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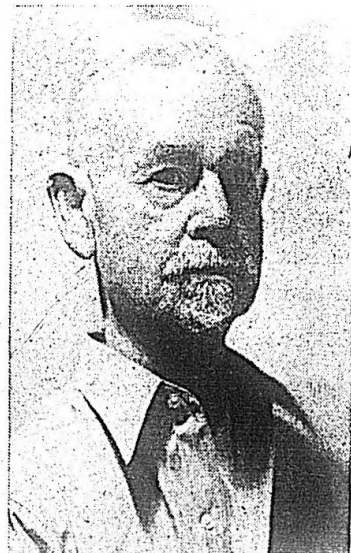
NOVEMBER 10, 1950

15 CENTS

The American Foundation for Psychic Research, Inc.

A FOUNDATION WITHOUT A PURPOSE?

NEVER!



Clarkson Dye

He wants to know the purpose

This article will be an attempt to explain the real reason why there is a crisis in what is commonly called "psychic research." It is a direct answer to a letter received from Clarkson Dye who wants to know the purpose of *The American Foundation for Psychic Research* at Jamestown, N. Y.—ED.

The American Foundation for Psychic Research, Inc. was founded over 18 months ago and during that time, this journal has publicized the results of seances to such an extent that the purpose is obvious.

At the moment, there are over 200 members extending from Maine to California and several foreign countries.

All who joined did not necessarily expect to participate in the demonstrations because of the distance involved and the expense incurred to make journeys at specified times, but became members of the Foundation with the thought that they could help the work that they were satisfied was being carried on.

Many also recognized the vital need for documenting evidence by infra-red photography—evidence received under test conditions in a test-proof seance room.

The real reason for this article can best be understood

by reading the letter sent by Clarkson Dye, Route 3, Box 47, Kennedy Road, Los Gatos, California.

Mr. Dye's letter dated September 24th is prefaced by: "For the very thoughtful consideration of Juliette Ewing Pressing and R. G. Pressing," and then he goes on to cite the case for and against psychic research as has been his experience for the past 40 years.

"What's the Purpose?"

Mr. Dye's letter follows:

"In reading the British and American psychical magazines, as well as old and new books which touch this subject, two complexing thoughts persist: *First*: That varied psychical phenomena are related therein, and repeated in different settings over and over again.

"Such books and magazines are perused by the same individuals and



R. G. Pressing

You cannot conduct psychic research without Spiritualist mediums!

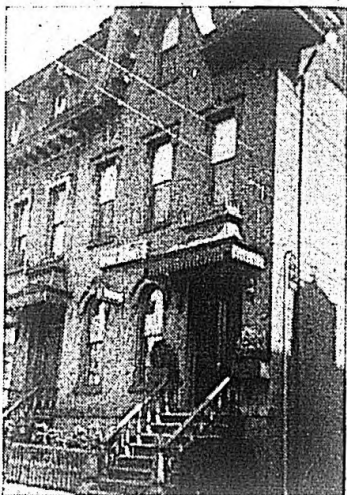
groups who are interested in the subject, and who, in many instances, are allied to spiritual churches, home circles, or similar gatherings, here and abroad. By others, outside of such categories, they are misinterpreted, misunderstood and regarded as incredulous and unworthy of serious consideration.

"*Secondly*: The larger, outside general public do not read either such magazines and books nor attend spiritual meetings and seances. Their only knowledge of a spiritual universe is gained through an occasional magazine or newspaper story relating to an incident which has spiritual implications, and is generally commented upon by the writer as a fraud perpetrated upon the credulous.

"The two conditions above described inescapably lead thoughtful, discriminative minds to the conclu-

By

R. G. Pressing



No. 10 East Fourth Street, Jamestown, N. Y. This is the headquarters of *Psychic Observer, Inc.*; *The American Foundation for Psychic Research, Inc.*; and the *Psychic Observer Book Shop*.

sion that something is lacking, that the knowledge we hold, as to another world, is being withheld from the great bulk of humanity, that it is our duty to spread the light, yet we are not doing it.

"One perceives no missionary efforts, no intelligently planned crusade led by devoted, resolute proponents to reach the masses in darkness. This, at a time when mistrust and intolerance, greed and selfishness, is pervading a world in chaos.

"This serious plight impels me to wonder: 'What are the aims and objectives of the American Foundation for Psychic Research?' Whether the word 'research' has wider connotations than mere exploration and recording, is the question which has prompted this inquiry.

"Will the activities of this organization merely repeat the futile treadmill of the British and American Societies for Psychical Research in rethreshing old straw, tell us of this or that spiritual manifestation, without going deeper to reveal, unequivocally and conclusively the existence of spiritual forces behind the phenomena?

"Such procedure is analogous to a miner who should extract a great mass of ore, containing a substance which looked like gold. He gloats over it, adds more and more, and tells us that there is a fortune in that pile of ore. 'But,' we ask, 'why don't you get that gold out, extract it from the ore and send it to the mint? The precious gold (if it is gold) is valueless in its present state; it has not been tested to prove its value. Think how much you could do with it, if it really is proven to be gold.'

"Alas! the miner is unmoved by reason, and the benefit to be derived by extracting the gold, and is working hard at piling up the mass of ore, indifferent to your pleas to know that his fortune is assured, by having its value tested.

"Will the American Foundation for Psychic Research be similarly disinclined to go further than the British and American Societies for Psychical Research?

"Instead it is hoped that it will break a new path, resolutely shed light where now there is darkness; reveal, conclusively, for all mankind to see, that there is a Source working behind all phenomena, and what that Source is, and how it works, and why.

"This will not be easy. Dr. Gardner Murphy in "Tomorrow" magazine, has pointed out the barriers to

psychical research; we know of the bitterness with which Sir Oliver Lodge reflected that his scientific associates refused to witness his laboratory results which would prove human survival.

"It will take courage, ingenuity and resourcefulness to successfully assail the forces of entrenched, incredulous science. We should remember, however, the rewards which come to the valiant. The Scientific American, some years ago, proclaimed that whoever should prove immortality and human survival after death would stand highest on the roll called blessed, and that a renaissance in human relations would ensue, and that religion would have far wider implications.

"I have advocated for some years, as is well known, the postulate that

the world is only convinced of the merit and worthiness of a principle when it is approved by the scientists. It is for this reason that I urge that the American Foundation for Psychic Research place foremost in its program a plan whereby the scientist be induced to grant consideration to psychical research.

"This does not imply such poorly chosen representatives as were members of the Harvard and Siebert Commissions, but rather consisting of skilled scientists, uninhibited by preconceptions, (*there is no such animal.—ED.*) who would dedicate themselves to a search for truth. They would find thousands of books on library shelves, as well as the fully attested psychical manifestations recorded by many, in all countries, since Bible instances Pro-

fessor Sidgwick told of 16,000 such psychical phenomena he had noted in his own day.

