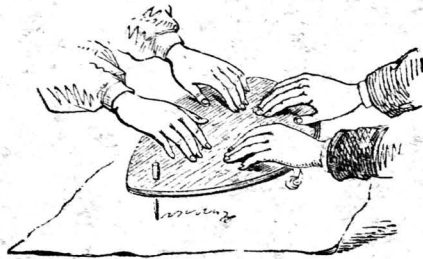


# Planchette and Automatic Writing

*How to Read the Past, Present, and  
Future, by means of Planchette and  
Automatic Writing.*



BY

IDA ELLIS

PRICE - - - - SIXPENCE

**Blackpool:**  
**The Ellis Family, Promenade.**

PLANCHETTE  
AND  
AUTOMATIC WRITING

HOW TO READ THE PAST, PRESENT,  
AND FUTURE, BY MEANS OF PLANCHETTE  
AND AUTOMATIC WRITING

BY

IDA ELLIS

AUTHOR OF "INSTRUCTIONS IN CRYSTAL GAZING," "HOW TO IMPROVE  
BODY, BRAIN, AND MIND," "CATECHISM OF PALMISTRY," "HAND  
PHYSIOGNOMY," "THOUGHTS ON PSYCHOMETRY," "MODERN VIEWS  
ON THE POPULATION QUESTION," ETC.

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BLACKPOOL:  
THE ELLIS FAMILY, PROMENADE.

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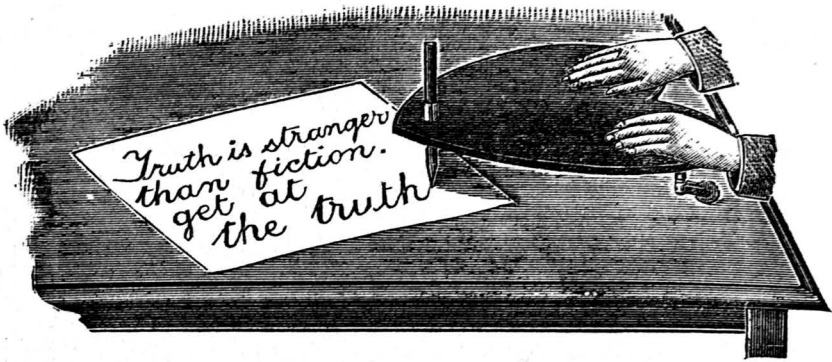
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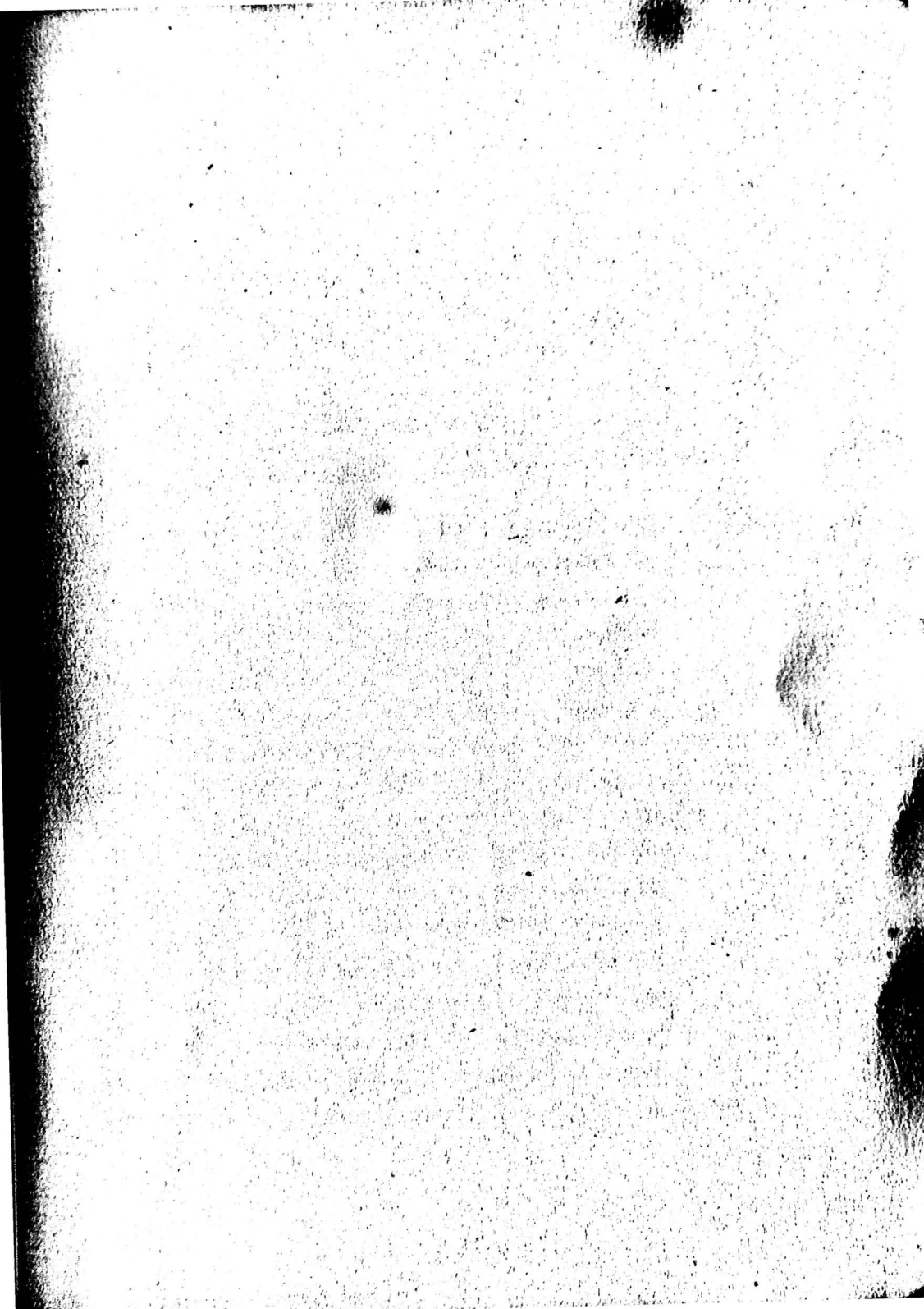


