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OCTOBER, 1951

The Harbinger of Light

Everyman's Digest
of
Psychic Science, Healing
and
Spiritual Philosophy
•

Edited by
Rev. J. T. Huston, N.D.

LEADING FEATURES

Materializations: Unique Tests
Photographing the Past
Lives Saved by Psychic Warnings
Miracle Cures in Victoria
World Day for Animals, October 4
What Is Religion?

"THE HARBINGER OF LIGHT"

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THE Harbinger of Light

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EVERYMAN'S DIGEST DEVOTED TO
**Psychic Science, Spiritualism, Healing, and
Spiritual Philosophy**

Editor

Rev. J. T. HUSTON, N.D.,
Box 64 A, G.P.O., Adelaide, S.A.

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MATERIALIZATIONS UNIQUE TEST CONDITIONS

By Horace Leaf, F.R.G.S.

In "The Two Worlds"

Considerable stir has been caused in America as a result of Dr. Franco Ponte sitting on Frank Decker's knee, covering the medium's lips and holding his hands, in full view of the assembled company, during a recent materialization seance. The seance was held in a clear red light and during the time Dr. Ponte sat on Decker's knee several fully materialized forms clearly manifested themselves to the circle of twenty sitters.

The nineteen other sitters signed a statement to the effect that they distinctly saw this extraordinary test, which appears to be unique in the history of Modern Spiritualism.

I can personally testify to this being but a further development of an old practice of Frank Decker's. I have myself sat on his knee and covered his mouth during his voice seances, and heard the spirit voices speak loudly throughout.

This has long been one of the methods by which this famous medium's guides have undertaken to convince sceptics of the genuineness of the phenomena.

The last time I witnessed this process was in the summer of 1948, in the presence of a large group

of people. After several voices had spoken to relatives and friends, Patsy, Decker's principal guide, stated that someone present doubted the genuineness of the voices; he did not wish to mention names but expressed his disapproval. He felt it a moral obligation to remove this doubt before proceeding further with the seance.

Obviously speaking to the sceptic, he seized his tie and led him to the chair in which the medium sat, and requested him to sit on Decker's knee and place his fingers "right down his throat," and inform the rest of the company of what was happening.

The sitter, an Englishman from South America, announced that he had his fingers deep in Decker's mouth.

"What do you hear?" asked Patsy. "I feel a vibration of the medium's throat," replied the sitter.

"Quite right," said Patsy, "but please tell us what you hear?" "I hear you speaking plainly," returned the sitter.

"That will do," said Patsy and lead the sitter back to his seat.

Insisting on confirming the test, Patsy then led Mr. Briem, the Icelandic consul, to the medium and invited him to sit on his knee and press his hand tightly over the medium's mouth and nose. This Mr. Briem did, but evidently not hard enough to please the guide, who requested him to press tighter. The consul protested that he did not want to smother Decker.

"Never mind that," replied Patsy. "Press harder and tell us what you hear." "I hear you talking," replied Mr. Briem.

Two Voices at Once

But not only was Patsy speaking, for during the entire experiment a young girl, who had been dead some time, was talking quite distinctly to her parents seated next to me! The only difference on

this occasion to that reported of Dr. Ponte was that the seance was held in darkness. In my long experience I have never known this kind of test to be applied by other voice mediums.

On the occasions that I have sat on Decker's knee during similar seances, Decker's body has been completely catalepted and felt as hard as stone, indicating something of the severe muscular tension on the part of the medium, involved during such seances.

Unique?

Fortunately, during the Ponte experiment, the doctor was successfully photographed seated on Decker's knee and a copy of it has been printed in the American Spiritualist journal, "Chimes," in the June, 1951, issue.

It is impossible to evaluate the convincing nature of a test of this kind; and Dr. Franco Ponte, who has for many years been a student of psychical research, having sat even with the famous physical medium Eusapia Palladino, states that it is the first time in history that such an incident has been recorded. I think this must be true, as I recall no similar incident, in either the records of Spiritualism or psychical research.

Those who are acquainted with the outstanding mediumship of Frank Decker have, however, witnessed equally powerful supernormal manifestations. In 1937 I took part in a private seance given by Decker to perhaps the leading lawyer at that time of the United States, since he was connected with the government of that country.

Throughout the earlier part of the seance, this gentleman had exhibited doubt as to the genuineness of the trumpet voices, until one of them made a statement which caused the lawyer to exclaim excitedly, "Decker did not know that!" Immediately Patsy commanded the lawyer and myself

MODERN SPIRITUALISM

In "The National Spiritualist," U.S.A.

Man is the instrument of God bringing life to His creatures on earth. The high or low, in the physical life of man, is conditioned by his AWARENESS of God. "Miracles" occur daily, and are not the monopoly of theology, nor can they be relegated to the misty and legend ridden past.

