



A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE HISTORY, PHENOMENA, PHILOSOPHY, AND TEACHINGS OF

SPIRITUALISM.

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MEDIUMSHIP.

WHY DO MEDIUMS NOT GET PROPERLY DEVELOPED?

The various opposing Influences at work, and the only Means and Conditions necessary to obtain the desired Effect.

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Considerable disappointment oftentimes arises in the minds of individuals sitting in a circle composed of investigators of the principles of Spiritualism, because they or others are not developed in the gifts so very often desired; or they become jealous because others are so developed, and they are not, when the very causes rest entirely with themselves.

Mediumship is not to be purchased by worldly wealth or worldly desires, and is not obtainable through selfish motives or evil intentions. Mediumship is too valuable an adjunct to man to be lightly conferred, especially when neither the mind, the intellectuality, nor the organism is suited to be the receptacle of Heaven's Wisdom.

If a man is desirous of becoming a Medium for the transmission of Divine Influx, he must first be of pure mind, possessed of a properly organized brain, and a body free from lasciviousness and aptitude to sensuality. He must, secondly, be desirous to labour unselfishly for the benefit of his brother man, in the interest of all good, and possessed of a sincere desire that all error may be eliminated from his nature: that whatever conditions may be needful to be conformed to, may be pointed out to him, whereby he may be watchful and willing to accede to such required conditions, that his mediumship may be pure, unobtrusive and holy in its source and exercise. And, thirdly, to be a Medium of a high and elevated nature, a suitable agent for the operations of Angelic Beings, he must be not only unselfish but passively willing to accept such gifts as he is adapted to receive, as all men have not the same adaptability, or organic power, or brain influence, and, therefore, as men differ so the gifts are various.

Many suppose that an educated man has the preference, whereas many men of no education whatever are the greatest inspirational speakers. They possess the brain power, although it has never been brought into action; but had they been fortunate to have had the opportunity of tutelage, they would have made what is termed talented men. When such is the case, of course they very often make the grandest mediums, that is to say, if they are willing to be used as such.

Yet, how many are there who, when they feel the influx of Spirit operating upon them, not only resist the influences at work, but leave off further investigation; while others get dissatisfied because their progress is slow, or the power conferred upon them is not in accordance with their desire. Consequently such retard their own progress, even should they be purely desirous of possessing the gift of mediumship.

Many good men cannot get properly developed, because of the opposing influences proceeding from individual sitters in a circle, who don't care what they get, whether it be good or whether it be evil. Such a person is a dangerous member in a circle. An obstinate or dogmatic man is a detriment to the development of any medium, and has an injurious effect upon the sitters generally, while a continually dissatisfied individual is also to be avoided.

Very often persons obtain an entry into a developing circle, who want everything their own way; desiring every phenomenon that can be produced, just as they please, and when they please; ever fault-finding, and because they cannot have produced just as they will, creating disturbing elements. Always avoid such, as sooner or later all good influences will be withdrawn.

Again, persons of an unbelieving nature in the controlling principle of action between man out of the flesh and man in the flesh, are objectionable, as they produce inharmony; while those who are acutely ingenious in their own minds, are ever ready to catch at straws, watching the medium for opportunities to trip him, so that they may have something to boast about, that they have detected fraud and deception,—always refuse such admission. Persons of strong, orthodox, doctrinal principles, be very careful how and under what circumstances you admit them, as their thought-sphere ever acts with an overpowering effect upon the medium. A man of doubtful mind, that is to say, one who knows not his own mind, ever changing as the wind blows, sometimes of one opinion and then on another occasion of a different opinion, should be dealt very carefully with.

Mediums often retard their own progress by committing themselves to their own judgment, assuming to be controlled