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“It is now admitted by all serious students that such a phenomena as *Automatic Writing* does actually exist, and that writing professedly obtained without the writer being aware of what he writes is not necessarily the product of morbid fancy or of semi-conscious fraud. And more than this, it is now recognised (thanks largely to the work of Gurney in England and of Pierre Janet in France), that two or more distinct trains of memory, feeling, will, may co-exist in the same personage, and may become accessible to us by artifices of various kinds.” One or more persons sit passively with the hands resting on the Planchette, as shewn in the woodcut. If the person is of a suitable temperament, the board will begin to move and write. With some people this takes place at once, with others the sittings have to be continued many times. If after repeated trials no movement takes place, it will be well to make a change in the sitters.



# PLANCHETTE AND AUTOMATIC WRITING

## CHAPTER I.

### PLANCHETTE WRITING

The way to use Planchette is to place a piece of white paper on a table or flat surface, insert the sharpened pencil in apex of Planchette, secure it in position with thumbscrew that it may act as a third leg, and place Planchette on paper in the position necessary to commence writing at top of paper. *How to use the Planchette.*

Either one or two individuals may use Planchette at the same time, both of them placing the tips of their fingers on the instrument, or by one pair of hands being placed on Planchette, whilst the other individual completes the circuit by taking hold of the operator's wrists ; but in no case must there be any actual weight used, a gentle contact with the board being all that is necessary to produce the movement. Ask a question, but be sure not to confuse your own, or the minds of others, by asking two or more questions at once. *Contact but not Force necessary.*

*Passivity of  
Mind.*

There is no necessity to keep the mind fixed upon the instrument, for having made the contact, and asked the question, conversation may be carried on relating to quite different subjects without causing any delay in obtaining replies.

*Manifesta-  
tions.*

In some cases there will be no manifestation for several minutes, but more often only a few moments elapse before one or both operators feel a stiffening or contraction in the forearm, and perhaps a sensation as of a gentle electric current running downwards to the finger tips. Then follows a series of minute crackings in the wood, as though the Planchette itself contracted, and as a rule the pencil commences to move at once. There is not always direct writing, but a series of up and down strokes like those of a child scribbling at random, but sooner or later, according to the perfection of the conditions, the writing becomes more legible, and is found to be a reply, more or less complete, to the question asked.

*Who can use  
Planchette.*

Most couples can work the instrument, and many individuals can do so by themselves, but there are some couples whose natures are so constituted as to repel such manifestation, and when a few attempts result in failure, it is as well to try with some other person.



There may be two or more Planchettes at work on the same table, without affecting the phenomena in a detrimental manner, but in this case the questions should be mental, or written down, so as not to produce confusion in the minds of the bystanders.

No bad physical or nervous results follow the ordinary use of Planchette, although with this, as with all else, continuous expenditure of thought-energy on one subject, will wear out the particular set of nerves and muscles most used, and for this reason, moderateness is superior to extravagance.