Spiritualism is a factual presentation of the presence of God, omnipotent since the dawn of time, operating through all religious beliefs and systems. Adherents of Spiritualism refuse to prostrate themselves in awe before unproved phenomenal happenings, recorded through the centuries. They prayerfully ask, that the gate of awareness be opened to all who wish to pass through in reverent knowledge and understanding. "Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

The materialist dismisses the records of the intervention of Spirit Entities, in the world of flesh, as nonsense. Some theologians aver that such phenomena occur only within confines determined by them. The Spiritualist says — and he has proven — that phenomenal happenings do occur; that they are not the province of any particular age, or religious belief. Moses is reputed to have heard a voice speak from a burning bush, he is rightly recognized as a great religious leader. Socrates also heard voices speak with him on many

to stand up. We were sitting at opposite sides of the large seance-room.

Coats Changed

The moment we stood up our coats were literally ripped off our backs, and Patsy cried loudly, "Catch."

The next moment I held the lawyer's coat and he held mine. On switching on the electric light we saw that each coat had been neatly turned inside out.

occasions, he is known — by some — as a pagan. St. Joan of Arc was guided by the voices of Spirit people, so was Emanuel Swedenborg, as was Andrew Jackson Davis, the founder of Modern Spiritualist Philosophy.

The Founders of the Quaker Movement were moved by, and listened to, the Voice of Spirit, as did Jesus the Christ, St. Paul, the Co-Founder of Christianity, and Joseph Smith, the Mormon Founder. The war-like Mohammed, the gentle Buddha listened to, and lived by, Spirit. John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism, heard movements and spirit rappings in his father's home, as did the Fox sisters in their humble cottage a century later.

The Christian Bible tells us that Jesus walked on the water, the materialist scoffs, and some theologians veer away from the subject. Spiritualist Science proves that this phenomena is not impossible. The documentary proof of D. D. Home, the medium, floating out of one window and in another seventy feet above the ground, is one of the many instances when the laws of natural life — as they are revealed to some — have been set aside. The FACT of the Power of Spirit has been present in every age of man; when the pupil is ready, the teacher is there. Fear, awe, and logic to the contrary, no one of God's creatures can accept the power and PRESENCE of Spirit, until they are evolved sufficiently to listen and learn.

Some misguided people have dismissed Spiritualism as a superstition. True Spiritualism is the base upon which all Religion stands. The Spiritualist practises the truest form of Monotheism, recognizing no division of Power he recognizes one true God (Spirit). The phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of God. The angels at the tomb of Jesus, and their comforting message, is sweetly real to their under-

standing. Yesterday, to-day, to-morrow, the Power of Spirit is eternal.

The Spiritualist has no amulets, no charms, no idols, no transubstantiation. The handwriting on the wall at the court of Belshazzar, the insistent knockings in the home of John Wesley and in the home of the Fox family, are evidences of the Eternal Power of God in every age of man. The clairvoyance of Swedenborg and his prophetic writings, the vision and the prophetic writings of Andrew Jackson Davis, are all part of the operation of Spirit. To every man, in every age, God speaks; gently turning him from the arid desert of materialism, from dependence on charms and idols, from the chill of formalism, the wistful dependence on myth and legend, to the living truth of Eternal Presence.

On March 31, 1848, Andrew Jackson Davis tells us this, "About daylight this morning a warm breathing passed over my face, suddenly waking me from a profound slumber, and I heard a voice tender, yet peculiarly strong, saying, 'Brother, the good work has begun — behold . . . a living demonstration is born.'" At that time — in a cottage a hundred miles away — Katie Fox was listening to the gentle rappings which were bringing the reality of Life after Physical Death to man — AGAIN.

The anniversary of Modern Spiritualism is celebrated as the time of Resurrection in all Christendom. It is the time of re-birth, after the sleep of winter. What kindlier message can man hear than one which tells him that the Kingdom of Heaven is for all men. The saint, the sinner, the tired, the fearful: God's love for His children is all encompassing, there are no conditions demanded for the privilege of Continuous Living. Jesus The Christ did not ask the thief what is your religion; He said, "This day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise."

LIVES SAVED BY PSYCHIC WARNINGS

Reprinted from "Psychic News"

The hoary criticism that psychic phenomena is trivial and meaningless, bringing no benefit to those who witness it, is made to look very silly by readers of "The Star," whose "sixth sense" experiences are still appearing after four weeks. In seven days nearly a score of stories were published telling how one or more lives had been saved by psychic warnings.

"Sinbad," of Teddington, relates how his own psychic impression saved literally hundreds of people. "In May, 1916, I was Second Officer of a hospital ship, and we were making for Dover from France with wounded soldiers. The Chief Officer had just come up from breakfast and I went down to have mine. Having finished, I was about to order another coffee when I had a strange urge to go on deck. I went back to the bridge, and the first thing I saw was a large mine dead ahead and not more than fifty to sixty yards away. I immediately gave the order to alter course. Had I had that second cup of coffee we should certainly have been blown up and hundreds of wounded drowned."

"Fly for Your Lives!"

A former Army chaplain, the Rev. George Kendall, of Beacon Hill, Holloway, tells a similar experience which saved a group of soldiers during the 1914-18 war.

