Mrs. W.'s impression, in the borderland between sleeping and waking, of the danger to her sister's child, is, however, more impressive, both because it was more than a dream, and because the time coincidence seems in this case to have been ascertained to be exact. With regard to Mrs. W.'s less definite impressions whenever anything of importance happens to any one very dear to her, it is difficult (as Miss W. suggests) to make them evidentially valuable without constant and careful notes because of the double indefiniteness—the difficulty (1) of deciding what is an event or experience of importance, and (2) of distinguishing clearly a peculiar feeling that something is happening from vague anxiety about absent friends. If Mrs. W. could continuously for some little time make a note in writing, with as much detail as possible, whenever a feeling of this kind occurred, and afterwards add the confirmation, much interesting light might be thrown on the subject.

CASE OF MONITION, SUCCEEDED BY CERTAIN MESMERIC PHENOMENA.

Dr. Nicolas, Count de Gonémys, of Corfu, a member of the Society for Psychical Research, has kindly sent us a narrative of personal experience of a very interesting kind. The narrative, which is in the French language, is too long for insertion here, but the English abstract given below will place our readers in possession of its principal features. We retain the first person in the narration for the sake of clearness.

In the year 1869 I was Officer of Health in the Hellenic army. By command of the War Office I was attached to the garrison of the Island of Zante. As I was approaching the island in a steamboat, to take up my new position, and at about two hours' distance from the shore, I heard a sudden inward voice say to me over and over again in Italian, "Go to Volterra." I was made almost dizzy by the frequency with which this phrase was repeated. Although in perfectly good health at the time I became seriously alarmed at what I considered as an auditory hallucination. I had no association with the name of M. Volterra, a gentleman of Zante with whom I was not even acquainted, although I had once seen him, ten years before. I tried the effect of stopping my ears, and of trying to distract myself by conversation with the bystanders; but all was useless, and I continued to hear the voice in the same way. At last we reached land; I proceeded to the hotel and busied myself with my trunks, but the voice continued to harass me. After a time a servant came and announced to me that a gentleman was at the door who wished to speak with me at once. "Who is the gentleman?" I asked. "M. Volterra," was the reply. And M. Volterra entered, weeping violently in uncontrollable distress, and imploring me to follow him at once, and see his son, who was in a dangerous condition. I found a young man in a state of maniacal frenzy, naked in an empty room, and despaired of by all the doctors of Zante for the last five years. His aspect was hideous, and rendered the more distressing by constantly-recurring choreic spasms, accompanied by hissings, howlings, barkings, and other animal noises. Sometimes he crawled on his belly like a serpent; sometimes he fell into an ecstatic condition on his knees; sometimes he talked and quarrelled with imaginary interlocutors. The violent crises were often followed by periods of profound syncope.

When I opened the door of his room he darted upon me furiously, but I stood my ground and seized him by the arm, looking him fixedly in the face. In a few moments his gaze fell; he trembled all over, and fell on the floor with his eyes shut. I made mesmeric passes over him, and in half an hour he had fallen into the somnambulic state.

The mesmeric cure lasted two months and a half. During that time many interesting phenomena were observed.

1. He became clairvoyant as to his own malady, foreseeing the days and hours of his own attacks, and the nature of each.
2. Sometimes I mesmerised him from my own house, without his previously knowing of it.
3. In the somnambulist state he prescribed for himself; and the exhibition of the remedies prescribed (though these were apparently insignificant) was followed by an improvement in his symptoms.
4. Once, when in the mesmeric trance, he ordered me to let him sleep for eight days continuously, without waking him, but merely causing him to drink one glass of orange-water, and placing in his mouth some morsels of gum. He did, in fact, sleep for eight days, during which time no shouts or pinches from any one could awake him, although he replied at once to questions which I addressed to him from an adjoining room.
5. He used to discern me at a distance during his crises, and once, at my request, he described with great accuracy my house at Corfu.

