

ELECTIONS DURING MARCH, 1884.

HONORARY MEMBER.

WATTS, G. F., R.A., Little Holland House, London, W.

MEMBERS.

MANDERS, H., F.R.C.S., Agincourt House, Yorktown, Farnborough Station, Hants.

SINGLETON, MRS., 8, Prince's Gate, London, S.W.

ASSOCIATES.

BRYCE, MISS, 35, Bryanston Square, London, W.

DICKINSON, HERBERT YOUNG, 52, Eastbourne Terrace, London, W.

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HANSFORD, CHARLES, 3, Alexandra Terrace, Dorchester.

HOGG, ROBERT W., B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.

KENNY, COURTNEY S., LL.M., Downing College, Cambridge.

MATHEWS, GEORGE B., B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.

MYLNE, JULIET, MRS., 22, Gloucester Place, Hyde Park, London, W.

PODMORE, AUSTIN, 14, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.

POLLOCK, DIGHTON NICOLAS, King's College, Cambridge.

SANDARS, MISS, Lower Soughton, Northop, Flintshire.

STOUT, GEORGE F., B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.

WHISHAW, BERNHARD, B.A., 17, Mount Road, Liscard, Birkenhead.

GENERAL MEETING.

The seventh general meeting of the Society was held at the Garden Mansion, Queen Anne's Gate, on Friday, the 28th of March. Professor Sidgwick took the chair at 8.30 p.m.

The proceedings opened with the *Second Report of the Committee on Haunted Houses*, read by Mr. E. R. Pease. The following is an abstract:—

In the year that has elapsed since our last report we have been mainly occupied in collecting and sifting evidence, and for the present we are not prepared to attempt anything more than this. Our subject is obscure and difficult, and a much larger mass of evidence is necessary before we begin to theorise. We can, however, safely say that we are not investigating *fables*, but examining *facts*. The evidence already collected justifies this statement, and this only.

We have again to point out how difficult it is for us to obtain personal observations in haunted houses. This is partly due to the prejudices of their owners, but in a larger measure to the rarity and irregularity of the phenomena even in houses where we have good evidence of their occurrence. We would earnestly entreat our members and friends who are so fortunate as to inhabit haunted houses, to afford us an opportunity of visiting them. It may be that we are not likely to see or hear anything abnormal. But we are willing to incur much trouble and expense for the chance.

We are obliged, therefore, to confine ourselves in the main to the testimony (not necessarily of small value) of those persons who are so fortunate as to have had abnormal experiences of this class.

We have made an analysis of 65 stories printed as provisionally complete. Of these we class 28 as A stories, because we regard the evidence as clear and strong, and the witnesses as worthy of credence. All these accounts have been of course received from the actual witnesses of the occurrence, who in most cases are known personally to some of us. There are good reasons why women should be our most frequent witnesses. But for these 28 stories we have testimony from 14 men, as well as from 26 women. Of these stories 24 record the appearance of figures and four record noises only. The reverse of this proportion obtains amongst the stories as a whole, but it is obvious that figures can be easily and clearly described, whilst it is generally impossible to prove that noises are not caused by rats, wind, or a dozen other things. Excluding the four stories of noises only, and five other stories of an exceptional character, we have left 19 A stories, which all approximate to a certain type.

Magazine ghost-stories generally present sensational features, which are very rarely found in stories which reach us on good authority. The normal type of phantom may be recognised by the absence, as well as by the presence, of certain characteristics. To begin with, sensational features are extremely rare. Then again, these appearances scarcely ever bear any relation to a special time of the day or the year. In none of the 19 cases above mentioned do we find any such relation. In 8 of them we have *only one* recorded appearance; and in other cases where there have been several appearances, these have been spread over the course of many years. Another characteristic common in the 19 selected cases is the apparently casual and objectless nature of the apparition. A figure is seen which has no appearance of life, and which resembles closely the image thrown by a magic lantern. Sometimes the appearance is described as life-like: sometimes it is recognised at once as a phantom. Sometimes it is shadowy, but more often the dress is seen distinctly, and is described as that worn by living persons in recent times.

