

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SUPERNORMAL PICTURES.

BUDGET NO. 40.

28--3--20.

From Mrs. Humphry. 14--3--20.

...Vearncombe keeps his gift very quiet. The truth is this is a small place and people are very old-fashioned and if it were known that he took 'psychics' I think he would lose his ordinary photographic customers.

I see in your collection one of Vearncombe's results with a psychic dog. I note this because when I got the psychic of my pet bloodhound 'Hugh' Mr. V. then said to me "Oh! I had one dog before at Cardiff". When I got the picture of my dog I never thought of looking for an animal's face (foolishly taking it for granted that only human faces could appear on the plate). Mr. and Mrs. Vearncombe and myself examined that print carefully and with a glass for 20 to 25 minutes and we said at last "Well, certainly somebody has tried to show themselves but made a mess of it by getting mixed up in the folds of my sleeve" and so on. I carried home with me a rough print and threw it (with four other successes) onto my dining table (4-15 in Novr. last). The light was very poor but my youngest daughter got hold of them and at once cried out "Oh, mother, mother, here's dear Hughie come back to see us!" Of course, everyone could then see it well and clearly but the fact that Vearncombe had not been able to see it rather goes to prove his truth.

I expect that by now most members will have seen the album of ours (Will those members who desire to see this please let me know F.B.) and I do very much hope that anyone will thoroughly speak out about any peculiarities or suspicions that occur to them. I will gladly do anything I can to dispel doubt or difficulty short of driving poor V. nearly mad with despair over 'tests'.

Now may I explain my own position with regard to V? I am only an ordinary customer of his like any other 'man in the street' over psychic work. I have always paid either 10/6d. for an odd 'sitting' or £4-4-0 for a dozen if all at one sitting. I could not help noticing that V. seemed rather elated at several times getting five results out of a dozen with me and judged that it was a greater percentage than he usually got. He says it is easier for him if I hold the plates with him. I cannot say if this is really so or if he is simply a little flattered because someone of a little better social position than he is, is willing to be associated with him at all in this matter.

So far as I am aware I have no psychic power whatever. Vearncombe is an ardent Theosophist and is not at all keen to do this psychic work. Of course, he is a professional photographer and I think that at present the 'psychic' takes too much of his time for him to be able to give his mind really to it. From financial considerations I think he feels he must just stick to his ordinary photographic trade for the present.



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Sheet....2

When I met V. first I at once found him all against the 'test' business, saying that the 'other side' did not like it; that 'it built an obstructing wall'; that money ought not to enter into it as it was not a commercial transaction and so on and on. I gave in and put all my faith in the man on trust hoping to get tests in time. I certainly succeeded for time after time he, himself, suggested that he should not, at any time, touch the plates and many results of mine are on plates bought by me, taken home, there wrapped in light tight papers and then all that V. has done has been to place his hands outside mine for a brief period. I have then developed them. I do most strongly affirm the man to the very best of my belief to be entirely honest and wholly genuine!

(Mrs. Humphry then goes on to refer to the unfortunate attitude of some of Vearncombe's visitors, who haggle over the charges and generally make themselves objectionable and, of course, practically destroy all possibilities of obtaining successful psychic results. F.B.).... I believe I have only had such good results by trying to 'get into his mental state'.

As regards the message re 'doubt' (S.S.S.P. print No. 7). I got that message after using a plate I marked, curious eh? Can anyone help me as to the meaning of the signs or signature at the end of the message?

The other print I am sending looks as though it might be a sort of close serge or cloth though it looks like some sort of writing.

One thing strikes me as odd with regard to Hope. Why won't he give the negatives? I possess all mine from Vearncombe and if our Society ever desires to see them or to make use of them at any combined meeting I will loan them with pleasure. If I can give any further information or be of any help I beg the Society to make full use of me.

L.M.HUMPHRY.

From Mr. A.S. Pearse. 22-3--20.

In reference to Budget No. 39.