The cure, however, was not uninterrupted. Often in the mesmeric sleep he seemed to become a different person, expressed hatred for me, spat at me, and tried to abstract himself from my influence. I contended against these moods with all my might, and finally he would become calm again and say "that it was not himself who had thus acted." A month before his final cure he foresaw its date, but warned me that I should have a severe conflict with him of an hour's duration, at a date which he announced beforehand. After that struggle, if my will prevailed, he would be completely restored to reason. At the appointed hour I proceeded to mesmerise him, in his father's presence. As soon as he fell under my influence he became wildly excited, called me his assassin, implored his father with tears to turn me out of the house, and gradually became more and more convulsed and haggard, with continual cries of "The doctor is killing me!" I continued to mesmerise him, exerting the whole force of my will, and precisely at the end of an hour the youth became unconscious, and fell on his mattress, dragging me down with him in his fall. In 20 minutes more he awoke into the mesmeric trance, and said, "Doctor, you have saved me. I am now perfectly cured. Let me sleep another hour and then wake me; there is nothing more to fear." He awoke perfectly well, and has had no return of his terrible malady.

Count Gonémys proceeds to discuss the nature of the purposeful voice, or auditory monition, which warned him on the steamer of the approaching need of his services. Count Gonémys inclines to the belief that this call emanated from some third intelligence,—not from the mind of the distressed father. "Let us assume," he says, "that M. Volterra in his despair at his son's condition had read in the newspaper that an officer of health was expected at Zante, and had ardently wished for the arrival of a new physician who might save the boy. Let us further suppose that this strong wish had radiated from him on every side, till it encountered the physician in question. Nevertheless, this *desire* of his could not be formulated as an *order*, an *admonition*;—and this order could not be given in the *third person*, 'Go to Volterra,' instead of 'Come to me.'"

Now here we shall be inclined to differ from Count Gonémys. In our view, if a telepathic impact were communicated from M. Volterra to Count Gonémys, the veridical hallucination to which it gave rise might quite conceivably assume its definite shape in Count Gonémys' brain, and represent itself to his consciousness, not as an appeal from a suffering stranger, but as an order from some external power. The *impulse* to the hallucination, in such cases, is given, as we argue, by the *agent*, but the *form* of the hallucination is determined by the special tendencies, or capacities, of the *percipient's* mind or brain. The monitory turn of the sentence would, therefore, not prevent us from classing it among our cases where the critical distress of one person represents itself in the consciousness of another.

The absence of previous *rapport* between M. Volterra and Count Gonémys is a more serious difficulty. It is, however, a difficulty which has met us in many other cases, (forming a class in our Provisional Index), where, nevertheless, we have thought that the hypothesis of an extraneous intelligence need not at present be discussed. For we have as yet so little conception of the mode in which the agent's mind exercises its telepathic impulse that we cannot lay down any definite line as to the percipients whom that impulse may affect.

We hope shortly to print a second communication received from Count Gonémys. In the meantime, any Member or Associate desirous of seeing the MS. of the above case, which contains a good deal of theoretic discussion, may obtain it on loan by applying to the Assistant-Secretary

F. W. H. M.

REPORT ON A HAUNTED HOUSE AT NORWICH,
November 22nd, 1884.

In accordance with your instructions I have been to Norwich to gather all the available evidence in connection with the "hauntings" which you were informed occurred there. I called upon Mr. I. O. Howard Taylor (an Associate of the Society for Psychical Research), who first drew your attention to the matter, and ascertained from him the address of the person who was inhabiting the house at the time the disturbances were said to occur. He is a clerk, and we may call him Mr. X. He gave his evidence clearly and *very* emphatically; he is an exceedingly intelligent witness, but I consider him to be of a somewhat nervous and excitable temperament, although, of course, his occasional highly-strung manner may have been due to the nature of the circumstances which he was relating. His statements were to the following effect:—