Planchette can draw symbols, pictures, portraits, plans of buildings, forts, etc., maps of hitherto undiscovered land ; it can reveal the whereabouts of hidden treasure, or lost wills ; it can transmit messages in languages totally unknown to the operator, and can write new airs and harmonies in music ; it can give details of inventions, repeat conversations between individuals, one or more of whom are long since dead, and reveal secrets from the dead to the living, thus proving the presence of some conscious intelligence ; it can transmit messages from one quarter of the globe to another, between friends, and in this way is often an aid in smoothing the troubled waters of discord in families, or repair damage caused by lovers' quarrels,

*Multiplicity  
of  
Instruments.*

*Effects on  
Health.*

*What  
Planchette  
can do.*

and in fact all that one loving intelligent soul can do to help another can be done by means of Planchette.

*What  
Planchette  
cannot do.*

Neither Planchette nor automatic writing can infallibly tell what the future holds for anyone. The utmost that can be done in this way, is to point out the possibilities, probabilities, opportunities, and openings likely to arise, and dangers of sickness, etc.; for the rest, it depends upon the will of each individual concerned as to what use shall be made of such opportunity, or advantage taken of such warning; or whether circumstances shall be allowed to guide the individual instead of being guided.

Were it possible by any means to tell the exact future, it would, so to speak, remove the reins which control our personal progress, out of our own hands, and place them in a blind fate or chance. Of what use, then, our boasted ideas of free will, selection, self-government, etc., since otherwise all had been mapped out beforehand?

Planchette cannot communicate about things, or subjects, with which the operator has no sympathy; neither can it draw pictures, symbols, write in foreign languages, etc., unless the operator possesses the inherent ability to do these things of himself, although he may never have used such

powers in any way ; for although the force controlling the instrument be an intelligent entity, yet the power for manifesting that intelligence to our outward or material senses, is derived from the person, or through the nervous and mental nature of the operators, although of course they are themselves not conscious of such power being drawn from them.

Writing by means of Planchette has never been more popular than it is at present ; yet probably not more than half of those for whom the quaint little machine runs glibly along, have any clear conception of what force it is which propels it, or whether or not there is a conscious intelligence at the back of it all.

*Popularity of  
Planchette.*

Such strange and startling results have followed the use of Planchette with some people, that it is little wonder if it does not in time come to be looked upon with a degree of reverence, scarcely inferior to that paid to the tribal gods of a savage, or semi-savage race.

*Respect for  
Planchette.*

In some instances lost property has been recovered through information obtained by its use ; friends long mourned as dead have been declared to be alive, and after events have proved the trustworthiness of the hope-inspiring message given by

*Nature of  
Communications.*

the little pointed messenger. Illnesses have been avoided or cured, by care taken through the warnings and hints of Planchette, and journeys undertaken at its instigation have proved very profitable.

All this is very good, but there is a reverse to this, as to all other subjects, and it may be as well to explain here, as clearly as possible, the nature of the force with which we deal when consulting this weird toy.

*What causes  
the  
Movement.*

The mere fact of gently laying our hands on a specially constructed tablet of wood, with the express intention of willing it to write a reply to a spoken or unspoken question, creates a current of magnetism of a more or less powerful nature, and after a time the tablet of wood becomes so fully impregnated with this magnetism, that it is forced along in obedience to that entity which controls the magnetism.

*What  
controls the  
Movement.*

Now this entity may be the ego, or higher self, or sub-conscious self, of one or the other of those whose hand is in contact with the board; or it may be another ego or soul, with whom these operators are more or less in harmony or sympathy, but whose consciousness is more powerful, or whose will is more highly developed than theirs. Thus

we see the possibility of obtaining information from several different sources, viz. :

(1) A communication may come from the conscious brain of either of the operators.

(2) From the sub-conscious brain, or the higher self or soul of the operator.

(3) From the sub-conscious mind or soul of some living entity, whose vibrations (or condition of thought force) are in harmony with that of the operators.

(4) From the soul of some entity who has departed this physical life, but whose desires at death were for more material existence, and who grasps the opportunity which this current of magnetism now gives it, of once more holding converse with the matter of earth, and its inhabitants.

(5) From some spiritual being belonging to another planet, such as Jupiter, or another phase of existence, such as nature spirits, elementals, etc.

We therefore see the possibility of communicating, not only with some souls who have cast off this body, but also with those who are still in the flesh, as well as giving the soul of the operator, an opportunity for making the brain conscious of

*Message sender not always conscious of so doing.*

things, which under ordinary and positive conditions it is incapable of doing ; but I may here mention, that in the case of receiving communications from a living individual, such person is rarely conscious of sending such messages, although it has often been proved that similar thoughts had been in the mind at the time.