"Will you not try to find some way in which to obtain the scientist's cooperation? I have tried for twenty years, but you may succeed where I have not, in enlisting the help of those who will show the world a new and better path."

THE ANSWER

Taking Mr. Dye's letter step by step, it must be understood that there have been few books on psychic phenomena published in the last 30 years. The books, which include photographs of psychic phenomena which happened years and years ago, were Baron Von Schrenck-Notzing's, "The Phenomena of Materialization"; Dr. Gustav Geley's "Clairvoyance and Materialization"; Hewitt McKenzie's "Spirit Intercourse"; Dr. Glenn Hamilton's, "Intention and Survival"; Harry Edwards' "The Mediumship of Jack Webber"; and the works of W. J. Crawford, Sir Oliver Lodge, Hervey Hyslop and many others.

Although the data in these books is ancient history, it is factual nevertheless, and the pictures and statements made therein have been quoted and misquoted thousands of times by authors of so-called "modern-day" books on the subject.

The point is that since psychic manifestations happened 2,000 years ago, and since they happened 30 years ago, it follows that they are happening today.

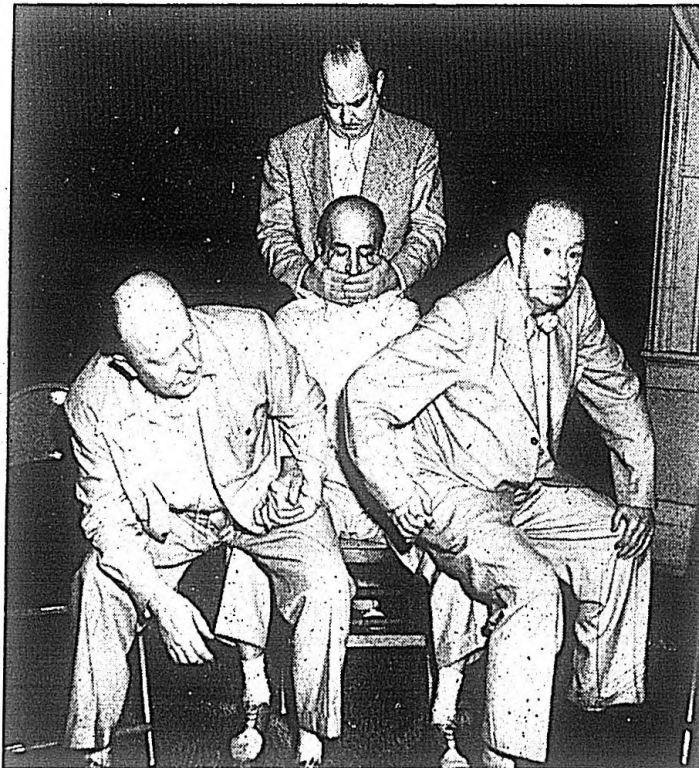
This explanation should answer the first part of Mr. Dye's letter.

Here is where the American Foundation for Psychic Research, Inc. enters the picture, for they not only say these psychic manifestations are happening today, but have presented in this journal sufficient evidence to prove the statement.

To answer Mr. Dye's inquiry as to the "outside general public," the old time books on psychic phenomena are part and parcel of most of the larger libraries in this country for most libraries have a psychic

— TEST CONDITIONS —

How Seances Are Conducted By Some Spiritualists



This picture cannot be published without special permission from Psychle Observer.

Spiritualists are always accused of being unscientific and of conducting seances under slipshod test conditions. The picture above shows how Frank Decker, (center) internationally-known direct voice test medium, sits and how he, at some moment during every seance, submits to being fully 'controlled.'

R. C. Fressing (left) sits on medium's right knee and controls Decker's right hand. Ernest Metcalfe, New York City lawyer, (right) controls left side; Rev. Arthur Ford, Miami, Florida, clasps both hands over medium's mouth.

It is under these test conditions that thousands have heard the spirit voices of Decker's collaborators: Patsy, Bert Wells, Farmer Riley and a host of others familiar to those who have attended his seances.

This picture, taken in total darkness, by infra-red at the A.F.P.R., Jamestown, N. Y., proved that the voices heard, whilst the picture was being made, were independent of the medium.

section devoted to books on the subject.

So, therefore, if the "outside public" are really interested in the case, they should, being apparently intelligent people, know what a library is for.

When Mr. Dye refers to "thoughtful and discriminate minds" he could also add "closed and biased minds" because there is nothing lacking in the available source of knowledge. What is lacking is their desire to search for truth the hard way. Just because a person is intellectual does not

mean that they should have their "pearls delivered on a silver platter."

I differ with Mr. Dye when he says that there is "no missionary effort, no intelligently planned crusade." The Spiritualists, hampered by this intellectual condemnation, have attempted to carry on for over 100 years under the banner of organized Modern Spiritualism but the trouble with these so-called psychic researchers is that they want to take their research out of the realm of Spirit.

These same researchers will never get anywhere until they seek the co-operation of the Spiritualist mediums . . . but they want to literally take over the whole thing and dictate terms to the spirit world. And that's the rub!

They say they want to investigate psychic phenomena but continue to raise their beetled eyebrows and look down their bi-focals benignly at the mediums who call themselves Spiritualists.

Make no mistake about it—the most powerful mental and physical mediums in the world today are allied with the organized Spiritualist movement and so long as this is the situation, the psychic researchers may as well know it.

This doesn't mean that there are not some splendid mediums "outside the movement." As fine as these mediums are, yet they, too, are not interested in any research that may lower them to a guinea pig.

Furthermore, by being "outside," they feel they are less liable to be harassed by the psychic researcher who merely holds a card from some S.P.R. organization.

I have always said and will continue to say that being a member of a psychic research society does not make anyone a psychic researcher because in most cases, this type seldom know what they are looking at. They may be swayed with preconceived ideas after reading some literature on the subject, but even so their reading far overbalances their experience. Many have not learned that psychic research, as conducted years ago, differs widely from the modern-day approach.

And then Mr. Dye asks: "What are the aims and objectives of the American Foundation for Psychic Research?"

The answer to this question is that it is merely a group of honest and sincere Spiritualists—those interested in personal conscious survival—who desire to carry on their own psychic research. They work on the premise that Spiritualists them-

PSYCHIC OBSERVER

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Levitation Photographed

MAUDE KLINE — *The Medium*



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Another photograph, showing two trumpets levitated, was taken by infra-red at the A.F.P.R. in Jamestown, N. Y.

The picture shows that Rev. Maude Kline, popular N.S.A. missionary, possesses superb physical mediumship as well as other phases* for which she has earned wide acclaim.