Colonel Johnson's definitions of conscious and unconscious mind seem to agree with Meyer's teachings. Col. Johnson asks for criticism and I take the liberty of raising two points. He speaks of the sub-conscious mind as "sleeping partner". I suppose by this phrase he does not wish to convey that it is inactive, as the phrase is usually employed but that whilst the conscious mind is at rest, asleep, the subconscious mind takes control, especially looking after the welfare of the body. The subconscious mind is termed 'deductive not reasoning'. I have seen this phrase repeatedly in books, but cannot quite agree. The subconscious is certainly deductive but once a suggestion has been made to it, it uses a deductive reasoning power which to me appears quite logical. Take the case of a hypnotised person in whom the subconscious mind has control. Suggest to him that he is a king and he will act as a king might do, or suggest to him that he is smelling at a bottle of ammonia, whilst in reality he is smelling at pure water and his subjective mind will in a most logical manner set certain glands in the body into working which produce tears in the eyes of the hypnotised person. (This example, be the



bye proves to me the power of healing through suggestion). It may be that I do not quite interpret the meaning of reasoning power but the above examples, as far as I can see, exhibit plenty of the reasoning power known to me - of course, that may be of a low category.

Major Spencer. I think Dr. Wilson has given his case away when he talks of gaslight prints. I do not take this gentleman seriously. The report in the "Daily Despatch" showed that he appealed to the masses of ignorant people.

Major Spencer's photographs of electrical discharges were very interesting to me. They show that the current circulates and does not necessarily penetrate. These experiments with the induction coil seem to prove that Darget and Dardenne are right in comparing the emanations to electrical force. Good examples of currents, very similar to Major Spencer's, are amongst the 41 prints from Belgium.

Mr. Barlow's remarks as to Sir Wm. Crookes. I have an engraving of Crookes showing him at the age of about 38. If Mr. Barlow will send me the copy of his photograph I will make the comparison.

Vearncombe. I am glad to possess the excellent photo No. 8 although I disagree with the wording of the psychograph No. 7 that "advancement is only to be had by faith". Vearncombe is evidently a man with whom we can experiment and I venture to suggest that we invite him to meet us at the time of our annual meeting with a view of making a few tests.

Aural photographs. I have an idea that in this field of exploration we might do some real good work as I hold that by the kind of aura it is most likely possible that we shall be able to trace the peculiar gifts of a person. I have often been told by reliable psychics that the phenomena depend entirely on the kind of aura which emanates from the body and this is the raw material by means of which various phenomena are made possible. If we collect photographs of aura from the well recognised mediums of psychic photography we are perhaps likely to find, either in the outlines or in the colouring on the negatives, certain points of identity which may be the index to the possession of this gift. There may be other points in mediumship liable to classification. The experiments which I have carried on in the circle of my own family seem to show that it is quite a common thing for the aura to be registered on the plate in accordance with Darget's suggestions made on page 7 Budget No. 39. The only other condition which I would insist upon is that the experiments should be undertaken in complete darkness and that the red light be removed from the developing room. ~~I fix~~ If this germ of an idea that may lead to some development meets with your approval I would suggest that our Secretary endeavour to obtain from Hope, Mrs. Buxton, Vearncombe, Mrs. Tapley and, of course, also from Major Spencer these aural imprints for close examination, preferably the actual negatives. The development should be undertaken with the same chemicals and identical plates must be used etc.



I now come to the results obtained in my own family. The plates used were in all instances Wellington, speed 300, the smallest size plate made. I first used the red lamp, placing it below the level of the developing dish and screening it, but in order to make quite sure that no reflex should interfere I got someone to take the red light out of the room, as soon as I had my fingers on the plate. I left instructions for the red light to be brought in after periods of 20, 30 and 40 minutes. The developer used was metol-quinol.

No. 1 photo shows the three fingers of each hand with strong light emanations.

