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CONTENTS.

Frontispiece. Mr. J. Arthur Hill.

Editorial Notes.

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Lotte Plaatz. A Remarkable Psychometrist. Mrs. Hewat McKenzie
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BOOK REVIEWS.

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MR. J. ARTHUR HILL.

Author of "A History of Spiritualism," "New Evidences," "From Agnosticism to Belief," and several other valuable works.

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Editor - - STANLEY DE BRATH, M.I.C.E.

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CONTENTS.	PAGE
Frontispiece.	Mr. J. Arthur Hill
Editorial Notes - - - - -	1
The Present Position on Psychical Research - - - - -	2
	<i>Mr. J. Arthur Hill.</i>
The Valiantine Sittings in Berlin, May, 1929 - - - - -	11
	<i>Editor.</i>
Mme. Lotte Plaat. A Remarkable Psychometrist - - - - -	13
<i>(With portrait)</i>	<i>Mrs. Hewat McKenzie.</i>
Teleplasmic Thumb-prints - - - - -	25
<i>(Illustrated)</i>	<i>E. E. Dudley and J. Malcolm Bird</i>
A Criticism of Criticism - - - - -	66
	<i>Dr. R. Bernouilli (of Zurich)</i>
"The Curve in the Road" - - - - -	68
<i>(Transmitted)</i>	<i>"Walter Stinson."</i>

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The thumb-print materialisations that have come from America are of such importance and value that I have devoted large space to them in the present issue. Messrs. E. E. Dudley and Malcolm Bird have most courteously revised their article in the December, 1929, issue of *Psychical Research* and have sent us sixteen of the original photographs from which the present illustrations have been prepared. We acknowledge their action with gratitude, and fully appreciate the importance of their contribution.

In matter of such high import we cannot criticise the meticulous accuracy with which the reports of the séances are presented, but if readers will turn to the Revision (p. 57), and more especially to pp. 63-64, they will see that the personal aspect of these thumb-print experiments is fully considered and amounts to scientific proof of the *post-mortem* life not only of Walter Stinson, but of others also. This is a justification of the long, patient, and expensive experiments by Dr. and Mrs. Crandon, and their circle, which should meet with grateful recognition by students all over the world.

Finger-prints are now recognised in criminological science as indisputable proofs of personality, and cannot be counterfeited under the circumstances detailed by Dr. Crandon and the witnesses to the facts. Surely it is now high time that the evidence should be collated with all other testimony to survival and the plain conclusion be drawn.

THE PRESENT POSITION IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

By J. ARTHUR HILL.

Science is mainly concerned with observation, experiment, and inference—inference as to causes and processes. In geology we observe the order in which the rocks occur, and infer from what we see going on now, that erosion and other observed causes are competent to bring about the results observed. In astronomy we similarly observe, and can infer things about eclipses and the like. We cannot experiment in such sciences, except in methods of observation. We cannot alter the movements of the heavenly bodies to see what the effect on other bodies would be ; we can only observe. We cannot lay down a thick bed of rock in order to see what fossils will be preserved ; such processes take long periods of time ; we can only observe what is there to see. In such sciences as physics, chemistry, biology, and so on, we can experiment by varying the conditions. Science is an affair of observation, experiment when possible, and inference. It relies on and is guided by facts. Huxley, that great master of science of the nineteenth century, says :—

“ Sit down before fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads, or you shall learn nothing. I have only begun to learn content and peace of mind since I have resolved at all risks to do this.”

Of course, there is the difficulty of deciding what are facts. Herodotus tells of some explorers who sailed south until they saw the sun in the north at mid-day : “ I for my part do not believe them,” says the historian—excusably enough, for such a thing was outside the experience of the Greeks at home. But the report of the navigators was true. Similarly, the natives of tropical climates find it difficult or impossible to believe that water can exist in a solid form ; and I remember my own feeling of semi-incredulity when I first read the accounts of Professor Dewar’s experiments on the liquefaction of gases ; it was somewhat difficult to believe that air, for instance could exist as a liquid. A more dubious illustration is that of globular lightning. Some people say they have seen this form of electric discharge—I have heard accounts myself—but the testimony is not yet sufficient to establish the phenomenon as a fact. On the other hand, it is sufficient to prevent us from being dogmatic on the negative side. So with testimony about the discovery of pigmies or strange new animals in Central Africa or elsewhere. They are first seen by one or two or a few people, and the evidence is small. But it may increase as other explorers visit the same part of the country, and may eventually be sufficient to justify belief. We ought not to believe on small evidence, but on the other hand, we must beware of negative pre-suppositions. Lavoisier said that stones could not fall from the sky, because there are no stones in the sky. He was right in not believing without strong

evidence, but he was unwise in his dogmatic assertion that there were no stones in the sky, for it turned out that there were, and that they may fall to the earth as meteorites.

Another danger is disdain of the apparently trivial. Galvani observed that frogs' legs would twitch when touched by two metals, and the thing was so trivial that he was called the frogs' dancing-master. Yet his observation was the beginning of our knowledge of electricity. It is unwise to disbelieve narratives of unusual experiences, or to ridicule alleged facts, for they may turn out to be true and important. It is true that there has often been too much credulity, and there are few more discreditable chapters in our history than the persecution of supposed witches in the seventeenth century. Superstition is always dangerous, and excessive incredulity is to be preferred to excessive credulity. But we must try to avoid both.

As a branch of science, psychical research is very young. The S.P.R. was founded in 1882. If we reflect on how far chemistry had got, fifty years after the discovery of oxygen in 1774, or even fifty years after the formulation of the Atomic Theory by John Dalton, we shall realise that psychical research cannot be expected to have got very far yet. The subject is complicated and difficult, and in most of its departments we are barely beginning to feel comfortable about its methodology. We have to invent the technique of the inquiry, and to learn its application. I do not expect that the science will have become recognised by orthodox scientific bodies, even fifty years hence, and without such recognition it is hardly likely that great advance will be made. We want the best minds, or some of them, to take up the subject; but this will not happen to any great extent until psychical research is recognised as a real branch of science. This consideration inclines me to think that we are perhaps doing more useful work by grubbing along at telepathy and things like that, which do not too much shock the orthodox scientific man, than by arguing for spiritualistic interpretations or by having sittings for materialisation. These things may put off some minds which would at least tolerate the less startling phenomena. Science wants to link up the unknown with the known, and it is perhaps well to avoid jumps into very far countries.

The important thing about the advance in science during the last few centuries is that it has resulted in a conception of the universe that is orderly and connected. We have found that it is indeed a Universe, a unity. The spectroscope shows that the elements of earth exist also in the distant stars, and we know that all bodies of matter are linked together in some mysterious way which we indicate by the word gravitation, without understanding it. All the physical things in the universe, large and small, are in some way or ways connected and linked up; and though we do not always understand the method or process, all that we do know leads us to believe that the processes are understandable and will be understood when we have learnt more. We have a reasonable faith that the universe is orderly and understandable by our minds. It is well that this faith in orderliness and comprehensibility

should have been achieved before the serious study of psychical things began ; otherwise these strange and difficult phenomena would have produced a dismay and despair which might have utterly discouraged us ; it might have seemed hopeless to study them. But the results of physical science encourage us to believe that in this difficult domain of psychical science also, effort and patience will lead us if not into all truth, at least into some truth.

And again, the discovery that the universe is orderly and comprehensible leads us to the conclusion that if there is a Mind behind phenomena—if there is a Mind related to the whole material or physical universe as there is a Mind related to the piece of matter which I call my body, that great Mind is very like our own minds, in essence ; infinitely greater, but like them in some very fundamental way. If this were not so, the Universe would not seem orderly or comprehensible. Kepler said, when he saw this orderliness in the planetary movements, " O God, I think again Thy thoughts after Thee." Our minds are related to the universal Mind.

Well, where do we stand now, in psychical research ? What conclusions have we reached ? What can we say has been established, and whither does the inquiry tend ? What of its future ? These are large questions, perhaps not capable of answer in any final way. Moreover, every student will have his own opinion, based on his own experience which is different from the experience of all other students. But each of us is more or less influenced by the experience of others, and we gain by acquaintance with their experience and their conclusions. Consequently it is worth while to take stock from time to time and to tell each other how far we think we have got. In what follows, I limit myself to the psychical side, my experience of physical phenomena being comparatively small.

I think that all competent and experienced investigators now accept telepathy from the conscious levels of the mind. Professor Gilbert Murray's experiments are perhaps the most notable of modern instances.* I think that no open-minded reader could study that account without agreeing that there must be " something in it." These experiments constitute only a stone in the cairn of accumulated evidence. There is a large quantity of other evidence of still more striking kind, both experimental and spontaneous. Telepathy from the supraliminal may be regarded as proved. Telepathy from the subliminal is less certain, but its actuality seems probable. We know beyond question that there are subconscious levels where mental activity goes on, and there is reason to believe that this activity sometimes takes the form of telepathic radiation, so to speak. Experiment on this aspect is difficult or impossible, for we cannot experiment subconsciously. Experiment is carried out by the consciousness. Accordingly our opinion as to telepathy from the subconscious is based on side-evidence such as trance mediumship and the like. It may be regarded as probable but not proven.

* " Proceedings, S.P.R.," Vol. 34, pp. 212-336.

Now what about clairvoyance in its exact sense as the perception of distant scenes or events without the action of another mind? It is difficult to get evidence for this, though there is evidence that suggests it. In a case which I investigated some time ago, a quarry-owner had a sudden and overwhelming feeling that a certain part of the quarry was unsafe, and he telegraphed to the manager to remove the men from that part. Soon afterwards there was a fall of rock which would have caused many deaths if the men had remained at work.* Of course, there are other hypotheses, of subliminal perception of danger-signals and so on. But, on the facts, there is no reason to believe in anything of the kind; the experience seems to have been one of true clairvoyance. Anyhow we may agree that though the evidence is not overwhelming, there is sufficient evidence for true clairvoyance to make us unwilling to hold a negative opinion; we may say that it is not proven, but that the evidence is worthy of respectful consideration. The same may be said of psychometry. I for one, am sure that psychometry is a fact; that the handling of an object by some persons who possess the faculty, can enable them to tell something about its history, and often much about the person who owned it or wore it or was associated with it. I am sure of this from my own experience, but others who have not had similar experience will, of course, find it difficult to believe.

I suppose that the branch of psychical science which most people find most interesting is the part dealing with the phenomena called spiritistic; phenomena which suggest that deceased people still exist and can communicate with us. We may accordingly give special consideration to this department.

The sceptic who is usually not a sceptic at all, for the word really means an inquirer, of course settles it all by shouting "fraud." This is more or less plausible when the detested "medium" is concerned, but the sceptic perhaps forgets that a good deal of evidence comes from people who are not mediums. Veridical apparitions enter into the experience of many people who are quite sane and healthy, and the evidence in the Census of Hallucinations,† the volume called "Death-bed Visions," by Sir William Barrett, the monumental "Phantasms of the Living," and other books, is at least impressive. These cases were not sent in by mediums. They are concerned with ordinary people who had nothing to gain by telling lies. But truthfulness is not assumed by the S.P.R. There must be corroborative testimony. Anyone reading the books just mentioned will be unable afterwards to dismiss the whole thing as fraud. Such a supposition is quite absurd, so far as the spontaneous part of the evidence is concerned.

And even when it comes to mediums, it does not take a competent investigator long to exclude fraud. He needs only to introduce a few

* "Journal, S.P.R.," Vol. 16, p. 29.

† "Proceedings, S.P.R.," Vol. 10.

unknown sitters anonymously, taking verbatim shorthand notes himself, not only of what the medium says, but of what the sitter says.* A few experiments of this kind with a good medium will convince most investigators that there is something here which they do not understand; something supernormal, something to be investigated. The next reasonable supposition is telepathy from the sitter, and a good deal of work is necessary before this can be eliminated, particularly if we allow that telepathy from the sitter's subliminal as well as from his supraliminal is a reasonable hypothesis. In my own investigations of the last twenty years, I was eventually driven beyond telepathy from the sitter, even if his subliminal is accessible to the medium's supposed foraging faculty. Then we have to consider the possibility of telepathy from some distant person or persons. In some of my own investigations the persons whose minds must be assumed to be tapped, were people not known to the medium, even by name. Here telepathy begins to break down as a reasonable hypothesis. Telepathy of this supposed kind is very difficult to believe; to a perfectly unprejudiced mind it is perhaps more difficult to believe than the spiritistic interpretation. Besides, there is a further difficulty. Even if we assume that facts can be ascertained from the minds of distant people unknown to the medium, how do we account for the selection of the right facts? They indicate identity, they are characteristic of the person who claims to be communicating. If he is not there at all, who is selecting the facts? There is a case quoted by Mrs. Verrall in which a lady communicated through the non-professional medium Mrs. Thompson, giving many facts unknown to the sitter, which facts turned out to be correct. No single living mind knew them all; several people had to be consulted in order to secure verification.† Which is the more likely hypothesis; the hypothesis that the medium can ransack the minds of distant and unknown people, picking out facts characteristic of the supposed communicator, or the hypothesis that the communicator is really there? The latter seems to me, on the whole, the more likely; for, on the former hypothesis I can imagine no satisfactory answer to the question: "Who selects the facts?" Moreover, in the case just mentioned, there was a reference to something in a private note-book, an entry made not long before death, and not seen by anyone else, so far as could be ascertained; telepathy from the living being consequently eliminated. But, even apart from such evidence as this, the question of the selector, on the telepathic hypothesis, is difficult indeed. If anyone can make it seem conceivable and reasonable, I shall be ready to revise my tentative conclusions; but at present the simpler hypothesis seems preferable. The well-known cross-correspondence evidence also points away from telepathy *inter vivos*, and points towards the hypothesis of the agency of discarnate minds.

* Hodgson's work with Mrs. Piper ("Proceedings, S.P.R.," Vol. 13) is the classic example.

† Proceedings, S.P.R., Vol. 17, p. 164 and foll.

THE PRESENT POSITION IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

The spiritistic interpretation of the facts is regarded by some investigators as unscientific. I think I understand why, and I sympathise. It is probably at bottom a matter of philosophy. Do we regard minds as real things, or only as epiphenomena; phosphorescences playing round brain matter? This latter materialistic philosophy has grave difficulties, and perhaps is not now seriously held. But if we admit that minds are real, the question arises: "What justification have we for the belief?" We may say that we have first-hand acquaintance with our mind—though J. S. Mill showed the difficulties even here—but what is the justification for believing in the existence of other minds? Well, we base our belief on sense-experience. We have learnt an elaborate code of signalling, by marks on paper or by noises, and can thus communicate with each other. By hearing people talk, or by reading what they write, we become convinced that minds exist, in some way associated with those other bodies. The process is so familiar that we do not realise its complexity. But the fact is that our belief in the existence of incarnate minds is inferential, not direct. We infer it from our sense-experience. And it is similarly from sense-experience that we infer the existence of minds discarnate. The evidence is less common, but it is of the same kind. Whether it is sufficient to justify the belief, is for each of us to decide for himself. But there is no difference in kind, and if it is unscientific to believe in discarnate minds, it is unscientific to believe in incarnate ones. Mr. S. G. Soal* agrees with Dr. Schiller† that it is methodologically permissible to adopt the spiritistic hypothesis; perhaps all hypotheses are only methodologically permissible, from the point of view of science; but anyhow we can say that the evidence for the existence of other minds, whether discarnate or incarnate, is of the same order, though differing in extent. The same applies to the hypothesis of various parts of incarnate minds, and the explanation of psychic phenomena by subliminal incarnate agency is accordingly no more scientific, qualitatively, than their explanation by reference to minds not embodied in sense-perceptible matter. Of course, I agree that all dogmatism is to be avoided, and I hope that Mr. Soal will try out his own theory and will enable us to reach further knowledge thereby. We are investigators, not propagandists. Each of us must go his own way, and no doubt we shall all of us gain by comparing notes with each other.

Regarding survival and communication as justified by the facts, I am interested in further evidence as strengthening the case. But there is another important aspect. Further evidence may throw some light on the *process*. This is one of the things that we very much want. Until we know more of the process, we are dependent on unknown conditions, and have to take what comes. When we know more of the process, we shall be able more and more to supply the right conditions and therefore to get results with greater certainty. The investigation

* "Journal, S.P.R.," Vol. 25, p. 145.