The above generalisations are professedly made from 19 cases only, but in reality they are drawn from our knowledge of the whole mass of evidence in our possession. When stories differ widely from the type here indicated, we usually find that the evidence for them is weak. We are not prepared to affirm that all exceptional stories are unworthy of credence. But we are inclined to believe that a larger collection of material and a more careful study of it will, before long, enable us to lay down with greater certainty and precision the laws of the occurrence of these phenomena.

We have not used the word "ghost" because it might be thought to countenance the idea that these phenomena are due to the presence of departed spirits. We must repeat that for the present we absolutely decline to theorise.

After the conclusion of this paper the President made some remarks on the importance of pursuing the inquiry into haunted houses in an experimental way, if possible. He said that the difficulties in the way of such experiments, if they were to be conducted under satisfactory conditions, were very great. If the Committee were asked, "Why do you not go down to a haunted house, and put the ghost under strict test conditions?" their answer was, *firstly*, that invitations to haunted houses were very rarely obtainable. Few owners will admit the existence of such opportunities in connection with their property; few tenants communicate their experiences till they are over. And they answered, *secondly*, that

from the evidence before them, fixed times for ghostly appearances could very rarely be determined; in most cases, if the investigation was to be carried on with any hope of success, the house must be continuously inhabited, and the members of the Committee were not in a position to avail themselves of any opportunities that might be presented for inhabiting continuously any such house. Under these circumstances, they would be very glad to receive communications from any member of the Society who might be in a position to assist in their investigation by continuously inhabiting any such house. If such an arrangement could be made, it would be fair, of course, that the Society should pay a share of the rent, in consideration of the opportunities of systematic investigation that would be secured to the Committee; and funds had, in fact, been placed in the hands of the Committee for this purpose. If anyone present should find himself disposed, or should hear of anyone disposed, to enter into an arrangement of this kind, he hoped that a communication would be sent to the Hon. Secretary, at 14, Dean's Yard. The President concluded by expressing his conviction that it would be irrational for anyone who, like himself, had a thorough knowledge of their experiments in Thought-transference, and of the whole mass of testimony they had collected in respect of the "telepathic" experiences of others, to suspend his judgment any longer on the general question as to the reality of such experiences; however strongly he still felt the need of further experimental and other evidence to convince the world. But, as regards the much more difficult question of the alleged manifestations of intelligences other than living human beings, the Society had been able to do much less; the difficulties here of obtaining conclusive evidence were much greater, and, for his own part, he was unable to come to any decision as to the causes of the facts brought before them. He felt, therefore, the importance of vigorously prosecuting the inquiry in any available way.

The proceedings terminated with the *Third Report of the Literary Committee*, read by Mr. F. W. H. Myers. The Report comprised the first instalment of a "Theory of Apparitions," dealing with the subject of death wraiths. The paper began with a discussion of the various *a priori* objections to the existence of *veridical hallucinations*,—that is, of appearances which are *hallucinations* in the sense that they represent some figure which has no known objective existence, but which are, nevertheless, *veridical* or *truth-telling*, because there is in fact an objective event (such as the death of a friend at a distance) to which these hallucinations correspond. The need of the *census of hallucinations* which the Society has set on foot was next explained;

inasmuch as it is only by discovering what is the frequency of mere morbid or deceptive hallucinations, that we can accurately decide on the degree of improbability of the chance coincidence of one of these morbid hallucinations with some objective event (death or accident), of which it seems to be in some way the reflection.

It was then urged that these veridical hallucinations are (many of them, at least) the manifestation on a large scale of the same kind of "telepathic" impression which is exhibited on a small scale in the Society's experiments on the transference of thoughts, images, pains, tastes, &c.

Taking the familiar fourfold division of mental faculties into the emotions, the will, the senses, and the intellect, the connection between the *experimental* and the *spontaneous* cases was shown under each of these headings, with illustrative narratives. It was seen that almost each species of the recorded experiments in Thought-transference may be regarded as the germinal form of psychical occurrences which arise spontaneously on a much larger scale, and bear to the minute experiments something the same relation as the lightning bears to the electric sparks developed in the lecture-room.

The paper dealt throughout with impressions transferred from living persons only (including those of persons at the moment of death); and among such impressions, those of a *visual* kind—the fully developed or externalised phantoms commonly called *apparitions* or *death-wraiths*—were expressly postponed, as forming a separate group which requires some expansion of the theory of telepathy. This group will, it is hoped, be discussed in a further Report to be presented to the next General Meeting.

