

**AFTER DEATH WHAT? THIS PAPER TELLS YOU**

# TRUTH The PSYCHIC OBSERVER

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## MY TRIP TO MEXICO • THE MEDIUMS I MET •

Having completed the account of "My Trip To California," the article to follow covers my visit to Mexico, particularly Mexico City and the surrounding places of interest . . . including my experiences with two Mexican mediums and the general progress of Spiritualism in that section of the country.

Mexico can be proud of her past, but today, antiquity walks along the road of modernity, yet always will strange garbs and customs linger.

### Juliette E. Pressing

After a wonderful sojourn in California, we boarded a non-stop, or what is called a non-stop aircraft for Mexico City. The uniqueness of the scenery caused it to be an interesting flight.

After flying over miles of arid desert, we dropped down for a short time at Tucson, Arizona. Quite a crowd of people, who appeared to be on holiday, awaited the arrival of the plane.

The next stop was El Paso, Texas. A commodious and completely modern lounge, restaurant and ticket offices are housed in a new Building which was under construction. Even at this point the old world atmosphere could be felt—the architecture and murals were definitely Spanish.

### First Stop—Monterey

All passengers entering Mexico have to go thru the customs at this point. From here, the snow capped mountains of Mexico beckon the traveler to this land of sunshine, gaiety, religion and antiquity.

After hours of flying over snow-capped mountains, and what, from a great height appeared to be limitless oceans of sand, we approached the beautiful and colorful city of Monterey. As the aircraft swooped down, some thirty people, including uniformed officers, Americans and a number of Mexican natives rushed out to watch the landing.

It was here we first learned to exchange American money into Mexican pesos when we paid for sandwiches and coffee. Here one begins to feel the lure of this fascinating, romantic country, so we were glad to hear the signal calling us aboard for Mexico City.

### At "The Reforma"

Upon arrival at the airport of Mexico City, again we submitted to a sketchy going over by the customs. Having already secured reservations at the Hotel Reforma, on the Boulevard Reforma and with a personal letter of introduction to Senor Antonio Perez, we immediately drove to the Hotel. Mexico is the land of flowers—Senor Perez had our room extravagantly decorated with vases of Red Roses, Gardenias and Madonna Lilies. He extended to us his good wishes

for a comfortable stay in his hotel.

Inasmuch as neither of us could speak Spanish, we immediately telephoned our friend, Miguel Marquez, who is Mexico's champion three-cushion billiard player. Mr. Pressing met him in New York City and Chicago some time ago.

Senor Marquez immediately came to our hotel and took us to a night-club where he selected for us a dinner of typical Mexican food.

As our time was necessarily limited, we asked Miguel's advice as to the "musts" a traveler should see in Mexico City and surrounding territory. The following day he engaged Juan Perez, a highly educated Pueblo Indian to serve as guide and interpreter.

We obtained a car and were driven over La Paseo du La Reforma Boulevard, one of the most beautiful and one of the most famous city drives in the world. This great thoroughfare reminds me of the broad boulevards of Paris. It is adorned with monuments and flowers. In one circle, is the bronze equestrian statue of Charles IV ranked by Humboldt as the second finest statue of its kind in the world. It was designed by the Spanish sculptor, Polsa and cast in Mexico in 1803. It weighs almost 30 tons.

Then there is, at the end of this Boulevard, the Chapultepec Castle and gardens. This castle was begun in 1783 but was not finished until 1840.

Finally after our drive of about four miles, we reached our destination, Xochimilco Gardens. It is a very interesting spot. Canoes can be had by the hour and the natives come up along side the



Temple of Quetzalcoatl



THE PYRAMIDS

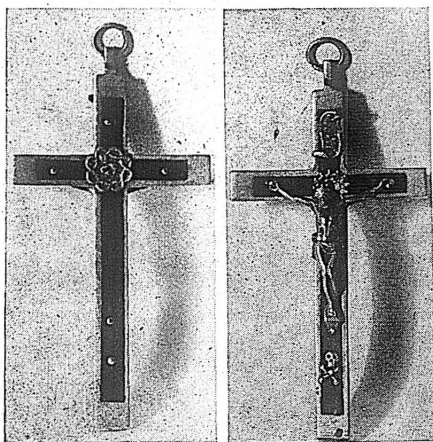
boats (see picture), and offer for sale, their various wares, such as pictures made of flowers and birds feathers. Wonderful corsages of orchids, camellias and gardenias are obtainable for a mere pittance.

As the canoes glide along the smooth still waters, natives come alongside in flat boats, playing haunting Spanish melodies on native instruments, guitars and the like. For a few cents they follow you down the canal and continue the serenade. After our ride on the canal, we stopped in the Maria Candelaria Restaurant where we had a delightful luncheon. From the veranda we could see the natives. The Mexicans are a very happy people.

### "Pyramid of The Moon"

Our next stop was the pyramids. The larger of the two pyramids is called the "Pyramid of the Sun" whilst the smaller one is "The Pyramid of the Moon". The history associated with these great pyramids of Mexico is entirely too lengthy to relate here, but I think it would be well worth anyone's

### This Crucifix Was Apported



The pictures above, were reproduced from photographs of both sides of the crucifix, received through the apport mediumship of Clifford L. Bias at Lily Dale, N. Y., several years ago. At the time, and even today, no one has explained the real meaning of the skull, crossbones and other insignia. Explanations in writing, to the editor of Psychic Observer, would be appreciated.

while to obtain some of the books on early Mexican history and gain a superficial knowledge, at any rate, of these great historic pyramids that are in our own hemisphere.

Also, this day, we visited what is considered the most sacred shrine in Mexico, erected to our Lady of Guadalupe. On the spot—legend says—she converted the Indians tilma (zarate with a hole in the middle for their head) into a beautiful cloth bearing her image, which is still preserved in a frame of pure gold and enclosed by solid silver.

### Shrine of Guadalupe

In this magnificent cathedral, thousands of faithful followers of the great lady were to be seen in prayer. One of the reasons for the large crowd was due to the fact that it was during Holy Week that we made our visit to this Shrine.

One of the most colorful and interesting spots, that I saw, was the market place, which ran about a full city block just outside this Shrine of Guadalupe. Little stands with tent-like covers, were filled with all kinds of wares—silver novelties, bits of jewelry, pictures made of feathers and attractive little bits of art, rosaries, dolls, baskets, chairs and every other thing that you could possibly conceive of, made by the Mexicans are offered for sale.

### I Meet A Medium

On metal slabs placed over burning coals to form a hot plate, vendors were frying little Mexican cakes—tortillas—which are being purchased and eaten by the natives as they walked about the market place.

Still after stall was filled with beautiful flowers. I was particularly impressed with the thousands of Calla Lilies—perhaps this interest was caused by my having seen, some hours earlier, natives picking armfuls of these exquisite flowers and placing them in all their delicate beauty in little burro-drawn carts to take to the market place, where thousands would be purchased and offered in loving tribute at the shrines.

Arrangements were made for our guide to join us again in the evening when we were to keep an appointment with a Mexican Spiritualist Medium, Lenora Maria Stella Sedyde, Tlaxcala 62 Mexico D.F.

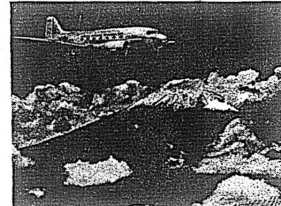
### Two Spiritualist Societies

A black wrought iron gate barred the entrance to the courtyard of this home. Before we could enter, her young sons came and unfastened the chains, securing those heavy iron gates. We were then led to the living room, where we were graciously received by Signora Sedyde and her entire family.

Our interpreter made it possible for us to converse with them and we learned that Signora Sedyde is an automatic writer. She told us there were two Spiritualist Societies for meetings and demonstrations in Mexico City.