† "Proceedings, S.P.R.," Vol. 17, p. 248.

will then become more scientific in the laboratory sense. Consequently in new evidence I am mainly on the look out for indications of process. And I think I am on the track of something, though the indications are up to now only slight. I sketch some of them below, in the hope that other investigators may be able to enlarge in the same direction. At a sitting on May 22nd, 1925, with my friend Mr. Aaron Wilkinson, the medium said :—

“ I am faintly conscious of some man by the door. Someone is ushering him in. An elderly man. He seemed to follow you (my sister) into the room. Not really fully awake to consciousness or bearings. Not long been passed over ; as if someone was helping him forward. Has someone died next door ? I get an impression ‘ next door ’ (pointing west). Can’t see the man, but feel his presence. Someone with him, pushing him forward. Henry. No relation. Whoever he is, he is not fully detached from his physical environment. Well there’s a woman in front of him ; shorter than him. She has reared herself up in front of him. Not as old as him, but elderly ; oval features, quite grey, been passed over longer than the man. Not sure if Brooks is not connected with this. Curious ! Feel as if I had to say ‘ Next door.’ Brooks. Some purpose in that man being brought here.”

Later, in trance, the control said : “ There’s a Henry, just wakened up ; houses above you.”

This seemed puzzling. A William Brooksbank, well known to me, had died three weeks before the sitting—on April 29th—but he had no connection with the people next door, and no one had died next door. Brooksbank’s wife had predeceased him, as said, and the descriptions made it fairly certain that William Brooksbank and his wife were intended. At later sittings the full name “ William Brooksbank ” was given. Why, then, in this first sitting was “ Brooks ” given with “ Henry,” and “ next door ? ”

I found after the first sitting that my next-door neighbour, who is in business, traded under the style of Henry Brooke and Co. But Henry Brooke died some years ago, and I did not know him. There was no reason for his appearance, and indeed, he did not appear ; for the description and the recent passing made it clear that the man seen was William Brooksbank. *But why the emergence of the “ Henry Brooks ” and “ next door ? ”

There is a story—probably mythical, for he was not musical—that Charles Darwin performed what he called “ fool-experiments ” such as playing the trombone to his plants, in order to see whether their rate of growth was influenced. Perhaps it is legitimate to evolve fool-hypotheses, as for instance.

My friend William Brooksbank becomes aware that it is possible to communicate with me ; he learns this fact from my relatives on the other side, who are in the habit of communicating when opportunity offers. Some of them knew him very well in life. He remarks that he would like to call in and see me some time. Accordingly, next time the medium is here, one or other of my relatives escorts Brooksbank here ;

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There is a story—probably mythical, for he was not musical—that Charles Darwin performed what he called “ fool-experiments ” such as playing the trombone to his plants, in order to see whether their rate of growth was influenced. Perhaps it is legitimate to evolve fool-hypotheses, as for instance.

My friend William Brooksbank becomes aware that it is possible to communicate with me ; he learns this fact from my relatives on the other side, who are in the habit of communicating when opportunity offers. Some of them knew him very well in life. He remarks that he would like to call in and see me some time. Accordingly, next time the medium is here, one or other of my relatives escorts Brooksbank here ;

he had some difficulty in getting him, for he was not in the same department, and my relative had to telephone to various parts of the supernal realms before he got him. Perhaps celestial page-boys patrolled some of the temples or music-palaces, calling out the name. Anyhow, by some means there was a little confusion, and Henry Brooke, hearing the call, mistook the name—or the page-boy had got it wrong—and said: "Yes that seems to be for me; I know Claremont, Thornton." He comes along but finds there is some mistake; it is not the right house, and he does not know me. He indicates that his interests are next door, and that his name is Henry Brooke. He observes William Brooksbank being helped forward, and is told that this is the man—the names are similar and some natural mistake has occurred if Brooke was summoned. Brooke understands, and retires. It happens to be a fact that Brooksbank lived at a house which also was west of ours; its location is correctly indicated by the trance remark: "Houses above you," for they are higher up the hill; though this was said in association with "Henry." Altogether there was almost inextricable confusion, though it was clear enough afterwards when I had time to do some disentangling, that two personalities were concerned, and that the two were the two men I have indicated. Exactly how that confusion came about, is a matter for speculation.

My hypothesis, as crudely stated above, sounds very absurd, and perhaps it is absurd. But the things happened *as if* something of the sort took place.

A rather similar case was quoted by Dr. L. P. Jacks, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, for August, 1919. In one of his sittings with a well-known English medium, there appeared a communicator named Scott. The evidence of identity was clear, and Dr. Jacks recognised him without difficulty or doubt. He was one of the people on the other side whom he would naturally have expected. But presently the communications seemed to get rather uncharacteristic, and it became obvious that another man was communicating or purporting to communicate. This other man was also named Scott, but was hardly known to Dr. Jacks, though he knew about him and had read some of his writings. There was no reason for his appearance, so far as Dr. Jacks could make out. What caused him to turn up? Or was he not turning up at all, the facts being due to some sort of crossing of telepathic wires? Anyhow, in this case as in mine, two people of the same name or a similar name came together or were mentioned together, in this peculiar way. I am sure there was some cause for this, some reason for it, but it entirely eludes me. I see no satisfactory hypothesis. I hope someone else, will, aided perhaps by other experience. As Herschell used to say, when something happens which according to accepted theories ought not to happen, we are near to a discovery.

Other curious and inexplicable experiences, of a rather different kind, have been related by Mr. Soal, for whose untiring and most careful investigations I have the greatest admiration. He has told us about a personality named John Ferguson, who gave correct information

but turned out to be fictitious.* Also about a Gordon Davis, who communicated and described his house and its contents, yet turned out to be alive and to have known nothing of the medium or indeed of this subject. Moreover, the house and its contents were described not as they existed at the time, but as they were found to exist a year later.† For this, again, there seems to be no explanation. It points in the direction of some new conception of Time, as indeed do many recorded predictions. We can form no idea of the process. We can imagine that if we could see what is happening on a distant star and could travel across space in its direction, we should see as present what to earth-inhabitants is still in the future, but this does not explain Mr. Soal's results. It merely gives us a sort of analogy which perhaps helps us to believe such records more easily, as wireless telegraphy and telephony help people to believe more easily in telepathy. It does no more than that. The effects are rather similar, but the processes are probably quite different. F. W. H. Myers used to visualise prediction-process by imagining events as occurring at the same time, but reaching us at different speeds, as when we see a flash of lightning and hear the thunder some seconds later, though really the flash and the peal occurred together. When an event is predicted a year ahead, the thing may really have happened and the prediction is clairvoyance; the event is coincident with the verification as the flash and the thunder are coincident, but one reaches us after the other. Perhaps the poets are right when they say that to some great Spirit the Past and the Future are both Present. In exceptional states a sensitive may momentarily partake of this quality of perception. But for the majority of us in our present conditions the thing is unimaginable, and we do not understand it at all. But though we can arrive at no conclusions as to these puzzling things, it is well to bear them in mind. One never knows when some new fact may turn up which will serve as the necessary link or rung leading to the sought-for explanatory theory. The universe was once a complete puzzle to man, and he has found out sequences of causation, bit by bit, until we have got to feel comparatively at home in it, and can trust the sequences; processes are reliable, when we understand the conditions. No doubt we shall go on learning, and shall understand the things that now puzzle us, later on when we know more.

* "Proceedings, S P R," Vol. 35, pp. 525-549.

† "Proceedings, S P R," Vol. 35, pp. 560-590.

THE VALIANTINE SITTINGS IN BERLIN, MAY, 1929.

By S. DE BRATH.

An acrimonious dispute has unfortunately arisen in the metapsychic press of Germany, England, France, and Italy following on Dr. Kröner's charges of fraud against Valiantine. They have been reprinted, together with Mr. Bradley's defence, in the "Revue Metapsychique," No. 6, of 1929, with an offer to settle the question of Valiantine's mediumship by séances at the Paris Institute strictly under Mr. Bradley's conditions with one single observer from the Metapsychic Institute.

But for the prolonged dispute initiated by Dr. Kröner's articles in the October, November and December issues of the *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie*, we should not devote any further space to this matter beyond the remarks already made upon it under the heading *The Difficulties of Mediumship*, p. 306, in our January issue; the rather as the whole dispute seems to us easily comprehensible.

The gist of the matter is that Mr. Bradley, who took the medium Valiantine to Berlin, regards all control superfluous in the case of Voice-mediumship, thinking that the utterances in languages unknown to the medium and personal messages whose content is known only to the hearer, are amply sufficient to prove supernormality.

He maintained this point of view previously to the visit; but this aspect of the matter does not seem to have been accepted by Dr. Kröner. It should have been distinctly accepted or refused before the sittings began. Dr. Kröner would seem not to have grasped this, but to have relied on physical control, which was not given.

Frau Kröner's report reads as follows (Mr. Bradley's translation):—

As we came into the séance room VALIANTINE ENLARGED THE CIRCLE TO DOUBLE. He showed every sitter to his place. I was seated on his left. At the wish of the MEDIUM, the hostess told us to sit up straight, not to fold hands or cross feet, or put the feet forward. . . . After this quite a number of touches were recorded of which the student D. had most. I also was touched, especially on the right side of my head. Later on my right knee was touched, and I became very frightened and shrieked out. . . . Afterwards, during the first half of the sitting, as the first voices were heard (it was the voice of the so-called Dr. Barnett, which seems to come out of the floor, but not out of the visible trumpet) I tried to feel around in the space between Valiantine and the trumpet. I SLOWLY LIFTED MY LEG TO A HEIGHT OF ABOUT ONE METRE. I knocked against some metal object which moved away elastically, just as if Valiantine was holding it in his hand.

After this all phenomena stopped until a voice out of the air was heard to say "Somebody has interrupted."

Hereupon, the MEDIUM called for a pause, *although we all assured him that we had kept our legs quiet.* (My italics.) (Séance continued.) Suddenly, a terrible thundering voice of an Indian above my head was heard. Naturally I was fairly shocked. . . .

This report of Dr. Kröner's wife is a fair summary of all the objections. Once suspicion has been aroused, as it was in this case by the

absolute darkness and the absence of any sort of control, it is natural that every circumstance should be regarded with suspicion and that the whole tone of the circle should become antagonistic, with the inevitable repercussion on the phenomena.

Dr. Kröner's report, with translations of letters that passed, occupies 85 typed pages. Mr. Dennis Bradley's replies run to 115 similar pages. He traverses or explains every point raised by Dr. Kröner. One of these is the statement of Dr. Driesch that he conversed with "Christo d'Angelo in Italian for some time." This is confirmed by Dr. Schwab, who writes, p. 51 :—

A voice, speaking in Italian, conversed quite fluently with the Princess, very loudly. I noticed—from the metallic sound of the trumpet, that there was no possibility of ventriloquism, and I also had the impression that the voice came out of the trumpet. After falling down it returned to Frau von Dirksen, who said that the trumpet stroked her on the cheek.

Mr. Bradley says (p. 32), "At this sitting the 'spirit voice' of Christo d'Angelo spoke in Italian. I can assert definitely and with knowledge that Valiantine does not speak Italian."

There are many other charges to which Mr. Bradley replies in detail, but they all resolve themselves to this—that many of the phenomena *might conceivably* have been produced by the medium himself. The whole dispute, including some very strong expressions on both sides, turn on the position of Mr. Bradley, that all proof of supernormality should be based on the content of the messages, while Dr. Kröner would have strict physical control of the medium. This latter desire was common to the whole circle, and suspicion being once aroused, the temper of the sitters is ample evidence that inharmonious conditions prevailed with corresponding inhibition of phenomena.

If absolute darkness is necessary to the direct voice, the sitters should all have been impressed with the necessity for awaiting developments without suspicion of any kind. If the mental evidence on which Mr. Bradley relies were not forthcoming, the whole séance would be inconclusive; but charges of fraud should only be made when the medium has actually been caught *in flagrante delicto*.

It is with considerable regret that we have felt bound to enter upon this controversy. These disputes are regrettable from every point of view. Tempers are exacerbated, charges are made which seem proved to those who make them, third parties take sides, and the whole investigation degenerates into wordy warfare in which the primary duty of seeking truth is lost sight of.

It is the policy of this journal to print only positive and constructive experiences by persons whose position entitles their evidence to respect; for in this way alone can the complex problems of metapsychics be usefully treated.

When, as in this case, differences arise, they can only be set at rest by such experiment as the International Metapsychic Institute proposes with the quite clear preliminary understanding what shall or shall not be held to be valid evidence.



MADAME LOTTE PLAATS.

To face page 13.

LOTTE PLAAT—A REMARKABLE PSYCHOMETRIST.

By Mrs. HEWAT MCKENZIE.

A Dutch member was the first to mention Mme. Lotte Plaat's fine work to me, and suggested a visit to the College. This was arranged and took place in the autumn of 1929, and was followed by a second this spring, at the express invitation of the Council of the College. Through these visits, many have been made acquainted with, and become highly appreciative of the psychic powers of this Continental sensitive, hitherto unknown in England, though I found that on the Continent her work was already held in esteem.

Mme. Plaat is the daughter of the Dutch Consul in Oldenberg, Germany. She is a handsome and attractive woman, of over six feet in height, very well educated, and highly intelligent; she speaks several languages fluently, and has an excellent command of English. Mme. Akkeringa, a Dutch sensitive, who visited the College some years ago, told her that she possessed a psychic gift, and sometime later, after a serious illness about three years ago, Mme. Plaat began to try psychometry, with almost immediate success, and from that time has practiced it with diligence. She has appreciated her gift and taken care of it, and has always been willing to have her work seriously examined, as instanced by a visit she paid to Berlin, in the spring of 1929, when she submitted herself to a Committee of doctors and professors. Dr. Paul Sünner, the Editor of the chief German psychical journal, considered it so well worth while that he collected the various verbatim reports of interviews with members of the Committee, and issued them in a valuable brochure which contains the most modern record of this strange psychical gift of which Professor Hans Driesch of Leipzig has not hesitated to affirm, that "The core of all psychic investigation lies without doubt in the problem of so called psychometry."

A leading article in the report is from the pen of Dr. Gustav Pagenstecher, of Mexico, who for many years studied the famous S. American psychometrist, Maria Reyes; a report of this compiled by Dr. W. Franklin Prince, of Boston, forms one of our best modern reports on psychometry.

In the Sünner report, Dr. Pagenstecher notes the following similarities between the mediumship of his former subject, Maria Reyes, and that of Lotte Plaat :—

1.—In contradiction to others, Maria Reyes and Lotte Plaat need only to *touch* an object, others seem to knead, squeeze, twist, etc., the object, or press the central point of brow or solar plexus. (In the case of some famous American experiments the sensitive held the letter behind her back.—Ed.)

2.—These two mediums do not need to move from place to place it is sufficient to give them the object.

3.—Neither of these two speak of the visions coming to them with lightning rapidity as some do. In general they emphasise the racing of visions across their soul vision as if one picture were hastening to crowd another out.

4.—They are able to *feel* the whole gamut of sensations ; they do not only *see*, they feel, feel pressure, warmth, cold, pain, anxiety, etc., while other mediums only describe their visions.

5.—To them it is not a case of a panoramic event unrolling itself to their spirit eyes, they *live* the thing intensively—Maria Reyes in particular—in dramatic fashion, suffering, feeling and even taking part as a personality. They have faintings, anxieties, palpitations, in other words, are sharers of the event, which does not seem to be the case with others.

6.—Both are victims of severe bodily ailments. Maria Reyes suffers from diabetes, gallstones, and inflammation of the stomach. Mme. Plaat suffered for long with an internal inflammation for which she had to undergo an operation after which her mediumistic faculties were first noticeable.

Of difference he notes :—

1.—Mme Plaat is normally conscious, has all her senses awake, especially memory ; Maria Reyes exercised her gift during a trance state.

2.—Mme. Plaat has the noticeable faculty of “ getting in touch ” and establishing psychic rapport often without physical contact. Before touching an object she will say : “ Among these articles is one that belonged to a departed personality,” or something equally true, proven afterwards by given details. Maria Reyes always required that an object should be placed *physically* in contact with her.

As to the methods of sensing, Mme Plaat affirms that amongst a choice of objects given for test, she always takes those to which she feels herself specially drawn, and says “ It is as if someone were speaking into my ear, not as if *I* were saying things, but as if I had to repeat what I hear.”

1.—Herr Wiedemer in the Scientific Supplement of the *Weser Times*, says : Lotte Plaat was given the letter of a young man to hold who was undergoing a sentence for some misdeed in the Oldenburg Prison Vechta. She first mentioned very marked characteristics and peculiarities. I asked “ Is the writer in the neighbourhood of Oldenburg or more distant ? ” After a moment’s thought the medium said suddenly “ Yes, it seems as if I were in prison, I see iron bars.” I ask, “ How is he ? ” “ He is bowed and depressed, his head sunk in his hands. But there is someone who has a good influence on him and works on his better nature.” These details were subsequently proven. The helpful friend was the pastor. The deed for which the young man was imprisoned was also correctly described by Mme. Plaat.