Rev. Kline, who resides in Los Angeles, California, conducted a series of seances at the A.F.P.R. recently. Many other startling photographs were also taken . . . all will be published, together with complete story and detailed explanations, in an early edition of *Psychic Observer*. Do not miss these editions.

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selfs are perfectly capable of carrying on SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, knowing they will receive the hearty cooperation of all the fine mediums throughout the country plus the real key to success—the cooperation of the spirit guides.

And this is not possessed by many groups who call themselves psychic researchers but, without it, how can anyone conduct experiments? The answer is: You can't conduct psychic research unless you have mediums to research!

Instead of spending time hashing, rehashing and discussing what so and so said in such and such a book; instead of trying to come to a conclusion that the author has already concluded, the members of the A.F.P.R. get on with their job. They keep records, take pictures and present what is going on today. As proof, see the last twenty editions of *Psychic Observer*.

It doesn't matter whether members of the group are knighted, whether they attend universities or whether they have degrees a mile long. The facts presented in the pictures already published speak for themselves.

In answer to Mr. Dye's question: "Will the activities of your organization merely repeat the futile treadmills of the British and American S.P.R.'s . . ." The answer is: "Certainly not," because after every demonstration, those attending do not hold a conclave to try to decide how it "could have been done." They do not try to explain it away with high-sounding terms such as "sub-conscious mind"; "subliminal self"; "super-ego"; "thought transference"; "mind reading"; "E.S.P."; "elongation of ego"; "secondary personality" and "supersensitive consciousness."

These words are used only by the intellectuals who try to cover up their ignorance when in reality they don't know what it is all about.

Mr. Dye points to another stumbling block when he asks the question: "Will the A.F.P.R. be similarly inclined to go further?" The answer is: "We

have!" . . . but how are you going to have it "scientific" if the scientists won't investigate?

And now we come to what Mr. Dye calls the "source working behind the phenomena." In all honest and above-board psychic research with powerful mediums, there can only be one source — spirit.

Mr. Dye wants to know what spirit is, how it works and why. If we knew the answer to those questions, we would supervise and dictate to every college in the land that has a Department of Psychology or a Chair for Psychic Research.

You might just as well try to define the source of God,

how it works and why.

Mr. Dye says that Dr. Gardner Murphy points out the barriers to psychic research. When Dr. Murphy, or anyone else serving in like capacity, is ready to accept the spirit hypothesis, then and only then will the intellectuals ever get any place. If they would spend as much time trying to understand the phenomena as they do trying to explain it away, they would have a different story to tell.

"It will take courage, ingenuity and resourcefulness to succeed," says Mr. Dye. During the past 20 years, the modern-day "Murphys," unlike Hyslop, have lacked the courage of their

MATERIALIZATION PHOTOGRAPHED

BERTIE LILLY CANDLER — The Medium



This picture cannot be published without special permission from *Psychic Observer*.

The picture above, a materialized form of a nun, was also taken recently at the A.F.P.R. when Bertie Lilly Candler, Miami, Florida materialization medium, held a series of seances.

Rev. Candler was the first Spiritualist medium to cooperate with the A.F.P.R. when the foundation started over a year ago.

Over a dozen pictures, of which this is one, were taken during her last visit to Jamestown. A complete story with more pictures will appear in an early edition. Watch for it!

convictions when confronted with irrefutable evidence. As far as resourcefulness is concerned—their negative results prove that this qualification is lacking.

Mr. Dye quotes the Scientific American and their so-called "lofty" aims. Joseph Dunniger's two-year plan to conduct "psychic" research for that magazine petered out when he was confronted with positive evidence before a Scientific American committee in New York City in 1945.

It petered out because independent writing was received, under glass in full light, before the very eyes of the "Master Magician."

This partly caused the cessation of Dunniger's contract. But the real reason he lost his job was because, in his attempt to explain away the independent writing, received through the mediumship of the late Edward Lester Thorne, he foolishly tried to make the public believe that his trumped-up photographs with paid stooges taken after a mock seance in a hotel room, was sufficient evidence to break down the Thorne seance.

Even the members of the Scientific American committee — all seven headed by Orsen D. Munn, were not fooled. All this is a matter of record. The complete story is in the files at *Psychic Observer* office and as far as that is concerned, it is in the files of the Scientific American who hired Dunniger, the so-called "expert."

Now Mr. Dye wants to know why scientists are not being induced to grant consideration of psychic search. If by scientist, Mr. Dye means psychic researcher, you do not have to induce them, but they want to make all the rules. They want to tell God when it should rain and where it should rain. They want to tie up the medium. They want to stuff salt down their throats. They want to snap lights on and off. They want the same thing to happen at eight o'clock on seven consecutive nights. They argue about

the voice. They argue about the Indians. They argue about what the forms look like and spend their time bickering among themselves when they should be getting on with their job.

Now to answer Mr. Dye's last question: "Will you not try to find some way in which to obtain the scientists' co-operation?"

Rest assured, we have tried. We have offered to pay the expenses of some of the world's greatest mediums and take them to prominent universities who

claim to be interested.

In some instances, the universities do us the favor of accepting, but will not allow the editors of *Psychic Observer* to sit in on the investigations. Why? They don't want to be quoted if they are convinced.

Furthermore, we have offered to pay the expenses of some of these so-called "prominent psychic researchers" so they could visit this Foundation and attend some of the seances but in each case, it must be *incognito*. The intellectuals must not have any publicity.

Nothing must be said about it. It all must be a big secret because of their great importance and the great impetus to Spiritualism they think their name would give should they condescend to say anything favorable.

For over 18 months, the doors of the A.F.P.R. have been open to all sincere investigators but, with few exceptions, the college professors and master minds do not appear on the doorstep.

It will ever be thus because it seems they prefer to carry on their staid research of mental telepathy and E.S.P. with marbles and pin-ball machines. Besides it would be most unpopular to admit that the Spiritualist medium was a source of their knowledge because if they did, they would have to step out of the category of being a psychic researcher and be a Spiritualist.

This they would never do because they would have nothing to search for. Besides, if they did, they could not "swank and sway" on the research platforms and present their worn out theories as to what they think happens in a seance room.

Yes, let them come to the mountain, the mountain will never bow down to them, nor will they ever get anywhere until they are willing and ready to accept the spirit hypothesis which is the crux and the source of all positive demonstrations of seance room phenomena.