No. 2. Three fingers were again put on the plate (a mere repetition as check on No. 1) but through some unaccountable action there is a black patch with clear white rims around. As the experiment was undertaken in darkness and I was anxious to get the red lamp removed to a lower ~~xxx~~ level than the developing dish as quickly as possible, it is quite possible that the developer did not cover the patch and that it formed a kind of bubble, but as I pressed on the glass plate this is not likely. Assuming this, however, to be the case I venture to think that the white rim cannot be accounted for. I have shown this photograph to a ~~prof~~ professional photographer and he says that the white rim is quite inexplicable to him. Will you please make suggestions as to the probable explanation?

No. 3. (Three prints). Note the strong light on one side of the ring. It is a ring which I wear constantly and may have my own power stored up. The curious effect is in the centre of the ring. A similar design of light patches has been repeated in other experiments with this ring, but slightly different (see photo No. 4). The dark spot opposite the big white patch is the cat's eye. It appears that the rays of light have been concentrated by the stones? This is a 30 minutes exposure. I have made a 40 minutes exposure with the same ring (neg. not yet dry).

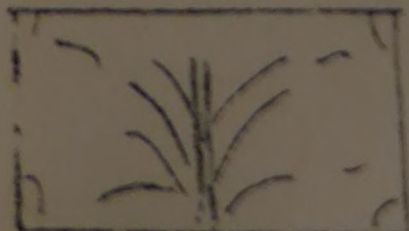
No. 4 shows the same experiment, but on one side are the fingers of my daughter and on the other, mine. Exposure 20 minutes. The result is not as clear. It was the ~~same~~ third experiment on the same evening and the power had probably decreased.

No. 5 shows a Nickel coin (Ceylon 5 cent piece). It was placed lightly on the film side of the plate and my fingers held the plate for 20 minutes in complete darkness. The currents are clear and the writing on the coin comes out too.

No. 6 shows a copper and a silver coin on which I placed my fingers. During the 20 minutes exposure I must have moved the fingers and the coins but nevertheless you can decipher parts of the coin.

I have distilled the developer before using and vouch for it that the room was as dark as it is possible to make any room. I could not see any light emanating from my hands.

A number of the plates are coloured purplish mixed with green and yellow. I will send the plates to Mr. Barlow if he desires to print from them. Other experiments made last night, one from my daughter, shows a distinct design, thus



ARMO S. PEARSE.



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Sheet... 5

From Major R.E.E. Spencer. 21---3---20.

We have had some very curious and interesting automatic writing, on the 11th. and 12th. insts. I will first of all give an extract regarding Mr. Barlow's visit to Crewe:-

R.E.E.S. "Can you give me any information about the photograph produced at Crewe when Mr. Barlow recently sat with Hope?"

Reply. "Do you refer to Crookes Richard R.E. X"

R.E.E.S. "Yes, am I correct in thinking it is a portrait of the late Sir Wm. Crookes?"

Reply. "My dear Richard you are R.E. X".

Then in regard to the "wireless" result the following occurred:-

R.E.E.S. "Can you give me any information or explanation regarding the photograph obtained in Newcastle when Jasper took a plate to the wireless school?"

Reply. (Considerable delay took place here before the writing continued and when it did, the hand was totally different to that which had been writing previously)  
"By the action of rays sent out by the wireless  
p.p.W. Crookes

"

R.E.E.S. "Shall we repeat the experiment,".

Reply. "Certainly".

R.E.E.S. "Do you use these radiations instead of psychic force?"

Reply. "When we choose to utilize the wireless".

R.E.E.S. "Can the electrical experiments be continued in this house?"

Reply. "When your X-ray machine is ready".

R.E.E.S. "Can the photographic experiments be continued also?"

(Another long pause occurred and again the writing changed. On comparing these different handwritings with those above the same signatures of months ago, it is found that the various wx writers maintain their different characteristics of formation of letters).

Reply. "I will ask you to try an experiment at a later date. John Hewlitt X".

R.E.E.S. "Can you give us any further information concerning the Jonathan Mason who communicated with us at Port Patrick last Autumn,"

Reply. "Do you mean the New Zealander"

R.E.E.S. "Yes. Can you as promised give us any information as to tracing him in books?"

Reply. "Yes see Marls history of the New Zealand religions part 2".