NOTICES OF WORK DONE BY THE COMMITTEES.

The Literary Committee held ten meetings in the course of March, for discussion of the evidence of "Phantasms of the Living," many additional narratives having been received during the month.

The Hon. Secs. also prepared a Report, which was read by Mr. Myers at the General Meeting on March 28th, forming the third Report of the Committee. An abstract of this paper is given in our account of the meeting. The paper itself will appear, with considerable additions, in Part VI. of the Proceedings.

The Thought-Transference Committee has not been engaged in any experimental work during the past month, but has been preparing for press its last Report, which will be in the hands of our Members almost immediately.

The Reichenbach and the Mesmeric Committees have nothing to report. The latter Committee have made arrangements for an important series of experiments during April, and we hope they may be successful.

The Committee on Physical Phenomena have not sent in any official report: but we are informed that two members of the Committee have been engaged in the investigation of a singular case at Arundel, much resembling the Wem phenomena in Shropshire, the Report of which was published in our last number. Major Taylor's Report of the Arundel case we hope will be given in the next number of the Journal.

We are requested to state that the address of Mr. F. Podmore, the Hon. Sec. of the Mesmeric Committee, is now 14, Dean's Yard, S.W.

MESMERISM AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.

On the evening of Friday, March 24th, Mr. J. N. Langley, F.R.S., gave a lecture at the Royal Institution, London, on "The Physiological Aspect of Mesmerism." He began by explaining that by *mesmerism* he meant *hypnotism*; expressing a wish that the former word could be confined to those "magical" phenomena which science has not yet accepted, and which he himself held not to be proved. He proceeded to describe the most striking feature of the hypnotic state, the paralysis of the *will*—of the power which selects and controls action. This directive power being suspended, stimulation of the sensory nerves is apt to produce a purely reflex or mechanical movement. The mechanism of "reflex action" was here explained by means of a diagram, and illustrated by an amusing anecdote in which the lecturer, in a fit of absence, had turned a tap of water into his pipe. If no external stimulation be applied, an animal, whose will has been hypnotically suspended, will be passive for a time, sometimes even for many hours, without making any attempt to move. This state of passivity was exhibited in the case of a frog and of an alligator, whose natural activity was completely suspended for a minute or so, after a short course of manipulation, which gently repressed all attempts at movement. The lecturer pointed out that this loss of directive and initiative power implied that the normal activity of the cortical portion of the brain was in some way *inhibited*, and that the keynote of hypnotism is to be found in *inhibition*. He admitted, however, that the nervous processes involved in inhibition are as yet very little understood. It is, of course, a similar inhibitory process which produces hypnotic loss of sensation, the normal activity in the brain failing to be worked by stimuli applied to the surface of the body. The lecturer concluded by admitting that the genuine phenomena of hypnotism had been unduly neglected during a large part of the present century; but he thought that this neglect was susceptible of defence, on the ground that the theories adduced to explain the alleged facts had been absurd and impossible, and that scientific investigation might well be excused for considering that the facts were on a par with the theories.

The lecture was a very clear and interesting account of some of the more salient *facts* of hypnotism; and the lecturer showed good sense in recognising—as Mr. Romanes has done before him—that we are still only on the threshold of the subject, and that the problem merely takes another form when we ask, what is the real nature and process of *inhibition*? But it would not have been amiss, we think, if Mr. Langley had noticed some of the more obvious difficulties which seem to meet us equally, whatever special form of the hypnotic theory we adopt,—for instance, the extraordinary differences which persons otherwise alike present in amount of capacity to produce in others the characteristic effects.

ON THE EXISTENCE OF A "MAGNETIC SENSE."

The following letter, in an uncorrected form, appeared in *Nature* for March 20th. The letter is here given with one or two slight modifications which were made in the corrected proof:—

Sir William Thomson, in his presidential address at the Midland Institute, which is reported in *Nature* for March 6th (p. 438), draws attention to the "marvellous fact" that hitherto we have no evidence to show that even the most powerful electromagnets can produce the slightest effect upon a living vegetable or animal body. But Sir William "thinks it possible that an exceedingly powerful magnetic effect may produce a sensation that we cannot compare with heat, or force, or any other sensation," and hence he cannot admit that the investigation of this question is completed,—for although the two eminent experimenters named by Sir W. Thomson felt nothing when they put their heads between the poles of a powerful electro-magnet, it does not follow that, therefore, every member of the human race would feel nothing.