During the course of conversa-

We flew over the snow-capped mountains of Popocatepetl



Psychic Observer

tion, very fortunately, I received one of my flashes of clairvoyance. For the moment, I do not recall the names, but I do know that in order to pronounce them, I was obliged to spell them out to Juan, who in turn relayed the message and descriptions to Senora Sedyde. The entire family clapped their hands in glee and said the message was pleasing. They thanked me over and over again. As a matter of fact, they, each in turn came over to me, patted me on the shoulder and smiled happily.

### A Rare Apport

A trip to the village of Taxco, pronounced Tas-co is a "must" for anyone visiting Mexico. About a hundred miles from Mexico City, over rolling hills and hair-pin turns, one drives to what is called the Tropical Paradise of Cuernavaca.

Here Aztec kings maintained their summer homes. The Spanish Viceroy's spent half their time in the town and now official Mexico and others maintain homes where they spend their week-ends.

The outstanding beauty spots are the Borda Gardens, the palace of Cortez with murals by Diego Riviera, the San Anton Falls and the Pyramid of Toepanzolco. The Cathedral dates from 1529.

Though this is another story, several years ago, during a direct

Cathedral at Taxco



Psychic Observer

voice seance with Clifford Bias, Chesterfield, Indiana, I received from the spirit, an apport (See pictures, left). It was a cross, beneath the figure of the Christ, there was a skull and cross-bones. I was told by the spirit donor that this crucifix was brought to me from a great distance and that it was very old—having belonged to one who was helping me—who had lived in the early 16th Century.

### Do You Know?

On several occasions, I have attempted to find out something about the origin of such a crucifix. The attendant in charge of the shop in the great St. Patricks

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

# PSYCHIC EXPERIENCES

Anyone who will go into the silence, conscientiously, for a few minutes each day will, in time, experience some kind of phenomena.

You can convince yourself of immortality. It is well worth the effort

By H. J. SEGUR

195 Vernon St.

San Francisco (25), California

I was born on a farm in the northwestern part of Iowa in the great corn belt of the United States. Was always of an analytical trend of mind and very much interested in the age-old question of Job. "If a man die shall he live again?" It is the in-born nature of an animal to cling to life, therefore I was naturally interested in a life to come, if there was such a thing.

Went to many different kinds of churches and listened to numbers of lectures but could find nothing in their philosophies that would throw any light on the subject. The orthodox clergy would take me as far as the grave and abandon me, as much as to say, "Your guess is as good as mine," or possibly say "They have gone to a land from which no traveler ever returns." What a consolation this is for parents who have just buried their only child.



Etta Bledsoe

In the spring of 1925, a neighbor asked me to attend a meeting with him which I did, not knowing that it was to be a Spiritualist meeting, one that was to change the whole course of my life. I had never investigated this line of thought as you will find that the majority of Spiritualists "hide their light under a bushel," and are apparently loth to talk about the great TRUTHS of SPIRITUALISM, apparently afraid they will be thought of as being queer.

## I Made My Own Quest

I went to the meeting with this friend of mine and was singled out for a message, which was of so evidential a nature that it knocked the wind out of my sails. The bearer of the message could not by any twist of the imagination, have had any personal knowledge about me. It had to come from the other side as it was something that only God and myself knew and was something that I had

not thought of for years thus eliminating and possibility of mind reading. This set me to thinking along a different line than I had been used to.

Having received this evidence I went to many different meetings and almost always got unmistakable evidence. Of course there were some mediums that were not as sensitive as others and their work was not so outstanding as some of the better developed ones, but this did not dampen my quest for the truth. I was satisfied that I was on the right course at last.

## An Outstanding Medium

Continued to go to meetings until I happened to visit *The Golden Gate Spiritual Church*, the pastor and guiding hand at this church was and is *Rev. Florence S. Becker*. There I received more evidential communications and her work was so outstanding that I did not look further, I had found what I was looking for.

My wife made arrangements to join her developing class and attended a couple of terms, and was so well satisfied that I made application and was admitted as soon as there was a vacancy.

*Rev. Becker*, I soon learned, was one of the outstanding mediums in the United States. In these classes there is a certain amount of oral and written work, after which the balance of the time is taken up with phenomena. This gives the controls, guides and teachers an opportunity to organize their bands to carry on the development.

## Rare Phenomena

In the first class, my father and my mother came in with such evidence as no one but they, myself and God knew. I attended several classes and soon found that I would have to throw overboard my former conclusions and start at scratch.

Was told that I had mediumistic powers and was determined to go through with it. We were at one class when there were four spirit paintings done.

I was one who helped prepare the canvases for the phenomena.

We took four canvases that were stretched on frames such as artists use in their work. They were wrapped separately in black cloth after which they were wrapped in ordinary paper and sealed. They were then placed on a library table from which the drawer had been removed.

After the lights had been put out, the painting control, who was

of French extraction, asked that the French national anthem, "*The Marseilles*," be sung. The actual painting of the four pictures was accomplished in three or four minutes at the most. Three of them were of controls or guides of some of the class members and one was a portrait of one of the members of the class, a *Mr. Stade*, this portrait was perfect in every detail.

When we broke the seals and opened the canvases the paint was still wet. This demonstration alone was worth crossing a continent to witness.

Getting rid of old theories and taking on new ones is no easy job as I soon found.



Florence Becker

It wracked me to the very foundation of my being. You think of how in a large measure we have been taught to accept thoughts and theories that serve only to hamper our path on the road to progress. Unconsciously we retain such thoughts and even resent the efforts of those who try to show us that they are unreal and to our detriment. It takes time to loosen the barnacles of hampering thought when accumulated over a period of years.

During the winter of 1929, I was stricken with pneumonia. That was before the advent of the sulfa drug and the doctors could not check the fever and I lay days on the brink. The doctors could do nothing. *Mrs. Becker* who is also endowed with healing powers came over and went to work.

## Etta and Evolyne

In about half an hour I was sweating freely. I got up the next day and went down to the doctor's office, he looked at me as if he were seeing a ghost and said, "What are you doing here? You are supposed to be dead."

On Dec. 20th, 1936, *Rev. Etta S. Bledsoe* and her kindly and lovable sister *Evolyne Burnside* opened a church in *Oakland*. They also opened a developing class and both myself and wife enrolled with them until the passing of *Etta*. We, however, continued with *Evolyne* and this was interrupted only when she would go east each summer. We always went back as soon as she returned.

With the amount of trouble and disappointments that have come in the last decade, the guides, teachers and controls have been exceptionally loyal. I have found that if you are earnest and sincere, they will never leave you as long as there is a chance that they will eventually be able to serve humanity through the medium selected. If we on this plane of life were one half as loyal, this world would be a better place in which to live.

## Materialization

In materialization for public work there must be a dim red or blue light in the room in order that the people can see the forms as they are built up and come out of the cabinet. They can be self illuminated, but it takes too much of the medium's strength and vitality to do so. The materialized forms, as a rule, talk independently but can also use the trumpet if they like and some mediums keep a trumpet near the cabinet.

There are several different types of materialization that I have witnessed, some the head and shoulders only, sometimes a single hand, as well as a form of etherialization. In this phase they are fully formed but are like vapor, you can put your hand right through them

## Noted Writer and Author



Psychic Observer

G. R. S. MEAD, author of three rare books, all published in London, England, and sold in U.S.A. by Dale News, Inc. The titles are: "The Doctrine of THE SUBTLE BODY in Western Tradition"; An outline of what the Philosophers thought and the Christians taught on the subject (\$3.00)—"SOME MYSTICAL ADVENTURES" (\$5.00); and Mead's latest book "THE GNOSTIC JOHN THE BAPTIZER" (\$3.00). The last book contains selections from the Mandaeen John-Book and includes studies on John and Christian Origins, the Slavonic Josephus' account of John and Jesus, and John and the Fourth Gospel Proem.

the same as if they were a cloud of steam.