The point is: no one is obliged to accept spirit communication but, when directly confronted with undeniable proof of actual spirit power and the present of spirit entites, let them not be upset—rather let these "wise" men admit it . . . and until they do (after all other sources have been eliminated) no self-respecting spirit guide, chemist or teacher, will

(CONTINUED PAGE 11)

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BY FRANK J. McCARTHY

A PSYCHIC OBSERVER Feature

Spiritualist Notebook

**HAS GOD
THE RIGHT
TO FORGIVE?**

Some people want to tell God what to do. They instruct HIM to supply them with PROFIT or SUPPORT, as children depend on an earthly father for board and room and pennies to spend. Normal people, however, after they reach maturity, do not expect their parents to keep on providing their living. They have learned to work, so as to earn money for their own maintenance. Nevertheless they continue to beg assistance from their Heavenly Father instead of assuming responsibility for their own adult actions.

Those who demand concessions of Him for their own advantage do NOT rightly love God. Indeed, any demand made on God for a selfish purpose can be a barrier against His divine compassion. To those who believe in an anthropomorphic God — a man seated on a throne of gold — begemmed with lapiz-lazuli — diamond scepter in hand—the dispenser of royal favors — the issuer of passports to heaven — I have NO message whatever.

For how could any sane person attempt to give finite qualities to the Infinite power of the Almighty? To define God is illogical. The attempt invariably proves abortive. All the sugar-coated nostrums, incense, candles, amethysts, satins, silks and beguiling invocations CAN NOT alter NOR affect the eternal attributes of God. Divine power is beyond human comprehension. That is why He—or It — has been worshipped throughout the centuries in so many different forms (estimated at 27,000 systems by the French Academy of Sciences) and probably with as many rituals as there are stars in the infinite realms of heaven. God has been made the idol of many fantastic beliefs.

However the believers in Di-

vine Wisdom, true Spiritualists or Theosophists, are not antagonistic to any religion. Believing in a common origin for all religious, ethical and philosophical ideas, they seek to purify the inner meaning of each belief and unveil the hidden wisdom. They justify and defend all religions with the aim of clarifying spiritual truths and sacred teachings. Thus is hope in man revitalized and faith in God enobled.

It is said that to err is human; to forgive, divine. Actually it is a travesty on Divine Action to insist upon using it as an instrument to rectify human blunders. Inasmuch as you are endowed at birth with free will, you are entitled to make as many mistakes as you like, or refrain from making them. God is not a policeman, holding a big stick over you. By the same token He does not reward you with a piece of candy when your behavior has been exemplary. Faults or virtues are a matter of personal conscience. Therefore, it is NOT up to God to condone your deeds, nor to forgive them.

You stand guard at the portals of your own destiny. Some call this non-transferrable instinct the human soul; some call it spirit. What is supreme about this right is its direct relationship with God, since it is the one and only medium through which you can express the essence of His power.

Therefore, when you ask God to forgive your misdemeanors,

you really appeal to Him to cancel His own errors. Could pardoning the murderer do away with the sorrow and unhappiness of the innocent victim's family? No! The results of the act remain. If one believes in the principle of justice for all, how can he accept an idea of personal redemption from sin?

If you are among the great human cavalcade who believe that God is beyond human comprehension, you are in the company of the intellectually great and the spiritually profound. This is proved in their own words.

Philosopher Newton said: *"Only God is permanently interesting. Other things we may fathom, but He outtops our thought and can neither be demonstrated nor argued down."*

Robert Herrick, a great poet, wrote: *"'Tis hard to find God, but to comprehend Him, as He is, is labor without end."*

Richard Hooker said: *"Dangerous it were for the feeble brain of man to wade far into the doings of the Most High . . . Our soundest knowledge is to know that we know Him NOT as indeed He is, neither can know Him; and our safest eloquence concerning Him is our silence, when we confess without hesitation that His glory is inexplicable, His greatness above our capacity and reach."*

Other sages voiced the same beliefs, Blavatsky, Aristotle, Plato, Huxley and Blake.

Can finite mind, ignorant of complete cosmic truth, know the relationship between the infinite and the finite, the absolute and the relative? Ignorance cannot properly analyze its own state, nor can it know the nature of knowledge. There can be upon this plane only the search—the constant striving to comprehend the spiritual truths

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which come through experience and meditation upon them.

What is the nature of God? The idea of God as a person was conceived by man in his conceit and vanity. Out of his limited experience and the material which he found in his own small brain, he gave his own image to the Almighty. God transcends the power of human comprehension. True Esotericism ignores both sexes. Its Highest Deity is as sexless as It is formless. "The Deity is boundless and infinite expansion," says the Occult axiom.

God is the all-pervading Spirit and Consciousness. He—or It—is the reality of the world. Behind the changing physical universe there is the changeless Spirit. This Spirit is beyond time, space and the law of causation, and is, indeed, pure boundless Freedom. By realizing this Divine Spirit man is released from bondage.

He senses, too, the Essence of Love. Dwelling in all things, this Divine Spirit attracts people to people or to other objects in the world. The mere physical body or dead matter does not possess the power of attraction. God is Love—in its perfection encompassing all humanity, knowing no confinements by reason of desire.

God is the Essence of Beauty. The glorious colors of Nature, the harmony of music, the fragrance of flowers—all must be included. But physical beauty (that which can be comprehended by the senses) is only a reflection in matter of the beauty of Spirit. If this mere reflection is so beautiful, how much more beautiful must be the Spirit Itself?

God is the Essence of Existence, Knowledge and Bliss. God is Existence itself. As the mirage exists in the desert or the dream in the mind of the sleeping person, so the universe exists in God. God is Knowledge itself. God is Bliss. Anger or passion are not inherent in Him. He does not punish nor reward. Humanity is responsible for its own suffering or happiness. Divine

mercy is available to all—the sinful and the virtuous alike.

The final goal of "true happiness" is reached through life experiences because of the learning which results from experience. The happiness of others—of all—must be the dominating aim. There can be no expectation of forgiveness for sins nor rewards for virtues. These are inherent in the acts themselves. Each is written indelibly in the Eternal Record as the search for comprehension and blending of Truth, Love, Beauty and Bliss continues.

The chief aim of occultism is to deliver humanity from the superstition, incantation and egotism. Believing that the price has been paid already for sins that have not yet been



Frank J. McCarthy

committed, leads people into the ways of crime. Can an individual lead a selfish life, ignoring his responsibility to the Whole and then repenting, say, "Lord, Lord, forgive; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow" and expect this request will be granted?

You must believe in virtue for its own sake instead of leaning on a theological crutch. You must comprehend that the answers have to be worked out by you. You comprehend Justice, Tolerance Fidelity—all the virtues—by practicing them. Is this not adequate reward? You know Beauty by approaching it, and Knowledge is the result of your own search for Truth!

No one denies the efficacy of prayer, but what can be ex-

pected from the parrot-repetition of "God have mercy! God have mercy!"? You are the agent who must determine your right to Divine notice. What is the nature of your error and the reason for self-recrimination? What can give you the result you desire from your prayer for forgiveness?