The rest of the writing is of a private nature and there has not been anything further since the 12th. inst.



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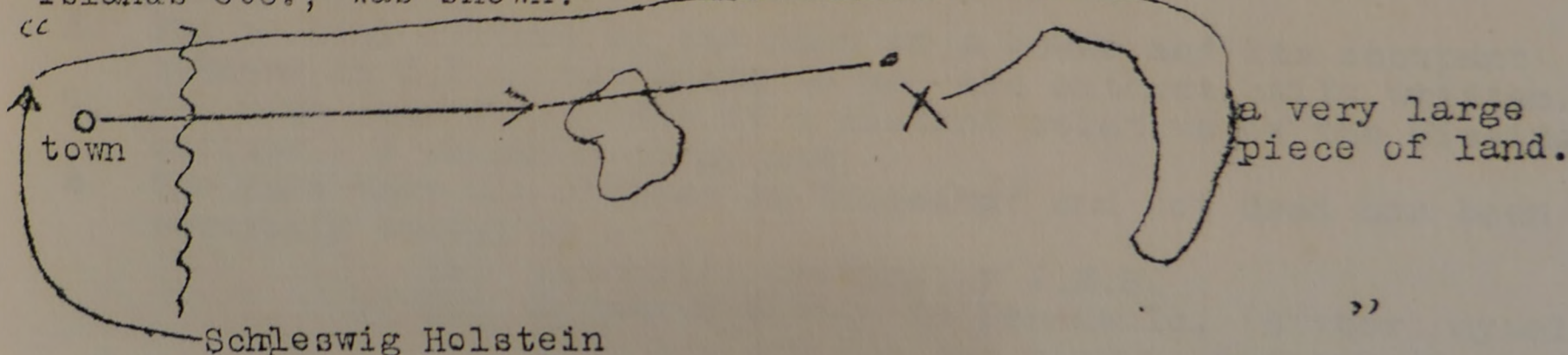
Sheet....6.

Ref. Budget No. 39 p.p. 2/3. (Col. Johnson). I have read Col. Johnson's remarks with very great interest and will attempt to draw up an understandable statement with the view of showing the probability that suggested action of another conscious and sub-conscious mind and the production of the suggestion through automatic writing certainly may take place, and most probably does so sometimes. Certain statements that have been written automatically by J.E.S. in my presence on facts that have been unknown to him but known to me (though not at the time present in my conscious mind) point to their origin being either due to external discarnate Intelligences or to some unknown action of my own subconscious mind upon that of J.E.S. I do not think it is possible to bring in any other source of supply.

The case is this - on 12-3-20 J.E.S. wrote automatically in my presence

"... there was a slight mistake last night the miles should be 49 miles instead of 19 also it should be 49 miles N.W. of Schleswig".

A map was then drawn automatically and the portion of some islands etc., was shown:-



I then went to a table in the room where J.E.S. could not see what I was drawing, and sketched a copy of the automatically written map. I asked for the distances from the town to the big island, from that to the one marked X and from that to the "very large piece of land" to be given. The automatic writing continued

"a mistake Sir 49 N E it is East 48 degrees North"

I inserted in my sketch the four chief points of the compass and asked if that was correct. The reply was written:-

"that is correct".

I then asked if the distance between the islands etc., could be given. A very rapid apparent calculation of figures followed automatically written that I could not understand, owing to their being written over each other, and the figures  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and 5 were automatically written. I filled these figures in upon my own sketch map and asked if I had shown everything in correct position. The reply was written automatically -

"Yes Sir it is as nearly as a rough sketch can show it".

I then said, it would be of the greatest interest to us to know from whom all this information comes. "Will you give your name please?".

A name was written of a relative of the missing officer we were asking about, this relative having passed on many years ago. He was a very distant connection and a person entirely unknown to J.E.S. but slightly known to me. He was, when in this world a very ardent Spiritualist. Without



giving the name myself, I asked for the initial letter of the house where I had last met the communicator. The reply was written: "C" (This is correct).

I then asked for the initial letters of the person who had lived there. "J.C." This also was correct.