In trumpet work, the vocal cords are usually materialized inside the trumpet, and upon these the voice vibrations are manipulated. This is the type of the work that my wife is developing. The naturalness of the voice depending upon how well and true the cords are materialized.

For independent voice, the voice box as it is called, is materialized independent of anything else and on this the vibrations are manipulated, and of course upon how perfect these cords are built up depends the tone and timbre of the voice.

We have a son who passed away at the age of 14 months and who is now grown to manhood in the spirit world, also a daughter who was denied earth life, she would now be about 25 years old. She is now grown to womanhood in spirit life. So far we do not have a light in the room, but part of the forms come out self-illuminated, which

is a cold silvery light much the same as moonlight.

We have witnessed our son and daughter waltz all round a large room illuminated so clear that we could see every detail of their being. It is unusual for the medium to see these forms but as my wife and I do not go in trance, I am grateful to the nth degree to be allowed to witness the forms and hear them talk.

*Etta S. Bledsoe* is a universal spirit as she says she can do a greater work that way than she could if she attached herself to an individual to work through. Of course, she will always be close to her sister *Evolyne* and help her and her pupils until such time as they are able to steer their own course. I do not feel that she will ever entirely leave those with whom she was so intimately associated with here on earth. If she did, she would not be *Etta Bledsoe* and to lose all contact with her would be a calamity indeed.

## Knowledge Is Priceless

She has brought into the class room hundreds of outstanding mediums and personalities of yester year to witness the phenomena. Her husband, *Scott Bledsoe*, comes in and voices quite often. We have made a promise to our spirit helpers to dedicate our remaining years to the dissemination of this great truth, and to do the greatest good will mean a great deal of traveling, lecturing and demonstrating at all the great camps all over the country.

This we hope to do as soon as the forces give the go ahead signal. To me the actual personal knowledge of immortality is priceless and I will always be grateful to the neighbor who was instrumental in taking me to the first meeting, and to all my helpers and controls.

I feel that any one who will go into the silence, conscientiously, for a few minutes each day will, in time, experience some kind of phenomena, be it mental or physical, that will convince him of immortality. It is well worth the effort.

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# SUGGESTED MECHANISM OF PSYCHIC CONTROL

The necessary Qualifications for a good medium are first of all, a healthy physique and secondly, a spiritual background.

"When the Chela (pupil) is ready, the Guru (teacher) will appear"

By

LOUIS S. VERNON-WORSLEY  
Author of "Psychical Forces and You" and other Works

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Some few years ago, I asked a number of different Mediums of both sexes what sensations, if any, they experienced or recognized when undergoing *Psychic Control* and if they could describe same? In almost every case, the reply was similar viz.—that they felt—in a vague kind of way—activity (and here they indicated the place on the body) which was in the approximate region of the great *Ganglia*, the *Solar Plexus*.

As far as I can discover, very little mention is made of this *Ganglia* in *Psychic* literature except when the writers have been either medical practitioners or Scientists, and one such was *Dr. Lindsay Johnson* of South Africa, author of "The Great Problem."

## Equilibrium Necessary

*Dr. Johnson* recently "passed on." He was quite convinced that the *Solar Plexus* was the point of attachment of the "Psychic Cord," the connecting link between the Somatic and the Psychological areas, and in this conclusion I am completely in agreement with him.

The equilibrium or balance preserved between the two fields is of such delicate sensibility that the slightest disturbance in one is immediately reflected in the other, and so by the study of the two CONJOINTLY rather than as separate entities which is the usual method, we are more likely to arrive at a focal point of common acceptance: at least, we shall not have left anything of importance unconsidered.

Diseased states in the physical will most assuredly bring about important reactions in the *Auric*

field which strives to adjust itself to the changed conditions but not always with complete success.

## Kilner's Experiments

Much that is interesting has been written about the human AURA, and many are familiar with "The Human Atmosphere," that well-known work of *Dr. James Kilner*, unfortunately out of print at the present time. If I may say so, *Kilner's* conclusions whilst delightful to trace, appeared to have a certain amount of materialistic conception about them which must have tended to persuade some of those who have studied his researches, to arrive at the conclusion that the AURA was merely a physical radiation without any special significance beyond that point.



Louis S. Vernon-Worsley

Had this form of argument been generally accepted, then much that has followed would have been construed as being almost worthless and only a waste of time. Fortunately this has not been the case.

Whilst it cannot be demanded or expected that every Student of *Psychic Science* must be a *Doctor* or a *Meta-Physician*, the close association and collaboration of the two bodies does, in my view, call for a clearer understanding (in a general way) of our physical make-up and how the human "instrument" functions.

It must surely appear like a platitude to say that the intimate nature and the deep reactions upon us of our *Psychical* field make it imperative that we shall have a good grasp of inter-actional processes. Unless that is the case we shall in all probability fail to discover or understand the causation of certain types of happenings, of which no explanation can suffice which only takes cognisance of physical factors alone.

## The Solar Plexus

Such pre-occupations with unilateral investigations is almost certain to lead us to distorted concepts of the REAL purpose underlying all forms of *Psychical* activity.

I will try to be more explicit. The *Solar Plexus* is a *Ganglia* or a knot or bunch of Nerves situated behind the pit of the Stomach in what is described as the *Epigastric Angle*. It is an integral part of the *Vagus* or *Pneumogastric Nerve Trunk*, probably the greatest of its kind after the *Spinal Cord* itself. It is closely associated with other important ganglia and these "controls" exercise considerable influence in *psychical* manifestations whether they be spontaneous or induced.

Many people are familiar with the phrase "Solar Plexus punch" in regard to Boxing, but only those who have either actually felt it or witnessed its application can fully realize its crippling nature for a time. It appears to have a paralyzing effect and the recipient invariably falls to the ground as if

he had been hit with a sledge hammer.

Recovery from its effects takes varying periods but it not usually followed by any untoward consequences. The explanation of this phenomenon is somewhat involved, and perhaps resort to analogy will help to clarify same.

## Cross-Currents

Without doubt, the human organism is an extremely sensitive and delicately balanced "instrument" of an electrical character in many respects closely resembling a Wireless Receiving Set, Television Apparatus, Sound Recording Mechanism and a Photo-Telegraphic System, capable of carrying "currents" or varying frequencies at one and the same time without interference with one another, very much in the same manner as an electric Cable does.

Let us regard the Nerves as the "wires" of our electrical circuit, or they could be belikened to the "lines" of a system of communications such as a Railway. Any event which disturbs the normal working of such systems usually results in paralysis and disorganization. In our human "framework" we also have stationed along the routes "controls" which operate like the signal boxes on the railway, capable of either passing or opposing the passage of "trains" of energy.

## Balance of Power

In either case, sudden influxes of "overloads" may easily throw out of gear the governing mechanism and bring about either disorganization or a complete cessation of normal activity.

The mechanical "controls" or "signal boxes" however, differ very considerably from the human "system" inasmuch as whilst breakdown on the former can often be immediately or maybe soon rectified, in the latter case many obscure factors must necessarily have to be reckoned with, which will at times appear to defy all efforts at removal. Apart from this, the two systems of control bear a similarity which is remarkable, the *Ganglia* being regarded as corresponding to "distributive Stations"; any suspension of their influence having the most far-reaching consequences upon both physical and psychological fields.

Continuing with the "electrical" human apparatus, just a word about a little device contained in almost every Wireless Set known as a *Grid Leak*, usually consisting of a tiny tube containing a number of carbon granules which all act independently of one another provided the amount of current passed does not exceed its capacity.