2.—The following was particularly accurate. Mme. Plaat was given

a letter by a Herr H—. She said " You are much connected with this : I hear foreign languages. I hear singing in Italian, I read Italian, I feel something lively. But the eyes are melancholy ; Why must I speak so clearly ! There is something singing in the whole character. I get a nervous sensation, I do not feel well, cannot eat, I am ill, but now am better. . . . I am tired, slack, without will because not well. I hear constant piano playing, I want to play myself. I see slender hands."

Herr H. replied, " The most important thing is missing." Lotte Plaat continues, " Again this foreign language. Something dreadful has happened. I hear screaming."

Herr H. " Can you tell me anything of her calling and personal gifts ? "

L. Plaat. " She is musical, but that is not the main thing. She talks a lot. It must be something to do with talking and movement. I am struck with the voice. I must speak softly. She is dead. Why must I make certain movements, gestures ? She is supple, willowy. My whole body must bend. She is young ; I want to dance on my toes. My thumbs hurt me, the right one chiefly. (Medium makes characteristic movements in the air). It is not drawing. I have something in my hand, it is like kneading, modelling, sculpting."

Herr H. explained that the letter was from a young lady well known to him, who died at twenty. She was an artist, modeller and sculptress. A very gifted woman travelled much, spoke French, English, Spanish, but most beautiful Italian. The physical description was most accurate. She died of double pneumonia.

Mme. Plaat's psychometry is not limited to the immediate present. On one occasion she was given a small piece of marble, and took the history back to pre-Christian times, describing Roman soldiers, horses in chariots, hoof beats, women carrying water jugs on the head, processions, temples, ceremonies. The piece of marble had been picked up in Carthage 20 years previously.

Dr. Sünner says, " When we finished our experiments with Mme. Plaat we found that in thirty-eight experiments twenty-eight were very good, five were wrong, and five gave mixed results.

On one occasion a silver match box was put in front of her, at once she had the impression of being in the war, saw flames, and smoke, heard shouting and an explosion, crying, and sensed smells and a sharp air. She added that the box had been in a small room when she saw fire, and that she heard a noise of ticking as if something was going to explode. She claimed that her eyes hurt her as if she was burned, and she rubbed her hand over her right cheek, and complained of pain in her back.

Dr. J., to whom it belonged, stated that he got this case in 1915 in France, on the Somme. He had lain for days in an underground hole under non-stopping grenade fire, suddenly a grenade came into the hole, touched him on his right cheek and wounded him, and mortally wounded an officer near. Dr. J. gave the dying man an injection of

morphia in his back, and with a last movement he took the case from his pocket and gave it to Dr. J.

Mme. Plaat not only heard the grenade, the shouting, the explosion, but saw the flames, the small room, and smelt the sharp air of gas, got the wounding on the cheek and the pain of the injection in the back.

* * * * *

One evening, a Dr. R. extremely anxious about a brother who had been absent from home for some time, gave Mme. Plaat an old letter from his brother to psychometrize. She at once said "Suicide." "Impossible" said the inquirer. "I see Berlin," said Mme. Plaat, "and a man putting a revolver against his forehead." Then she saw two men with this man. Dr. R. still said the whole story was impossible. Almost as he spoke, the telephone bell rang with a message from a Berlin Hospital, saying that his brother had just been brought there after trying to kill himself, and was between life and death.

* * * * *

A series of experiments dealing with metals and medicines was carried out with Mme. Plaat by Dr. Dietz of the Hague, and Dr. Tenhaeff of Utrecht, in January and July, 1929, and is reported in "Spiritische Bladen," a Dutch journal, in October, 1929.

Dr. Tenhaeff got the metals from Dr. Schwabe of Leipzig, in small bottles, everything looked like distilled water, without colour, and without smell, and all bottles were numbered so that afterwards Dr. Tenhaeff could compare on a list which metal Mme. Plaat had held and described. He had never looked at the list before he gave Mme. Plaat the sample in her hand, so that neither knew what it was, and telepathy was impossible. Alternating with the metals he gave her medicines, also in bottles, and prepared in the same way.

FOUR SEPARATE TESTS OF SOLUTION OF A METAL CALLED QUICK.

January 21st.—Mme. Plaat. "I get an impression as if I see everything in flames. I am hot all down my back. I can't breathe, just as if I am inhaling fumes of coal or another poisonous gas. It is horrible."

January 23rd.—"I see a great blue light. I get a taste of metal. It is just as if fumes of coals are getting on my lungs."

January 24th.—"I can't swallow, I can't breathe, it is all fumes of coal and gas."

July 4th.—"I see silver-grey, *quick*, grey. I have the feeling of being poisoned. It is a metal with violent yellow-blue colour. It is a terrible poison, it is *quick*."

July 7th.—Exactly the same said again.

NOTE.—"Quick" is extracted from cinnabar. (HgS) This stuff is baked in furnaces with the object of oxidising the sulphur to set the quicksilver free. When Mme. Plaat said she saw flames, and also when she got the feeling of suffocation, she sensed this process. She gave on one occasion the name of the metal right. Quicksilver is

not poisonous unless its vapour is inhaled, except as bi-chloride. The colour of the metal is silver-grey.

SIX SEPARATE EXPERIMENTS WITH SOLUTION OF GOLD.

January 21st.—" My whole body is itching. I have a feeling as if I am burnt over all my body. What has water to do with this ? "

January 23rd.—" Water, dust particles, water of a river, I have to shut my eyes, I am awfully hot, itching, burning."

January 24th.—" I am very hot, pain in my eyes, burning, itching."

July 4th.—" That is a metal, I don't smell or taste anything. One finds it in small pieces as fine as dust. Now it is irritating me, it is gold."

July 5th and 6th.—The same was repeated.

NOTE.—Gold in the Transvaal and also in California, is washed out of the rivers. If gold is taken, "Hyperæmia" (in the eyes) is the result, and a feeling of itching.

FOUR EXPERIMENTS WITH SOLUTION OF QUININE.

January 21st.—" White, mountains, bitter as gall."

January 24th.—" White and bitter."

July 3rd and 7th.—" A bitter taste in my mouth. I can't swallow. I don't like it at all. It is white and bitter. I get a pain in my stomach, ears are buzzing, it comes from a plant. This plant is growing against mountains. The plant is not white. It grows in a hot wet climate. When the stuff is made it is white and as bitter as gall."

On the 7th, the medium said at once " it is quinine," and the rest was repeated.

NOTE.—The quinine tree is grown in the tropics and the leaves are green. Quinine has a bitter taste, and one gets ear buzzing and all the other symptoms mentioned.

These experiments remind me of those made by Dr. and Mrs. Denton, of U.S.A., many years ago, and reported in "The Soul of Things," which can be found in the College Library.

Mme. Plaat is particularly sensitive to any illness associated with an article, and feels as if she herself were experiencing it in every detail. Even in the street she has noticed in people near her suffering, and even wounds and scars that they bear, and has been able to verify in some cases that she was correct. She reads character accurately and often foretells the future and above all, she has been the means of providing real comfort in sorrow to many by predicting a happy ending of illness and trouble, which has come to pass.

Recently Mme. Plaat had had the honour of an invitation to be present at the International Congress of Scientific Psychical Research to be held at Athens in April, as a demonstrating sensitive, but she has not yet decided on this step. Dr. Tanagras, of Athens, who is organising the Congress at the home end, speaks of her work and publishes her photograph in a recent issue of the Journal of the Hellenic S.P.R.

Recently, too, Mme. Plaat was asked to assist in psychometrising

some articles pertaining to the victims of the Dusseldorf criminal, and the results were submitted to the Criminal Investigation Department of that city. On various occasions previously her advice has been sought in criminal cases, with success, but details cannot be published.

SOME INSTANCES OF RESULTS AT THE COLLEGE.

It would be quite impossible to give a record of all the work accomplished by Mme. Plaat at the College, with individuals, and in groups, but the following, which I am kindly allowed to use by experimenters, are of interest. Very often the psychometry obtained from handling an article is followed by her with pure clairvoyance dealing with the life of the sitter and often pertains to deceased friends who seem to be present in reality to the sensitive. I think Mme. Plaat's gift is capable of much further development with legitimate exercise.

Case 1.—This related to certain complicated and inexplicable conditions of a business which had puzzled sitters over a long period. Mme Plaat was handed two letters from different individuals concerned, and at once seized upon the characteristics and motives of the personalities involved, as well as the nature of the transactions. With great distaste she kept dropping the letters and begged that they should be taken from her as she could not stand the villainy that lay below the seeming suavity and charm. She sensed with great definition the conjoined efforts to exploit destructively work accomplished by others. A letter written at a much later date, and given to her separately for a reading, was at once recognised by her as dealing with the same group of circumstances. She continued pointing to one of the group of sitters, "I see a picture: *you* are the one they wished to destroy. It is as if they had you by the throat, squeezing the life out of you, but not a word could you get out of them. Oh, no, the mouth would be shut tight even if you asked them for explanations."

That this was not merely symbolical, but literally the fact, is the report of the sitter concerned.

Case 2.—A small stone, in size, $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, similar in appearance to hundreds to be seen in the gravel on London streets, taken by the sitter a few months previously from the cement in the inside of the Roman Wall in the Open Air Theatre, at Taormina in Sicily which is said to date back to 300 B.C., was given to the medium.

MME. PLAAT.—First I get the place where the stone comes from. I have a very salty taste in my mouth, not at all nice. It smells as the sea water sometimes smells, a nasty smell. I see a beautiful blue sky, not in England, not Holland, much further. It is warm there. Not India, not so far as that. It seems to me nearer France, a country where the climate is like that of France, but it is further away. Wonderful air and beautiful flowers; water so lovely, blue, everything deep blue. The people have most lovely dark eyes, so beautiful, the girls have beautiful dresses, and round their shoulders a shawl with a long fringe. Black skirts and much red and warm colours and black hair, but others

come between them with fair hair, more gold in it, the men also have black hair and the colour is yellow. The houses are pretty and high up, and the gardens are hanging, and there seem to be many people sitting about there painting. (Here by gesture the medium gave a graphic description of the way the road winds up the mountain and gives the impression of the gardens of the higher houses hanging over the houses lower on the mountain side. This continues right up the mountain to the Theatre on the summit.)

MME. PLAAT.—The sand is white like it is in Shanklin, where there are no nasty stones under your feet. It burns. I do not get anything personal with this stone. The people have a language I cannot speak. I have never been there, but I see an unusual thing. Absolutely beautiful people, and the poorest in the world, most picturesque, poor people, and very elegant. I see lots of ships and boats and small fishing boats, everything like a beautiful picture. (The whole condition described was relevant and as correct as if she had been on the spot.)

Case 3.—*A small fragment of rock* was handed to the psychometrist, and the sitter notes :—

“ Had Mme. Plaat been acquainted with the history or paid a visit to the site of where once stood the flourishing city of Salamis, conspicuous for its Temple of the Salaminian Jupiter, she could not have given a better description. With the mannerism of a geologist she weighed the small fragment of rock, carelessly picked up by myself on the site of the once great commercial city ; to-day a heap of ruins with its marble columns as they fell in the second century A.D. After carefully describing the general features of the country, the position of the town in relation to the sea, she traced a map on the wall, with her finger, made reference to wars, and with an exclamation of ‘ Oh ! ’ her face changed to one gazing upon a scene of horror. She described the terrible earthquake that laid the whole city and its busy harbour in a heap of ruins in a night, and concluded by saying ‘ Terrible, terrible, the houses are all down, the people are all dead.’ Pleased with the excellent description I replied ‘ Splendid.’ Holding her hand upon her breast she remarked as she put the stone on the table, ‘ Yes, but not for me.’ Mme. Plaat might have given many other impressions of a stone picked up at Salamis, but the shock of the earthquake was to her sensitivity as real as if she had actually been an eye-witness and in its magnitude may have obscured other aspects.”

Case 4.—*Psychometry of a Gold Ring.*

The sitter says, “ I had not met Mme. Plaat before, and I am satisfied she knew nothing of me. I gave her a gold ring, and on receiving this, she at once gave an accurate and detailed description of a deceased friend of mine who had given me the ring. She also correctly described the symptoms of her last illness. She gave various facts about my own life, and demonstrated with her hands my unusual occupation. She suddenly put her hands to her eyes and complained of severe pain especially in the right eye, giving date of 1925. She spoke of squint,

blackness, distortion and finally a mist with eyes moving in opposite directions. Spoke of a mist before eyes which affected me occasionally at present moment. She spoke as if she saw my dead friend standing behind my chair. My occupation is aviation. She took an imaginary "joy-stick" between her hands and gave the correct movements of control. This is more interesting than it sounds, as I do not think anyone but a pilot could imitate those movements correctly in such detail.

In 1925 I underwent an operation for a squint. Both eyes and especially right were very painful where adjustment was made. Everything was temporarily distorted and misty, and I occasionally suffer from the latter condition now.

The medium did not know me nor anything of my operation, but it may be asked "Could she read it from my eyes?" I have asked many people, experts and others, both since and before the sitting, and everyone agrees that there is no trace of either squint or operation to be seen in my eyes.

A number of interesting groups have been held at the College with Mme. Plaat, under the superintendence of Mrs. Champion de Crespigny, the Chairman of the Council. These were composed of persons quite unknown to Mme. Plaat, and were not introduced to her. The following notes show some results in one such group held on October 24th.

1.—A stone was put in her hand.

MME. PLAAT.—"This is not from England. Something horrible happened. I feel hot, hot, people were killed, awful noise. I see men; I get people. Horrible shouts—blowing up."

(Comment by sitter: This is correct, the stone was blown up out of pavement at Zeebrugge.)

2.—An envelope was given which contained spots of a patient's blood.

MME. PLAAT.—I get a feeling of death. I want air. Very weak. She won't give in, *will not die*. Nervous, but did control her nerves. Intelligent woman. Has clever observant eyes, soft mouth. I get pain in right side. I don't see it good. She will give up blood—death."

(The doctor who gave this said it was a correct description, the patient suffered from cancer of the right breast and the case was hopeless.)

3.—A worked pocket-case was given by the sitter.

MME. PLAAT.—"This belonged to someone who is dead. It must have been made by a woman who is dead. There are influences of others here also, as well as your own. I see a photograph of a group, and the woman is one of them. I get a nice quiet charming feeling with this woman. Later I sense a very depressed condition, very sad, many tears, a life full of trouble, but she had power to fight against it. I sense a nervous breakdown, as if she had to let go. A heart condition, I want air, I feel dizzy, as if all the blood is going out of my brain. Medium

places hand on chest and says she does not feel well at all; doesn't want to eat, great nausea, almost seasick. (Medium had a bad bout of seasickness recently and may use this analogy.) I am warm and cold—shivering—my forehead hurts. Pain is going towards left side, medium indicates a patch on left, and also feels pain across back. Senses a funny taste in mouth and a gripping sensation like cramp. Pains in legs, in left more than right, stabbing pain in back, as if in chest and back together, arms are sore, left more than right. Still the dizzy feeling, breast, back and heart all weak. I see her very ill, weak." (Medium drops her head on one side to indicate a condition of passing.)

Description of lady.—"Very quick brain, when she met anyone she summed them up quickly. Her eyes, not brown, but a dark grey-blue, looking seriously at one. Eyes rather deep set. Nose not prominent, mouth finely built, good teeth, chin rather round. Depressions in temples. Not very tall. A musical voice, almost a laugh."

"Now I get many books round me, and some pain in lumbar region, another influence, I think, perhaps your own," (to sitter).

The sitter, a well-known scientific man, allows me to give his comments on the reading.

"The pocket book was made for me and given to me by a beautiful young artist to whom in my youth I was engaged. About two years after she died, and after her death I collected some mementoes of her and put them in the pocket-book and hardly ever looked at them again, as the associations were painful. I was in a very sceptical mood when I came to Mme. Plaat, and chose this pocket-book because I thought there was nothing in it to make the medium guess at its origin by 'fishing' questions, as I thought she might do. I removed the contents before coming to the College, amongst them were letters from her, and a snapshot showing the artist and a group of three friends, a lock of hair cut after her death, a ring, and a long letter from her father describing her last illness and death. The case also contained something belonging to another friend, and a lock of my wife's hair. The reading seemed to gather exclusively round my artist friend.

When we got home after the sitting my wife and I replaced the articles in the case and she re-read to me the father's letter, the details of which I had forgotten. They were a startling confirmation of Mme. Plaat's impressions. The pain in the left side, and a day or so before her death, pain and nausea in the stomach, culminating in vomiting and failure of strength. From another letter from her mother, not in the case, we were told how the dying girl, propped up in bed, breathed heavily for a few minutes and then her head fell on one side, as Mme. Plaat indicated. She had a very hard life and carried on through many troubles. The personal description was in the main, correct.