He was conducting a service in a dug-out, and in the middle of his prayer, was impelled to shout, "For your lives, men, follow me." They had just time to get round a traverse in the trench when a shell exploded on the dug-out they had left.

Still more remarkable in that it involved the psychic sensitivity of two people is the story told by Mrs. A. Agar, of Hypiatt Avenue, Corsham, Wilts. "I was convalescent, lying on a couch in front of my window talking to a nurse. Outside a storm was raging. Suddenly I sprang to my feet,

and waving my arms frantically I cried out, 'Look behind you!' Then I collapsed. Later I told the startled nurse that I seemed to be standing on the railway. My husband was walking along the track towards me, head bent low, fighting against the raging wind and rain. Behind him a train was approaching quickly. I called out and he saw the train quite close. He leapt aside quickly and rolled down the steep embankment.

"When he arrived home I said, 'Oh, I am glad you are back again.' He replied, 'Well, it's a wonder I am.' Then he told me how he had taken a short cut along the railway. Suddenly he heard a voice call out, 'Look behind you.' He did so and saw the train."

Dream warnings figure conspicuously in last week's batch of letters, one of the most remarkable being that described by Richard A. Austin, Abbots Road, E.5.

"My brother dreamed that he was locked in a strange room and was in great danger. He took from his pocket a small comb and, using it as an axe, beat down the door and escaped. On waking he found that he was clutching a small pocket comb, which had been left on the bedside table. Only two or three teeth remained intact. The dream left such an impression that he began to carry the comb as a lucky charm.

"Not long afterwards my brother found himself on the upper floor of a hotel in Nottingham where a fire had broken out, making the stairs impassable. The door to the fire escape was locked, but he succeeded in picking the lock—an old-fashioned one—with the old broken comb."

There are several instances where psychic intervention prevented falls down cliffs and mine-shafts, road accidents, fire, and the like.

Doris Birt, of Campden Hill Gardens, W.8, writes that when she was a child in Switzerland she climbed higher than usual one day and found

herself on a narrow ledge unable to move. She fell asleep from exhaustion and upon waking up saw a tall, bearded man with a black patch over one eye and wearing old-fashioned clothes, standing next to her. He guided her safely down and then went off by himself.

When she told her parents they said that the man who had rescued her had been a famous mountain guide who had fallen to his death thirty years ago near the place where she met him.

Finally, of these life saving experiences, we quote a case in which a hypnotized subject was the instrument of warning. E. M. Coleman, of Meadow Way, Chingford, writes:

"We were trying hypnotism at a party at midnight recently and I was one of the 'victims.' I was responding well until I suddenly jumped up, wide awake, and cried, 'Ring G——' (a friend). Although it was late we decided to try to get him on the 'phone. The ringing of the bell woke him and he found his room full of gas, which almost certainly would have killed him. Evidently he had gone to sleep in front of the gas fire which had gone out when the pressure dropped temporarily."

Consul's Dream

A former British Consul sent in a vivid account of a dream which served to prevent important documents falling into the hands of the Japanese during the last war.

"When I was British Consul at the Chinese treaty port of Swatow I woke up early from an oppressive dream that I was very worried because something momentous had happened, that I was no longer free and that I had ceased to be British Consul. It left me with such an impression of being a presentiment that although I had got to bed late I went downstairs to listen to an early morning news broadcast from Manila. I was able to catch 'Manila was bombed this morning.' I then

WHAT SPIRITUALISM STANDS FOR

(Contributed)

If Spiritualism would stand for three things:

1. The truth of Survival;
2. The reality and nearness of the spirit world;
3. The possibility, in certain conditions, of communicating with those who have gone on;

and for the rest leave men "to beat their music out," it would be more likely to take the great place due to it. As it is, too many earnest people remain outside the movement.

Dermography refers to spirit skin writing. Names or messages are written by the spirit people on the arm or body of the medium, the colouring matter appearing beneath the skin. It disappears after a few minutes. The names of Stainton Moses' guides once appeared on his arm. Charles H. Foster was the most famous dermatographical medium on record. Foster's biographer, George C. Bartlett, records an interesting occasion when Foster was visited by a certain Mr. Adams. The room was filled with his spirit relatives, who, after Mr. Adams had departed, apparently stayed behind. About two o'clock in the morning Foster complained to his friend that he could not sleep as the room was filled with the Adams family, who were writing their names upon his body. Bartlett was astounded when he counted eleven names on various parts of the medium's skin.

went straight to my office and succeeded in burning everything of importance before the Japanese took me away as a prisoner. My American colleague was less fortunate, as they caught him in his bedroom before he could destroy anything.

"Within about twenty-four hours I received a letter from the Japanese general saying that as war had broken out I was no longer British Consul." — Ronald Hall, C.B.E., National Liberal Club, S.W.1.

THE CITY OF HARMONIA

By Arthur A. Myers

In "The National Spiritualist," U.S.A.

Western New York has frequently been referred to as the Psychic Belt of the Western World. Here was the inception of The Latter Day Saints, or Mormon Church. Here was the beginning of Modern Spiritualism.