May I be permitted to point out that some slight evidence already exists in the direction sought by Sir W. Thomson? Scattered in different publications there are numerous statements made by different observers in different countries during the present century, which, if trustworthy, indicate that upon certain human organisms a powerful magnet does produce a very distinct and often profound effect. Unfortunately, with the exception of the careful and excellent observations made by Dr. W. H. Stone, who tried Charcot's experiments on a patient of his at St. Thomas's Hospital, the observations referred to are, for the most part, singularly wanting in precision of statement and in a due recognition of the precautions needful in order to avoid fallacious or ambiguous results from illusions of the senses.*

This being the case, an attempt is being made by the Society for Psychical Research to ascertain—by direct and careful experiment, extending over a wide range of individuals—whether any trustworthy evidence really exists on behalf of a distinct magnetic sense. The sectional committee of that society intrusted with this and cognate work has published a preliminary report,† which contains a fragment of evidence pointing in the direction of the existence of a magnetic sense in certain individuals. Three persons have been found by the committee, who, when their heads were placed near the poles of a powerful electromagnet, could tell by their sensations whether the magnet was excited or not. One of these "sensitives" told the investigating committee, accurately, 21 times running, whether the current was "on" or "off" owing, as he alleges, to a peculiar and unpleasant sensation that he experienced across his forehead. Every precaution that suggested itself was taken to prevent the subjects gaining any information, through the ordinary channels of sensation, of what was being done at the contact-breaker placed in another room. But I am sure the committee will gratefully welcome any criticisms of their procedure or suggestions for future experiments which Sir William Thomson may feel inclined to give. The honorary secretary of the committee is Mr. W. H. Coffin, Cornwall Gardens, S. W.

Two or three months ago one of the gentlemen who appeared to have this magnetic sense was in Dublin, and I took the opportunity of repeating with care in my own laboratory the experiments previously made at the Society's rooms in London. The result satisfied me that this individual did, in general, experience a peculiar sensation, which he describes as unpleasant, when his head was within the field of a powerful magnet. Nevertheless, the

*[Dr. Stone's experiment will be quoted in the forthcoming number of the "Proceedings" of the S.P.R.]

† *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research*, Part 3. (Trübner and Co.)

keenness of his magnetic sense, if such it be, varied considerably on different days, and sometimes he stated that he could detect little or no sensory effect. Usually the effect was felt most strongly when the forehead was in the line joining the two poles; but one day, when he was suffering from facial neuralgia, he found that his face was the most sensitive part, and complained of a sudden increase of pain whenever the magnet was excited, his face being near the poles.

The peculiar and unpleasant sensation which the magnet appeared to produce on the subject just referred to was described as slowly rising to a maximum in 15 or 20 seconds after the current had been sent round the coils of the electromagnet. In like manner the effect seemed to die down slowly after the contact was broken. Unknown to the subject, the circuit was closed and opened several times, and the magnetism correspondingly evoked or dissipated, the result being that there seemed to be a fairly accurate correspondence between the physical and the psychical effects. The faint molecular crepitation which accompanies the magnetisation of iron, and can be heard when the ear is very near the magnet, is, however, very apt to mislead the imagination. To avoid this, the subject was placed at a distance where this faint sound could not be heard, and he was then requested to walk up to the electromagnet, and, judging only from his sensations, to state if the current were "on" or "off." The experiment was made 12 times successively, and he was correct in 10 out of the 12 trials. He had no means of seeing or hearing the contact breaker, nor of surreptitiously finding out when the magnet was made; of course, it is possible for a trickster, using a concealed compass-needle, to be able to impose on a careless experimenter, but care was taken, and I have not the least reason to doubt the entire *bona fides* of the subject of this experiment. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the general experience, of competent observers is entirely negative as to any special sensory effect produced by magnetism, I do not pretend that the foregoing observations are to be regarded as conclusive. They simply suggest the desirability of a far more extensive series of experiments, conducted with the most stringent precautions to avoid the creation of illusory effects.