*Are  
Planchette  
Messages  
trustworthy?*

But it may be asked, what about the trustworthiness of these manifestations. How can it be known when and what to believe ?

It is a natural law, that if a powerful or magnetic individual comes into a room containing several others, he can by his mere presence, alter the whole tone of the company. If the spirits of the party have been low, gloomy, and depressed, the arrival of a cheerful, happy individual, raises them at once considerably nearer to his own level, thus impregnating the atmosphere of the whole room with his own nature ; and in a similar manner, a gloomy, saturnine individual, will frequently spoil the pleasure and happiness of a roomful of hitherto cheerful people, simply by bringing his state of mind into the room, and all this, too, without speaking a word or performing an act.

*Like begets  
like.*

Now, something of this kind occurs in transactions with the Planchette. If the mind of the

operator be flippant, sceptical, or expecting trash and nonsense from the pencil, then nothing of a trustworthy nature will result. For instance, if a scoffing individual asks, "Who are you?" and believes the whole affair to be connected with the powers of darkness, then the answer will be "Beelzebub," or something equivalent. But a sincere individual anxious to learn the truth, to gain knowledge, to seek wisdom, or interchange thoughts and ideas with other psychically endowed entities, will be rewarded with true and reliable statements. Such a person recently purchased an instrument, which, after briefly replying to a question, wrote, "Please take me back, my legs are crooked," and upon examination, it was found that one of the legs had got slightly bent, which prevented the full freedom of the little castor on which it turns. Now, not one of the operators had thought of looking at the legs, much less did they suspect their lack of symmetry, and yet the truth was volunteered. How could this be done other than by a conscious soul or entity, using the magnetism supplied by the operators, and so communicate to the consciousness of other people, what had otherwise remained unobserved.

*Sincerity a  
Necessity.*

*Complaints  
from  
Planchette.*

But this is not all. It is proved that a secret

*Is Planchette a Tell-tale.* whispered to Planchette by one person, may be communicated to another, if no favourable opportunity be given the instrument for disburdening itself in the desired quarter. I will make my meaning clear.

Miss B——, a refined lady, who is an expert user of Planchette, and gets very reliable information, was persuaded to lend it to a friend, Mrs. W——. Some time elapsed before it was returned, and when it came back and was questioned, it did not reply at once as was usual, but, instead, it wrote down a long rigmarole of nauseous epithets, curses, and threats, most astonishing to its recipient, who had never experienced anything so spontaneous and disagreeable from it before. Well aware that such effects must of necessity have a cause, Miss B—— immediately visited her friend, and enquired to whom she had lent the instrument.

“To Mr. S——” was the reply, and to Mr. S—— Miss B—— then repaired.

“Why did you curse and threaten the Planchette, when it would not write for you?” she enquired.

Astonished at such a question, Mr. S—— could only falter, and stammer in reply: “How did



you know? There was no one in the room at the time, and I have never spoken of it to anyone."

"Nevertheless, it is correct that you lost your temper," said Miss B——, "because when I placed my hands upon it, and asked a question, it repeated to me all that you had showered upon it in your anger, before it answered me."

Thus the impatience of the man who had filled the instrument with his own magnetism, and had not waited to get calm and satisfactory results, has provided others with a lesson to behave seemly, when dealing with forces out of the ordinary.

Another queer thing about Planchette, is its seeming conscientiousness, and orderly methods. *Planchette orderly and conscientious.* If a question is asked, and there has not been sufficient magnetism to obtain a reply at once, and a second question is asked, Planchette always replies to the first question, as soon as the force is powerful enough, and in this way, many seeming untruths can be accounted for, because impatience in the operator breaks the necessary conditions.

Sometimes the controlling intelligence claims *Denizens of other worlds controlling Planchette.* to be an inhabitant of another planet, such as Mars, Jupiter, etc., and although at the present stage of evolution and scientific research it is not possible to prove the accuracy of statements concerning their

own planets, yet their replies to questions are often full of suggestion, and really help to explain away some of the mysteries which surround our solar system, as we understand it.