From this Psychic Belt came the pioneer leaders of both movements, and the early days of both developments are replete with interesting historic data, pertinent to the fabulous nineteenth century when the Orthodox churches experienced definite changes in the creedal demands of their expressions of Faith. Naturally, during such cataclysmic changes in thought, there developed many new movements, most of which are forgotten memories. The Shakers, the Adin Ballou movements, various health, water cures, and magnetic healing centres flourished for a time, and while they contained a certain religious element, as time marched on they became involved in fantasy, and in passing from the world's scene, their existence has become a memory. Only the Mormon and the Spiritualist Church have survived the test of time.

Palmyra, Hydesville, and the Fox Cottage at Lily Dale have become shrines visited by thousands of tourists every year, and the glamour and excitement of earlier years are lived over again in the rich historical associations surrounding these shrines.

The forgotten pages of history contain data as fascinating and interesting as any in the accepted histories of Spiritualism or Mormonism; a forgotten Americanism covered with dust, a shattered dream of the century just past — a mystic city which rears its vaulted circular architecture from the rich farm-lands of Chautouqua County, New York — **The City of Harmonia**. Did you ever hear its fascinating story?

About twenty-six miles from Lily Dale (to the South), in the valley of the Kiantone, stands the towering, sunlit spires of Harmonia. This fabled city, dedicated to peace, love and communal ownership of property, was founded by citizens whose actual leaders were the great Spirits of men of past days. The city is invisible to the materialistic eye of the Twentieth Century, yet it stands as surely as does man's belief in the Power of Spirit. This poignant story of Harmonia is not only an obscure and fascinating chapter in the history of America, but it is also the story of those great dreams of Utopia which were born, flourished, and died in the American character of the Nineteenth Century.

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As I looked over the peaceful, sunlit valley of Kiantone, with its rich fertile fields, its rolling hills reaching to Heaven as if in prayer, a great quiet and a peace came upon me. It seemed incredible that twenty thousand persons gathered here on September 18, 1858, in a great convention to "affirm the Heavenly Charter for World Reformation," as pronounced by John Murray Spear, the Moses of Harmonia.

Spear was a great American mystic and religious teacher. Born in Boston, Mass., in 1804, he was reared in a strict religious atmosphere—somewhat unacceptable at the time—since he was baptized by, and named for, John Murray, the founder of the Universalist Church—a rather radical movement in those days. Early in life he became a clergyman, and preached his first sermon at the age of twenty, his youth and personality making him extremely popular. While serving a pastorate in New Bedford, Mass., he heard William Lloyd Garrison deliver a lecture on abolition and he immediately became a convert to that cause. This new faith cost him his pastorate, he was stoned and mobbed after a lecture in Lyons and nearly

lost his life at the hands of a mob in Portland, Maine. Disillusioned and denied by many of his friends, he left New Bedford and determined to devote and dedicate his life to work among social outcasts and prison inmates.

About this time—in Randolph, New York—a business man and Spiritualist convert by the name of Thaddeus Shelton became interested in the “magnetic” and healthful properties of the waters of Kiantone springs, which bubbled from the ground in Kiantone Valley. Shelton became so interested that he took a sample of the water to New York City for analysis. There he met Dr. James P. Greaves, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, both a physician and a Spiritualist. Dr. Greaves, in turn, became so interested that he journeyed with Shelton to Kiantone to further test the fabulous water. As a result of his findings, he published a glowing account of the water’s virtues in the *Spiritual Telegraph* in 1853.

Some of the sediment of the spring water was sent to Spear in Boston, Mass. He had lately been converted in Spiritualism, and now, a Medium, he found his hand “involuntarily moved” to write an inspired document. It was disclosed that a band of Spirit People, calling themselves “The Association of Beneficents,” had chosen him to deliver a Revelation to mankind. The document, which was signed by such notables as Socrates, Swedenborg, and Benjamin Franklin, affirmed Socialism as the highest form of Human Society. Further—and more significant—it directed Spear to set up a model colony at the magnetic spring site in Kiantone. This was the beginning of the wonder city of Harmonia.

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SIDE GLANCES

With Arthur A. Myers

In "National Spiritualist," U.S.A.

The other day I ran across a quotation which has haunted me ever since. The quotation has started me thinking. Now, I am not yet old, but my inventory tells me that I am knocking at the door, and I am just wondering what I'll be like in a few years. Perhaps the key to the whole situation is boredom; so many people become bored and even disagreeable because of two conditions—loneliness and idleness. Anyone left alone thinks too much concerning himself, until he becomes confused, unhappy, and even resentful. This pathway can but lead to either self-pity or vindictiveness. Neither of them are qualities much to be desired. In my daily association with those who have lost the verve of youth, I see these conditions so often expressed unconsciously. I have taken this observation to heart, and try to apply it to myself. I re-read my quotation and ask myself the question, "What is the best cure for this boredom?" I have made up my mind, the only panacea is to "forget selfish SELF in the activities which bring you in touch with people and ideas outside yourself." So—as a special insurance for myself—I'm trying to adopt a definite programme to offset this approaching ennui. So far, it has paid off in rich dividends of happiness.