First, your sincerity in desiring a result is a step on the path toward the fulfillment of your prayer. This shows a desire for a change within yourself, which can be wrought through personal discipline.

Why is there a need for the prayer for forgiveness? Your free will or a karmic relationship has put you in a position where you have done a wrong. Through awareness of the wrong, your conscience hurts. This inner voice is extremely important, and you must give ear to it.

You must also realize that when you expect the Great Breath that encompasses all life to be concerned with your great or petty sin, you are endowing yourself with a right to divine attention which you have done nothing to earn. In no life—in no incarnation—and no plane—will you ever get what you have not earned.

On the other hand, you most assuredly will be given by the Lords of Karma EVERYTHING that you have earned. Therefore, if you have need of forgiveness, your prayer will avail you nought unless you show some worthiness.

Whether you suffer in this incarnation or another depends on the great design. Whether you are given rewards or punishments now or later is beyond your own control. "A thousand years is as but a day in the eyes of the Lord." The concept of "now" is but a human convenience, for use on the physical plane.

Few fail to admit the absurdity of the statement. "That which is, is not." Yet in essence that is exactly what those who profess to believe in the right of God to forgive their

(CONTINUED PAGE 11)

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What I Observe

By

R. G. Pressing

Community Upset

Since 1848, Western New York has been considered the psychic center of the universe, mainly because the first spirit rappings to attract wide attention were heard in Hydesville; and because in 1879, one of the first and largest Spiritualist camps sprang into being at Lily Dale.

Both Lily Dale and Hydesville are synonymous with the name Spiritualism and whenever anyone writes about the history of our case, both towns are included in their report.

Records show that 75% of America's outstanding mediums live within the radius of 500 miles of Buffalo. Lily Dale is 50 miles south of Buffalo and Hydesville is 110 miles north-east. Buffalo is in the north-western corner of New York State.

And now, another drama, some call psychic, has attracted attention. This time, it was a sketch of a child which appeared on the tile wall of the bath in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Keith, Lily Dale, New York. (See to right)

When it occurred the Jamestown newspapers took up the story, their headlines causing the readers to believe that it was a mystery house and that the picture was indeed a "ghost" impression. Hundreds, (See picture Page 9)

for miles around, viewed the unusual phenomena and declared it genuine but the inevitable happened — newspaper reporters with "tongue-in-

cheek" began to heckle and belittle any possibility of the manifestation having its source other than man-made.

Whilst they were all clever enough not to try to incriminate the Keiths, yet these reporters were successful, from their point of view, in debunking the whole affair. To what lengths they went is evidenced by the fact that they asserted that the child's drawing was traced from

peared after a Jamestown newspaper published a subtle condemnation of the drawing.

Mae West Again

"An ardent Spiritualist, Mae (Diamond Lil) West, invited a judge to attend a seance in her hotel suite," according to Kup's column, Chicago Sunday Times, September 21st.

The Spiritualist medium (Maude Kline whose phenomenal seances at the American Foundation for Psychic Research, Inc., attracted large groups recently) according to Kupcinet, the columnist, informed the judge about many things. And, said judge left the seance dejected but determined to learn the truth. It was a family affair but Maude Kline was proved right.

To make doubly sure that he would not be mistaken for a Spiritualist, the columnist add-

The face that appeared . . . then disappeared



. . . but they could not scour it off.

a Charmin tissue advertisement. The child used in this advertisement is not unlike the picture which appeared on the wall but they still did not explain how it got there nor why, all the while it remained, no one was able to remove it.

A curious ending closed the incident when the Keiths reported that the drawing disap-

ed a pertinent "P. S."; "This is not intended as a plug for Spiritualism (he spelled Spiritualism with a small "s") in which we do not believe but as an eyewitness at the above seance, I can vouch for the results of this one case."

Another paradox. First Kup says he doesn't believe it and then vouches for the results.

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A.S.P.R. "Admits"

For the record, the article, "The World Turned Upside Down," which recites incidents from a series of mediumistic sittings, appeared in the A.S.P.R. journal, July, 1950.

This article, written by Edmond P. Gibson, discusses the pros and cons, mostly pros, as a result of trance sittings through the mediumship of William H. Thatcher, 1046 Emerald Ave., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The four and a half page report states that the author of the article favors one of two explanations, either: "The clairvoyant hypothesis, inferring extrasensory access to existing literary sources," or "Communication from the dead."

Seasoned researchers use these phrases which when summed up could mean "spirit hypothesis." It is encouraging to know that Mr. Gibson, after his numerous sittings with medium

Thatcher, has ruled out "The normal hypothesis, which infers that the medium obtained access to this material in the course of his reading and delivered it in the course of his trance speech. (I see little justification for this theory in the light of the known facts.)" and "The retrocognition hypothesis,"—quite an admission when appearing in this staid journal.

Same Old Story

English Spiritualists still have to cope with the old Witchcraft Act which has been on the docket since the 1600's. Nothing short of an earthquake could change the minds of the "big-wigs" who hold down the legal chairs in "Old Bailey." The act stands as a thorn in the side of all English Spiritualist mediums.

In America, we have the tragic Fortune-Telling Law wherein they classify Spiritualist mediums with crystal-gazers, fortune-tellers, etc. It would

take an atomic bomb to open the closed minds of those legal impressarios who stymie all efforts to have this law changed. As long as this law exists, 99% of the newspapers in this country will never change their "copy restrictions," which means that they limit themselves when it comes to accepting Spiritualist advertising.

I have before me a rate card distributed by an important Western New York newspaper which reads: "Clairvoyants, palmistry, fortune tellers or objectionable medical or financial advertising not accepted."

Of the hundreds of newspaper men in this country, it seems that some should be able to read the dictionary because nowhere within its pages can they find anything synonymous about clairvoyance and fortune telling. It seems that newspaper men know everything about most things but nothing about psychic science.

(Continued Page 10)

The Hydesville Rappings Also Attracted Attention



They came from miles around to view a figure of a child on the tile wall of the bath. The Louis Keith home, at Lily Dale, N. Y., was the object of wonderment. The Keiths welcomed any and all who wanted to see. Photo above shows Mr. and Mrs. Keith (background) talking to Joan Byrne, N. Y. C., and Eva Bundrick, Lily Dale. Lower left, a newspaper reporter. (A Jamestown Post-Journal Staffoto.)

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Peggy Jeffs

Many Spiritualists will remember when Peggy Barnes Jeffs began her work in the field of Spiritualism over twenty-four years ago. In 1926, she first started her Spiritual work with Ethel Post-Parrish in the city of Miami, Florida.

The following year, they opened a Spiritualist church which prospered and became known as the Spiritualist Temple of Truth, located at 1621 Southwest Sixth Street.