Should a sudden heavy "load" be imposed upon it the granules "pack" or "seize" together, and by

## Irish Medium



Psychic Observer

EILEEN GARRETT, author, writer, 11 West 44th St., New York City.

Intermittently for over a period of ten years, she has demonstrated her phases of mediumship; trance, psychic-control and clairvoyance before members and officers of leading psychic research societies.

Mrs. Garrett was born in green County Meath in Ireland, and spent her childhood there. A British subject by marriage, she often speaks of herself as British, but it would be difficult to convince those who know her well that this "nomer" is more than technically correct.

Mrs. Garrett has lived long in London, where she is well-known for her professional and scientific interests, and managed, until the advent of the war, to spend each of her summers in the south of France. When the war came, she elected to stay on in France, working with refugees and the disordered civilian population until November of 1944, at which time she came to this country. New York was not new to her.

Her first book "My Life as a Search for the Meaning of Mediumship" contains, she says, all of her private and personal life anyone would be interested to know.

Her second book "Telepathy" and her third "Awareness" have been widely read.

so doing greatly increase the resistance offered to the passage of the energy in question, bringing transmission to a standstill until the excess is removed. In other words, a "choking" effect is in operation, and the line has to be cleared before a resumption of activity becomes possible.

In some such way, the *Solar Plexus* (gateway to the *Psychical* area) keeps guard over the human system of communications, offering opposition to the passage of excess "loads of energy" to matter from what source they arise. We see evidence of this in the cases of shock which are so often met with in daily life which may be the outcome of direct or indirect violence.

## Hypnotic Influence

The process is automatic and effectively shuts off for varying periods of time the intimate connection between the *Somatic* and *Psychical* zones, inducing a state of unconsciousness which may be partial or complete. When such a condition obtains, we have a demonstration of the cohesive nature of the Nerve Molecules, such affinity acting with the certainty of a switch.

Naturally, both applied violence and other forms of energy differ considerably in degree, and around this point will revolve the resultant amount of disability which accrues in any specific chain of circumstances.

So much then for the ordinary operations of an external objective character, by which we mean, ocular demonstration of certain phenomena, but what of those that are called into play when purely *psychical* forces — which are not ordinarily demonstrable — are at work resulting in the person affected suffering from a temporary "suppression" of their own powers

of volition, sometimes leading to the commission of acts which may or may not be desirable.

It is beside our point here to go into the mechanism of *Hypnotism*, although the "Biologized" subject is in exactly the same position as a Medium in the deep trance state, once control has been developed fully.

Under favorable conditions, the incoming *psychic "vibrations"* are enabled to attune themselves to the prevailing frequency of the Aura of the person it is desired to "impress," and once this is successfully achieved a state analogous to anaesthesia of a variable character exists in the special sense areas governing sight and hearing, hence the suspension of the Medium's own normal operations during the period of "trance control"; simultaneously, access is gained to the speech centers for the purpose of giving oral expression to that which it is desired to communicate.

## Auto-Suggestion

As the process of "impression" advances and deepens the "invading" force is accentuated until the instrument is in a state of noticeable passivity, the special sense areas now being in complete subjection to the external power. In this somnolent condition, the possibility of the Medium introducing into the proceedings, any personal thoughts or ideas is very remote indeed, so much so that it can almost be ruled out altogether.

Much has been said and written about the ever-present possibility of *Auto-Suggestion* during periods of *LIGHT* trance control, and this may be due to a conflict which is taking place between the two fields of "vibration" viz.—that of the Medium and the other of the entity desiring to manifest.

It has to be always remembered in this connection that a great deal of the success or otherwise of this kind of control will depend very largely upon the extent of the rapport achieved between the two contributions, and quite obviously, unless there is a good amount of harmony prevailing the results are bound to be disappointing.

## Distorted Messages

I think this is one of the explanations of so many unsatisfactory sittings, particularly so when these take place in a room or apartment where there are a number of other people. Cross-vibrations are bound to be in operation under such circumstances.

It is only reasonable to assume that so many opposing "influences" must of necessity introduce difficulties in the way of "distortion," and the only satisfactory way of dealing with such conditions when present, to use a Wireless phrase once more, "tune them out."

Sometimes this is not easy to accomplish and the interference may ruin the whole proceedings, due to the greater power of the manifesting entity over that pos-

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)

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# MY TRIP TO MEXICO

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)

Cathedral in New York City attempted to find out the history and definite identification of the Order and period but was unsuccessful.

Imagine my happy surprise, when for the first time since I was given this unique apport—the cross—when I saw, marking the exterior of the mammoth cathedral in Cuernavaca, a replica of my crucifix. Even here, I failed to obtain any definite information, other than it was a San-friscan Cross.

We rested at the Hotel Chula Vista, where we had coffee, before continuing our journey to Taxco. Over even higher hills, and sharper curves we drove the last 50 miles to reach this legendary village hidden in the sheltering Guerrero Mountains. It is a colonial gem.

## I Visit the Shops

Today, the stone cobbled streets, the shaded plaza; the overhanging red tiled roofs, the Parroguas dominating the landscape, remain as they were when Borda's pack trains passed thru with their millions in silver from the mines of the Distrito Alarcon. Borda gave to the city the beautiful Cathedral as an expression of his gratitude to God for his great material success.

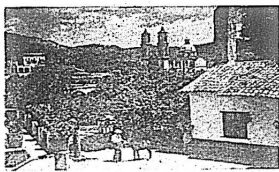
Even today, Taxco is considered the silver mecca of Mexico. Dozens of little shops flank either side of the cobble-stone streets. In these quaint shops, there are literally millions of bits of jewelry, for the most part made of silver. Gay colored baskets, woven by the natives, and all kinds of objects cleverly designed from tin can also be seen. One could spend a week looking about in these fascinating little stores but our schedule was too limited for us to spend very much time at any one spot.

## "Tony's" Studio

We did visit a very quaint and interesting silversmith, Sprallings, who deal chiefly in large pieces of silverware. The designs are particularly beautiful. Designs which reflect evidence of civilizations and generations about which little is known.

In a small, second floor studio presided over by the craftsman Antonio, I bought a very unique ring, an oblong amethyst, set between Mayan figures. This young lad, "Tony", designs all of his jewelry and has won considerable

On the sunny slopes of Taxco



View of the entrance patio of Rancho Talva, looking across the tiled roofs of Taxco to the beautiful cathedral.



Xochimilco Gardens where boats, piloted by natives, greet visitors, sing their songs and sell their wares.

fame, not only in his own country but has had exhibits in San Francisco and other cities. He proudly displays a gold medal and certificate indicating that he is a Master-Craftsman and won the first prize in a couple of exhibits.

After visiting the shops, we wended our way on up the hill to a very quaint hotel, called Hotel Rancho Talva, named for the Metropolitan Opera Star, Marion Talva which stands on the site of the historic Casa Hunter. Architecturally, the hotel is 18th century Guerrerense with fountains, long sun and shadow patterned galleries and spacious rooms. At this interesting restaurant, we were served a delightful luncheon on a terrace overlooking the vast expanse of tiled roofs, the Cathedral, the market place and great areas covered with brilliant flowers. At the back of this beautiful scene, one could again see the snowcapped mountains.

## I Meet Another Medium

We felt that we had made a trip into a land far, far away from our world, including cosmopolitan Mexico City and America. It does seem unbelievable that such quaintness and charm of another civilization can be so very near to the metropolitan-like atmosphere of the large cities of Mexico and the United States.