In September, 1883, he returned from his marriage trip and, with his wife, took possession of a house in ——— Road. He cannot say how soon disturbances were noticed with extra interest, for it was several months before the noises which were heard in the house were recognised as of an unusual character. However, when Mr. and Mrs. X. were in their bedroom at night, tramping sounds, like people occupying the sitting-room they had just left, were heard, the handle of a door at the foot of the stairs was once or twice unmistakably tried, and sounds of footsteps mounting the stairs were heard. Instant investigation failed to discover a cause for these sounds, and their frequent repetition led to the conclusion that the house was "haunted by a haunt," to use Mr. X.'s own expression. The first unmistakable proof, however, of the correctness of this conclusion was presented to him one night in the form of an apparition. He was in bed with his wife in the spare bedroom — a window having been broken in their own room. His wife was asleep; he could *not* sleep, but was lying quite still, and wide awake. Suddenly, on the first stroke of 12 from a clock in the city, there was an audible "swish," and the figure of a man stood before him, at the foot of the bed. The figure was that of a respectable old gentleman of about 60, with sharp, well-marked features. He was dressed in a black coat and waistcoat, and stood quite motionless, staring intently at him. Mr. X., without the ability to do otherwise, stared in return, until the last stroke of 12, when the apparition appeared to raise its arms and sink through the floor. This experience had a very marked effect upon his nerves, and during the four months which elapsed between that date and the time they were compelled to vacate the premises, he was continually apprehensive and nervous,

sometimes feeling utterly unable to go down from the dining-room to the kitchen alone. This arose from a sense of fear, which he could not overcome, even if by so doing he could have possessed himself of a handsome reward. He did not mention his experience to his wife, nor to *anyone*; she, however, did not fail to observe his changed behaviour and looks, and frequently remarked upon the facts, as did also their friends and neighbours. The noises still continued, and formed the subject of much speculation between them; the servant frequently heard footsteps walking up and down the kitchen stairs, and at night they were frequently heard, very distinctly and unmistakably, in different parts of the house. The servant, too, says she sometimes heard subdued voices and other vocal sounds, but she seems hazy in separating these from those produced by the woman next door, who suffers from a chronic cough. But the one manifestation which brought about their retreat from the house occurred about 8.30 in the evening, in the last week of September, 1884. Mrs. X., the servant, and a little girl who had been taking tea with them, were sitting in the back room of the two which form the ground-floor. They were chatting unconcernedly, and Mrs. X. was assisting the little girl with some painting, standing with her back to the window, which overlooks the yard. Suddenly, apparently from a vacant chair which stood beneath the window, there came a loud *sigh*, which was quickly followed by five more low gasping sighs, as from a strong man in great bodily and mental anguish: then a pause of a few seconds, followed by another sigh, much louder than the preceding ones, and partaking more of the nature of a groan. The three hearers were considerably frightened and upset: Mrs. X. was seized with a violent cramp in her side, the little girl was fearfully ill, and the servant had an attack of hysteria, and, as soon as they recovered the use of their limbs, they lost no time in leaving the house. As they left the room, and were entering the front one, which opens into the street, they heard three (? two) *raps* on the wall of the staircase as they passed it. Mr. X., meanwhile, was at his business: he returned home to find the house locked up, and a neighbour explained to him what had occurred, and told him where to find his wife. He found her, with the servant, at the house of a friend. Both of them were very ill and hysterical, and it was only after considerable discussion and persuasion that they could be induced to return to the house for one more night. Ultimately they did return, and Mr. X. went upstairs to wash his hands. Then came his turn to be again startled. As he was passing the spare room he declares that he distinctly heard a woman's whisper, saying, "Hark! the master of the house has returned; we must depart." A sound of footsteps followed, apparently crossing the room, and then ensued a succession of sobs and

wails, such as might be caused by a female in deep distress. In spite of all this they went to bed, and passed the night as best they could. Mrs. X. was dosed with spirits to induce sleep,—for her husband was becoming seriously alarmed about her—and the next day they left the house, taking up their quarters in that of a friendly neighbour. A fortnight later they took the house which they now occupy, and had their furniture removed from the troublesome one. This latter has now been empty for the past two months. I had the opportunity of questioning Mr. and Mrs. X. and the servant separately; their accounts agree pretty accurately, and the experiences appear to have been distributed amongst them in this way:—