"I think the majority of what I may call the 'memories' must have been inherent in the lock of the artist's hair, possibly also in the father's letter. Obviously none of them inhered in the pocket-book which was given me so long ago, or in the letters and ring given me while she was still well. Though there was nothing in the sitting

to suggest the presence of dead people, I got from it a vivid and abiding impression of the reality of the supernormal. *No possible physical explanation can be adduced to explain the inherence of memories and emotions and suffering in a lock of hair thirty-five years after the owners' death.*"

4.—An old green copper coin with a hole was handed to medium.

MME. PLAAT.—“Such a lot of people about me. I am under the open sky in the country in England. I do not like the feeling I get, I have to crouch down and stay like that, almost to lie down on the ground, something very noisy going on overhead. Everyone seems to be running. A funny noise in my ears, a sudden death, not in bed. I see a man very straight and tall, such a noise, sudden death. Place is hilly, not many trees, near water.”

Sitter said the coin was picked up in a crypt under a house said to be on the site of an old Benedictine Monastery in England, where skeleton of a man was found some years ago. Description of locality of house is approximately correct. There is water near. She writes to me since, “My father told me the skeleton had a dent or hole in the skull which would confirm Mme. Plaats’ reading; it was conjectured he was a monk, and I had never associated the coin dated 1817, with the skeleton.

5.—A small dark object handed to medium. She was asked not to look at it. Light was too dim for her to see colour.

MME. PLAAT.—“You received this from a man not alive. It is not from England. It is a piece of something else, was found in the ground. Given you for luck. Is it green?” (It was *very* dark green). “There have been gold markings on it and what it was connected with was richly ornamented. I get a religious atmosphere with it. I see three persons, one man, very old and straight, yellowish face, religious atmosphere connected with him.”

The sitter confirmed that the article, worn as a trinket, had been given her for luck, but by a woman now dead. A well-known Egyptologist to whom it had been shown, said it was probably out of an Egyptian tomb, probably 3,000 years old, and this may account for medium’s seeing it with other things. There had been gold lettering on it, now worn off, but faintly visible under a magnifying glass.

6.—A three-cornered piece of leaded, dull-coloured stained glass.

MME. PLAAT.—“Persons belonging to this are all dead. I sense a long way back. A smallish dark people, several languages spoken.” (Medium draws a peninsula running horizontally south-west, with small islands to south, and Eastward coast-line with southerly direction.)

“Now I get the person who gave it to you, a man, quick and nervous. I see flames, fire and smoke. I can’t breathe. Everything is upset, feeling of fainting and falling down. I hear an explosion and there are choking fumes. A religious atmosphere, and a quiet restful feeling as if I prayed. I must lie on the ground and stretch out my hands.”

NOTE BY SITTER.—The glass was picked up in the street in Bapaume after *bombardment* and destruction of *Cathedral* and was evidently a portion of a stained glass window of this. It was given to sitter by

her son ; so the circumstances described are remarkably correct. Sitter conjectures whether the drawing, remarkably like Cornwall, and the mention of " the small dark people " could be related by the lead binding the glass, which it is not improbable may have been mined in Cornwall.

7.—A Small dark round wooden box.

MME. PLAAT.—" I get a very sad impression. Given you by a man now gone. He was quiet, would think before he spoke, rather nervous feeling with him. Always travelling, a restless life. I hear a foreign language. It was made by a man too.

Now I get a shock, as if someone screamed. I get a feeling of water all about. I am dizzy and fall down. Did your husband give you this ? I hear ' husband.' I get this shock connected with a country far away. I get a ship. The man who made it is dead too."

NOTE BY SITTER.—The box was made from the beam of a well-known frigate in which sitter's husband, deceased, had sailed, and was made by him and given to her. The Duke of Edinburgh was shot on shore in Australia, while in command of this frigate, the " Galatea." The Duke was a favourite, and the affair was a very great shock and annoyance to everyone on board. Sitter's husband was a sub-lieutenant on frigate. It will be noted that the medium did not speak of the shock as an explosion, but as if it was something personal, the scream, the fainting and fall. (But these conditions cannot now be verified.)

7.—A packet of letters.

MME. PLAAT.—" These are written by a man not in life. Death rather sudden. Pains in head, right side. He is very good-natured. Kindly look in eyes. Good sense of humour. Has travelled much. I hear French talked." (SITTER.—" It is a language somewhat like French.")

MME. PLAAT.—" Very interested in art of foreign countries, would go to old buildings, there is an artist streak in him. He would always think the best of people. He had many friends, no enemies. Did he live in England in the country ? Many people round him in other countries. He was over them. If he just looked at them they would fly to do his bidding. There lay his strength. He had coloured men under his thumb. I see them working in fields, it looks like high coarse grass. He was ill with fever there." (Medium described terrible pains in abdomen and head and a sensation of falling over on left side.)

" Now I think I see him. He is very broad, with big chest. Now he turns his back on me, and I see the *great breadth of his shoulders*. I get a very horrible feeling. Paralysis of the left arm. Patch on right side of head painful. I can see it. I get nose bleeding and get pain right round body."

THE SITTER COMMENTS.—Mme. Plaat's reading was correct in many details. The writer of the letters died of blackwater fever, a very horrible thing, and the symptoms were wonderfully given. Mme. Plaat described my friend's face as round. I disagreed, but on looking at a photograph I see she was more correct than myself, so

this does not seem to be thought-reading. It was a habit of my friend in conversation to turn his back on one, and the *enormous breadth* described by her was then most noticeable."

(*Note by Editor.*—For my own interview with Mme. Plaat I prepared three objects. First, a dagger of peculiar shape, given me as over 300 years old, was in the possession of a Moslem lady of family and was given to me by her. Second: an inscribed stele from Babylonia, a grant bestowed upon Gula, in the year of the accession of Su Siu the king; also, on reverse side, a grant bestowed on Ishtar of Hallabu. The names are presumed to be Sumerian or Akkadian. Third, a kettle holder worked by a bedridden patient. Each of these was wrapped in paper so as to be unrecognisable by touch. Medium said:—

1.—"Many people, a war around. Much blood. Several men had this. First a dark, yes, dark man, haughty, a rajah (medium salaamed) in a palace beautiful arabesques, a fountain in the middle. A man of power, and indifferent to life. The man to whom it was given was poisoned. A Moslem." (These words are *verbatim*, but repetitions are omitted.)

2.—"Older than the last object. 600 B.C. Has come from a tomb. Has to do with a woman, is a story of her life. Must have been a high person. The country is far far away; not Egypt, before the Romans, Babylonian. It has a religious feeling about it."

3.—First remark, "She was not alive"; then, "Someone dying, so ill, not much life, you may find her dead. Eyes are beautiful. When healthy was quick and had much will-power, never downcast. Very brave and bright." (Correct in all but first remark.)

Medium then gave me a description of my unseen friend who had not been mentioned at all, very accurate, including a special locket and miniature which she used to wear. Scent of violets, which she used to use. The message was highly characteristic, and dealt with the private circumstances of my own life.)

STANLEY DE BRATH.

Enough has been said to show that in Mme. Plaat we have a sensitive of no mean order, and the College is privileged to have had her services. She is easy to work with, and takes pains with her readings. I hope we shall hear of her valuable work being tested at various centres, and welcome her again at the College.



FIG. 1.

One of Walter's thumb-prints. March 21st, 1927.

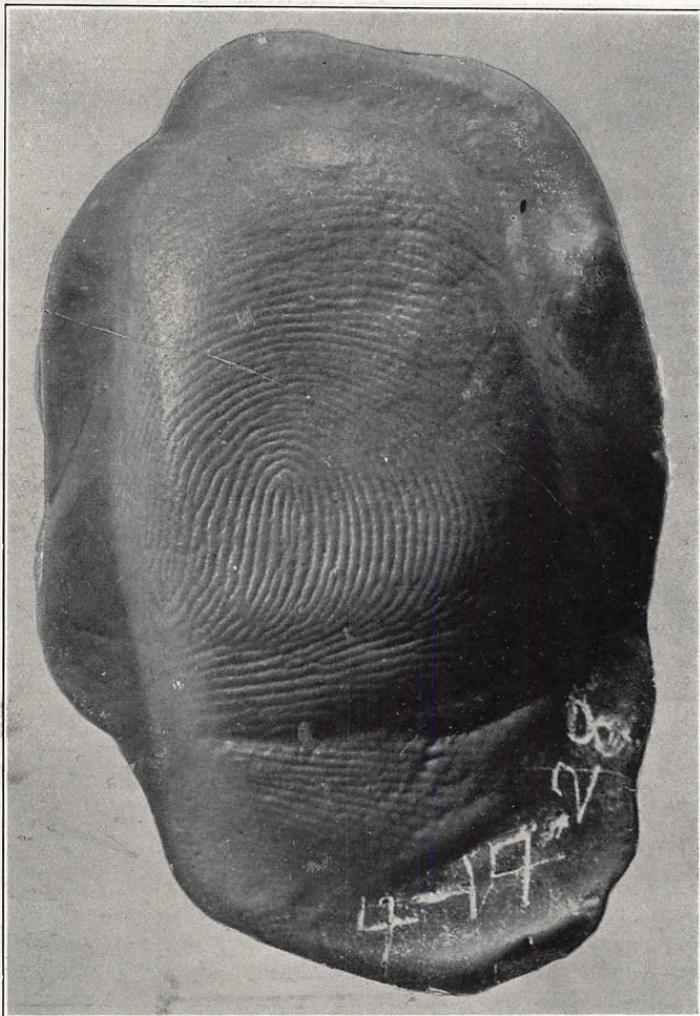


FIG. 18.

One of two normal positives or models of the Walter thumb, made on April 14th, 1928. These were asked for without prior notice.

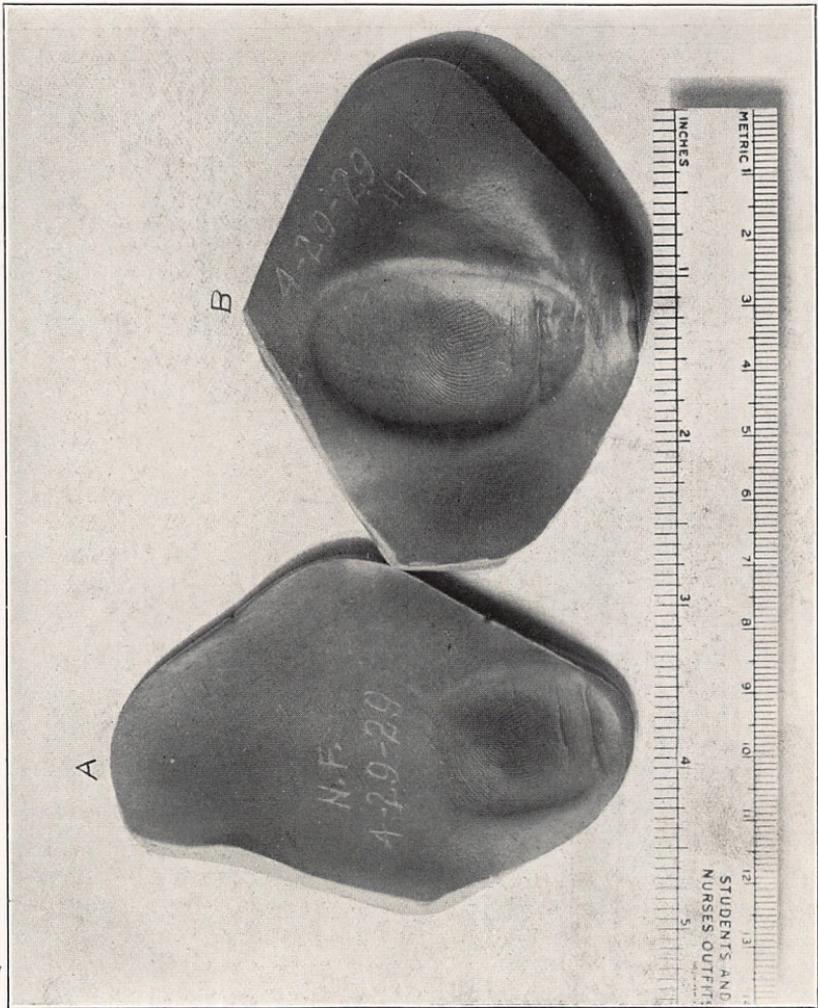


FIG. 2.

The Finger-print Cross-test of April 29th, 1929. The one marked N.F., was made at Niagara Falls, N.Y., 77 minutes after the companion print was made at Lime Street, 450 miles distant. Both are of the Walter right thumb. The one made at Niagara Falls appears smaller because the wax was less plastic.



FIG 3

The reverse of the wax tablets carrying the prints made during the Cross-test between Niagara Falls and Boston. The seals used to identify the wax are clearly seen.

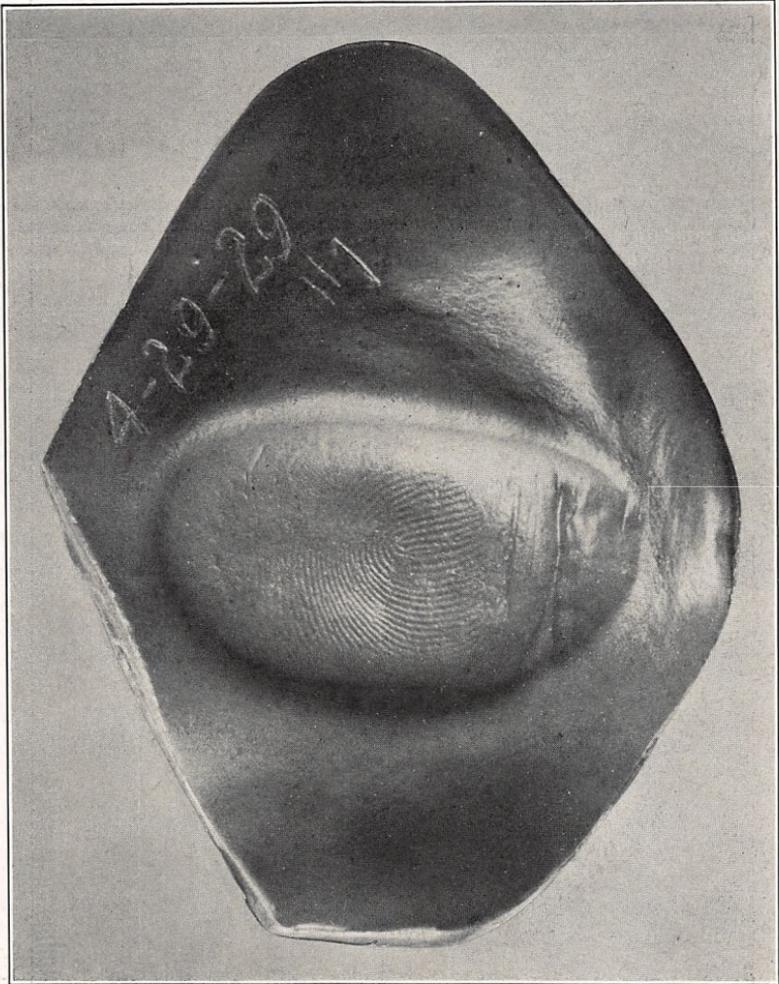


FIG. 4.

Enlarged thumb-print by Walter at Lime Street, Boston. April 29th, 1929.

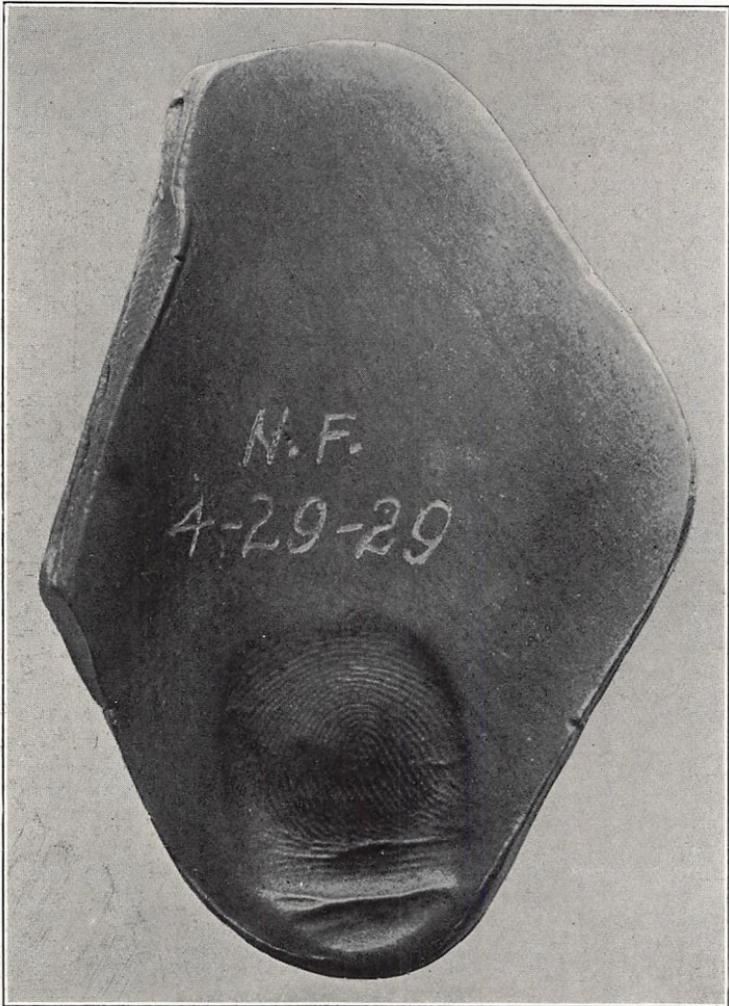


FIG. 5.