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Upon examining a map I find that a line drawn N.E. from Schleswig town and scaled off with the distances I have given touches the coast line of the island of Laaland, but the 48 degrees N. is wrong, unless this has to be measured by magnetic north, instead of true North. The facts, however, remain,

1. A map more or less correct was drawn automatically.
2. My (humanly unseen) sketch copy of it was automatically criticised.
3. Upon comparing both with a standard Atlas, the details are found to be more or less (chiefly more) correct.
4. Neither J.E.S. or myself had any conscious knowledge of the part of the world in question.
5. A name, ~~xxx~~ unknown to J.E.S. but known to me) is automatically written.
6. The initial letters of the name of a house and its occupant unknown to J.E.S. but known to me, are automatically written.
7. The name (see 5) is that of a distant relative of the missing officer - a relation of my own.
8. The fact that the officer is "missing" and not dead has been severally stated by -
  - (a) Automatic writing by J.E.S.
  - (b) A trance medium in Newcastle. (Sitter, myself with letters from the missing officer in an envelope)
  - (c) A trance medium in S. Wales (unknown to me Sitter, an aunt of the missing officer, with similar letters).

In each case an island, north of Germany has been referred to, and in the case of the sitting with the medium last Autumn, it was stated that further news would come about the end of February this year. The automatic writing I have quoted is dated the early part of March.

In addition to the above automatic writing a name and address in Lille has been given with which we are to communicate. Needless to say, I have already done that but so far have received no reply. Every search possible has been made for this missing officer, even to the sending out to Germany of a man who was himself a prisoner of war, with no result.

My point is this - Has the information necessary to permit the statements mentioned been given by my subconscious mind to that of J.E.S., from it to his conscious mind and so to his fingers, or is it all due to the action of a discarnate Intelligence controlling the hand of J.E.S. or his subconscious mind? J.E.S. tells me, and I entirely believe him, that he has no knowledge of what he has written automatically until it is read to him.

All this, I am aware, has little to do with the object of the existence of the S.S.S.P. but I think it is sufficiently relevant to entitle the report to a place in the Budget. It would be interesting to discuss points of this description at the next meeting of the S.S.S.P.

Budget No. 39 page 7 et seq. We should be much obliged to Mr. Pearse for the trouble he has taken to translate Ct. Darget's methods. I am experimenting in accordance with the various instructions and will report results.

Budget No. 39, page 10, para. 2. Will Mr. Barlow tell us



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Sheet No....8

what the psychic result was that he obtained upon his own plate? It is referred to in para.5 page 9 Budget No.38 but no particulars are given.

Budget No.39, page 11, para.1. Mr.Barlow is right in his conjecture as to the red cardboard. It is only red for the depth of a very thin casing of red paper. Still the outer surface is red, and the image obtained by F.B. referred to in the para. following was from a "prepared image" on the outer surface of the black card!

R.E.E.SPENCER.

From Dr.Abraham Wallace 4--3--20.

I am just approaching Chicago, after having been in a sleeper for three days, and after ~~xxxxx~~ spending a few days here I hope to visit my friend Mrs.Wreidt in Detroit. If Miss Lilian Whiting is in Boston I intend to see her and have some sittings with her famous medium, Mrs.Soule, with whom Prof.Hyslop has had so many interesting seances. ....I hope to return home in April.

With kindest regards to all friends at home,  
Yours etc.

A.WALLACE, M.D.

From Mr.Colin Keay. 15--3--20.

...In respect to Dr.Wilson's "thought" theory; there seems to be sound reason behind it but, in any case, it would only cover part of the facts which cannot be separated from the other physical phenomena, viz. the direct voice, to name only one. The evidence is cumulative and must be taken as a whole.

Should it be possible to demonstrate actual "thought" photos this would at once settle the long debated point which has been so hotly denied by materialists, viz. that thought can function away from the physical body. It is either that or the photos are produced by external entities. The materialist would be on the horns of a dilemma as there would be no getting away from the physical facts.

COLIN KEAY.

From Miss Scatterd. 20--3--20.