Today Peggy is known as one of Spiritualism's outstanding lecturers and teachers. In 1928, she wrote her first book. It was not until later, after having compiled a mass of data received through the mediumship of Mrs. Post-Parrish—the principal teacher being Dr. Banks—that Mrs. Jeffs began writing her series of booklets, which have since proved invaluable to all students.

Today she is working on a series of lectures entitled "*The Story of Reincarnation*." Another book will be a series on "*Spiritual and Mental Energy*."

During the past years, one of her most popular books has been "*Telekinesis, Ectoplasm, and Materialization*." This little book has been out of print for some time, but Mrs. Jeffs expects to have it reprinted in 1951.

The titles of some of her most popular dollar books now in print are: "*The Ancient Prophets and Seers*"; "*Self-Realization*"; "*Psychic Phenomena in the Christian Bible*" and "*A Comparison of Religions*."

Also, in print are the fifty cent pamphlets: "*One Hundred Questions and Answers on the Philosophy of Spiritualism*" and "*One Hundred Questions and Answers on Spiritual Mediumship*."

Mrs. Jeffs was born in Boston, November 5, 1882. She says in her communication to me: "*You need not put this in unless you want to. I don't care because I think I am pretty spry for an old lady nearly seventy.*"

After completing a successful

summer season at Camp Silver Belle, both Peggy and Ethel Post-Parrish take up their duties at St. Petersburg, Florida, where they carry on their spiritual work at the *Institute of Universal Science* and the *Spiritual Church of the Beloved*, 2800 Central Avenue.

Only Fooling

Our London correspondent, H. Edwards, now says he did not mean what he stated in a recent letter when he tried to make me believe that ectoplasm was non-existent in Britain. Now, he says: "My statement was only meant as a joke, because it is a regular joke over here for us to say that only American mediums can produce ectoplasm. (Due to the lack of physical mediumship in England.) Some even go further and suggest (as a joke) that we ought to obtain an import license for the importation of ectoplasm."

"I did state that 'ectoplasm was non-existent over here in Britain' perhaps I ought to have said 'almost non-existent.' Believe me, it is a true statement."

Medium Praises

The mediumship of *Rev. Elsie Fishburn Hicks*, who conducts a psychic center at Ormond Beach, Florida, was described in a recent letter. This letter, written by Richard L. Simonsen, 5207 Berceau Ave., Chicago 41, Illinois, states: "Mrs. Hicks has more developed phases of mediumship than any medium I have known. She has trumpet, including trumpet-in-the-light where five or six persons can put as many

trumpets to her solar plexus and carry on as many independent conversations. I have seen infra-red photographs of her materializations and believe that they are the best now being given. She also has apport, slate writing, etc."

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We yearn for contact with the highest of the high. We thank thee for the many blessings already received. We ask Thee that Thou will bless us and our instrument, as we partake of this communion, with such messages as we are qualified to receive, and messages that will send us forth refreshed and eager to serve Thee by serving others.

We ask this in Jesus' name, the one who taught us to pray, saying: "Our Father who are in Heaven, etc."

Submitted by Edward C. Wood,
118 West Coulter Street, Germantown,
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Foundation with a Purpose . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

be interested in making it possible for them to witness anything.

This is the lesson every single psychic researcher in the world has to learn—if they don't, then psychic research, as conducted by scientists, will either crystallize or blow up in their very faces.

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Has God The Right? . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

sins are saying. They may word it, "Make my error as if it had never been." It amounts to the same thing. Time does not exist except where consciousness exists.

What you can do by way of prayer is to show that you sincerely want to be forgiven for actions for which you are now conscious, and which you realize to have been wrong. This entails self-analysis through the purpose of your present incarnation, and seek enlightenment about your own nature in relation to the Whole.

When you pray, pray with a purpose. Seek the meaning of what you ask. Seek it in such a way of self-questioning that you understand your prayer fully before you ask the Almighty to understand it. Before you voice your prayer stop to meditate. By this means can useless supplication be avoided.

Study every word with which you intend to bombard Rama or Krishna or God. When you know the real meaning of the

forgiveness for which you are asking, then you will want to change yourself so that your nature will transcend the desire for erroneous actions.

Prepare for a better life now, and for all the lives you have to live in the eons to come. As your spiritual, moral and intellectual nature develops, you will become more and more conscious of the purpose of human life, and more and more eager to accomplish that purpose in your own person. Then you will arrive at that stage when you are ready to "enter the stream" which cuts you off from the life of separateness.

This action of preparation is the only manifestation that should come to the attention of God. It is the only manifestation that can please Him. When He is pleased, you need no longer ask God to forgive you . . . It is then that you can petition Him to bless you instead of to forgive you.

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Nice of Them

In the religious news column of the "Davenport, Iowa, Democrat," there was included this paragraph: "Persons wishing to keep informed on Spiritualist and psychic news may obtain data from the *Psychic Observer*, 10 E. Fourth Street, Jamestown, N. Y."

This is the first time we have ever been noticed in this manner and I am wondering who gave the information. The clipping was sent by Isobel Brand, 1918 Harrison Street, Davenport.

Rising Cost

For months, newspapers in general and Spiritualist journals in particular have had to pay increased costs for publishing without passing on the increase to their readers.

It is no secret that Spiritualist journals today cost more to print than they can be sold for. No one in business, except possibly the Spiritualists, would attempt to publish a paper at a loss but this has been going on quite some time and there is no chance to prevent it. At the moment, it appears that a price raise is inevitable but it is a question whether or not Spiritualists will pay over 15c for a journal, whether it be *Psychic Observer* or any other.

A Chicago Associated Press release states that the cost will continue to rise and goes on to say: "Newspapers have a sales tool in their advertising space so valuable to American business that it cannot be ignored. It is not being ignored. We should price it accordingly, with apologies to none.

"Newspapers as a whole are earning less each year despite an annual increasing volume of gross revenue. Several great newspapers have closed their doors within the current year. Sixteen mergers of competing newspapers or printing plants have taken place so far this year for economy reasons, and many more are in the offing.

"The standard reason given for the attrition has been 'costs rising faster than revenue' . . . What is the deeper cause? . . .

The answer is whether we have met the problem presented with proper pricing technique."

The situation can be met only in two ways: Raise of advertising rates or a raise in the price of the paper. Either raise one or the other or both and that is the decision the editors of *Psychic Observer* will have to make before the year 1951. No one can pay 12c for a product and sell it for 11c! and that doesn't include overhead or postage.

Popular Broadcasts

When Etta Bledsoe's voice was heard over the microphone over ten years ago, a precedent was set. On this occasion, through the direct-voice mediumship of James Laughton who sat in a *cabinet seance room* on the stage, thousands heard for the first time spirit communications from the spirit world.