After dining in the sophisticated Tampico Club Restaurant, Av Juarez 37—upon our return to Mexico City—we went to visit another spiritualist medium, Isabela Aceves, Efen Rebolloleo, 54 A Colonia Obrera, who received us cordially, radiating the warmth of her soul. Again Juan Perez acted as interpreter. Senora Aceves told us about her work—she is a clairvoyant and trance medium, but specializes in healing. She gave us the photograph which accompanies this article.

It was definitely demonstrated to me that the spirit people and the power of spirit surmounts barriers of race, language, creed and color. Never have I felt a stronger influx of the power of spirit as when Senora Aceves and I clasped hands in friendship.

We probably would have spent more time in Mexico, but during Holy Week all activities, including sight seeing trips are suspended, until Easter Morn. We did, however, visit the well-known Sanborn restaurant and the elegant department store as well as several other small shops of interest.

Indeed, Mexico can be proud of her past, but today, antiquity walks along the road with modernity, yet always will strange garbs and stranger customs linger on to flaunt the ever-changing moods of the present.

# Natural Sensitives

DO THEY LIVE IN TWO WORLDS AT ONCE?

By NORA  
COUNTESS  
WYDENBRUCK

THE longer one studies the phenomena of mediumship, the fully developed or rudimentary faculties of thought-transference, spontaneous telepathy, psychometry and "second sight" or prevision, the more one inclines to the view that all these faculties are inherent in human nature, just as they appear to be present in a more concrete fashion in animals.

Naturally, the latter cannot exteriorize their perceptions, but any careful observer of their behavior cannot fail to recognize the facts.

It is obvious that every factor of life as lived in civilized countries tends to eliminate and repress the inborn and instinctive subtler perceptions which constitute psychic sensitivity.

To begin with, true solitude is almost unknown to the average man and woman today: cross-currents of light and noise, thoughts and images expressed by words heard or read, alien activities and movements, strong chemical odors, are continually impinging on our minds and senses.

## "Follow the Sign-post"

Furthermore, we have little need of our finer perceptions: why should we try to establish telepathic communication with a distant friend when we can ring him up on the telephone, or cure our racking headache by a spell of breathing, and meditation (in which we are sure to be disturbed) when we can take an aspirin?

We have no need to develop our sense of direction or bring all our powers of observation to bear on remembering imperceptible details in order to find our way—we have learnt to read and need only follow the sign-post!

And yet, why is it that most people have such a nostalgia for the lost paradise—the relationship that has no need for words, the perception of things invisible to the eye and inaudible to the ear? How many people have not told us wistfully that they are real-

ly very psychic and if they could but develop their gifts. . . . ?

The inherent desire in all of us is surely to possess, to a degree of perfection, all natural gifts of man. We want to be beautiful, strong, intelligent, because if we were not somehow stunted by heredity, environment, false nutrition and false education, we could be all these things. I have never met anybody who longed to be six hundred years old or to look like Picasso's "Portrait of a Lady," because it is not in nature to attain such an age or to become a mixture of sphinx, horse and woman plus a mathematical formula.

## No Fear of Death

Thus, despite all the amazing advances of science, the possibilities of acquiring all available knowledge in larger or smaller doses, humans hark back instinctively to the time when they were still "informed, as are the birds of passage."

For to those in whom the inherent faculty has not been silted up and overlaid, another realm of existence is open which not only transcends space, but time also: a plane on which physical death becomes what it has been in the religious thought of all times and races, no more than a transition.

Primitive peoples and individuals have no fear of death; their instincts of self-preservation, so strong in youth and vigor, diminish when their natural term of existence draws to its end and their innate sense of fitness and harmony teaches them acceptance—only among the civilized, who must rely on the evidence of their five senses, has it assumed the terror of final destruction.

## Russian Orthodox

A striking example of how a community of very primitive people integrate a mystical type of religiosity, an extraordinary degree of psychic sensitivity and full enjoyment of a hard physical life is to be found in the tribe of the Skolt Laps—about a hundred families who live in an unknown village in the vast forests of the Arctic Circle.

A writer of mixed Swiss and Russian parentage, M. Robert Crotet, had the privilege to be the first European to acquire the friendship and confidence of these people, whose life he shared for a whole year, and it is to him that I owe the following information.

Anthropologically, these Laps are first cousins of the Tibetans—during the great migrations from the Mongolian highlands, they were pushed to the extreme north, where they still lead a semi-nomadic existence, relying on their huge herds of reindeer for transport, milk and meat, catching fish and eating berries and mushrooms. They are Christians, belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church, and once a year the priest visits their settlement and sanctifies weddings, baptisms and burials.

## Strange Beliefs

They are very fervent Christians and have no difficulty in blending their faith with less orthodox, but extremely appealing beliefs—for instance that one must never give way to bad temper, as that gives the evil spirits power over you.

One wishes that particular superstition were generally spread! They feel very sorry for evil spirits; spirits in general play an im-

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 8)

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# It Happened At Silver Belle

## What He Didn't Know

### A TRUE STORY

By

Lydia Emery

2148 Rosselle Street  
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Author of  
"HOUDINI UNMASKED"

It was raining. The Mountain Springs Hotel at Camp Silver Belle was quiet. It was dusk and the Spiritualist camp had not yet formally opened for the summer season.

The raindrops were forming little puddles between the rocks of the gravelled driveway when a girl came out on the porch. A man was slumped in one of the deep white chairs, looking completely forlorn.

"Hello," she said, making a stab at conversation. "Foul weather, isn't it?"

The man shoved his hat from where it had been almost covering his eyes and assented. "It wouldn't be raining this time of year in California, I'll bet."

"Are you from California?" she asked.

He nodded. "Southern part. God's country, I call it."

"You couldn't, by chance, be referring to Los Angeles?" she grinned.

"That's right, how did you guess?" He began to take interest in the heretofore one-sided monologue. "Are you from L. A.?"

"Sort-of," she replied. "I spend much of my time there."

"Then what are you doing here?"

"The same thing you're doing, I guess," she laughed. "Have you sat since coming here?"

"That's about all I have been doing," he answered slowly. "What about you?"

"Yes, a few times. But Ray Burns hasn't arrived from Norfolk yet and I particularly want to sit with him."

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visit you in your room before the night's over."

"I'm afraid not. You see, I always lock my door."

"Locks mean nothing to Clicker. Before you know it, he'll be in your room and clicking in your ear. He visits all of Silver Belle's guests."

The man wheeled about. "Would you mind telling me, just what you are talking about? First I should sit with Ethel when I don't even know Ethel. Then I should sit with this Ford. If not that, then in a trumpet. Now somebody by the name of 'Clicker' is going to click in my ear all night, even though I lock my door. What kind of a joint is this?"

"Don't you know?"

"I only know that I'm with the Bank of America, located in Philadelphia. I came over here to check on the Ephrata bank and got a room at this hotel. This is a hotel, isn't it?"

The girl had gone into gales of laughter and it was some fifteen minutes before she had explained how she had assumed him to be a Spiritualist since this was one of the most famous camps in America.

The fellow began to enjoy the joke before she was half-way through the story and when she had concluded, he extended his hand.

"Let's start all over, shall we? This Spiritualist thing sounds interesting. I'd like to know about it. My name is Dave Rowles."

"I'm Lydia Emery," she smiled, taking his hand.

One week later he returned to Camp Silver Belle... for a sitting.

FINIS

## NATURAL Sensatives

(Continued from Page 4, Col. 4)

portant role in their lives, especially as they believe that the Northern Lights, which are the only natural source of illumination during the winter months, are the spirits of the dead dancing in order to give them light.

No Skolt Lap fears death: it means merely a return to the heavenly home, which is even more beautiful than their beloved earthly home with its wide, transparent forests of beech and pine, and the meeting again with all those they loved.