First, go to service more often and throw myself whole-heartedly into some phase of its activity. Select some civic development and work with it, not just for it—the mere giving of alms is not enough—the personal interest and activity brings with it new friends and refreshing associations. Secondly, select a hobby that will create an increasing reward as I grow older. Lastly, interest some congenial person in my line of work and thought, and teach him to love it as I do. With the help of this three-point programme, I hope to

go on building that peace of mind that will make my old age a pleasant and contented state of mind, instead of a state of helpless frustration; and when the day comes for me to step aside for the younger generation, I want to do it gracefully, without regret or jealousy. I want to have a future as well as a past, you see I am a great believer in the Here and Now. My word, I almost forgot to tell you the quotation that so intrigued me: If you have affirmations constantly before you, cut this one from the magazine, and add it to your collection—it will pay off in dividends, PLUS.

“If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself all alone. A man, sir, should keep his friendships in constant repair.”—Samuel Johnson.

UP-TO-DATE SPIRITUAL CHURCH

An organ recital was held at Birkenhead Spiritualist Church, England, recently by Dr. Frederick H. Wood, of Blackpool, with “Rosemary” as soloist. The officers and committee have been fortunate in securing a three-manual University organ for their church.

With new fluorescent lighting, hearing aids for the deaf, electric tubular heating and new seating arrangements, together with the new organ, Birkenhead Spiritualists can justifiably be proud of their church. Mr. Taylor Ineson, of London, paid a three-day visit to Birkenhead Church recently, where crowded congregations were delighted by the accuracy and details contained in the messages. Mr. Ineson was also fulfilling a promise made a few months ago, when he gave his services for an evening of clairvoyance in aid of the organ fund.

As the result of this service and other functions held in the church, quite a substantial amount was raised towards the cost of the new organ.

—Contributed.

WORLD DAY FOR ANIMALS

St. Francis of Assisi Day

In "Spiritual Vision"

October 4, being "World Day" for Animals, recalls A. P. Sinnett's remarks in connection with the vision which Rider Haggard had at the time of the death of his favourite dog. A.P.S. said afterwards:

"The vision evidently was the product of the story which the dog itself, some hours after its death, contrived to tell its master, to whom it had naturally returned in its new condition.

"There are degrees of power which various animals possess of making their continued existence felt. The intelligent and affectionate dog will be found after physical life on the astral-plane as certainly as any released human-soul. Yet we can not speak with such certainty in regard to slaughtered animal, as a sheep or cow. But in truth, such animals do bequeath something to the astral-plane; and exert influences, which when the time comes for such to be properly felt and understood, will induce a future humanity to revise many of its present customs in regard to such creatures."

"The vast number of animals at death are not strong enough to become individual spirits; and these go to strengthen one 'common-soul,' composed of all such weakly developed consciousnesses."

"Animals collectively ought to be regarded by mankind as pupils, or apprentices, to life. Yet unfortunately, it has not yet been held incompatible with the highest civilization to regard them, for the most part, as so much material for the exercise of the savage instinct. The sportsman, for example, who takes pleasure in killing his humbler fellow creatures, is simply undeveloped, and incapable of comprehending his place in nature, of the loftier duties attaching to his station."

Many religions preaching mercy and charity do not consider it necessary to practise these virtues towards the humbler creation on the ground that animals have no souls.

Were there no evidence to dispute it this would still be bad logic and contemptible morality. "If you prick us, do we not bleed?" the animals might well ask, and their capacity to suffer, not the place they hold in some hypothetical heavenly hierarchy, establishes their right to consideration. It is hard to believe that Spiritualists with their fuller knowledge can be indifferent on questions of animal welfare; yet the proposals occasionally put forward for animal healing centres have had little support.

Psychic healing for animals is an obvious complementary step to treatment for humans. There is no reason to suppose that it cannot meet with the same success — perhaps more, for animals may be less likely than humans to negate the results by foolish living. Most Spiritualists already recognize the relief of suffering to be the noblest work their knowledge has given them the opportunity to perform. Do they desire that it should be extended to all suffering creatures? Or are they as insular as those who attach conditions of faith and unassessable qualities of soul to their charity and mercy?—"Psychic News."

BRUCE AND THE PENNY

In "News Chronicle"

Bruce has given up doing his share of the family shopping.

As he had done for three years, he went to the newsagent to buy a paper for Miss Diana Peal, of Macready House, Seymour Place, W.1.

He collected the paper — but did not offer the penny.

This caused some concern. Bruce was sent in an ambulance to a sanatorium at Ilford.

An X-ray examination showed that Bruce had swallowed his shopping money. He was given an anaesthetic, the penny was removed, and then he was sent home.

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, having done all this for six-year-old collie Bruce, sent back the penny, too.

It hangs now from his collar, so that he can't swallow it again.