Mr. X. : Apparition; sounds of footsteps about the rooms, and up and down stairs; whisperings and sobbings; door-handles tried. Mrs. X. : Sighs and groans; raps; sounds of footsteps (similar to those heard by her husband); door-handles tried. Servant: Sighs and groans; raps; footsteps (similar to those heard by her master and mistress) and confused whispering in the spare room, from which room her bedroom leads. The little girl who heard the sighs, groans, and raps, in company with Mrs. X. and the servant, can testify to that effect, but I was unable to see her. From the manner in which their evidence was given, and from their own remarks, it seems pretty clear that it has been repeated to one and another a considerable number of times, and the little differences of detail, which *evidently* once existed in the impressions of each, have now been corrected and straightened out, until the accounts form a fairly harmonious whole. It is clear that the matter has been well talked over amongst their immediate neighbours, and Mr. and Mrs. X. have come in for a large amount of cross-questioning, doubt, and ridicule. Three times a few friends, with Mr. X., have watched in the house at night, but nothing has happened, with the exception of noises purposely made in the next house, with the object of frightening the watchers for a joke. The disturbances are said to have mostly occurred between 10 and 12 at night. I went about 10 o'clock with Mr. X. to examine the house, and stayed there about two hours. It is a *very* tiny place, and consists of a basement, ground floor, and first floor. The kitchen is little better than a cellar, and, although the house is not at all old, its *construction* is not of a modern kind. The street door opens right into the front room, and no space is lost in unnecessary passages, or landings. The foot of the staircase which leads to the first floor is right *in* the back ground-floor room. The house is semi-detached, and has a garden in front, and a yard at the back, which is separated from the side road by a brick wall. In this yard men have been known to get, and the shutters were once tried by someone who was heard to decamp over the wall.

Any noise made in the side road by passers-by could be plainly heard in the back room (the room in which the sighs were heard) and the small size of the house renders movements in the adjoining premises plainly audible. I, myself, heard strange sounds, but could account for nearly all of them. They were caused by the next door people going up and down stairs, by their fire being poked, by their voices, by passers in the street, and by the vibration of distant carts. In addition to these there were some sounds which I could not exactly localise or account for, but they only consisted of such creaks and strains as one is almost sure to hear in a completely empty house, or, indeed, in any other house if intently listened for.

Such is the result of my inquiries. The evidence seems strong and decisive, and is now not easily shaken, but it is the opinion of the friends and neighbours with whom I came in contact that the apparition was due to a dream image; the sighs heard by Mrs. X. and the other two were probably attributable to some cause existing in the side road—the effect of which cause upon the trio in the back parlour was probably heightened by the growing conviction that the house was haunted. The other noises are popularly accounted for by ascribing them to the natural ones made in the next house, and I can well conceive that a watchful imagination might be well fed from this source alone. Mr. X. is *said* to be imaginative and somewhat excitable, and it is suggested that upon returning from work, and finding his wife and servant in hysterics, his combined feelings of nervousness, and determination not to be frightened in his own house, caused him to construe the wheezing and coughing of the woman next door into the whispered sentence that “the master had returned”; the former emotion being responsible for the illusion, and the latter for its character. The words, “Hark! the master has returned, we must depart” were heard proceeding from the dark spare bedroom, and I must confess that when I stood in this room and listened to the gasps of the patient next door (for she was coughing a great deal that night) the same thoughts had occurred to me before they were revived by the neighbours. At any rate, such is the substance of the belief of one who spent a night watching in the house. For my own part, if I had not heard the account of the disturbances *first-hand*, I should unhesitatingly say, after an examination of the house and its surroundings, that they are to be satisfactorily accounted for upon a purely natural and easily found basis. But when one hears the emphatic way in which Mr. X. declares that he was wide awake when he saw the apparition, and hears Mrs. X. and the servant declare that the sighs were undoubtedly *in the room*, and not outside the window, it is felt that they either must have seen and heard what is stated, or that self-deception was at work to a *very* considerable extent. In

listening to their evidence, however, one has an uneasy feeling that the frequent repetition and re-examination of their experiences has produced a more vivid impression of the minute circumstances than *originally* existed. In other words, one feels that the account has *grown*. Mrs. X. is a very young woman, very voluble, and fond of ventilating her religious creed. She seems quickly to jump to uncharitable conclusions, for her theory is that because the harmless old landlady does not care to recognise the supposed haunt as a fact, it necessarily proves that her husband, who died peacefully in the house, must have murdered a baby, or been guilty of some other crime for which he is condemned to haunt the premises. This is considered to be a very satisfactory explanation of the old lady's lack of sympathetic interest in the matter; and her attempts to quell a report which might prove damaging to her property are at once hailed as sufficient proof that her husband was the ghost, and plainly show a desire to shield his sin, and conceal its ghostly consequences. Such a mental attitude on the part of the principal witness seems materially to detract from the effect which her account might otherwise have.