Finger-print made at Niagara Falls, April 29th, 1929, for Cross-test.

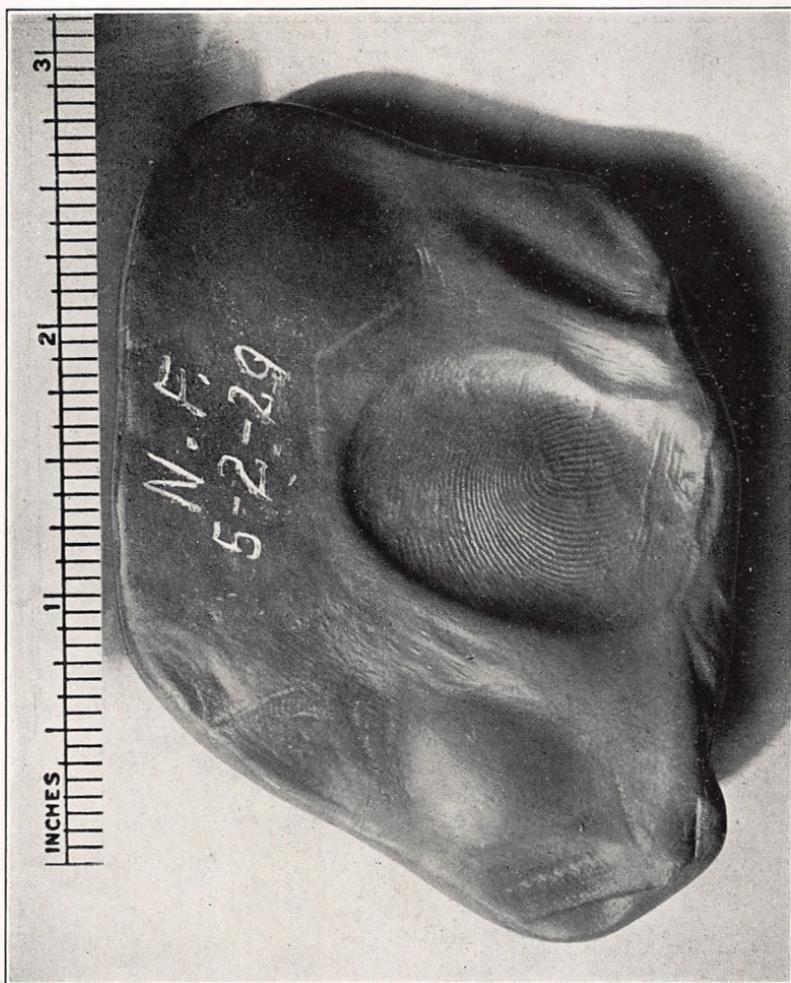


FIG. 6
Front of the print made at Niagara Falls, on May 2nd, 1929. The Walter
print is very clearly defined.



FIG. 7.

Back of the print made at Niagara Falls, on May 2nd, 1929.

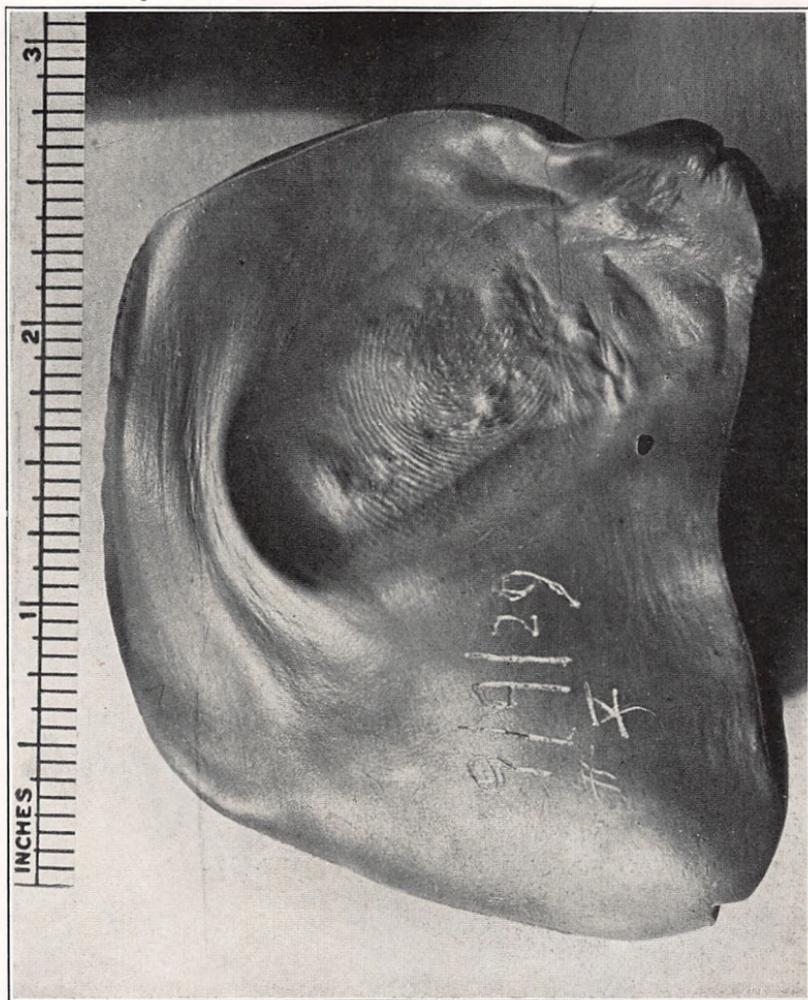


FIG. 8.

This is a much deformed but readily identifiable print of the Walter thumb. Mr. Fife asked for this kind of print without prior notice. *See test ; séance of September 9th, 1929.*

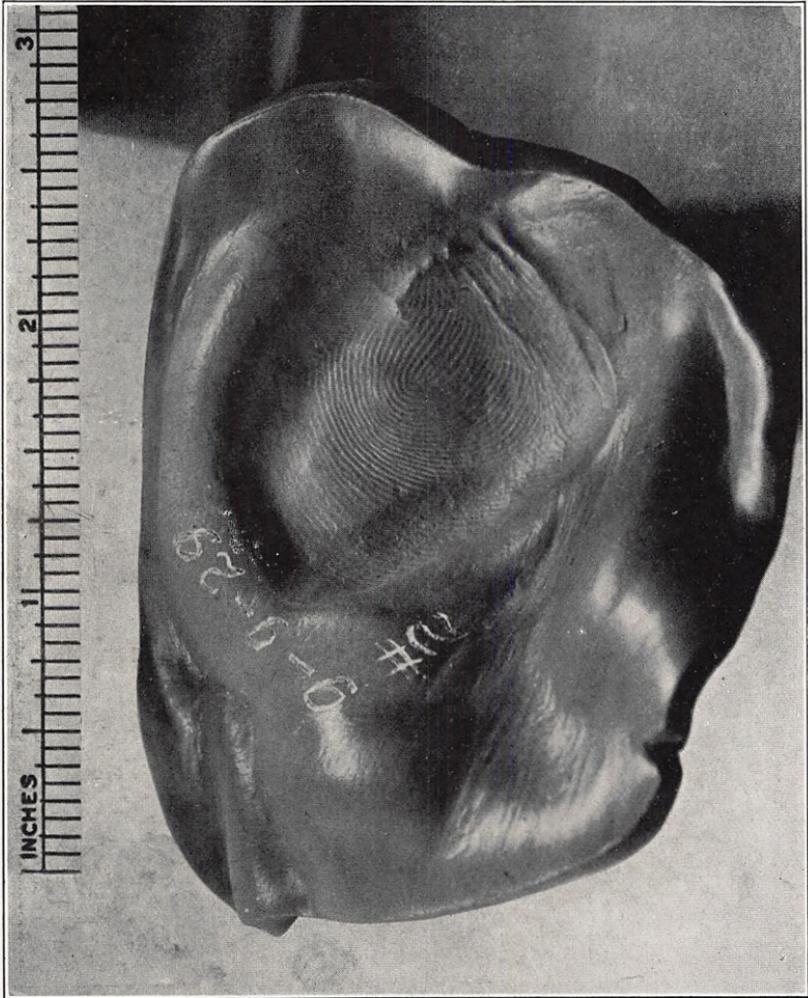


FIG. 9.

Another print of the Walter thumb made a few minutes later. There are no deformations like Fig. 7, but there is a unique sharp-edged wrinkle at the right.



FIG. 10.

This print was made only a few minutes later than that of the same date. It presents the deformed print as in Fig. 7, and in addition two normal prints, one superimposed on the other and obliterating the lines of the first at the point of intersection.

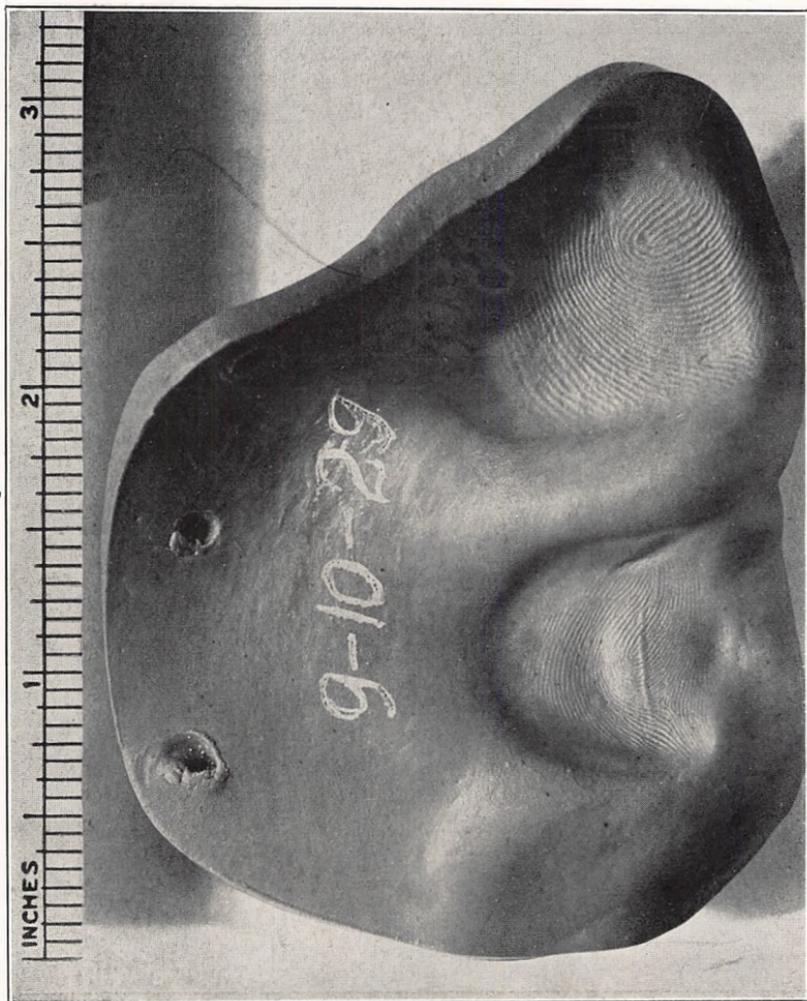


FIG. 11.

A normal negative of the Walter thumb, and, at the left, a print claimed by Walter as that of a four-year-old child. The identifying marks are clearly seen above the date. Made September 10th, 1929.

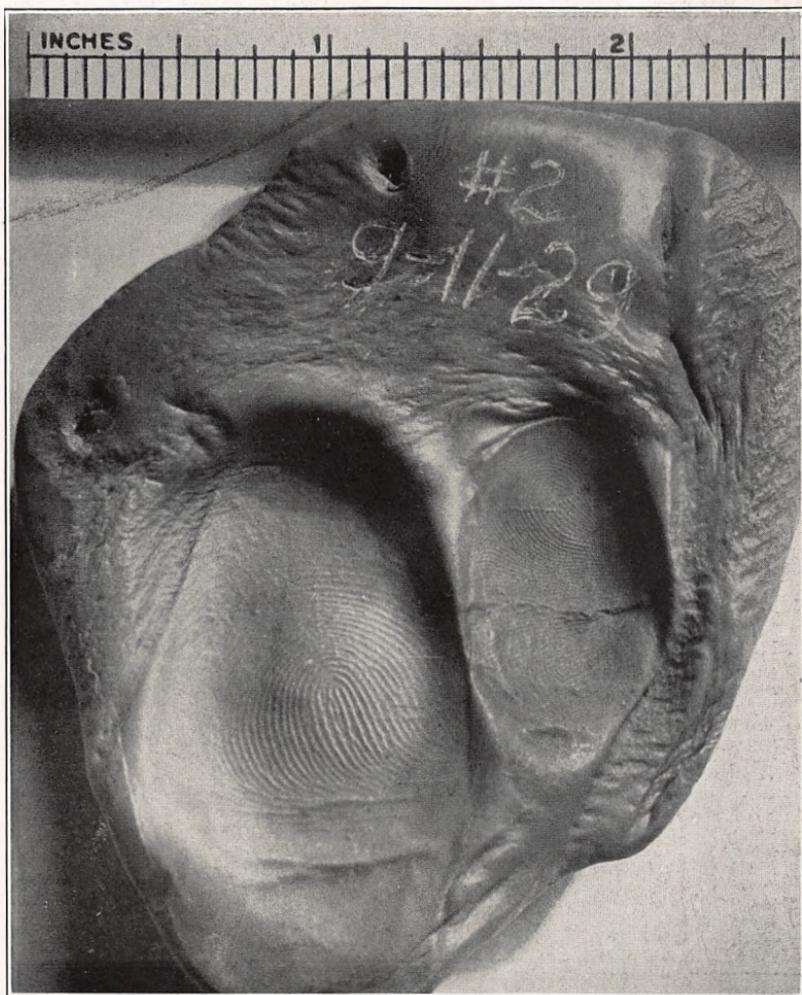


FIG. 12.

The second of two pieces of wax used this evening (September 11th, 1929). Each carried the impress of the Walter thumb beside the imprint of a child's thumb. Walter says this child is two years old. The nature of the print confirms the statement.



FIG. 13.

Superimposed prints of the Walter thumb. Both prints are visible throughout most of their range. Made while Margery was alone in the room and securely tied. (October 20th, 1929.)

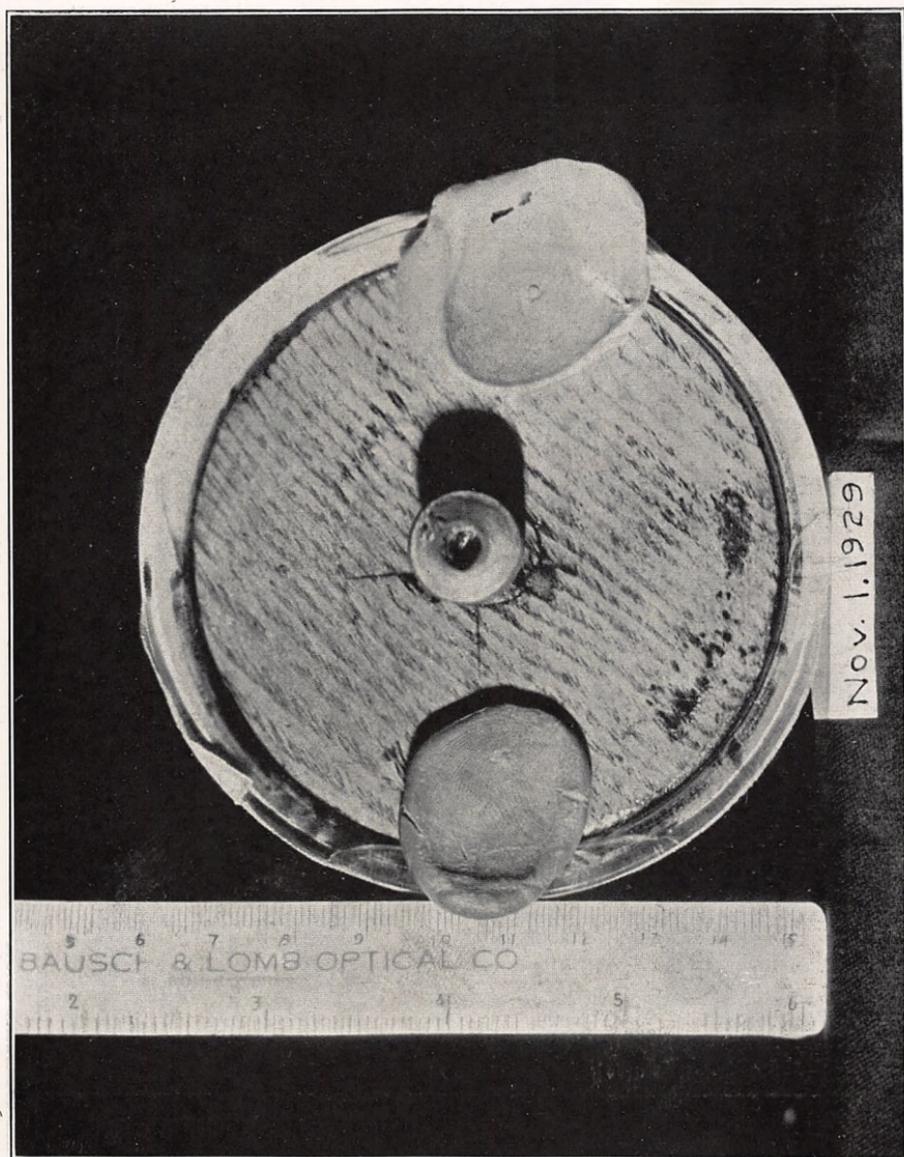


FIG. 14.