I have tried experiments with large helices encircling the limbs and head, and animated by powerful currents, but have not observed any peculiar sensory effect in my own case, though I am inclined to think the headache which I have often experienced when working for some time with a large magnet may not be altogether an accidental coincidence. Meanwhile experiments are in progress in my laboratory to ascertain, if possible, whether any distinctive effect is produced by a powerful magnetic field upon lower organisms. I hardly anticipate any affirmative results, but it seemed worth making a systematic investigation from minute structures up to man. Sir W. Thomson's address will, I hope, stimulate other workers in this field.

W. F. BARRETT.

Royal College of Science, Dublin, March 11th.

In connection with this subject, it may be of interest to note the idiosyncrasies of some individuals, who affirm that they can only sleep well when their bed is in a definite direction with regard to the magnetic meridian. Dr. W. H. Stone has mentioned* his own inability to sleep soundly in a north and south position.

* Reports of St. Thomas' Hospital, Vol. X., 1880. The following is the passage:—
"One or two rather trivial facts, such as the inability of many persons of nervous temperament, of whom the writer is one, to sleep soundly in the north and south position, a position obviously forced for a diamagnet such as the human body, and the singular vitality of magnetic treatment from very early times down to the present,

Baron Reichenbach, however, states that in the sensitive temperaments he examined he invariably found that the most refreshing sleep was obtained when the head was to the north and the feet to the south, positive discomfort being experienced by several of his subjects when the east and west position was assumed. Among other cases the Baron mentions that of a Miss Sturmann, a patient in one of the hospitals at Vienna, who enjoyed "a night of unusually peaceful sleep such as she had not experienced for a long time," together with other favourable symptoms, when her bed was moved with its head to the north. The same patient when in this position appeared to be wonderfully sensitive to the magnet. At the whole length of the ward, a distance of some thirty feet from her bed, the Baron states that the removal of the keeper from a powerful magnet he had brought caused her to become unconscious:—"She stopped speaking in the middle of a word that was on her tongue; she had half said it, the rest died away on her lips. I found her lying rigid with spasms and with clenched hands, her eyes open and cast upwards, so unconscious that I could place my fingers on her eyeballs without the lids moving." The experiment was tried three times with exactly the same results.

Such extreme susceptibility is doubtless rare, but it ought surely to be possible to ascertain if Baron Reichenbach was or was not mistaken in the conclusions he drew from his experiments. The effect of the imagination is so powerful that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to devise any experiments that will exclude its influence, and unless this is done no conclusions can safely be drawn. We shall be glad, nevertheless, if our readers will communicate to us any experience they may have had which seem to bear on this question.

Many years before Reichenbach's time the sensory effect of a magnet and the so-called magnetic light appear to have been noticed. Mr. E. T. Bennett has disinterred the following extract, which he has been good enough to translate from the "Tagebuch einer Magnetischen Behandlung," by P. G. van Ghert, Secretary of the Ducal Mineralogical Society, at Jena, in Holland, and member of several learned societies.

* * * * *

"1810. *October 15th.*—To-day, when I arranged some experiments with the magnet, while the patient was in a room upstairs, and I was below, so that she could not see what I did, she immediately came down, and said that she did not know what was the matter with her, but that it was impossible for her to resist the influence.

I put her to sleep in the usual manner. . . . I held the magnet a few inches from her knee, but she immediately besought me to take it away. I requested her to touch it with her hands. At first she would not do this, but finally took hold of it, and held it for a considerable time in her hand without experiencing any inconvenience. I made passes with it from

are hardly strong enough to countervail the negative evidence here adduced. Still the subject, not being in direct contravention of any known scientific proofs, deserves further investigation in a fair and dispassionate spirit. It seems *primâ facie* improbable that so important a factor in cosmogony should be otiose and inefficacious in its highest development—human life."

the head to the knee, which produced a strong influence. She said she saw a blue glow proceed from it, which penetrated into herself. I made passes over her hand with the north pole, which she could bear very well. I then brought the south pole over the same spot, which did not produce any different influence from the north pole. But at the distance of about a foot-and-a-half, she saw a glow proceed from the part of the hand where the passes had been made to the south pole only. When I placed the magnet in her hand, and held a piece of steel before it, she assured me that it produced a much stronger influence, and said:—‘A stream goes from the magnet to the steel, which looks exactly like a rainbow, except that the colours are not so bright.’”