*Five  
Elementals.*

There is also another class of entities, or forces, which make use of the medium of Planchette. These call themselves elemental spirits, such as spirits of air, water, earth, fire, colour, music, etc., but such manifesting entities, are far more rare than those previously mentioned. One such entity, claiming to be a fire elemental, having his existence in the sun itself, and partaking of its nature, wrote through Planchette a short time ago. The operators were an earnest-minded couple, deeply engrossed with the study of the occult, prepared to learn, but not over-credulous. During the manifestations, many hints were given as to the nature and working of the sun, and of its emblems in the fire of desire, thought, action, love, self-sacrifice, etc., and much food for reflection was given. When asked how it could transmit such ideas into English, the reply was, that it communicated its knowledge to the souls of the operators, and their power of thought unconsciously translated those ideas into their own language, so that it was merely a matter of soul communing with soul, the Planchette being the

medium used to carry that knowledge to the conscious, but less sensitive brain.

This sort of thing, if carried out to any extent, *Planchette as an aid to Scientific Research.* would enable us to hold communication with the inhabitants of other planets, and so make occult science, the handmaid to more material science, although, of course, the necessary element in all such experiments, must always be a condition of sympathy, or harmony, between the operator, and the controlling entity.

The style of handwriting done through *Whose writing does Planchette imitate.* Planchette, varies with the identity, and force of personality of the controlling ego. A lady who had been grievously troubled for years with evil spiritual influences in her home conditions, wrote to a "psychic" adviser, from whose advice she obtained much help and comfort morally, and psychically, and soon afterwards commenced to use Planchette. She was astonished to find the style of writing through Planchette, similar to that received from the "adviser" alluded to, and upon asking the instrument the cause of the similarity, it wrote, "Because it is the spirit of G—— (the adviser) which guides me." When, however, the communication comes from the higher self of the operator, or from some spirit belonging to another order of

evolution than ours, the writing will be characterless, or similar to that of the operator himself.

*Abuses of  
Planchette.*

Doubtless, Planchette writing is as capable of being abused, as all other things which have their uses. For instance, it is within my knowledge, that domestic happiness has been wrecked, through the untrue statements written by means of Planchette. The seeds of doubt as to the constancy of their partners have been sown in the minds of credulous men and women, through the suggestion of some vile magnetism, thrown upon Planchette by some bad-minded operator, or evil controller, and in some cases, too much trust in the assertions of Planchette, have resulted in commercial disaster, loss, and annoyance of different kinds.

*Tolerance of  
Planchette  
needed.*

But because mistakes are made, and abuses are possible, that is no reason why there should be no good use or blessing derived from any particular mode of action; but we earnestly advise all users of Planchette, to approach it with a broad, open mind, full of charity and tolerance to other people's ideas, and yet in earnest to learn all the good which can be obtained from contact with the forces, which though unseen, are ever with us.

## CHAPTER II.

### AUTOMATIC WRITING

Automatic writing differs from Planchette, in *Automatic Writing*, that there is no instrument used other than the pen, or pencil, lightly held in the hand.

The force necessary to produce the phenomena *Preparations for Automatic Writing* of automatic writing, is practically of the same nature as that used in Planchette writing, but the development of this gift is the more rare of the two, and evidence points to the necessity of a somewhat higher development of the psychic element. The operator takes his seat as if about to write in an ordinary manner, but instead of consciously doing so, he sits motionless, mentally asking for a communication. Mr. W. T. Stead, editor of the "Review of Reviews," who has had some extraordinary revelations of a most reliable nature through automatic writing, says that he does not allow the wrist to rest on the table, but merely allows the hand to droop sufficient to admit of the point of the pencil touching the paper: this gives more freedom for the movemont of the pencil. In

this way, one may receive messages and communications from as many different sources as through the medium of Planchette.

*Sensations  
experienced  
whilst  
Writing.*

After sitting for a few minutes, either with a passive mind (*i.e.*, dwelling upon nothing), or concentrating the mind upon the desire for a message, a numb sensation comes to the hand and arm, the pencil is no longer felt, and the hand is sometimes jerked across the paper once or twice as if to test its pliability; then a name is written more or less legibly, the peculiarity in automatic writing being that the name of the avowed transmitter of the message, often appears both at the commencement, and at the termination of the message. The style of writing is also a distinct imitation of that of the entity claiming to write, although naturally, it will be more or less imperfect, according to the degree of sympathy, and the perfection of the conditions.

*Conditions  
for  
Automatic  
Writing.*

The communications or messages received through automatic writing, depend for their accuracy and reliability upon:—

1st. The sincerity and integrity of the operator.

2nd. The character and pure motives of the controlling ego.

3rd. The amount of harmony existing between the operator and the controlling ego.

4th. The health and favourable surroundings of the operator at the time of receiving the message.

Unless these conditions are more or less complied with, there can be no automatic writing.