The house is again let, and is to be taken possession of on Monday, November 24th, 1884. The in-coming tenants are aware of the report connected with it, and treat it with scorn. Perhaps the further development of the matter may be safely left in their hands.

G. A. SMITH.

OXFORD BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

A branch of the Society for Psychical Research has recently been formed at Oxford. Mr. Arthur Sidgwick, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, is its President, and Earl Russell, of Balliol College, is acting as Honorary Secretary. We hope to give a list of the members of the Oxford branch and other particulars in our next issue.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

We understand that this Society already numbers over 500 Associates.

NOTES ON THE DIRECT TRANSFERENCE OF BRAIN-
IMPRESSIONS.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

SIR,—I understand that the Society for Psychical Research invites communications on the above subject, more generally known under what is, in my opinion, the misleading term of "Thought-reading." For some considerable time I have been engaged at intervals in experiments of this nature, and I have arrived at certain generalisations which I think may be helpful to others engaged in similar experiments. No doubt, here as elsewhere, the "personal equation" will have to be taken into account, but I do not think it will greatly modify the results attained.

My objects have been to ascertain by personal experiments (1) whether it is possible to transfer an impression made on one brain directly to another without the use of any of the ordinary channels of communication, and (2), if so, the conditions under which the transference is made. In almost all cases an ordinary pack of cards was used to supply the brain-pictures.

It did not take long to convince me that this direct transference of a picture from one brain to another was possible. In fact, I was soon struck by the comparative facility of the operation under favourable conditions. I allow that my method of estimating results was not exactly that laid down by other observers. I attached (as I still attach) less importance than others to absolute accuracy in the transference of the picture. In such cases, as it seems to me, the results are to be judged, not by mathematical, but logical laws. The point to be considered is this: Is there a reasonable certainty that the picture has been seen, although, perhaps, not with absolute distinctness? The following record of experiments made on the 2nd February, 1885, with the help of Mr. W. S. Riley, will illustrate my meaning. (There were no second guesses.)

	CARD SELECTED.	CARD NAMED.
1.	7 of clubs	8 of clubs.
2.	1 of diamonds	3 of diamonds.
3.	9 of spades	9 of spades.
4.	4 of clubs	5 of clubs.
5.	2 of diamonds	2 of hearts.
6.	10 of clubs	8 of clubs.
7.	5 of hearts	4 of hearts.
8.	3 of spades	2 of diamonds.
(Here there was interval for rest.)		
9.	3 of clubs	5 of spades.
10.	6 of spades	7 of spades.
11.	8 of hearts	8—suit not seen.
12.	4 of hearts	4 of hearts.
13.	6 of hearts	6 of spades.
14.	3 of diamonds	1—suit not seen.
15.	9 of diamonds	6 of hearts.

Now it seems to me that in the above list there is no reasonable doubt that, in addition to Nos. 3 and 12, which are absolutely correct,

Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 were also seen by the percipient, though with varying degrees of clearness; and that, therefore, in the whole list of 15 cards there were really only 5 (if so many) of which no impression was conveyed. And I consider that such a list is at least as valuable as another shorter one which I might give, in which, out of 6 cards, 4 were transferred with perfect accuracy to the brain of the percipient.

I have taken much pains to find out what is the nature of the impression made on the percipient; and I have come to the conclusion that, in the large majority of cases in which the answer is correct, the impression made is pictorial. It is not a suggestion, but an actual image that is conveyed. Sometimes a suggestion is imagined, but in this case the answer is generally wrong. I have often asked: "Did you seem to see the card?" without giving a hint as to whether the card named were right or wrong. Almost invariably when the card was wrong, the percipient (not knowing the fact) would reply: "No, I didn't see it; but something seemed to tell me it was that one." On other occasions, when the card was rightly named, the percipient (equally uncertain of the fact) would say: "Yes; I seemed to see that quite distinctly."