* * * * *

From “Archiv für den Thierischen Magnetismus. Herausgegeben, von Dr. C. A. von Eschenmayer, Dr. D. G. Kieser, und Dr. F. Nasse.” Leipzig, 1817. Zweiter Band. Zweites Stück, pp. 35, 36.

A FOREIGN VIEW OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

The following extract from a recent article in the well-known Austrian paper, the “*Allgemeine Zeitung*,” will be read with interest as indicative of the attitude which many of the more thoughtful leaders of public opinion are now taking towards “Psychical Research” :—

“It has at all times been the fault of every dominant intellectual tendency that it denounces not only theories, but even facts opposed to it, and designates as false and impossible whatever cannot be brought into harmony with its own conceptions. That this has been the case with religion does not need to be pointed out. But the same theoretical intolerance has been manifested in a high degree on behalf of prevalent scientific doctrines. The heretical assertors of facts at variance with these preconceptions have not, indeed, been burnt, but they have been too often exposed to ridicule and contempt. We need only remind ourselves of the denial of aerolites towards the end of the last century, when those who believed that bodies could fall from the sky were looked upon as fools. It was said to be ‘impossible,’ to be a ‘contradiction of the laws of science,’ and anyone believing in such a contradiction was either out of his mind, or at least could not be considered a person of any scientific competence. And similarly of a whole succession of facts. Our orthodox culture is a great deal too ready with the phrases ‘impossible’ and ‘opposition to the laws of nature.’ When closely examined, it usually turns out that this ‘impossibility’ is nothing else than incomprehensibility, and the imaginary breach of the laws of nature is only ignorance of the laws by which the fact in question is to be explained.

“Now it seems that underlying the phenomena of Spiritism, such as clairvoyance, table-turning, spirit-rapping, and all the rest, there are *real facts* which do not admit of complete explanation by our present knowledge. Frauds and mistakes are mixed up with these facts; but it would not be too difficult to distinguish the true from the false were it not for the misfortune that orthodox science will not approach the investigation of the facts, but contents itself with flatly denying them. The consequence is that persons who, either accidentally or impelled by the spirit of inquiry, have become immovably convinced of the truth of some of these phenomena, too easily tend to an uncritical acceptance of all or most of what is alleged on this subject in opposition to the dominant culture. * * * * *

“In our opinion, the Spiritist superstition will only come to an end when exact science will take the trouble to examine without prejudice the facts which it has hitherto distinctly denied; that is to say, will approach them with the admission that things are not necessarily untrue because unexplained.”

A RARE TYPE OF TELEPATHY.

The following very interesting narrative has recently been communicated to the Literary Committee. It is possibly no more than a very striking case of Thought-transference *in sleep*—the dream of one person exciting a corresponding dream in another. But Miss E.'s experience seems very unlike a dream; and the incident was more probably an example of *waking* telepathic transference, Miss C. S. B. being the "agent" and Miss E. the "percipient." In the immense number of telepathic cases which the Literary Committee have collected, only very few belong to this type, where the "agent" is asleep, and the "percipient" awake. Similar instances would therefore be specially welcome.

The following letter is from Miss C. S. B., 74, Lancaster Gate, W.

On June 10th, I had the following dream. Some one told me that Miss E. was dead. I instantly, in my dream, rushed to her room, entered it, went to her bedside and pulled the clothes from off her face. She was quite cold; her eyes were wide open and staring at the ceiling. This so frightened me that I dropped at the foot of her bed, and knew no more until I was half out of bed in my own room and wide awake. The time was 5 o'clock a.m. Before leaving my room I told this dream to my sister, as it had been such an unpleasant one.—C. S. B. *February 18th, 1884.*

The next account is from Miss E., 74, Lancaster Gate, W.