.. I was to have gone to Paris almost immediately but cannot go ~~xx~~ now for some time. I enclose some notices of a course of three lectures I am giving on psychic photography, in order to help the funds of the Home Circle Federation... Owing to the Conan Doyle propaganda and the "Weekly Despatch" there is a tremendous need for some guiding and restraining force and we are trying to supply that. If anyone has a photograph of any real interest to lend me for the occasion I shall be most grateful. I hope to send on my "thought" photograph with particulars, but cannot lay hands on it for the moment.

F.R.SCATCHERD.

From Mr.Blackwell. 22-3-20.

..The Belgian photos are remarkable. Of course, the spirit workers may assist in endeavouring to get the idea thought of. Some 20 or 30 years ago an experiment was tried in London, looking fixedly at a postage stamp for, I think, over an hour, it was reproduced on the plate. I cannot at present lay hands on the account with photograph as the books are packed away. Mr.Lacey obtained many remarkable results with no camera. Later, I will send a few examples.

H.BLACKWELL.



Budget No.40

Sheet....9.

From Mrs. Boustead. 17--3--20.

Re "Picture on ceiling" incident. Budget 35 sheet 2 and Budget No.36 sheet 5.

I enclose herewith signed account from the Rev.A.Walford Deakin and Mr.F.E.P.Dean in reference to this incident. Mr. Deakin would like this to be kept private by the members of the S.S.S.P. and treated by them in strictest confidence.

The account reads as follows:-

A sitting for table tilting at 11, Abinger Rd. Bedford Park, W.4 on December 19th.1919. Time 5-30 to 7-0 p.m.

Present: Miss G.A.Ghosley, Mr.Arnold Deakin and Mr.H.P.Dean. Tilting rather slight but quite deliberate. Movement less extensive than on all other occasions.

Name of communicator spelt by table was "John Ghosley. This is the only occasion on which his name has been spelt.

The message was "Picture on Ceiling" no other words except the name either before or after the message.

On Jan. 7th. or 8th. saw account in "Daily Mail" of a "spirit picture on ceiling" but did not connect this with the message. I did not even call Miss Ghosley's attention to it. On Jan.10th.1920 I received a newspaper cutting from the "Daily Express" sent by Mr.Arnold Deakin who remarked in a note "This may interest Miss Ghosley. Decr.19th. was the evening we obtained the message "Picture on ceiling".

I myself tried to connect the message with some pictures which Miss Ghosley had inherited from her father, in two ways:-

(a) On the morning of Decr.19th. Miss G. sent 3 pictures by carrier to her brother and they were received the same evening. There was nothing to connect "ceiling" with these pictures.

(b) Miss G. sent some pictures to an auction room and one of them was lost or mislaid by the firm. I thought that perhaps the message meant that the missing picture was placed on a stack of furniture close to the ceiling. Owing to my mind being occupied by this missing picture when I read the paragraph in the "Daily Mail" I did not connect this account with the table message.

(Signed) F.E.P.Dean.

Statement by Miss G.A.Ghosley.

The above account is in agreement with what I observed concerning the matters mentioned. I may add that Mr.Dean went to the Auction Room for me and a search was made, without result, for the missing picture. I neither saw nor heard anything of the matter until Mr.Deakin's note and cutting arrived on Jan.10th. 1920.

(Signed) G.A.Ghosley.

Statement by Mr.Arnold Deakin.

The above statements are true in every respect. Mr.Dean has the note I sent him (with the cutting) in his possession.

(Signed) Arnold Deakin.

March 14th.1920.

(Time in Missouri is about six hours later than in London. H.P.Dean)



Budget No. 40

Sheet...No. 10.

From Fred Barlow. 27--3--20.

Vearncombe test packet. A test packet containing unexposed  $\frac{1}{4}$ -plate, sealed separately by three members of the Council was sent to Mr. Vearncombe to try to impress some supernatural result on the plate. This packet was duly returned this last week and it was verified that the seals were intact. The plate was carefully developed by myself and a professional photographer and I regret to state that the plate was void of any result. This in no way reflects upon the genuineness of Mr. V's mediumship. On the contrary, the evidence afforded by our newly joined member, Mrs. Humphry, and the particulars below of a result received by Col. Johnson go to prove that Vearncombe is genuine.