Crime Unknown

Telepathy is their normal means of communication over distances. Meeting-place and hour, when an expedition is planned, are arranged in the dreams of both parties. Their faculty of reading one's thoughts appears to be somewhat embarrassing, especially as they always tell the truth right out.

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### Do You Remember Him?



Psychic Observer  
Oscar Edgerly

He was one of foremost lecturers and speakers of his day; and visited Spiritualist Camps in the early 1900's.

they know enough of the white man and his ways to have a profound mistrust for tourists and journalists, and their weapon against them is to pretend to be idiots!

During the first days of M. Crotter's stay among them, he was struck by their very unprepossessing exterior — until after he had been adopted into the tribe, he discovered that they had been pulling ghastly faces all the time. His adoption by the men and women of the tribe was the direct result of a similar gesture by the king of the reindeer herd, who suddenly began to play with him.

### What They Believe

When the Laps heard of this, they immediately accepted him, for they put great trust in the instincts of the reindeer, who appear to be most sensitive, wise and independent animals.

Strangely enough, there is no black magic, no shamanism or kindred dealing with the dark powers among these inhabitants of the polar region. Although they believe every object has a spirit, they do not seek to placate these spirits in fear, but talk and reason with them gaily. Neither have they any fear of the bears and wolves that inhabit the arctic forest, nor are they ever attacked by them.

And yet this primitive paradise is threatened with extinction. The war has passed over the district, and the Skolts, many of whom were killed, lost their reindeer herds, their village and their fishing-tackle.

### What Not To Teach

M. Crotter, who has published a very poetically conceived descriptive novel *Mauono* after his stay with them, is devoting his entire energies to save these hundred families, which constitute the tribe, from starvation.

The Finnish Government is prepared to save the entire tribe for the equivalent of \$10,000.00 which would permit them to buy fishing-nets and reindeer from the Swedish Laps, and to reconstruct their village.

It is less than the price of a mink coat. . . . And yet my faith in the generosity of our fellow-Christians is not firm enough for me to be quite convinced that he will raise this sum in time, for the next winter is bound to be fatal if help does not come before shelter becomes essential.

Perhaps these innocent children of nature will be better off if they enter their homes in the forests of heaven, but it is sad that people who are good and innocent and gay and naturally possess the psychic qualities we try so hard to train should be doomed to die a slow and painful death.

(From the Quarterly Review of the Institute of Experimental Metaphysics).

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# SUGGESTED MECHANISM

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 5)

sessed by the earthly "instrument." When this is the case, it is far wiser to abandon the attempts to subjugate the "unruly spirit" rather than indulge in freakish demonstrations that only leave everybody present with a sense of frustration if not antipathy.

I will now proceed to outline the process of Control in more detail, in the hope that it may prove of use to Mediums in helping them to assess fairly clearly what is happening from its inception to the conclusion. The "impression" of the manifesting entity passes along the Ray Attachment (Psychic Cord) to the Solar Plexus, and this great *Ganglia* in conjunction with the other two main Centers of activity, the *Cardiac Plexus* (Heart) and the *Hypogastric Plexus* (Abdominal), transfer the incoming "waves of Influence to that other great Trunk line, the *Pneumogastric Nerve*. Having done this, any resistance which may be present rapidly diminishes until the whole of the physical organism is open to "suggestion."

The reactions are immediate and the subsequent developments can be of a variety of identities. First and foremost the respirations undergo a marked acceleration with a consequent increase in the amount of air taken in. This results in a higher oxygenization of the blood and the heart in order to accommodate itself to the extra demands being made upon it may double or even treble its beat-rate.


## How They Tune-In

There then follows a corresponding rise in the arterial and venous circulations which induces dilatation of those vessels to accommodate the increased volume and pressure. This is effected through the *Vaso-Motor Centers* in the Brain—the controlling agency behind all such processes—but the distension of the blood vessels alters the "equilibrium" of the instrument followed by adjustments in the AURA or mental area.

The Eye and Ear mechanisms are also profoundly affected and become "tuned-in" to "vibrations" that would otherwise not be "registered" by those centers. It is a higher rate than 50,000 per second, but I cannot say what is the extreme sensitivity of the Eye mechanism in a similar operation.

It is in such a way that they become affected by visual and aural "impressions" that would otherwise not be recognized, and it is

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in the exercise of the functions of *Clairvoyance* and *Clairaudience* that this faculty finds expression, with of course, the aid of the speech mechanism to complete the "cycle of events."

At this deep stage it is possible for the "instrument" to be operated in any manner that is desired and extraneous influence now being complete "possession." The Medium's own personal "vibrations" are temporarily suppressed just as again in wireless practice, one "wavelength" is superimposed upon another for some special purpose, as for instance, when transmitting the time dots from Greenwich.

## Mental Physiology

In this connection, it has always got to be borne in mind how closely resembling an aerial the human Aura is, extremely sensitive to every "vibration" impinging upon it. It is due to this faculty that we so often experience those strange feelings and desires that baffle explanation, and perhaps an extract from famous book entitled "Mental Physiology" by Professor W. B. Carpenter, C.B. L.L.D. M.D. F.R.S., will help to establish my point even more definitely.

Here is the extract:

"It has been already shown that sense perceptions of various kinds may be excited in the Mind, not merely by "impressions" made upon the corresponding ORGANS OF SENSE but also by IDEAS by which the Mind becomes possessed THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS. It is only necessary to glance at some of the more familiar features of insanity to be assured that the strangest perversions of sense-perceptions exhibited by a "Biologised" subject, have their counterpart in those morbid states in which the controlling power of the Will is completely suspended, and the Mind is POSSESSED not transiently but ENDURINGLY in some cases, by some DOMINANT IDEA OR FORCE.

"Entirely possessed as he is by the one dominant idea FIXED in HIS MIND BY ANOTHER, and unable to escape from it by any volitional act of his own, the subject then proceeds to ACT AS DIRECTED by the "controlling influence" whether that force be SEEN or UNSEEN."

That clear statement from so great an authority is surely worthy of our most careful attention, confirming as it does the Writer's belief that such processes are regularly operating around us, and often as we have attempted to show on previous occasions, FOR ULTERIOR MOTIVES OR IMPROPER PURPOSES.

## True Development

That is the field of the *Etheric*, the name I have given to all Discarnate EVIL influences or entities. The process of super-normal "impression" is almost identical in either case whatever the motive for the actual "control" may be, and it is just as well that Mediums should always be on the qui vive against "irregular" action of a psychic nature.

Many statements have been made from time to time as regards the necessary qualifications for a good Medium and opinions naturally vary a great deal, but there are two attributes which appear absolutely essential to me, and they are first of all, a good physique and secondly, a Spiritual background. Without these no amount of enthusiasm for giving "demonstrations" on public platforms of alleged powers can possibly compensate for their absence, and in the interests of the public and the Psychic Faculty itself, such activities ought to be restrained until such time as TRUE development has taken place. As it says in the Art of Yoga, "When the Chela (pupil)

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(\*) A few copies obtainable from Dale News, Inc. who republished Aber's booklet "A Guide To Mediumship" . . . the data for which was also dictated by a materialized spirit.

is ready, the Guru (Teacher) will appear."

In order to dispel any idea that I may be prejudiced in this matter, I proceed to quote from "Psychic Philosophy" by Stanley De Brath, who also has strong opinions about this matter. Here is what he says:

"Mediumship which comes naturally and is pursued in a wise temper can, (like all other natural powers) be productive only of good; but its forced activity and the constant opening of the organism perhaps out of mere frivolity, desire of gain, personal vanity or still baser motives, to unknown influences and to the various conditions which paid Mediumship may involve, paralyzes the Will, ebverts the physical body, and (if not counteracted by purer agencies opening the eyes to the danger), may end by reducing the unhappy Somnambule to the invertebrate passivity of a Jellyfish; or by filling him with a self-conceit which blinds him to the obvious folly of the unpractical course he is pursuing, may leave him Morally if not Mentally unbalanced.