Print of the Top of Beaker. The wax seals carry the Walter print with the "scar" resulting from contact with the copper rivet. The silk threads used to identify the wax provided for the seals is clearly seen. Also the tape holding the broken section of the beaker in place. This scar was not permanent; later prints sometimes show it and sometimes do not show any trace.

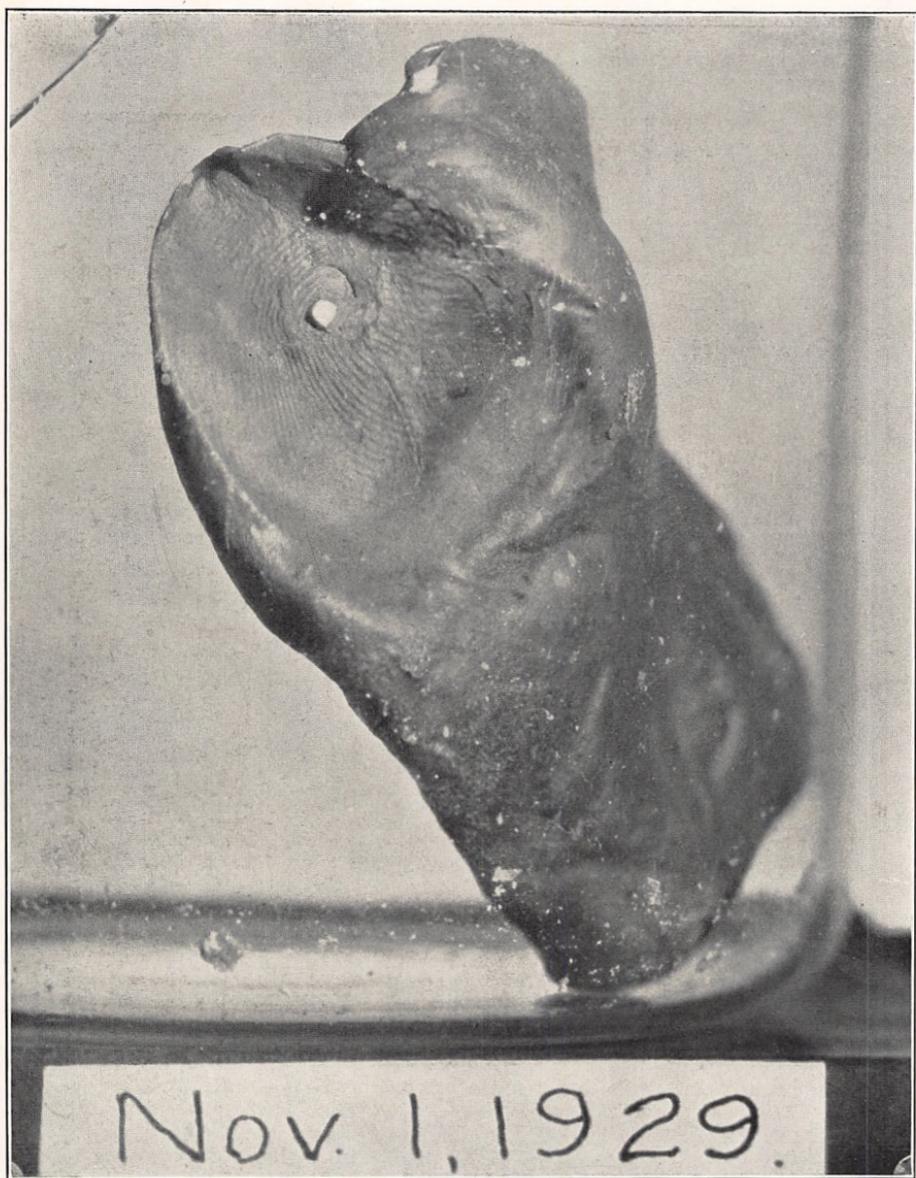


FIG. 15.

Characteristic Walter thumb-print. Above the core is a white dot representing the end of the shank of a copper rivet buried in the wax for identification. This produced a "scar" in the teleplastic thumb as seen in the prints of the same thumb which appear on the wax seals by means of which this was sealed into the beaker.

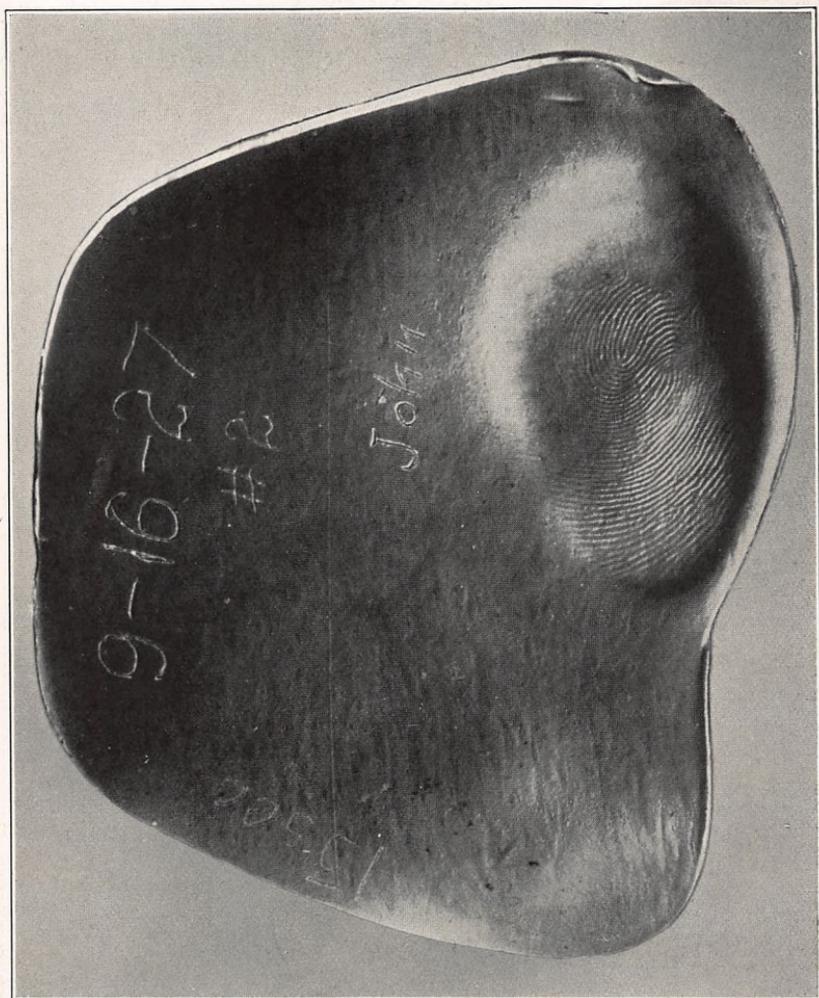


FIG. 16.

Claimed by John Richardson as the print of his thumb. It is a clear-cut print in the form of a twin loop. The lower part of the pattern is missing. The wax was not soft enough to get a perfect impression of the whole thumb.

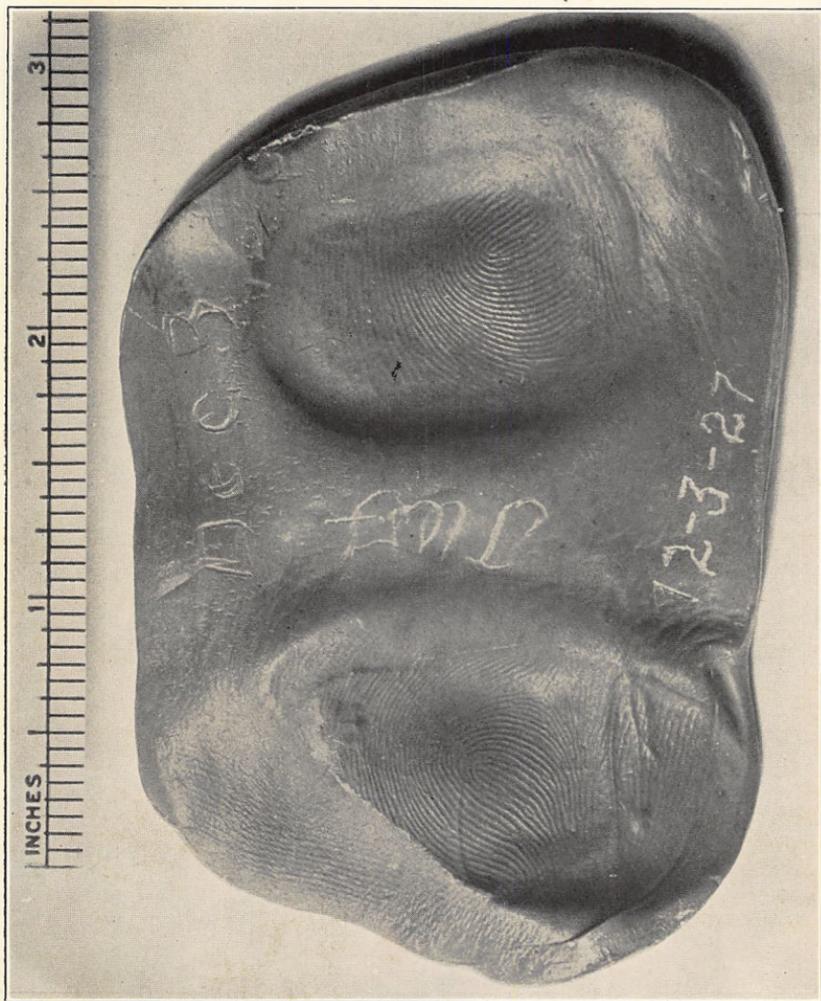


FIG. 17.

This print was made while Dr. Crandon was in England. The séance was not held in Lime Street. A normal negative print of the Walter right thumb appears beside a print claimed by him as of his left thumb. This left thumb first appeared on August 28th, 1927.

TELEPLASMIC THUMBPRINTS.

By E. E. DUDLEY and J. MALCOLM BIRD.

SERIES 2, PART II: AN ACCOUNT OF FURTHER EXPERIMENTS WITH THE MEDIUM "MARGERY" BETWEEN SEPTEMBER, 1927, AND OCTOBER, 1929.

Reprinted from December, 1929, issue of "Psychic Research" Journal Am.S.P.R., by kind permission of the Editors, E. E. DUDLEY and J. MALCOLM BIRD, who have also sent a new summary and original photographs.

Much attention has always been given in psychical research circles, to experiments involving the element of cross-correspondence between two or more mediums. Such tests have ordinarily been restricted to the mental field; they have often been rather crude in conception and execution; and though usually aimed toward verification of a spiritistic hypothesis they have frequently been under conditions that did not exclude clairvoyance as an operative factor. Nevertheless, despite these elements of weakness, the cross-correspondence has a very definite place in the theory and the practice of mediumistic experiment.

It might well be, of course, that even under a spiritistic interpretation, "Margery's" presence is a necessary factor in the production of the Walter thumbprint. If, however, her presence is not such a factor, the discovery and determination that this is the case must evidently be a matter of extreme importance from every theoretical aspect: in connection with our speculation as to the immediate mechanistic process of imprinting as well as in its bearings upon the spiritistic-versus-antispiritistic balance. And certainly, in view of the brilliant success which we have already reported in the mental cross-correspondences between Margery, Valiantine, Hardwicke and Mrs. Litzelmann, further experiment is in order, to see just what further Margery phenomena may be obtained in Margery's absence.

It is clear that a thumbprint cross-correspondence may turn out to be impossible, or that if possible it might involve grave difficulties both from the sitters' viewpoint and from that of Walter. Nevertheless, it is an obvious and necessary next step; so much so, that the first reference to it appears to have come spontaneously from Walter, who, in the seance of September 23rd, 1927, referred to the possibility of producing the thumbprint through a distant medium. Again, on November 23rd, he said that he might bring several mediums into an elaborate cross-test, and on December 17th he reverted to the subject and specifically named Dr. Hardwicke as the medium through whom he would most probably succeed. At this stage the subjective cross-correspondences which Dr. Richardson has reported in this JOURNAL for 1928 (May and several succeeding issues) were not yet under way, though the general idea for them had taken form in Richardson's mind.

The justification for falling back on the idea of Hardwicke's co-operation for a physical cross-correspondence therefore lay rather in Hardwicke's very strong record of co-mediumship on his visits to Lime Street, as detailed in the PROCEEDINGS of the A.S.P.R. for 1926-7, Vol. 1. And in thus mentioning the matter initially, Walter indicated a good notion of what ultimately turned out to be the necessary procedure; for he stated that if Hardwicke were sitting in Niagara Falls for thumbprints, the regular circle with Margery probably would have to sit simultaneously in Lime Street, even though they got no prints.

At almost this moment the program of mental cross-tests was initiated, and very rapidly came to occupy all the attention that could be given to this cross-correspondential theme. The experiment in physical cross-correspondence was postponed *sine die*; and it was by Walter himself that it was again brought up, on February 23rd, 1929. At this time he had three mediums, including Hardwicke, under consideration for the remote part of the experiment. At the March 23rd (1929, as throughout) seance, he asked that wax blanks be sent to Hardwicke marked for positive identification beyond any possibility of mistake or confusion, and said most emphatically that if this were done the experiment would be carried through to a successful end. He gave, however, a rather graphic picture of hard and constant work necessary before success could be assured, with a possibility that a large number of preparatory seances in Lime Street might be required. For the final test he directed that two seances be held, on well-separated nights; and he asked that simultaneously with the Lime Street and Niagara seances, Mrs. Litzelmann sit at her residence in Cambridge. Very evidently there is a factor of co-mediumship involved that works quite independently of the space category of classical science, but that is not similarly independent of what we know as time, inasmuch as simultaneity of sitting is so strongly insisted upon. This rather suggests some modification in the purely relativistic interpretation of the machinery behind the phenomena; for if Einstein's philosophy were involved *in toto*, it is difficult to see why the Lime Street and Cambridge groups need sit at the same moment as the one in Niagara Falls. At least a possibility would appear to lie in a combination of the theories of a relativistic machinery and of a spirit operator. If the machinery involved is a function of the three seance groups, and if the intelligent operator is a single, and same Walter for all three groups, it is understandable why he might have to have a simultaneity of seances which the abstract theory does not of itself demand. All of which is of course entirely speculative, but we have brought the Margery experiments to a point where it becomes necessary to speculate as to their meaning.

Walter has constantly made it clear that he has to make extensive preparations for important work of any such sort as the present project, and that the energetic component of the phenomena is alike an essential one, and one difficult for him to control. The fact that he emphasizes his dependence on the psychical energy supplied by the medium and the circle, so far from furnishing a basis of suspicion, indicates his

intelligent comprehension of the limitations under which he labours and his insistence that we also recognize these. Certain conscientious objectors to the contrary notwithstanding, psychical phenomena *are* to be presumed subject to laws and modified by variation in the attendant conditions, just like all other phenomena.