BLIND DOG DEVELOPS SIXTH SENSE

In "The Advertiser," South Australia

"Tinker," a seven-year-old black and tan English terrier owned by Constable E. Kirk, of Richmond, S.A., which has been totally blind for eighteen months, has taught itself to run about without hitting obstacles, run up verandah steps without stumbling, chase the household cat, climb in and out of cars unaided.

Because of its "sixth sense," the only signs the dog gives of its disability are cloudiness about the eyes and a mincing gait when it trots over rough ground. Constable Kirk said that although the dog was blind when he took it to Richmond, it learnt to find its way about the station within a week. It had developed exceptional hearing and had become an excellent watchdog. Only once, he added, was it ever at a loss — when it was taken swimming and had to be rescued when it started to swim out to sea.

"When the highest type of men hear the Tao (Way, see John 10: 6), they try hard to live in accordance with it; when the mediocre men hear the Tao, they seem to be aware and yet unaware of it; when the lowest type hear the Tao, they break into loud laughter. If it were not laughed at, it would not be sad."—Lao Tse, approximately 600 B.C.

SPONTANEOUS CURES AT BIRKENHEAD

By William A. Kneale

In "The Two Worlds"

Among the many cases receiving treatment and relief during the visit of Jessie Curl to the Birkenhead N.S. Church before she left for U.S.A. were two of complete paralysis of the legs. Yet the patients, a young man and a middle-aged lady, were able to walk round the church after treatment.

Mrs. Fulton, of Wallasey, afterwards expressed her delight at being able to walk all round the church after the benefit of Mrs. Curl's treatment had been conferred, and spoke of her extreme gratitude to the healer for the help she had been given. She had suffered a stroke three years previously which had, till then, rendered her legs completely paralyzed.

The young man similarly expressed his delight and gratitude for the improvement wrought in his condition.

"THE PHENOMENA OF ASTRAL PROJECTION"

By Sylvan Muldoon and Hereward Carrington

Publishers: Rider & Co., 47 Princess Gate, London, S.W.
Price, 16/- (sixteen shillings)

A book such as this, by two individuals already famous in the annals of psychic research, should at once appeal to all serious students.

It is a case-book containing many authentic instances of astral projection, in which such incidents cited are painstakingly analysed by two experts who have for many years specialized upon this highly interesting fact. The names of Sylvan Muldoon and Hereward Carrington set an authoritative seal upon this book.

I strongly recommend this classic work to one and all who are interested in the further study of this extremely fascinating branch of psychic phenomena.—Leo Ruisseau, in "Prediction.."

JUST WHAT IS RELIGION?

By Mary Elsnau

There is much talk to-day of a need to return to religion if the world is to be saved. But just what IS religion? Webster defines it as a system of faith and worship or as "conscientious devotion in practice," scrupulous care or piety.

If you are a church member in good standing, does that make you religious per se? And your neighbour with a heart of gold, who seldom enters a church except perhaps occasionally in the early evening when he quietly kneels, and undisturbed, communes with his Maker, is he irreligious?

Do you believe that after you have heard the Sunday sermon and dropped your offering in the plate, you have done your duty for the week? Do you consider your neighbour who cheerfully encourages you when you are depressed, pats you on the back and otherwise unobtrusively helps his fellow man whenever he sees the need, as a sinner because he does not attend church?

Is the church all of religion or just a part of it? Webster says religion is "conscientious devotion **in practice**," not to be reserved for Sunday worship only. And Jesus said to enter your closet when you pray, and when you do good, do it in secret.

A friend, now in the Higher Life, was throughout her life very religious and brought up her three daughters and two sons as good church members. In later years one of her sons died an alcoholic, the other son ceased attending church and therefore was dubbed "the black sheep" of the family, but the three girls all remained in the fold. Their life is full of piety and to them one who drinks, smokes, or swears is unspeakably vulgar, except of course their brother, whom they said, was mentally ill.

One of the girls married and raised a family of her own; one is now a widow and semi-invalid. With the slightest emotional upset, and she is

easily upset, she becomes ill and retires to her bed. The third girl had good offers of marriage, but somehow her perverted sense of religion has made her believe that the very thought of going to bed with a man, even in holy matrimony, is sinful. The result is, she is a tight-lipped, repressed, soured old woman at forty-five who normally would be in the prime of life, busy, happy, and contented. Religion has not made her or her sisters religious.

To-day she is in dire financial straits, as is the semi-invalid whom she looks after. So all three sisters pass the hat to their brother, even though they consider him a sinner. Frankly, they put it up to him to support his two younger sisters, and he is nearing sixty and hasn't yet had a chance to live his own life, for he accepts the burden of these religious parasites.

Another friend, who goes to church regularly and sings in the choir, practises her religion in every-day life. Her husband and 'teen-aged daughter do not wear their religion as a cloak but feel it deep within. Theirs is a wholesome family in spite of the financial trials they have been through together. But because they have known hard times, they are understanding of the difficulties of others whom they meet in their daily activities. You feel better after a few minutes' chat with them. Your spirits are lifted and you are filled with a new zest for life.