This view was confirmed by my own experience as percipient. I have had but little practice in this capacity, and have on various occasions entirely failed to get any results worth mentioning; but on two occasions I was more fortunate. On one of these I named rightly several figures in succession. Now, these figures I saw most distinctly with my eyes closed; they appeared somewhat large, and distinctly, though faintly, luminous against a background of darkness; and when I saw them I had the absolute conviction that they were the right ones. On another occasion I saw in much the same way some cards, but not with the same distinctness. The card would appear and disappear so rapidly that I had a difficulty in counting the pips. It was, for instance, very difficult to distinguish between an eight and a 10. It was equally difficult to make out the suit. There was absolutely no indication of colour. When I had satisfied my mind that the card was a 10, it looked something like the 10 of diamonds, but with the sharp corners of the diamonds rounded off. It proved to be the 10 of clubs.

Being convinced that, in my experiments at any rate, the impression conveyed was pictorial, I endeavoured, by the aid of a black bandage, to make the darkness as complete as possible before the eyes of the percipient whilst I arranged for a very bright light to fall upon the card. My best results have been secured under these conditions. Another important point seemed to be to devise some means by which the instant of transference should be accentuated. At first I tried saying "one—two—three—" the "three" to be the crisis point, but, fancying that the suggestion of any numbers might have a tendency to confuse, I substituted three taps on the card, the third being harder than the previous two. It is, I think, impossible to *keep* the mind concentrated on a particular card, nor do I think it necessarily an advantage to try to do so. I believe the transmission and the perception to be an instantaneous process which may be repented, but cannot be sustained. I do not think that the attempt at repetition is very often successful, as the impression has already lost its freshness. For this reason I soon gave up allowing or attempting second "tries." Many of the cards seen with

absolute correctness were named in a moment. On the other hand cards which took a long time to see were either entirely wrong or only partially right.

To sum up, I come to the conclusion that in my experiments the impression made was pictorial; that it was conveyed instantaneously; that colour could not be conveyed but form only (spades were constantly confused with hearts). In this connection I may mention that I have never succeeded in getting the ace of spades correctly named. It has always been described as a court-card.

I may add a few other details. In my experience the sensitiveness requisite for the reception of brain-impressions is very evanescent. In the great bulk of my experiments the cards first taken were the ones most readily and clearly seen. The faculty was practically exhausted after about 10 or 12 attempts. I may mention that, after two decided failures, I always now break off. It is, in my opinion, most important to allow nothing to occur which would tend to weaken the faith of operator or percipient in their respective powers. I attribute, in fact, a great part of what success I have achieved to my constant efforts to convince the percipient of the possibility of seeing the cards. A long record of failures is most disheartening and indeed paralyzing. The impression of even a single failure is to be avoided if possible. For this reason I do not endorse what your committee say in circular No. 1: "If the first trial is a failure, the percipient should learn that fact from the silence of the experimenter." In my opinion he should be carefully guarded from learning that fact at all until the experiments are over. This is another reason why no second trial should be allowed, as a second trial implies failure in the first.

It sometimes happens that two cards present themselves successively to the mind of the percipient. As a rule, in this case I found that it was the first which was the right one, or the nearest to the right one. On the few occasions when it was not so, the second card was described as appearing much more vividly and distinctly than the first.

On some occasions the *séance* has been a complete failure. On these occasions there has always been some obvious physical reason, such as a cold on the part of the percipient or myself, or the presence of some visitor who, without intending it, introduced a disturbing element. It is this last difficulty that makes it almost useless to try to reproduce the experiments before strangers. The slightest uneasiness on the part of the percipient, or even over-anxiety to succeed, is sufficient to destroy the sensitiveness.

I might add more, but I will not trespass further on your space. On some future occasion I hope to furnish some notes with respect to clairvoyance.—I am, faithfully yours,

A. EUBULE-EVANS.

New Athenæum Club, S.W.,
February, 1885.