On March 30th, 1929, Walter asked that Hardwicke be advised to sit on the following Thursday, and that the Niagara Falls circle should be prepared to receive fingerprints. He asked that we sit in Lime Street the same evening but make no other preparations. As he put it, "Just sit." These seances were held, but no prints were made. During the Lime Street seance Walter was asked how many were sitting at Niagara Falls, and replied: "I don't care to say, but I see only five." Later reports showed this to be correct. This fact was unknown to anyone at Lime Street. Walter said that these were preparatory sittings, and asked for another seance at Niagara Falls and Boston on April 6th. At this next seance he indicated that he was having a little difficulty, and asked Dr. Crandon to advise Hardwicke to sit on the eleventh and thirteenth. At Lime Street on the sixteenth, Walter said that everything was coming along well, that only about two more sittings would be necessary before the first test, and that he could then make fingerprints anywhere in the world using Hardwicke as the medium. At a prior seance it had been agreed that Thursday was to be the regular day for one of the two weekly seances, and that the other should be held on Tuesday. This schedule was adhered to as far as possible, but certain extra seances were held at Lime Street.

At the seance of Thursday, April 18th, 1929, the sitters were as follows, reading from Margery's left as usual: Dr. Richardson, Mr. Willard Hubbs, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Arthur Goadby, Mr. F. Bligh Bond, Mr. Edward Smith, Mr. Theron Pierce, Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Hubbs, Dr. Crandon. Walter asked Pierce, acting as an official of the A.S.P.R., to prepare marked wax and send it to Hardwicke. He indicated that he would make a fingerprint cross-test three weeks later. (It will be understood that this record is intended to cover only those portions of these preliminary seances which bear a more or less direct relationship to fingerprints.)

The next seance was that of April 20th, 1929, at which the circle was formed by Margery, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Pierce, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Hubbs, Mr. Bond, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Monty Hardwicke (Dr. Hardwicke's son), Mrs. Hubbs, Dr. Crandon. Outside the circle, Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Ernest A. Bigelow, Miss Bigelow, and Mr. Bigelow in the order named. The seance opened with raps on the table. The rapper indicated that he was Mark Richardson. Walter appeared, talked for a time, and then Mark came in again. Walter returned soon, and the suggestion was made that the fingerprints might be made on paper with printer's ink. (Walter had admitted at an earlier seance that one method was just as easy as the other as far as he was concerned.) The idea behind the suggestion was to make the process simpler since the supernormality of the prints might be taken as established. Walter's

reply was interesting. He said: "The critics would say that, working with ink, you can make mirror prints by photography. You don't know what you are going to get." The latter referring of course to the cross-test under consideration. He then said that he had speeded up his work by one week, "To keep you from getting fidgety," as he put it, and asked that the crucial seance be arranged for Thursday, April 25th. As not all of the regular group could be present on that evening he changed the date to the 29th, and asked that Mrs. Litzelmann sit at home on the same evening. (As in the Hardwicke seances, there is a small group of interested investigators who gather at the Litzelmann home. They cheerfully co-operated in these tests in spite of the fact that very little occurred at their seances.) Walter talked with Mr. Pierce about the marked wax to be sent to Hardwicke and of its disposition after the seance, and then said: "*Whatever I make at Niagara Falls I shall make exactly the same kind of a print here.*" He then arranged for another sitting on Monday, April 22nd, but said that he would not be present, adding that Mark would tell us when to leave.

This Monday seance was held as arranged for, at 9 p.m. The Litzelmann group sat in Cambridge the same evening. The circle at Lime Street was made up of Margery, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Bond, Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Richardson and Dr. Crandon. There were raps in the Richardson family code. Questions and answering raps elicited the following information: It was John who was present; Walter was at Niagara Falls; Mark was in Cambridge. Luminous teleplasm was seen over the table. It moved into the cabinet and back, near to Dr. Richardson, and then over the table. There was a sound of water splashing in the cold-water dish on the table. (We had prepared the dishes, etc., as though for fingerprints, but no water had been poured into the hot-water dish.) Then we heard a sound as though water was being poured into water, consistent with the sound of water's being poured into the shallow dish which contained the cold water. Suddenly, Walter's voice broke in saying "Hey, you!" The sound ceased for a time, and then water was poured as before—*into water*. In each case Dudley estimated the quantity as about one half-pint. The only water in the room other than that in the dish was the kettle for very hot water resting in the pail that is used for waste water. This was outside the circle, in the fireplace. No other water containers were present aside from the dish for the hot water aforementioned. At 9.40 p.m. Walter spoke to John, indicating that it was time to dismiss the circle. This the latter did by four raps.

The interesting point in all this lies in the fact that after the seance we found the dish used for the wax, with the cloth still laid across it, and both absolutely dry. There was even a little dust in the dish, as it had stood in the seance room for several weeks without being used. Pierce had examined the dish of cold water before the seance, and said at its close that it contained approximately the same quantity of water as at the beginning. This water was still cool. Complete control had been maintained throughout the seance. The indications, therefore,

were that the water had been handled in a teleplasmic structure of some sort.

The next Lime Street seance was held at the usual time on April 25th, but only Margery, Dr. Richardson and Mr. Dudley were present. Dr. Crandon was temporarily absent. Walter came in promptly, and talked with us for a few minutes (Margery being in trance). He made some humorous remarks about the state of the dishes, and confirmed our suspicions as to the nature of the water container used at the previous seance. Then he said that he was going out for a time. He talked again in a few minutes and, as we heard a door slam in the street, he said that Dr. Crandon had come in, but he was not in his own car. As soon as the doctor entered he confirmed the statement by saying that he came in a taxi. Walter said that he might not be able to complete the cross-test the first time, that he might have to try five or six times. After some further conversation the seance closed at 9.50. Margery awoke promptly, and said that her trance had not been as deep as usual; that she heard a little of the conversation; and that she disliked these light trances as they made her head feel "stuffy."

The next seance was held as agreed on April 29th, 1929, at 9 p.m. The circle was as follows: Margery, Dr. Richardson, Mr. C. S. Hill, Mr. Bond, the Rev. D. Brewer Eddy, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Richardson and Dr. Crandon. Mr. Pierce had sent wax to Hardwicke as Walter had requested, and had two pieces with him. All these were specially marked by him and by Bond, as described in his attached report. Dr. Eddy had marked a piece of wax in secret, and had this in his pocket. The usual preparations were made for fingerprints. Mr. Bond recorded the operations, and the following is taken largely from his report which, the sitters agree, corresponds to their observations.

9 p.m. Sitting commenced. Crandon unable to start Victrola which, for some unexplained reason, would make no sound, although the disc travelled. Lights out. Medium soon in trance. Walter's voice heard several times, but with altered timbre as though transmitted from a distance: he seemed entirely concerned with the business of the evening. John Richardson made his presence known by characteristic knocks and answered questions. At his signal the various operations were undertaken.

9.20 p.m. Red light. Hot water was poured into dish by Crandon, ready for reception of wax. Light was then switched off.

9.22 p.m. Wax tablet marked VI was laid by Pierce into the dish upon the linen strip, the ends of which were touched by Crandon and Mrs. Richardson, their hands joined. Both of Margery's hands were controlled. [This tablet of wax, also marked with gold seals, had been retained by Mr. Pierce since his arrival at Lime Street, and had remained unseen and unidentified by any other sitter or the medium. Its markings were known to Pierce, who had assisted in preparing same at his residence in Pride's Crossing on the Tuesday foregoing.]

9.23 p.m. A tinkling sound was heard by all sitters. Walter said : " Are you going to leave that print in the cold water all night ? "

9.24 p.m. Pierce came forward and lifted the wax from the cold-water dish, the red light being turned on ; and he placed it upon the mantel-shelf near his seat (from which he removed it at the conclusion of the sitting).

9.34 p.m. John Richardson, by sharp raps, signalled that something was needed. To questions as to whether this concerned the wax, the dish, the cloth, etc., he gave answers in the negative. Bond then suggested the alphabet and called out the letters, obtaining the response T . . . I . . . M . . . E. The time was accordingly taken, and proved to be 9.36 p.m. Further questions elicited that it was the Niagara Falls record which John wished to bring through. More questions and answering raps led us to believe that a print had been made at Niagara Falls at 9.33 p.m. [There was some confusion on this point, as will be seen in the records of the next sitting.]

9.37 p.m. Red light. Fresh hot water poured into dish by Crandon.

9.38 p.m. Second tablet of wax, marked VII, placed in dish by Pierce. Lights out. Almost immediately came raps to indicate something wrong, and need for repetition of experiment.

9.39 p.m. Crandon discovered that wax had slipped off the cloth. [It was afterwards found that the wax had been pinched into a sharp fold while hot, and had apparently been turned face downwards by Walter, since the only impress had been made over the gold seals on the back. The turning over will account for its having got off the cloth support.]

9.47 p.m. Red light on. Another tablet of wax placed in dish by Dr. Eddy ; and

9.49 p.m. The light was turned out, Margery being controlled as before.

9.54 p.m. The signal was given by John for the completion of the experiment. Dr. Eddy removed the wax from the cold-water dish. [See this report.]

9.58 p.m. Four raps by John indicated " good-night." The medium awoke almost immediately and said, " I am all right." Lights turned on, and seance ended at 9.58 p.m.

The medium was in deeper trance this time than usual. Her breathing seemed to cease for long periods, and the inspirations were long-drawn and rather like the " Cheyne-Stokes " breathing of the dying. [See PROCEEDINGS, A.S.P.R., 1926-7, Vol. 1, p. 195. When Walter had been asked about this condition he has always said, " The nearer dead a medium is the better medium she is."]

The seance ended, we went to the book room, where Pierce identified his wax (the one carrying the fingerprint) as the piece which he had placed in the water. He also identified the second piece. Dr. Eddy identified his as described in his report (included later). Dudley examined both prints and determined that they were of the normal

negative pattern of the Walter thumb. Margery was searched before and after the seance by Mrs. Richardson, and with negative results. Control of the medium had been continuous while the wax was exposed.

Just after 11 p.m. a telephone message was received from Hardwicke, saying that they had obtained one print which would be mailed to Mr. Fife, and that the time data would be telegraphed. The telegram reads as follows, the errors in spelling, etc., of the original being retained :

BB6 47 NL 4 Extra duplicate of telephoned telegram.

Niagara Falls N.Y., Apr. 29th, 1929.

Dr. L. R. G. Cranton,
10, Lime St.

About nine thirty standard time Hardwicke out Walter gave directions stop tried one cake said no good try again stop make impression on another cake right hand thumb stop said dont know if any dam good stop sending both cakes used.

Hardwicke.

It is probable that the word " make " should read " made." Hardwicke telephones these telegrams to the telegraph office hence phonetic errors are not uncommon.

Pierce had sent the marked wax to Hardwicke by registered mail. Hardwicke mailed the prints to Fife in the same manner. This one is postmarked at Niagara Falls, April 30th, 1929 ; Registry Number 10629. It was postmarked at Boston, May 1st, 1929.

The telegram showed that Niagara Falls was still on Eastern Standard Time while we were operating on Eastern Daylight Saving Time. Therefore, when the seance closed at Lime Street at 10 p.m. it was 9 p.m. at Niagara Falls. Consequently, at the moment that Hardwicke went into trance, 9.30, as noted in the telegram, Margery had been wide awake for one half hour.

The Hardwicke seance was organized as follows, these data being taken from notes supplied by the sitters :

The box of marked wax sent by Mr. T. F. Pierce was opened by Mr. B. T. Klaussen. He had charge of this wax and of the water supply during the seance.

Two dishes, cloth, and table were arranged in the same manner as for the Margery seances for fingerprints. The kettle of hot water was placed on the floor beside Mr. Klaussen. Light was furnished by one red bulb located above and to the left of the medium. This was controlled by Miss Kellogg. This seance was held at Dr. Hardwicke's home, Niagara Falls, N.Y., April 29th, 1929, at 8.45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The circle, clockwise, was composed of Dr. Hardwicke, Miss Dorothy E. Kellogg, Mr. E. A. Wright, Mr. B. T. Klaussen, Mrs. Klaussen. Miss Emily Hooker outside.

The light was extinguished at approximately 9.05, and trance came on at 9.25 p.m. At 9.30 Walter spoke through Dr. Hardwicke, using

trance voice, and said : " Hello, there. All ready now." Mr. Klaussen poured hot water in the dish and placed the cloth therein. The other dish contained cold water. This was done in red light which was on for about two minutes.

At 9.37 Walter said, " Put the wax in now." This was done by Mr. Klaussen in red light. After a few minutes Walter said, " Take it out now. That's no good. Try again." Again in red light, Mr. Klaussen poured more hot water, first asking Walter if it was all right to turn on the red light. Walter answered, " All right." In approximately two minutes another piece of the marked wax was placed before, the light was on for approximately one minute. Two minutes after the light was extinguished this piece was completed. Walter said, " This may be no damn good." This print was completed at approximately 9.40 p.m. The seance closed at 9.50 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

In manipulating the wax Mr. Klaussen put the cloth in the dish of hot water and the wax on the cloth. At Walter's direction he withdrew the cloth and the wax to the table and, at his further command, put the wax in the cold water. The second or completed piece remained in the cold water until the close of the seance.

The control of Hardwicke's hands was continuous except for about one minute altogether, when his right hand was free on two occasions. This was both before and after the print was made. He was very restless in trance. [This has been noted on the occasions when he has been at Lime Street.] The control was continuous during the period of imprinting the wax.

The print was examined through a magnifying glass after the seance, and was found to be different from that of any of the sitters, whose thumbprints were taken in pink wax for comparison.

Mr. Klaussen packed the print together with the piece of wax which was tried first, and Dr. Hardwicke mailed the package to Mr. John W. Fife, at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, Mass.

The report bears the signatures of Dorothy E. Kellogg, B. J. Klaussen, and Emily Hooker.

It will be seen from the above report that the print was made at 9.40 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. This is equivalent to 10.40 p.m., E.D.S.T., or 1 hour 17 minutes after the print was made at Lime Street, and 42 minutes after the latter seance closed. The lack of agreement between the time of trance in the report and that of the telegram is attributable to the more condensed form of the telegram. It should be noted that the latter reads " *about* nine thirty."

Mr. Fife examined the material received from Hardwicke, reported to Dr. Crandon by telephone that it was a Walter print, and submitted the following report :

" On May 1st, 1929, I received by registered mail a small sealed package from Dr. Hardwicke of Niagara Falls, New York.

" This consisted of a cardboard box in which were two pieces of dental wax. One piece of wax carried an impression such as might have been made by pressing a thumb into the wax while it was soft.

"This piece was marked, as for identification, with a Roman I, and was notched on each of the three edges. On the reverse side, at each of three corners, was a round, gold-leaf seal, about the size of a Canadian ten-cent piece, in which appeared three capital letters.

"I examined the impression on the face of this piece of wax. It was a normal negative print which, if of a right thumb, would be of the ulnar loop type. The pattern is the same as that found on many other pieces of wax which I have examined and reported on since March, 1927. It is the same pattern as other prints made in wax in my presence at various times since March 21st, 1927. The pattern is the same as that of the plaster cast dated May 17th, 1924 (PSYCHIC RESEARCH, Dec., 1928), which is of a right thumb.

"The second piece of wax was marked with a Roman IV and, on the back, three small, round gold-leaf seals carrying the impression of a hand with another design below it. This piece of wax had no impression on it.

"This package was opened in the presence of E. A. Barry, Chief Clerk, who, in signing as a witness, testifies that the pieces of wax were in the box, were marked and sealed as described, and that one of the pieces (marked I) was of the general type above described."

(Signed) John W. Fife,

19, Chestnut St., Somerville, Mass.

(Signed) Witness : E. A. Barry.

Mr. Fife was not informed as to the nature of the markings which Mr. Pierce had put on the wax blanks, nor as to what, if anything, might be expected in the way of fingerprints.

These two thumbprints of April 29th, the one from the Lime Street seance and the second from the sitting at Niagara Falls, are reproduced as Figs. 2 & 3; the one marked N.F. being the print received through Hardwicke. In Fig. 3 we have the same two pieces of wax in the same order and position, viewed from the back to show the identifying marks; one of them shows, as well, the imprint received from the cloth upon which it has been strongly pressed in connection with the imprinting, while the other carries a less marked indication of the grain of the table upon which it in turn has rested or been pressed. Both of them show the seals used for identification, the larger one with monogram only being Mr. Pierce's, while the slightly smaller one with hand and letters is Mr. Bond's. The designs of these seals are plain on the photographs as on the original wax, and will probably survive the photo-engraving process and be legible in the JOURNAL. In any case, we may anticipate Mr. Pierce's report here to the extent of stating that from each tablet of wax which he marked for use in Boston or Niagara Falls a piece was broken off, marked for identification and for association with the tablet from which it came, and deposited with Mr. Bird; and that the marks on the imprinted portions of the tablets have been in each case checked against those on the retained fragments. The originals are on file in Lime Street, and the retained fragments at Hyslop House, and may be inspected by any responsible person. (Figs. 4 & 5).