Now comes the question, as to the wisdom of *Is Passivity* being quite passive, or of concentrating the mind, *of Mind* upon what is desired to know, *desirable?*

Some automatic writers declare that when their mind is passive, they obtain results more rapidly, and full of interest, than when using concentration. This may be true, because during the condition of passivity, the floodgates are open as it were, to all comers, and the hand is used by the first forcible entity which comes along, whether it be good, bad, or indifferent, but the nervous system of the operator, is so fully drawn upon under these conditions, that it is likely to receive damage by such close contact with powerful occult forces not altogether desirable, yet having sufficient sympathy, *Results of* to enable such force to make use of the operator's *Passivity.* system. When this is the case, the after effects of automatic writing will be decidedly unpleasant, much lassitude and nervous depression being felt,

to say nothing of the proportionately weakened will power, according to the time thus spent, and yet the results, so far as the writing itself is concerned, may be varied and interesting, if rambling and inconsistent, in dealing with a subject.

*Concentration superior to Passivity.*

In the case of concentration, however, the mind of the operator desires to obtain communication from certain sources, or concerning certain matters, and although the controlling entity may be his higher self, the ego of a sympathetic friend, either in the body, or out of it, or it may be an entity of another phase of evolution altogether; yet it will at least be equal in moral and spiritual discernment with the operator, if not superior, whilst the subject matter will be instructive, enlightening, helpful, and will keep to its subject instead of rambling; and the health of the operator, will remain equally as good, as though the time had only been spent in ordinary writing.

*Who may try Automatic Writing.*

It is perhaps as well to again urge upon would-be investigators of this class of phenomena, that it is safer to approach all occult forces, with high motives, sincerity, honesty of purpose, and a desire to learn for improvement, rather than for fun or mockery. For the simple reason, that these forces which are occult, hidden, or non-material, are as



yet more or less a mystery, and an unknown quantity with the majority of us, it is as well to be on the safe side; for a right state of mind and a sincerity of purpose, is a much better safeguard against baneful results, than the reverse of such conditions would be.

Yet all individuals have not the necessary kind of magnetism to obtain automatic writing, without a considerable change in their habits of life, because sensitiveness to the finer states of matter, is a necessity for such manifestation; and those who have always lived on coarse animal food, with corresponding surroundings, have naturally built up the cells of their bodies with coarse states of matter; whereas it is the subtle force of magnetism, acting upon the finer states of the matter of which our bodies are composed, which produces the peculiar condition necessary for these manifestations. It therefore follows, that the purer the life, the purer the composite elements of the physical body, the more perfect will it be as a channel for the transmission of mind and soul messages, from other entities; although it does not necessarily follow, that a high moral or spiritual standard, always accompanies even the most favourable development of the psychic nature.

*Physical  
Condition of  
Operators.*

*Moral  
Aspects.*

Some may ask, "Is it right to seek knowledge from sources of an occult nature? Is it not wrong to attempt to pry into things which Providence has wisely hidden from us?" To which questions we can only reply by saying, that if these things are wrong, then it must also be wrong to attempt to understand the hidden forces, which lay in the heart of things, such as are discovered by chemistry, and electrical science; also in that marvel of sciences, astronomy. In fact, the progress of all branches of science would abruptly end, if it were considered wrong, to explore regions and states hitherto unknown, and all men obeyed such teaching.

No, we emphatically declare it is not wrong, but in place of looking upon occult studies as a sin, we consider them aids to true moral and spiritual progress; because by means of them, we get undeniable proof of higher states of being, than the physical state in which we now are. We prove to our own satisfaction, that there is an undying part of us, and more thoroughly grasp the full meaning of that old, old teaching, "As ye sow, so shall ye also reap," and no sincere individual, can fully comprehend this, without making noble efforts to sow of the best, that the best only may be reaped.

Thus, to an honest soul, all contact with the finer forces of nature, such as are manifest in psychic phenomena, must furnish lessons in controlling the more gross and animal part of the nature, must broaden the views of mankind in general, enlarge the sympathies, and prove to us, our indissoluble relationship with the Universe as manifest in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. It must also teach the occult student, that growth and perfection of soul, as also of the body, can only come with variety of experience, and constant uses of the powers possessed, and that in order to obey the Divine command, "Be ye perfect," it is necessary to obtain knowledge, and experience, of everything possible; to learn to distinguish right from wrong, good from evil, beauty from unloveliness, and how can this be done, if ignorance in any department of nature is to be regarded as satisfactory. As wise would it be, to prevent a child from learning to talk, lest it should in the future, use its power of speech, to make unkind and objectionable remarks.