With the plate in sealed packet referred to above, were enclosed a number of packets containing photos and letters etc., sent by members for photographing. One of these packets was sent by Col. Johnson and photographed by Vearncombe. The resulting negative shows a face underneath the image of the packet. Concerning this face Col. ~~Johnson~~ Johnson writes as follows:-

From Col. E. R. Johnson. 24--3--20.

Thanks.. for the package containing Vearncombe's ~~package~~ photo No. 4. This photograph is quite genuine and I clearly recognise it as the face of my sister who died in Bournemouth in November 1918. She had promised to appear to me, if she died before I did, and has now kept her promise. The letter in the enclosed envelope which you returned to me unopened, and which you sent to Vearncombe, was one written by my father on the 16th. April 1883. He died about two years later and the letter was then kept by my sister, whose photograph has now been obtained. ... I will get other members of my family to confirm (or otherwise) my recognition of the face. (Signed) E. R. Johnson.

From Fred Barlow (continued).

Vearncombe, of course, had no knowledge as to the owner of the package sent by Col. Johnson and marked by me No. 4. It will probably be possible to refer to other results obtained with similar packets in the next Budget. I take this opportunity of urging members to carry out similar experiments and to submit packets containing photographs or letters etc., (sealed or otherwise) for Vearncombe to photograph. His fee for doing this is 10/6d., and with the packets already sent he has exposed two plates on each packet (except where the first plate showed a successful result). In those cases where successful results are obtained V. sends the negatives on for retention. In any case he sends the negatives to show that he has photographed the packages. I will gladly forward on any enclosures for V. accompanied by the necessary fee.

S.S.S.P. print No. 8. Col. Johnson calls attention to the decorative pattern on the psychic face immediately below the face of the sitter. This, at first sight, looks like a pattern on the blouse of the sitter but Col. Johnson is of opinion that the pattern "seems to be built up from the primitive psychoplasm surrounding it, in the same way as the inscribed clay cylinder shown in one of Major Spencer's psychographs, is built up from a somewhat similar decorative material. There are traces of a lace-like pattern at the lower part of the man's face in photo No. 8. A good hand glass is necessary to see details. A good description of elemental essence from which psychoplasm is formed is given in C. W. Leadbeater's 'The Astral Plane' page 67. "

I had certainly put down the appearance to which Col. Johnson refers, to a lace pattern on the blouse of Mrs. Humphry. Perhaps



Mrs. Humphry will kindly let us know whether or not the ~~xxxx~~ blouse shown in the photograph has a decorative pattern similar to that to be seen on the print?

New member. Members will be pleased to welcome Mrs. Barbara Mc.Kenzie the Hon. Sec. of the B.C.P.S. Two rooms have been fitted up specially for experiments in psychic photography at the B.C.P.S. and Mrs. Mc.Kenzie is anxious that we should co-operate as far as possible in the investigation of this subject.

For the opening week of the B.C.P.S. (Apr. 12th. to 17th.) an exhibition of supernormal pictures is being arranged. Mrs. Mc.Kenzie will be grateful to any members who may be able to loan interesting supernormal photographs and promises that every care will be taken of such.

Mr. Pearse's "aural" pictures. The specimen prints sent by Mr. Pearse (See sheets 3/4 of current Budget) are being circulated. As Mr. Pearse kindly offers to loan the negatives I hope with a later Budget it will be possible to circulate in postcard form copies of some of the most interesting photographs for retention.

I have myself carried out several similar experiments with very similar results to those obtained by Mr. Pearse. I trust that other members are also experimenting and that they will report results. The markings on Mr. Pearse's plates are certainly more definite in most instances than those I have been able to obtain.