## Law of Growth

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## A Broad Statement

"The facts of the case however, still remain unshaken, notwithstanding all the obloquy, derision and denunciations of almost a hundred years. They have prevailed in spite of the worst obstacle of all, the poor deluded people, deficient not only in reason and judgment but also devoid of common sense, who imagine themselves possessed of Occult Powers and the wild nonsense about Planes and Spiritual Electrons. Though ignorant of the simplest Chemistry and Physics, they pretend to a knowledge of the machinery of the Universe."

I would not deduct or add one word to that statement which appears to me to be sufficient and complete. To some it may seem uncharitable, but anyone who knew Mr. De Brath personally, would not associate any such intention in his work.

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# WHITHER Spiritualism RELIGION IS SERVICE

By K. S. D. AYER  
Secretary Spiritual Healing Centre  
Coimbatore, South India.

I am not attempting to force upon the readers of "Psychic Observer" any conception of the truth which does not appeal to them or which does not harmonize with their own conception. I grant all the liberty of their own conviction preferring they should accept only the spiritual teachings as may appeal to them—letting the rest pass by, as not being needed just at this time.

I am merely stating what I have learned from my Spirit collaborator, Ram Ram. If it is true, then it is true, no matter what my friends may think of it and their belief or unbelief does not change the matter.

## Science and Spiritualism

Scientific researches from our side take a wrong outlook. The scientist weighs, handles material objects and begins to conclude there is nothing else. He ignores the rest of the whole universe which can neither be handled nor weighed. Astral matter and astral planes can not be touched or weighed.

Investigation ought to proceed by taking into consideration the imponderable facts of life. Take mind, mental images and thoughts and investigate their origin, causal law and what becomes of mental processes which are in a state of latent condition during periods of forgetfulness.

Then you come up against the imponderables and begin to get a more realistic view of real science.

The Western Scientists have now come to realize that the old ideas of matter are wrong and ought to be scrapped. They are progressively coming to take a correct view of the immaterial nature of even the physical world.

A better and clearer approach to the question should begin from a study of the mental factors and the easy way such factors explain all difficulties in science.

Denizens of "Etheria" can easily

study and understand science from their side as they are cognizant of the various worlds on all their sides. We think and infer. We have to infer the existence of Ether which they know by perception same as birds know of air by actually living in it. They know the condition and realities of Ether, same as we have to infer Spirit existence by mere hypothetical means. They are aware of their existence as a fact.

## What Doyle Said

We can understand how differently they are placed to study all scientific questions. The Scientist vaguely imagines that a mental world in the form of a plane is possible but the spirits know the plane and its laws. They need not vaguely grope in the laboratories for the many things the scientist is looking for.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle when giving a message at one of our seances humorously said:

"There is one class of human beings who love to live in self-deception and that in all seriousness, not for passing amusements only! Guess who I refer to now! It is the hard-hearted Scientists! Mouthing half truths re-finality, he builds a universe of mechanics without mind, soul or God! Do not Scientists come here?"

"They do and then! Their universe tumbles down over their ears and they have to begin anew on some pet theory as foundation! Why do not scientists face facts? Their science is as much a superstition as the old superannuated superstitions of ages and will vanish like a dream when the Divine light of Truth plays against it."

## What We Need

There is nothing mystical about Spiritualism or its various aspects of psychic phenomena. We see the application of Higher Laws that is generally ignored. These laws are applied when we sit for seances or for joint prayers. Our prayers will help release of great forces which are utilized for healing the sick. Our belief will explain the actual working of the

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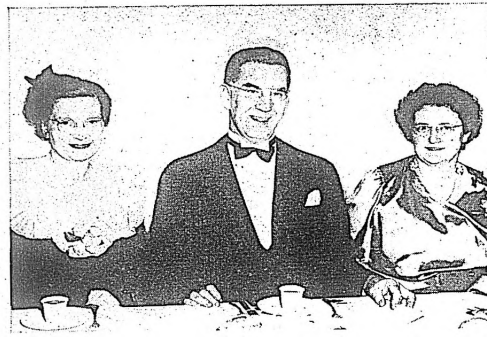
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## New York State Conference Leaders



Courtesy Syracuse Herald Journal

The picture above was taken recently in the Ka-Na-Te-na club rooms, University Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y., where the annual Central New York Spiritualist Conference (N.S.A.) was held. Left to right: Rev. D. Mona BERRY, Vice President of the Conference and Pastor of The Spiritual Church of Eternal Brotherhood of Buffalo, N. Y.; Rev. Robert J. MACDONALD, President of the Conference, Vice President of Lily Dale Assembly and the N.S.A., Pastor of The Center of Psychic Science of Buffalo; and Ethel VINCENT, Avoca, N. Y., Treasurer of the Conference.

Spiritual Laws which work irrespective of any person's belief. Spirits give gentle guidance and though we are all advanced in intelligence and culture, what we lack most is the spiritual outlook.

## Spirit Communication

Communication between the spirit world and our Earth, we are told is now organized, harnessed, controlled and regulated. What was occasional, not sustained and in bursts of inspiration has now come to stay. It is part of one vast plan, a plan that is far more co-ordinated than we can realize.

The organization that is behind communication is massive and worked out in masterly detail. When it was decided to open the doors of the spirit world, it was done deliberately, so that once the doors were opened they could never be closed again.

There is a difference between physical and psychic laws and knowledge of spiritual laws.

Psychic laws are concerned with physical phenomena—the purely physical one. Take a clairvoyant medium for example. It is a psychic law under which he or she works. They see scenes, have premonitions, can see future and past to a fair extent. But there is no touch with the SPIRIT WORLD at all. It is purely a natural psychic faculty. It is only an extension of the five senses. It only touches the psychic factors which surrounds the physical laws. So all mediumship is a co-operation of the spiritual and the psychic and it is in the blending of

the power that you have spirit communication. It does not wholly depend on the psychic faculty of the instrument but in the co-operation of a spirit Guide or control with an instrument.

Though you may have psychic faculties they do not become spiritual faculties until they are used for a spiritual purpose in association with spiritual people in the other world. So it is clear that the physical and psychic faculties should be blended with the power of the spirit to get spiritual gifts.

## What They Teach

Survival having been proved and tested, the presence of various graded sorts of Intelligences of different planes having been found true, what then has Spiritualism to teach?

The teachings of all Intelligences to whatever race they may belong or what particular creed they may favor, show that 1. man is a responsible Being; 2. that he makes his own conditions; 3. bestows his own rewards and punishments as a natural consequence of his acts; 4. that man can not escape his own good and bad thoughts and though he may slip back a thousand times, still he makes progress at every stage however small it be and then moves steadily forward to the Great Goal.

They tell us we are all children of God, no matter what our beliefs or faiths are or what form we worship, and no one is cut off or damned. We are punished By our sins and not for our sins by an extraneous entity.

The Law of Cause and Effect brings its inscrutable results — beautifully expressed in the saying "as we sow so shall we reap." The Orientals call it "Karma."

## Christ's Teachings

I am not entering the much debatable land of "Reincarnation" but we can easily understand that in all religions that were appeals to ordinary mankind, many truths were left unrevealed. Because Lord Buddha was teaching the ordinary man great truths, he withheld the grand conception of God-head.

In Christ's teachings again the truths about the many spiritual worlds were withheld as the men were taught were uneducated and undeveloped. So also when the Prophet gave out his revealed religion many matters unintelligible to his people were withheld by the inspiring Angelic Intelligences.