This little family has found the way to peace, love, and contentment, so they radiate charm, friendliness, and inner happiness in all their contacts. They know the frailty of humans, so they encourage you to do better, to lift your chin and face the world. It is their sincerity that melts your defences, so you place your confidence in them. They are not sanctimonious. Religion as such never enters their conversation; they take it into their lives and live it.—Mary Elsnau, Rt. 3, Box 16, Marysville, Cal., U.S.A.

GLEANINGS

From "Psychic News"

The earth has a tail, just like a comet, Soviet astronomers stated recently.

The tail is from 62,000 to 78,000 miles long and sticks out from the side of the earth opposite the sun, said Vasili Fesenkov, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

He said the tail was formed "as a result of loss of gases in the higher layers of the earth's atmosphere."

Fortune Telling

"I see a uniform and a peak cap. You travel a good deal," said a suburban clairvoyant to the stranger who consulted her.

She was dead right, for at Croydon Court, some little time later, it transpired that the visitor was P.C. Dorothy Long, who, for the purpose of securing this petty conviction, had changed into plain clothes.

The clairvoyant was fined a nominal sum of £1 for pretending to tell fortunes.

Gold v. Healing

St. Thomas of Aquinas and a Pope were watching a procession from a Roman balcony. It is said the Pope remarked with great enthusiasm: "Behold the glittering robes, and the glistening of gold. No longer need we say, 'Of silver and gold have we none!'" . . . Whereon Aquinas, of the mystical mind and understanding heart, sadly observed, "No, but we can no longer say, Take up thy bed and walk!"

Miracles

In the "Teachers' World" Mr. J. E. Brown, M.A., states that children should be permitted to accept miracle stories "as they stand," for Jesus asked "for faith, not credulity." Mr. Brown, who, be it not forgotten, has the responsibility of training children for future citizenship, asserts that it is important to remember that "we do not believe in Jesus

because of the miracles, but believe in miracles because of Jesus."

Extracts from "Robinson Crusoe," by Daniel Defoe

Chapter 12: "But it is never too late to be wise; and I cannot but advise all considering men, whose lives are attended with such extraordinary incidents as mine, or even though not so extraordinary, not to slight such secret intimations of Providence, let them come from what invisible intelligence they will. That I shall not discuss, and perhaps cannot account for; but certainly they are a proof of the converse of spirits, and a secret communication between those embodied and those unembodied."

Chapter 21: "Nothing can be a greater demonstration of a future state, and of the existence of an invisible world, than the concurrence of second causes with the idea of things which we form in our minds, perfectly reserved, and not communicated to any in the world."

Keep Spiritualism Pure

Let us not allow the pure spiritual truths given us to be overlaid by the falsities of the world. Oh! Pioneers, keep Spiritualism pure and free.

MOLASSES FOR HEALTH

The Brisbane Mercantile Agency, 30 Market Street, Brisbane, Queensland, has reprinted an article by Cyril Scott on "The Curative Value of Crude Molasses," reprinted from the February, 1947, issue of "The Harbinger of Light," a copy of which may be obtained from them by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

We appreciate the prominence given in the leaflet to our magazine.

REMEMBER, LORD, AUSTRALIA'S SONS TO-NIGHT

Tune: "Lead, Kindly Light"

Oh! Thou who hast all people in Thy sight
To Thee we come;
Be Thou their guide, their comfort, and their light
Afar from home.
Keep Thou their soul in steadfastness and right,
Remember, Lord, Australia's sons to-night.

Gone from the humble cottage in the dell,
From home, sweet home;
Gone from the dear ones whom they love so well
To face the storm.
Gone from the mansion to defend the right,
Remember, Lord, Australia's sons to-night.

Sons are now dying, 'tis the cost of war,
Have mercy, Lord;
Wilt Thou prepare them ere they cross the bar?
Have mercy, Lord;
Burst Thou Death's gloom by Heaven's celestial
light,
Remember, Lord, Australia's sons to-night.

Be Thou their refuge in the darkest hour,
Be Thou their stay;
Stretch forth Thy hand, show Thy Almighty power
In Thine own way.
Thou didst on Galilee reveal Thy might,
Oh! comfort, Lord, Australia's sons to-night.

With each day's rising sun let us resolve to be more Sympathetic, more Gentle and Just toward all of earth's creatures great or small. Let us resolve to express more love and less hate, more sincerity and less sham, more harmony and less discord, more patience and less irritability, more beauty and less ugliness.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE PAST

In "The Daily Mirror," London

Six British scientists working in secret at Oxford have perfected two machines that will photograph events that happened years ago, announced George de la Warr, a member of two famous engineering societies and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, in an address to 150 members of the Psychosomatic Research Association.

"For security reasons we are not allowed to show the equipment, but we will show you proof to back our claim," he said. Then he produced a blurred but recognizable photograph of a couple standing beside an altar being married in 1930. Later, Mr. de la Warr revealed that the wedding was his own at Norton-on-Tees.