I awoke on the morning of June 10th, and was lying on my back with my eyes fixed on the ceiling, when I heard the door open and felt some one come in and bend over me, but not far enough to come between my eyes and the ceiling; knowing it was only C. I did not move, but, instead of kissing me, she suddenly drew back and going towards the foot of the bed, crouched down there. Thinking this very strange, I closed and opened my eyes several times, to convince myself that I was really awake, and then turned my head to see if she had left the door open, but found it still shut. Upon this a sort of horror came over me and I dared not look towards the figure which was crouching in the same position, gently moving the bedclothes from my feet. I tried to call to the occupant of the next room, but my voice failed. At this moment she touched my bare foot, a cold chill ran all over me and I knew nothing more till I found myself out of bed looking for C., who must, I felt, be still in the room. I never doubted that she had really been there until I saw both doors fastened on the inside. On looking at my watch it was a few minutes past 5.—K.E.

The following are from Miss C. S. B.'s sisters.

Before leaving our room, my sister C. told all about the dream she had had in the early morning.—C. E. B.

The first thing in the morning, Miss E. told me all about her unpleasant dream, before speaking to anyone else.—A. B.

In answer to inquiries, Miss C. S. B. says:—

This is the first experience I have ever had of the kind, and I have not walked in my sleep more than three times in my life; the last time

was about a year ago; on no occasion have I left the room. I do not have startling or vivid dreams as a rule. I did not look at my watch after waking, but the clock struck 5 o'clock.

In answer to inquiries, Miss E. says:—

Although I am accustomed to have very vivid dreams, I have never had one of this kind before. When I found my friend was not in the room, and that the doors were securely fastened on the inside, I looked at my watch; it was a few minutes past 5.

I have never, I believe, walked in my sleep. There are two doors to my bedroom. One was locked on the inside; the handle was broken off the other on the outside. Thus it was impossible for anyone to open it except from the inside.—K. E.

One of the Secretaries of the Literary Committee has carefully examined the doors. The handle of one of them was loose at the time of the incident, and had fallen off onto the floor outside when someone left the room overnight. Miss E. heard it fall, and saw it on the floor when she left her room in the morning. To readjust it, so as to open the door, required great care and accuracy; and the hypothesis that Miss C. S. B. really entered the room in a sleep-walking fit would involve the supposition that she picked up the fallen handle, went through this delicate process, subsequently, on leaving the room, shut the door so carefully as not to disturb the handle (which, had it fallen, would probably have startled both herself and Miss E. into complete wakefulness), and then took it off and placed it on the floor again. It may be added that in her few experiences of sleep-walking, Miss C. S. B. has never made the slightest attempt to leave her room; and that on this night she was sleeping in the same room as a sister, who is a very light sleeper, and who would almost certainly have been awakened by the opening of the door.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIBRARY CATALOGUE.

The following additions have been made during March, 1884.)

(A few of these are duplicate copies of works previously in the Library.)

[R] indicates that the book is for reference only.

- ACCOUNT OF A STRANGE AND DREADFUL APPARITION AT SEA ... *London*, 1627
- ANGELIC REVELATIONS, concerning the Origin, Ultimatum, and Destiny of the Human Spirit, 4 vol. *London*, 1875-83*
- BLAIR (Mrs.) Dreams and Dreaming. With an Introductory Essay by the Rev. Samuel Blair *London*, N.D.
- BLAVATSKY (H. P.) Isis Unveiled *New York*, 1877
- BRITTEN (Emma Hardinge) Nineteenth Century Miracles..... *London*, 1884
- CARPENTER (William B., M.D., F.R.S., &c.) Mesmerism, Spiritualism, &c., Historically and Scientifically considered *London*, 1877
- CLAIRVOYANCY, Mind Reading, Psychomancy and Soul-Charming: How to become a good Clairvoyant *Manchester*, N.D.
- COX (Edward W.) The Mechanism of Man. An Answer to the Question, What Am I? Vol. I. *London*, 1876
- GLANVIL (Joseph) Saducismus Triumphatus, 4th edit. *London*, 1726
- HEATON (James) The Extraordinary Affliction and Gracious Relief of a little Boy, supposed to be the effects of Spiritual Agency, *Plymouth*, 1822
- [R] NARRATIVE OF ASTONISHING TRANSACTIONS at Stockwell, in Surrey, in 1772 *London*, 1772
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