*Moral Aspects.*

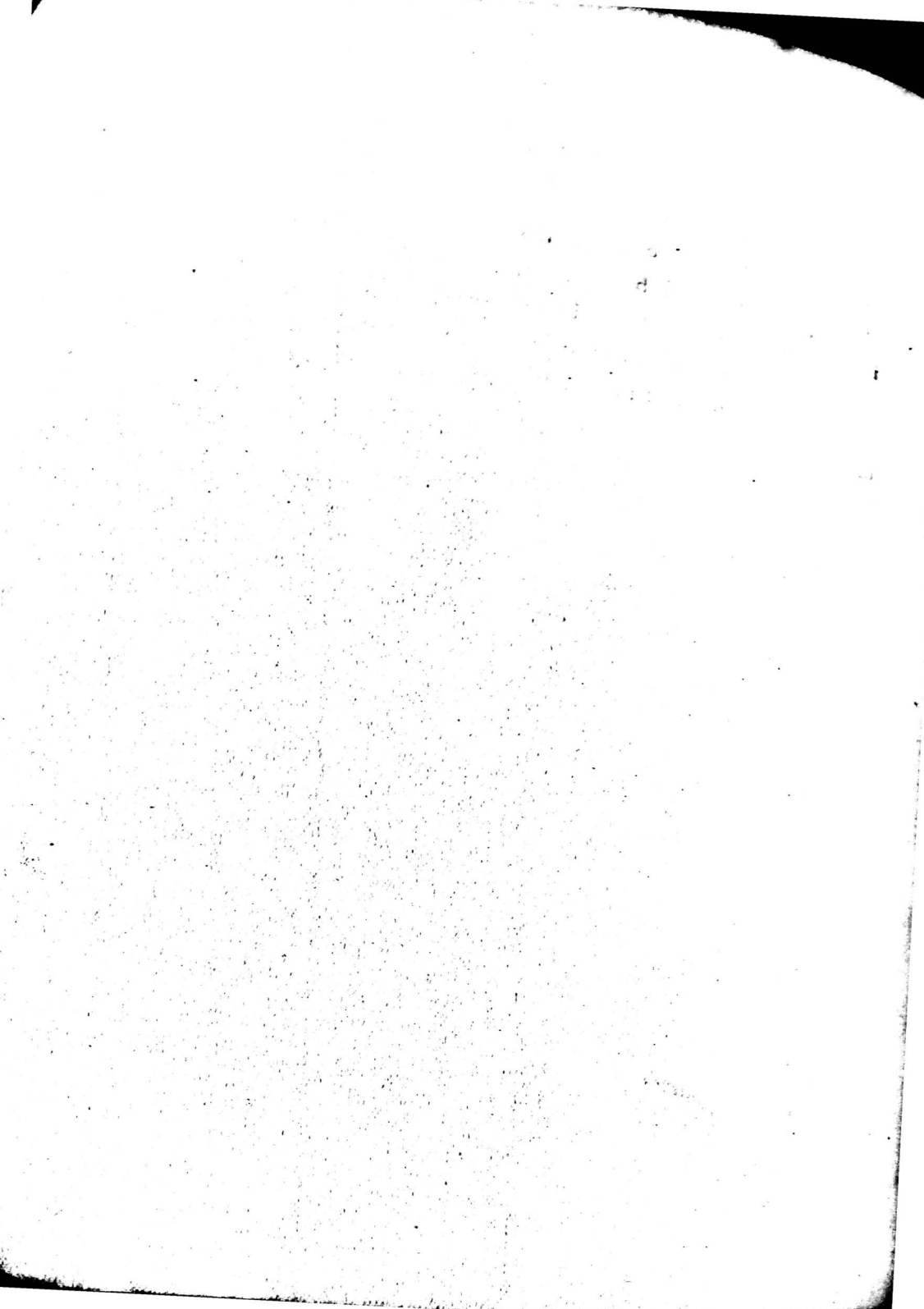
We each possess a divine spark within us. That divine spark has always existed, and will always continue to exist, and it is going through a series of studies, and experiences, in different states

*Moral  
Aspects.*

of being, its present phase of existence, or temporary home, being in our physical bodies. By means of these different states, the soul grows to perfection, in the same way as our bodies grow to perfection, by means of its daily exercises, and experiences. We do not consider it wise, or right, to deprive the body of its necessary daily meals, or experiences, and yet many well-meaning, but narrow-minded individuals, would prevent the more ethereal, or spiritual part, of us, from obtaining such knowledge, exercise, and experiences, as are possible to it, by means of the use of psychic powers, which really are opportunities for its more ready growth. Surely, this is illogical.