My personal feeling, at present, is that we should be very careful in regard to describing these results as due to some force unrecognised by Science, radiated by sensitive persons. When we can give a natural explanation which is not opposed to common sense I think members will agree that we ought not to put forward an explanation which assumes the existence of some new force. In other words, we must be absolutely certain that these are "aural" graphs before claiming them as such.

A sensitive photographic plate is amenable to all sorts of subtle influences. Images thereon can be obtained in several ways other than by light. It will be seen that Mr. Pearse has taken precautions to prevent these images being due to direct light, either from the red lamp or elsewhere. Let us consider other known methods of producing an image on an unexposed plate.

(a) Radiant heat. It has recently been proved that an image can be produced on a sensitive plate by radiant heat, indistinguishable from that produced by actinic light. I do not consider the Darget experiment of placing fingers on a plate (sensitive surface) whilst in the developing bath as in the slightest degree trustworthy as an index of the radiation of "aural" rays. The developer is not in motion and its action over the whole of the plate is not equal. The warmth from the fingers may not only affect the plate directly but by warming the developer in the immediate neighbourhood of the fingers may give rise to curious markings on the plate. If "V" or "aural" rays really are ~~emitted~~ emitted by the human body then it ought to be possible to affect the plate whilst dry and before placing in the developer and without the fingers coming in contact with the emulsion, i.e. Could Mr. Pearse get a result in the slightest degree approaching that shown by print No. 1 by holding a plate in complete darkness in the dark slide with the glass surface outside and the fingers on the glass surface. In my own experiments so far, under such conditions, the plate has developed up absolutely clean. Even had there been some result, however, I should have to satisfy myself that this result was such as could not have been caused by warmth from the fingers or the radiation of light previously absorbed. Before



putting it down to an aural result. This brings me to

(b) Light absorption. So many materials absorb light to a greater or less degree that it is very necessary to ensure that images formed by placing articles in contact with the photographic plate are not formed by actinic light radiated by the ~~xxxxxx~~ article concerned before claiming aural results. This is particularly the case with certain precious stones and metals. I must confess to being puzzled by Mr. Pearse's result No.3 since I understand the bright white patch occurs on the side of the ring furthest away from the stones?

Just a few short remarks regarding other prints and I must conclude. Print No.2. I am strongly of opinion that the dark white rimmed effect is due to the cause hinted at by Mr. Pearse, viz, due to that portion of the plate not being covered by the developer. I showed this to an experienced photographer who shared my conviction. One does not usually get a white rim like that shown but this certainly does sometimes happen as can easily be proved by intentionally wasting a plate in this way.

The image of the five cent piece (No.5) could be explained naturally as being partly due to radiation and partly due to unequal development - no doubt the latter played the greater part in the production of this image.

I throw out the few criticisms above not with the idea of discouraging experiments but rather to stimulate same with a view to obtaining these results under conditions more satisfactory from, shall I say, an "aural" point of view. It's of no use deceiving ourselves and there is no doubt that some of the results claimed by our friends on the Continent as being due to radiation of "V" rays would not withstand the criticism of even an impartial photographic body, let alone such a hypercritical body as our friends of the R.P.S.

Replying to Captain Spencer. The result I obtained at Crewe with my own camera and plates loaded up here in B'ham was identical to that obtained with Hope's camera immediately before - a sort of incomplete face. I am sending Major Spencer the two prints for inspection.

FRED BARLOW.

Prints Nos.9 and 10 circulated with this week's Budget are interesting in several ways. The photographs were taken in July 1914 at Glasgow, the sitters being Mr. Jeffrey and his daughter. The photographer has not made a very good job of copying these but print No.9 shows the drapery or veiling 'in situ' but without any psychic face. Print No.10 was taken one minute after print No.9 (it will be seen that the sitters are in just the same position) and shows a psychic face. The features are somewhat distorted and the face had apparently not completely materialised but those who knew her have not the slightest difficulty in recognising the features of the late Mrs. Jeffrey. I venture to suggest that a cinema camera would have shown the whole process of 'building up' and it is to be hoped that it will be possible at an early date to arrange for cinema experiments to be carried out at Crewe. F.B.



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