In the October 10th 1950 edition of *Psychic Observer*, Mrs. Bledsoe spoke for the tenth consecutive year and what she said is now history.

Many camps throughout the country have inaugurated this idea—other voice mediums subjecting themselves to the same conditions. Just recently, a letter was received from Miss M. Cavanaugh who resides at the Plaza Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is president of the White Cross Spiritualist Camp, 910 Bayard Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota and reports that a broadcast of spirit messages took place at her camp during the months of August last.

The medium, Clara Gathany,

was featured in this demonstration. A "Cabin-in-the-Grove" served as a seance room and the microphone was connected with a loud speaker. The picture on this page shows the group listening to a direct-voice communication made possible through Mrs. Gathany's trumpet mediumship.

Signed testimonials of those attesting to the authenticity of



Clara Gathany

this spirit broadcast are on file at the *Psychic Observer* office. These testimonials bear the signatures: Rev. Emma Roney-Rohlfing, Phyllis Mitchell, Rev. Fred Mitchell and Rev. Pearl B. Ashbrook. They are properly notarized and dated August 16th, last. According to the affidavits, spirit communications were received from Dr. Charles Crask, the medium's spirit control, Dr. Robert Ryan and Dr. J. C. F. Grumbine.

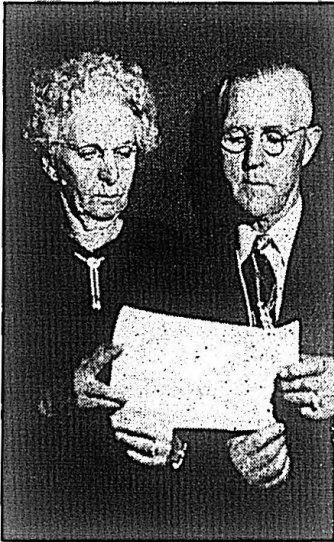


Spiritualists assembled in the grove at White Cross Camp listen to a broadcast . . . a spirit speaking through the mediumship of Clara Gathany from the "cabin seance-room"—see right background in photograph above.

Streator, Illinois

Charter presentation services were conducted by Rev. Robert G. Chaney recently. The occasion marked the opening of the First Spiritualist Church, Hickory and Bloomington Street, in the town of

"The Gustins"



... looking over their Spiritualist Church charter, recently presented by Rev. Robert G. Chaney.

Streator, Illinois. The charter was presented to Roy and Nora Gustin. (See picture this page.)

Rev. Chaney also presented Missionary Certificates to F. L. Gustin and Nora M. Gustin which declared them qualified healers and mental mediums. Regular services will continue throughout the fall and winter months every Sunday at 7:30 p. m.

A Tribute

Harriet Hindley, 62 Booth Avenue, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, pays tribute to the late Rev. Percy H. Timms who passed away July 9th last. Mrs. Hindley, who conducted the funeral services, says: "He was a gifted medium, possessing unusual phenomena of inspirational painting on plates. He was a simple, kindly soul, and possessed a great sense of humor."

Rev. Timms is survived by his wife Sylvia, 93 Chandler Avenue, Pawtucket.

Hanford, California

During the month of September, a series of materialization seances were sponsored by Rev. Janet Stine Wolford, president and pastor of the

Church of Revelation, Hanford, California. The medium, through whom these successful manifestations were made possible, was Rev. Bertie Lilly Candler, Miami, Florida.

A lengthy report by Rev. Wolford cites the evidence substantiated in detail by over 40 persons. Two services also were held in the Long Beach Masonic Temple while Rev. Candler was serving her church.

Rev. Wolford also holds services in Baker Hall, 1835 American Avenue, Long Beach. In subsequent issues of *Psychic Observer*, a complete report of similar materialization seances held at the American Foundation for Psychic Research will be published. Accompanying these reports, there will be printed photographs of levitation, also materialized forms.

Los Angeles, California

The fall and winter services conducted by the Spiritualist Center of California, known as the *Spiritual Fellowship Group, Inc.*, are attracting splendid attendance according to Rev. Jane M. Sipes, pastor. Services are being held at 943 S. Hoover Street, every Sunday and Wednesday—afternoon and evening—according to President, Raymond J. Bemrose.

Los Angeles, California

According to Rev. Lowell M. Chambers, a new church chartered by the Universal Church of the Master, opened recently at 142 West



Rev. Sylvia Allinger

85th Street, Los Angeles, California. This church will be known as Sylvia's Spiritual Center, named in honor of the pastor, the Rev. Sylvia Evelyn Allinger. (See picture this

page.) Services are held every Thursday and Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Opal Nassar, 607 East 88th Place, Los Angeles, is secretary.

New York City

The New York Psychology Forum opened their fall season by presenting Corinne Heline, noted author and metaphysician whose illustrated lecture, "What Happens When We Die," attracted a capacity audience.

Dr. Henry George and J. Francis Small were also presented during the month of October.

For information as to November and December programs, write: Ann Koernig, 64 West 9th Street, New York 11, New York.

Buffalo, New York

The John Carlson Memorial Spiritualist Church, 95 Johnson Parkway, Buffalo, N. Y., will feature, as principal speaker Sunday afternoon and evening, November 12th, *Juliette Ewing Pressing*, editor of *Psychic Observer*, according to Rec. Edith Sandy, minister.



Mrs. Pressing is currently serving (November 5th) the Ohio Avenue Spiritualist Church, 86 E. Ohio Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, according to the minister, Rev. Ralph Whitney.

New York City

Rev. Marie Wilson, pastor of Elizabeth Memorial Spiritualist Church, 729 N. E. 71st Street, Miami, Florida, conducts spiritual work at the Park Chambers Hotel, New York City, up to and including the second week of December, after which she will reopen her Miami church where she holds regular services, January through May.

Duluth, Minnesota

A Spiritualist Episcopal Church charter was presented to Rev. Grace Olson. She was appointed pastor of this new church which will be called the First Spiritualist Episcopal church of Duluth, Minnesota. The charter was presented by Rev. Robert G. Chaney.

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St. Joseph, Missouri

Rev. Lytle K. Senabaugh has been appointed pastor of the Spiritualist Episcopal Church, 2102 Felix Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri, according to secretary, Bernice McGrew. Services began early in November. Robert Smith, Chicago, Illinois, will be co-pastor.

At the recent S.E.C. convention, Rev. Sensabaugh was re-elected missionary for District No. 3; including Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Enroute to Missouri Rev. Sensabaugh will serve churches in Ohio and Indiana. With the exception of the month of March, when he is scheduled at the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp, Cassadaga, Florida, the entire year of 1951, will be solely occupied with his duties at the St. Joseph church.