It is only when humanity is highly evolved that all truths appropriate to be known are revealed. Hence revelation proceeds progressively in proportion to the evolution of the soul. Every

one, provided one makes the necessary effort, knows what one deserves to know. That is the Law and the law is always kept up in the Spiritual worlds.

## Service

Life and more life is surging from the Divine Source. Man as he evolves must realize this identity with the Supreme Life Energy and plan his life to subserve the Divine plan. We have to adjust our daily actions on the Eternal Laws and carry on the divine plan in our world and in the society of humans of which we are a unit. Let us all remember that religion is SERVICE.

## The Coin of Service

Service to our fellowmen, service to the astral beings, and service to God. Service to our fellow men is by gifts, helping the sick, bringing the light of truth to the unilluminated. Service to astral Beings is always by prayers for their rapid evolution. Service to God is by living the higher life of inspired goodness and gentleness making our life one of purity and utter unselfishness.

"From Thy storehouse of Spirit Give us power not merely to bear our burden

But also to bear the burden of Others Whom we seek to help.

Give us the light that will illumine Not only our path But also the path of Others Whom we seek to guide.

Give us the wisdom that comprehends everything Not only for our limited enlightenment

But also to make Others comprehend All the wisdom we have."

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# 55th ANNUAL CONVENTION

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## NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

OCTOBER 13 - 18, 1947



**CHARLES R. SMITH**  
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CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS, HOTEL TULLER, on GRAND CIRCUS PARK, in the heart of transportation facilities and shopping center.

A Banquet in honor of Officers, Delegates and Visitors will be held in the Arabian Room, Hotel Tuller, Monday, October 13th, 7:00 P. M.

All Delegates and Visitors are invited to write to Fred W. Spriggs, 2637 Boston Boulevard, Detroit 6, Michigan, for room reservations.

Reservation for Banquet Tickets, also requests for other convention information should be addressed to Rev. Kay Cunningham, Secretary, 4563 Commonwealth Avenue, Detroit 8, Michigan.

Nationally known speakers and mediums have been invited to present the philosophy and demonstrate the phenomena of Spiritualism during the evening sessions of the convention.

**SYMPOSIUM SUBJECTS:** Essential Principles involved in successful organization; The intended purpose of Mediumship in the religion of Modern Spiritualism; and The value of historical records pertaining to the phenomena of Spiritualism.

The State Spiritualist Association of Michigan and its committees are making elaborate preparations for the comfort and welfare of all delegates. A cordial welcome is extended and a warm reception awaits the arrival of all delegates and visitors to this important convention.

**EMIL C. REICHEL**  
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765 Oakwood Boulevard  
Chicago 15, Illinois

# Spiritualists Assembled at Oakland, 1911, for 16th Annual Convention of California State Spiritualist Association



With the coming of the 100th anniversary of Modern Spiritualism, hundreds of pictures are being received by the editors of *Psychic Observer*. These pictures are being published in the order received. The rare photograph above was submitted by Rev. Bessie Launer. It shows the delegates, members and visitors in attendance at the 16th annual convention of

The California State Spiritualist Association. This convention was held in Oakland, California, September 7th to 10th, 1911. Many will recognize leaders in the field of Spiritualism: Harold P. Courtney, President of the C. S. S. A. for many years; John Slater, "America's greatest medium"; Thomas Grimshaw, former Vice President of the N.S.A.; Sarah Cowell, Oakland, Director of C.S.S.A.; Mary Vlasak, Los Angeles, Pastor, Me-

dium and Secretary of C.S.S.A.; Charles Buss, San Diego, President of C.S.S.A.; Mrs. Charles Buss; Mary Wells, Oakland, Pastor and Medium; Amanda Smith, Oakland, Pastor and Medium; Addie McMillan, Oakland, Pastor and Medium; John Ring, Hayward, California, Lecturer; Louise Knott, Oakland, Pastor and Medium; and a host of others. How many can YOU identify?

What's So Glorious  
by  
R. B. Blaney

### Hester-Dowden—The Medium

In the field of psychic research, automatic writing is mentioned quite frequently but few there are who understand this phase of mediumship. Possibly one of the best-known living mediums in the world today is Hester Dowden (Hester Treavor Smith). She possesses this rare gift and very shortly another book, received through her mediumship, will appear in London. This remarkable work, "Talks With the Disembodied," is said to contain three original sonnets thought to be inspired by Shakespeare, as well as communications in characteristic styles of Francis Bacon and others equally famous.

While Mrs. Dowden's gift of automatic writing was employed when receiving data for this latest book, it is not generally known that the *ouija board* is her favorite method of contact when she accepts private sittings. At least such was the case, a little over a year ago, when she sat for *Judicial Daring* Pressing and brought through marvellous evidence for survival. However, it was through her automatic writing that not only Sir William F. Barrett, F.R.S. was convinced but it was also through this phase that the *Oscar Wilde* messages were received.

### The Triumph of Music

Another occult film is projected! Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will begin production this autumn of a new film, entitled *The Triumph of Music*, in which the leading characters will be the composer Mozart, and the occultist Mesmer. The film will tell, against the background of Mozart's music, the dramatic story of Mesmer's discovery of his remarkable gift, and his right to establish his integrity as a physician. Every effort is being made to insure that the occult details are authentic.

### International Spiritualist Federation

A world-wide institution before the War, but banned during the invasion and occupation by Germany, the International Spiritualist Federation is being re-established with headquarters in Paris. Four conferences, the last to be held in Glasgow, Scotland (1936), were attended by delegates from 22 nations.

### Robert Core Esquire

After devoting the last 25 years of his life to the cause of Spiritualism in both England and America, Robert Core Esquire passed away recently at his home in San Francisco, California. Mr. Esquire, born in Willow Bank, Belfast, Ireland, made his home in Manchester, England prior to coming to San Francisco in 1896. He was a member of the Central Spiritualist Church and the British Memorial Spiritualist Church of Manchester; a charter member of The Golden Gate Spiritualist Church of San Francisco where his funeral services were conducted by Rev. Florence S. Becker, pastor of the church.

### Spiritualist Honored

Harry J. Swartz, leader of The Spiritualist Science Church No. 158, located at 14 West 15th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was recently elected Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, the highest office of the order in the state of Oklahoma. According to the records there have been five Spiritual-

## THE NORMANS — GREAT MEDIUMS — OF YESTERYEAR



Psychic Observer

The picture, reproduced above, recently submitted to *Psychic Observer*, shows "The Normans" (Mr. and Mrs.) seated at a table in their spare room—only forty years ago. They were widely known for their gifts of mediumship, Independent State-Writing, Materialization and Spirit Photography. The two "carriers and the spirit form (center) have been recognized, according to data supplied with the photograph.

ists to date who have received this honor.

### Flexer's Contract Renewed

At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the First Spiritualist Church, 512 East Paris St., Tampa, Florida, Rev. Dorothy Craft Flexer was re-elected as Co-Pastor for another year beginning September 15th. During July and August, Rev. Flexer was one of the featured mediums at Camp Silver Ball, Phipps, Pennsylvania.

### Haven Elected President

The Haven Spiritualist Church holds regular Sunday services in Room D of the Sheraton Biltmore Hotel in the city of Providence, Rhode Island. At a recent membership meeting, Rev. J. Frederick Haven, D.D.S. was elected Pastor and President and Estelle V. Haven, Vice President. During the summer months, Rev. Haven served the Ouset Spiritualist Camp, Ouset, Massachusetts.

### Harmony Grove Camp

At the annual meeting of the members of The Harmony Grove Spiritualist Camp-Meeting Association, Escondido, California, the following officers

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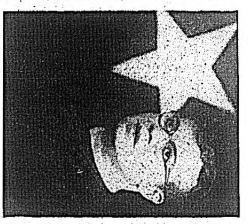
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