All things, whether physical, mental, psychic, or spiritual, are for use and not for abuse; since it is the abuse of things which create wrong doing, until our spiritual natures fully control our physical ones, and become so highly evolved, as to enable them to make soul to soul, or mind to mind, communications general, without the help of matter as a medium, it is certainly wise and right, to make use of such means as are available, for the further development of all that is highest and best within us; but it is as well to remember, that since we are at present located in matter, we must conform

to the laws which govern that matter, and since our bodies are the dwelling places of that which is divine, we have a right to do nothing which will injure that body, and this is why we urge a moderate use of all practices, which, if abused, would do harm to the health of either mind or body.



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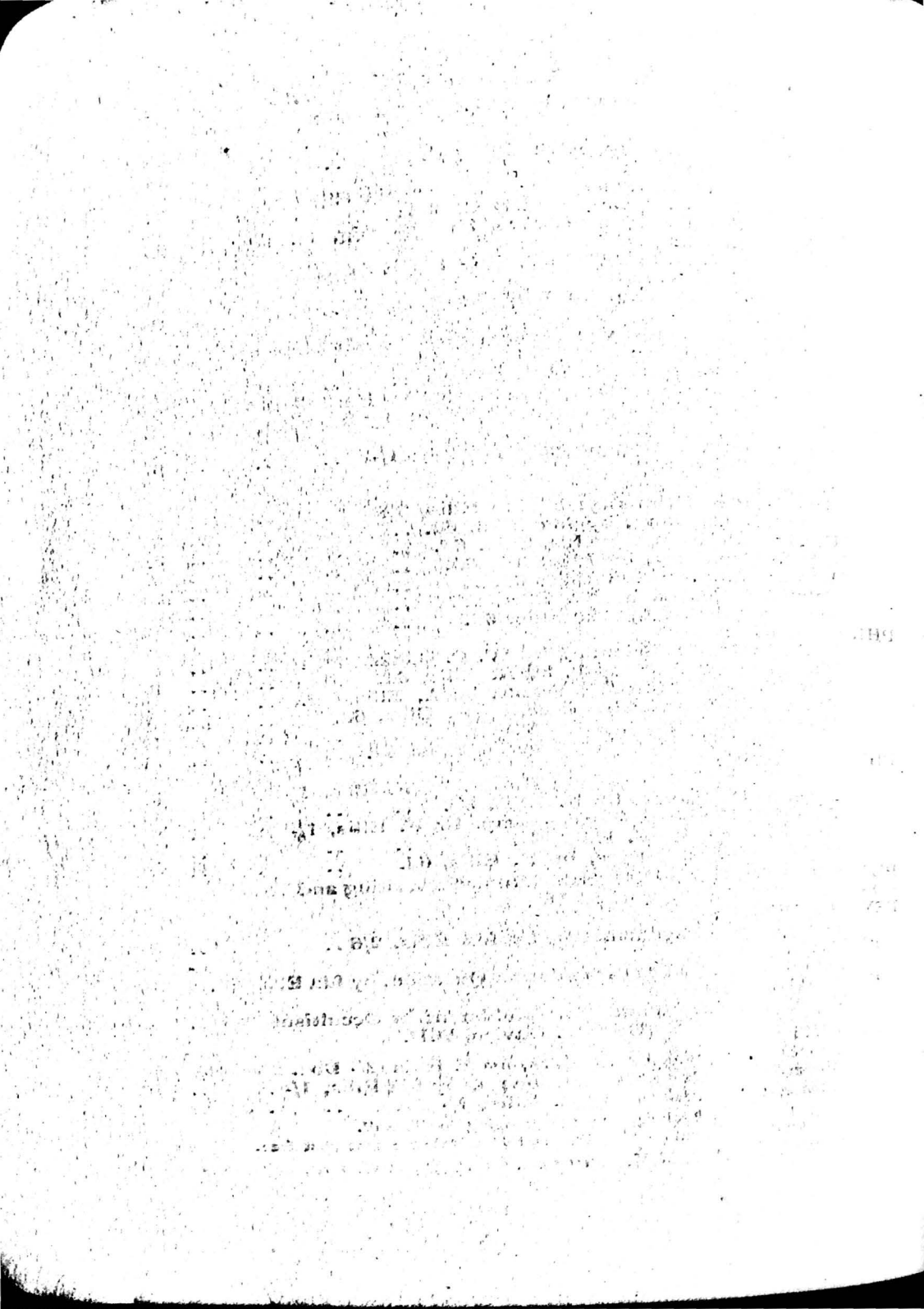
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