Mr. de la Warr described how the "past camera" works. "The theory we work on," he said, "is that everything that happens, whether it is thought or an event, gives off a definite radiation or wavelength, that goes on all the time. Our equipment can be set to take in both the time and the place of that thought or event, and we get the radiation of it as clearly as a wireless set tuned in to Australia, say, picks up a Test Match broadcast. Then we photograph the radiation we pick up. It affects the emulsion of the photographic plate, and we get a picture in pretty much the ordinary way."

The "Australian Theosophist" comments: "The enormous implications of the following news item will be obvious to every Theosophist acquainted with clairvoyant research into the past which has given us some of our most important literature: Christian origins, racial origins, and biographies of prominent egos running back for thousands of years. As these investigators have also the power to describe the future, is it too much to expect the development of a camera which will photograph the future as these occultists see it?"

MIRACLE CURES IN VICTORIA

In "The Advertiser," South Australia

An elderly Daylesford man's overnight recovery after fifteen months' paralysis has been acclaimed by some local people as a "miracle faith healing."

The Baptist pastor (Rev. R. J. Reynolds) has asked the man, Mr. Algernon Frederick Reynolds, who is not related, to testify about the "miracle" in his church. Mr. Reynolds, a well-built man of sixty-six, spoke excitedly of his recovery to-day and threw his arms about to show his regained strength.

A former Presbyterian home missionary, he said that he collapsed with a serious heart condition and stroke in March last year. His doctor sent him to bed for two months, then gave him two weeks to live. Paralyzed down one side, he could not walk unaided, and had frequent "mental attacks" which made him violent. But he prayed, and a Catholic family prayed with him. Several Protestant clergymen visited him and offered spiritual help.

On May 30, after a violent night, he felt life in his paralyzed side. "I tested my leg, found I could walk, and went out to boil a billy to celebrate," he said. "I have no theory about it. I just feel like the blind man who was healed by our Saviour. He asked no questions. He was blind; now he could see."

Methodist Eileen Beckett, chiropodist, who has looked after Mr. Reynolds, said: "The healing is nothing less than a miracle." Catholic Jim Gleeson, whose family joined prayers for Mr. Reynolds, declared: "The word miracle is often used loosely, but I believe there are cases where prayer succeeds after the medical profession can go no farther. This is such a case." Mr. Reynolds's doctor reserved his judgment. He agreed that a remarkable change had occurred almost overnight and that Mr. Reynolds was "almost bedridden" for a long period.

ROYAL ASSENT GIVEN Spiritualist's Bill

The Royal Assent was given to the Fraudulent Mediums Bill at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, June 22. It was the first on the list to receive the Assent, and now becomes an Act of Parliament.

Mr. Tom Brooks, M.P., to whose efforts the passage of the Bill owes so much, proudly marched in the procession from the Commons to the Lords, headed by the Speaker, Black Rod, Ministers, and M.Ps.

He normally goes home on Friday morning, but stayed over and took a later train in honour of the occasion. He declared afterwards that it was the happiest day of his life. Lord Dowding was also present.

The Parliamentary curtain now rings down, our Bill having become an Act of Parliament, with its due place on the Statute Book.

HORACE LEAF

Horace Leaf, F.R.G.S., the well-known medium and writer, has been awarded an honorary membership of the International Mark Twain Society.

The award, resulting from Mr. Leaf's book, "Iceland, Yesterday and To-day," has been conferred in public recognition of his contribution to literature, and represents the most valued and important award the Society can offer.

Known as "The League of Nations of Literature," the Society's membership is drawn from the world's "Who's Who." Winston Churchill is English Representative; The Duke of Windsor, Continental Representative; Clement R. Attlee, Honorary Chairman; Harry S. Truman, Hon. President.

In a recent letter from Mr. Leaf to the Editor, he says that after his tour in U.S.A. and Canada, which began early in July, he may visit Australia and New Zealand if circumstances permit.

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A SPECIAL OFFER

To enable those who will help the Spiritualist Movement by lending books to enquirers, a copy of each of the three following books: "On the Edge of the Etheric," "The Rock of Truth," both by J. A. Findlay, and "The Teachings of Silver Birch" will be sent post free for 25/-. Write Chas. Neil, 8 Hatfield Waruda Street, Kirribilli, Sydney, N.S.W.

THE EMERGENCY FUND

We acknowledge with gratitude the following donations: T.O., Westport, N.Z., £5 4/6; Z.C.M.S., Brisbane, 40/-; Smilin' Thru, 20/-, M.R.L., Mosman, 17/6; C.N., Kirribilli, 10/-; C.L.R., Murrumbena, 8/-; A.C., Bucania, 20/6; G.A.S., Paddington, 2/-.

Let us conclude by saying to you, what I have had too frequent occasions to say to my other remaining old friends, the fewer we become, the more let us love one another.—Benjamin Franklin.

"Innumerable are the instances of apparitions by which the saints have shown that they have attained to immortal joy."—Benedict XII, 1340.

"I have been slack in returning praises to God for the continual assistance of those blessed and beneficent spirits, our ever-present guardians."—Bishop Hall, 1640.

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