During the past summer, Rev. Sensabaugh was a featured medium at Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp, (two weeks); Freeville Spiritualist Camp (one week); and Lily Dale Assembly, Lily Dale, N. Y. the entire month of August.

El Paso, Texas

A report, dated September 27th, has just been received from G. Nelson Williams, President of the Unity Spiritual Science, Inc., Church of Prophecy and Spiritual Healing, El Paso, Texas.

His communication, addressed to "all Ministers and churches of Unity Spiritual Science Inc., for the central states" reads: "This is to advise the churches who have become members of the Mother Church of Unity Spiritual Science, Inc., that there has not been any reorganization of the above named Church Corporation, we are today and always have been a Christian Church of Ontology Divine Healing.

"Our National Church President has never resigned, or been removed from office by the legal and lawful Board of Directors of the Mother Church Corporation.

"The official officers of the Unity Spiritual Science, Inc., are: President, Dr. G. Nelson Williams; Vice-President, Dr. Frank J. Devlyn; Treasurer, Hon. Arthur Whittier Lynch; and Secretary, Dr. Henry M. McHenry.

"Our Unity organization does not maintain any National Headquarters in the State of Kansas and the Mother Church Corporation has never had a Corporation Church Charter to do business in the above State, our National Executive officers are located at 118 North Stanton Street, El Paso, Texas."

Boston, Massachusetts

After a busy summer, speaking at Pine Grove Camp, Niantic, Connecticut; Temple Heights, Northport, Maine; and Camp Etna, Maine, the Rev. Harre C. Milesi re-opened the Spiritual Haven, 30 Huntington Ave., Boston.

Rev. Milesi is a member of the National Spiritualist Association; the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts State Spiritualist Association and the General Committee in charge of arrangements for the current N.S.A. convention.

Rev. Milesi is a mental medium and healer. He conducts unfoldment classes in Boston and South Wey-



Rev. Harre C. Milesi

mouth. During the week he serves churches in Springfield, Brockton, Quincy and Worcester.

The Spiritual Haven accommodates over 200 people and has booked Rev. Betty Clayton Posschl, Buffalo, N. Y.; Rev. Louie Hill, London, England; and Rev. Maude Kline, Los Angeles, California.

Binghamton, New York

The First National Spiritualist Church of Binghamton, N. Y. was dedicated recently by the Rev. Elsie Butler Bunts. Regular services are held every Wednesday and Sunday evening at 47 Front Street in the city of Binghamton.

Brady Lake Ohio

During the month of October, services were held each Sunday at the Brady Lake Spiritualist Camp Association, Brady Lake, Ohio.

These services were conducted by Theodor C. Russell, Buffalo, N. Y. He was assisted by Rev. Della Kingsbury, president of the Brady Lake Camp.

Toronto, Canada

The 22nd annual convention of the Spiritualists National Union of Canada is currently being held Saturday and Sunday, October 21st and 22nd at the Church of Spiritual Upliftment, 73 Beresford Avenue in the city of Toronto. A general meeting will be held at the above church address Saturday beginning at one P. M. This will be followed by supper and entertainment.

Special services will be held the following day (Sunday) at the Church of Spiritual Upliftment, S. O. E. Hall; Springdale Spiritual Church, 210 St. Helen's Street; Spiritual Church of Faith, Ketchum Hall 39 Davenport Road; Society of Truth Church, 633 Markham Street; and Britten Memorial Spiritualist Church, 104 Clinton Street . . . all of Toronto.

The editors of *Psychic Observer* plan to attend the Saturday activities. Additional information will be submitted by T. David McQueen, general secretary of the S.N.U., 111 August Avenue, Toronto 13, Canada.

Washington, D. C.

After having visited the Denver convention of the Federation of Spiritualist Churches and Associations, September last, the Rev. Alice W. Tindall of Washington, D. C., continued her missionary trip for the Spiritual Science organization and journeyed to the West Coast. She returned to Chicago early in October and will take up her duties at her Washington center, 1900 "F" St., N. W., for the fall and winter months.

Seattle, Washington

Even though he retains his position as Bishop of the American Liberal Christian Church, Rev. William L. Norton devotes most of his time as executive head of the International Spiritual Science Church.

Rev. Norton owns and operates the Shangri' La Gardens near Kent, Washington. He intends to organize a school for spiritual workers and spiritual unfoldment.

Records show that he originated the Accident Prevention and Educational Bureau while acting as police officer for the Seattle Police Department. The Rev. Norton's church formerly known as the National Federation Spiritual Science Church, No. 171, 1811 Summit Avenue, Seattle, has been reorganized and is now functioning under the Spiritual Science charter according to secretary, E. Buck, 2416 W. Luke, North.

St. Louis, Missouri

The Board of Directors of the Spiritualist Episcopal Church of St. Louis submitted their schedule for fall and winter services. The pastor, *Rev. Bernice F. Bennett*; and the

—Correction
Bennett not Brock

In the last edition of *Psychic Observer*, under the photograph of Rev. Bernice Brock, the caption read: "Recently elected member to the S.E.C. Clergy." Rev. Bernice Bennett's photograph should have carried the caption. Rev. Brock is a member of the N.S.A. not the S.E.C.

assistant pastor, *Gertrude R. Hannah*, head the staff of mediums which include *Rose Palozola*, *Lucille M. Lucas* and *Rev. Ford Kinan*. Divine Healing is under the direc-



Rev. Bernice Bennett

Recently elected member of the S. E. C. Board of Clergy

tion of Dr. Cora K. Schultz, Sam Palozola, Hazel N. Robson and Rev. Reuben A. Bennett.

Church services are held at 5862 Delmar Avenue, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8:00 p. m. Divine healing and inter-communion Wednesday, 1:30 p. m.

Norfolk, Virginia

Rev. Fred Jordan, who has been confined to the Naval Hospital for the past several weeks, is now up and well again.

During Rev. Jordan's illness, two outstanding workers have carried on the services held at the Light of Truth Church of Divine Healing, 20th and Omohundro Streets, Norfolk. They are Dr. Ellaine Elmore and Rev. Julia Hullquist; the latter is from San Jose, California.

Rev. Jordan is president of the International General Assembly of Spiritualists. He is a retired Lieutenant Commander of the U. S. Navy.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Haven of Divinity Chapel, Inc., of which the Rev. Irene H. Pike is pastor, opened their fall services early in October and will continue every Sunday at 8:00 P.M. at Hotel Medford in the city of Milwaukee.

Upon Rev. Pike's return from the Denver Federation convention, Rev. Wollersheim, the assistant pastor, and other members of the Board were busy raising funds for a pulpit bible and other chapel rostrum necessities.

Rev. Pike is not only founder of the chapel but also President of the Spiritual Science Ministerial Association. She has been active in the Spiritualist field for the past 26 years.

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