The program was continued on May 2nd, with seances in Lime Street, Niagara Falls and Cambridge. The Lime Street seance started at 9.08 p.m. (daylight saving time), and the circle was as follows: Margery, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Bond, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Richardson, Dr. Crandon. All preparations were as before. The seance opened with raps as soon as Margery entered the trance state. John Richardson identified himself in the usual way. Walter came in soon after, and said in response to a question, that the print made at Niagara Falls might be a little smaller than ours. He made it clear that he took energy from both the Lime Street and the Cambridge groups in making the cross-tests. In his usual whimsical fashion he said, "I had one foot here, the other at Cambridge, and stretched to Niagara Falls. Why shouldn't my print be smaller?" Answering a further question, he told us that he had asked John to get the time during the previous seance, but made it clear that he had no intention of stating that he had already made a print at Niagara Falls. After some further conversation he dismissed the circle with the statement that he wanted us downstairs before he did anything at Hardwicke's. No attempt was made to get a print in Lime Street on this evening. The seance closed at 9.40 p.m.

The Litzelmann group were sitting in Cambridge this same evening (May 2nd) until approximately 10 p.m. They reported that they were informed by raps that there were seven people at Lime Street. They had expected that two more would be present.

The report of the Hardwicke seance for this evening, compiled from notes furnished by the sitters, is as follows:

This seance was held at Dr. Hardwicke's home, like the one of April 29th. The preparations were the same. The circle was formed with Dr. Hardwicke, Miss Kellogg, Mr. Wright, Mr. Klaussen; in that order, reading clockwise. Miss Kellogg controlled the red light, and Mr. Klaussen had charge of the water and the wax. The latter was part of the consignment of specially marked tablets sent by Mr. T. F. Pierce. The light was extinguished at 9 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, and trance came on at approximately 9.30. At 9.35 Walter spoke, using trance voice, saying: "Get ready. Put the wax in the hot water." With the red light on, Mr. Klaussen poured the hot water into the dish provided for that purpose and, the cloth being already in place, laid a piece of marked wax thereon. The light was then extinguished. After about one minute Walter spoke and instructed that the wax be lifted out and placed on the table in front of Hardwicke; this was done by Mr. Klaussen. The sitters presently heard a sound as of movement and a splashing as though in one of the dishes containing water. Walter then told Miss Kellogg to relax, and she immediately went into trance, bright psychic lights being then seen by the remaining sitters.

[As has been noted in Dr. Richardson's reports of the cross-tests, the Hardwicke mediumship like Margery's is entirely amateur; the circle is much more constant than is the case in Boston, comprising a

few friends who are interested in sitting. Miss Kellogg is a very regular participant, and she has many times been entranced. It is evident that there was no expectation that she would be so on the present occasion, and indeed her trance appears not to have supervened until after the completion of the print.]

Trance by Hardwicke and Miss Kellogg continued until 9.45 p.m. ; the sitting ended at 10. The Walter print on the marked wax was found in the dish of cold water, into which, differently from the procedure of the first seance, it had been transferred without the help of the sitters. Control of Dr. Hardwicke was continuous while the print was being made. The wax was identified at the end of the seance as the piece which had been put into the water. The imprinted wax was packed, together with the usual routine prints of the sitters' thumbs for comparison, and the box sent to Mr. Fife by registered mail under date of May 3rd, 1929 ; Registry Number 10741. [It was postmarked in Boston on May 4th.]

This report is signed by all five sitters listed therein, including Hardwicke himself.

Examination of the time elements will show that the print described in the report from Niagara Falls was made about 47 minutes after the Lime Street circle rose ; therefore Margery was fully awake, and the group was engaged socially in the brightly lighted book-room. Mr. Fife has examined the print received from Niagara Falls, and reports on it as follows :

" On May 6th, 1929, I received a small package by registered mail from Dr. Hardwicke of Niagara Falls, N.Y., which I opened and examined at once.

" It contained one piece of red dental wax and four pieces of pink wax. The dental wax carried on its face a single thumbprint identical in pattern with the print on the wax received from Dr. Hardwicke on May 1st, and which I have already reported on. This print, just received, is, like the other, a normal negative print of the Walter thumb, as previously described.

" On the back of this piece of wax are three gold seals, one near each end of the wax and one half-way between. The end seals bear the imprint of the same three letters as appeared on the wax received May 1st. The other seal has the hand and the design below it previously described. There is also the Roman numeral V. In addition, there is a depression in the wax overlapping a portion of one of the end seals. In size it is such as would be made by a little finger, but it carries no fingerprint markings. The wax is pushed up into a corresponding hump on the face side.

" The sheets of pink wax each bears the impress of what appears to be the right and left thumbs, and were marked, respectively, E. A. Wright, B. J. Klaussen, Emily Klaussen, and D. E. Kellogg. These eight imprints are all different and differ from the Walter print."

(Signed) John W. FIFE.

“The package above described was opened in my presence. It contained the above mentioned pieces of wax. They were marked and sealed as described. The piece marked with the gold seals bore the impression of what appeared to be a fingerprint.”

Witness : (Signed) E. A. BARRY,
Chief Clerk.

The Niagara Falls print of May 2nd is shown, front and back, in Figs. 6 & 7. The markings, of identification and of other sorts, on the back are especially clear.

It remains now to deal with the identification of the various blanks of the above reports, as made by those persons who marked the blanks. First we may turn to the blank marked by Dr. Eddy and introduced by him into the Lime Street seance of April 29th. This piece, carrying the Walter imprint which it received during the seance, is omitted from reproduction herewith because it was exceedingly thin at the lower edge and broke in handling, the lost fragments carrying part of the thumb-print. There remains on the surviving major piece of the wax sample of the print for identification as the Walter thumb ; and along the upper edge the notches made by Dr. Eddy are clearly discernible, not having been in the least deformed by the handling to which the wax was subjected during imprinting. Dr. Eddy's statement of his handling of this wax follows :

“On April 29th, 1929, I attended a sitting with Margery, and was given a thin block of wax in the library and asked to identify it beyond any possible error. I broke off one corner ; then cut three notches of irregular size at irregular intervals on two sides, and made certain other identifying marks. In order to be doubly certain, I placed the wax on a sheet of paper in my pocket and drew the silhouette outline, showing exactly the notches and the broken corner, and indicated my marks of identification.

“During the sitting, Walter asked me for the piece of wax. I personally took it from my pocket, identified the notches and broken corner by touch, and placed it in the dish of hot water on the table, resuming my seat. After a few minutes, at Walter's command, I stepped to the table alone, after we had all heard Walter's manipulations with the wax on the table, and had been told that he had put his thumb imprint upon the wax. I picked up the block of wax from the cold water dish where we had plainly heard Walter drop it, held it in my hands until dry and hard ; wrapped it in my handkerchief, and placed the wax tablet in my pocket. The wax was taken from my pocket in the library at the end of the evening, and alone I placed it on the outline drawn, where it exactly fitted. [Mr. Dudley certifies that he saw Dr. Eddy fit the wax into the pencilled diagram, and that the entire outline, including the notched markings, fitted exactly.] The identifying marks were complete, and I positively identified the tablet as the one I carried upstairs before the seance.

“I handed this to Mr. Dudley, who examined it under a magnifying

glass for the distinguishing marks of Walter's thumbprints ; and I heard him say it bore all the marks of resemblance to Walter's former thumbprints, and I understood afterwards the identification was made complete by Mr. Fife, the expert. At the end of the evening I left the wax block carrying the thumbprint with Dr. Crandon.

(Signed) BREWER EDDY.

Mr. Pierce has reported in complete detail, in a letter to Mr. Bird, the measures he took to mark the various tablets used in Boston and Niagara Falls. This letter is not reproduced in full because it deals with other matters as well. It is dated April 23rd, and was in Mr. Bird's hands on the 25th—four days before the first seance in which these marked blanks were used. In so far as it pertains to Mr. Pierce's markings of the wax blanks, it reads as follows :

" Yesterday evening (April 22nd), in 10, Lime Street, Dr. Crandon handed me a cardboard box, sealed, about two by three inches, bearing a printed label which said, substantially, that it contained Kerr dental wax, the perfection impression compound, manufactured by the Detroit Dental Manufacturing Co., and sold by the John Hood Co., of Boston. This box, without opening, I placed in my overcoat pocket, where, after a lapse of some four hours, I found it, apparently and very evidently untouched.

" Mr. Bond and I rode down from Boston to Prides Crossing on the 10.45 p.m. train, during which time I entrusted the box to Mr. Bond, to be carried in his brief case. I sat in the seat with Mr. Bond, and can vouch that the box was at no time during the ride tampered with. When we reached my residence the box was turned over to me, and it lay in a drawer in my bedroom until 3 p.m. this afternoon, April 23rd, at which hour Mr. Bond and I took it to my library, where we proceeded as follows :

" Tablet No. 1 was removed from the box, and with a small knife Mr. Bond cut away approximately one-third of the piece. Upon that side on which is stamped the trade-mark KERR and which we have further marked with the Roman numeral I at the upper and lower edges, we have stamped *three* impressions of my seal, bearing the letters T. F. P. in scroll letters. These impressions are made on gold leaf, and the means of imprinting is the monogram on the end of a gold pencil which I carry. One impression is almost perfect ; the second shows only the upper part of the monogram ; the third end is rather deeply imprinted into the wax, so that the initials are not very distinct. The reverse side of this wax tablet No. 1 has been left blank.

" The complementary section of tablet No. 1, which together with all other complementary pieces is being mailed to you, has been marked on either side with the same impress used on the major piece from this tablet ; and in addition has been marked I in Roman numerals, a pen-knife being used for the purpose. This same method of marking the smaller pieces intended for you is employed throughout.

" The tablet No. 1, which has been sent to Dr. Hardwicke, has been

further marked on three edges with single grooves, cut with a pen-knife ; denoting the number I.

“ On that side of tablet No. 2 which bears the trade-mark KERR and our Roman numerals II above and below, there have been stamped two of my monogram impressions done in gold leaf. These impressions are at the extreme left and right of what might well pass for a diamond. This piece has gone to Dr. Hardwicke. The complementary piece, which has been cut off to give the diamond shape to the major fragment, bears my monogram in gold on either side, plus the Roman numeral II ; and on one side a mistake has been made in scratching this numeral, so that a sort of gridiron appears to the left of the correct numeral II. In addition, on the major piece sent to Dr. Hardwicke, the edges have been marked in two places with two notches to represent the Roman numeral II.

“ Tablet No. 3, like all the others, has had a small piece cut off it to be sent to you ; the major portion has gone to Dr. Hardwicke. On the trade-marked side of this piece there has been imprinted, in the extreme lower left hand corner, in gold leaf, an impression from Mr. Bond's signet ring, showing a hand and the initials M. C. V. In addition, in the extreme upper right hand corner there are printed two slightly overlapping impressions of my own seal, as used on the other tablets. A diffusion of the gold about my seals here is due to an experiment on our part in the use of a liquid substitute for the gold leaf. This tablet, finally, carries three knife-cut sets of three notches each, on three edges, to match the Roman numerals III that are cut in it above and below the trade-mark. The fragment going to you bears on one side my seal in gold, with scratched numeral 3 (Arabic) ; on the other side, Mr. Bond's ring-seal plus numeral III (Roman).

“ Tablet No. 4 has been cut so that the larger half, which I have sent to Dr. Hardwicke, shows practically all of the lettering KERR, barring a bit of the initial stroke of the K. In the left and right corners are imprinted on gold leaf the seal from Mr. Bond's ring, as described above. The surface of this tablet is marked in two places with the Roman numeral IV, and this same numeral has been notched into three of the edges. The reverse side, as usual, has been untouched. The portion of this tablet going to you has unfortunately been broken in two, the break occurring directly through the gold impression of Mr. Bond's seal. The Roman numeral IV was cut on either side of this piece before it met with the accident in question ; this accident has left both these marks on the same fragment. It is to be noted that my own seal does not appear on this tablet No. 4 at all.

“ Wax tablet No. 5 has been cut so that Dr. Hardwicke's piece shows the word KERR in full. The surface bearing this word bears three seal impressions in gold leaf. That in the lower left corner is from my seal ; the centre one, directly above and partly obliterating the letter E of KERR, is from Mr. Bond's ; that in the upper right-hand corner is again from mine. The Roman numeral V is scratched with penknife on the upper and lower portions of this tablet, in each case quite close

to my own seal imprint ; and this same numeral is cut into three of the edges. That portion of this tablet going to you bears my seal in gold on one side only ; but the Roman numeral V is scratched into both sides.

(Signed) THERON F. PIERCE.

Of these five marked tablets, Nos. I-V, we have received back from Niagara Falls Nos. I and V, carrying imprints ; together with No. IV, unimprinted. Nos. II, III have not been returned, since they have not been exposed to Walter's action in the seance room.

It will be observed that blank No. I, used in Niagara Falls for the successful print of April 29th, was handled very little. Front and back it retains the smooth flat surface of the original tablet, and its edges are not distorted in the least. We should expect it to retain the notches cut in these edges as part of the identifying marks, and we find that in fact it does so. Further, examination of the back shows that both of the incised marks I are preserved, and that Mr. Pierce's three seal impressions are likewise present with full force. We recall no other blank during the entire period of the thumbprint experiments that has maintained its original form with less alteration than is seen here.

The No. 5 tablet, used in Niagara Falls on May 2nd and reproduced in Fig. 7, was less fortunate. The central seal imprint on the back is identifiable as Mr. Bond's only because it is obviously not Mr. Pierce's ; the two impressions of Mr. Pierce's seal are present and in good order, in the places where he describes having put them. Faint traces of marks on the edges are visible at one or two points, but are not identifiable as the Roman numeral V. There is a mark shaped quite like a Roman V, not far from one of Mr. Pierce's seals ; which, in the photograph, appears to be raised rather than depressed. In fact, on the original wax, it is seen to be depressed ; we have here a photographic illusion due to the lighting employed, of the sort already explained to readers of the 1928 fingerprint paper.

Anybody would have confidence that the imprinted blank I is the one which Mr. Pierce describes. The reader could not have such confidence with regard to the imprinted No. V, but would rather have to pass the problem of its identification up to Mr. Pierce himself. This, of course, is incidentally something that one would wish to do in any event—get Mr. Pierce's statement that he recognizes his marked pieces of wax. He has examined the imprinted wax returned from Hardwicke's seances, and the photographs reproduced herewith, and the wax residuals in Mr. Bird's possession ; and in Mr. Bond's presence he states to Mr. Bird that the imprinted pieces I and V from Niagara Falls are his marked pieces I and V.

A further check of some slight interest completes the formal identification of these two pieces. The tablets of the Kerr wax, as prepared by the maker, of course vary slightly in size and in density, and accordingly in weight. The intent is apparently to have them weigh approximately

an ounce, or, in apothecaries' measure, 480 grains. If weighed as they come out of the box, they would display some variation. Five tablets selected at random and weighed individually showed a spread of 25 grains between the lightest and the heaviest.

No exact check can be effected between the original weight of a tablet before marking, and the combined weight, after the seance, of the thumbprinted half plus the check piece. For in the process of cutting off the check piece, the wax crumbles somewhat, and there is loss. Similarly, no exact balance may be sought by checking the combined weight of these two pieces, after segmentation and before the seance, against their combined weight after the seance; for the wax that goes into the hot water may suffer an appreciable loss in weight through melting off and through adhesion of its particles to the cloth, the table, etc.

The most pertinent check that we can effect, then, is to weigh the two fractions of the tablet, after the seance imprinting; and observe whether the total combined weight comes within proper limits. Our observation is that no tablet in its form is likely to weigh more than 480 grains. We have weighed the three tablets received back from Niagara Falls, and the corresponding check pieces deposited with Mr. Bird. No. 1, which was actually imprinted with a Walter thumbprint, shows 382 grains for the fraction that went to Niagara and 91 grains for the one that remained in Mr. Bird's custody; a total of 473 grains for the reconstructed tablet. No. IV, which was exposed to Walter's action but not imprinted, shows 376 grains for the larger piece and 100 grains for the smaller check piece; a total of 476 grains. And No. 5, imprinted during the second Niagara Falls seance, gives us a large fragment weighing 363 grains and a check piece of 97 grains for a combined weight of 460 grains. None of these figures is too large, and we believe none of them is too small.

If this type of control over the wax tablets were being employed again, it would be sought to cut off check pieces of more appreciably different sizes from the several blanks. It is evident, for example, that if anything were to be gained by a fraudulent transposition of the check pieces that would result in relating them with the wrong seance pieces, the present figures for weight would not reveal this transposition; and that to this extent they afford no supplemental data of value beyond the mere check marks on the pieces. They do, however, suggest pretty strongly that the combined weights check within a sufficiently close margin to make it extremely improbable that any bodily substitution has been effected; and to this degree they do add something to the identification by mark. The net result of all this reporting and discussion appears to be the very effective demonstration that the Niagara Falls imprints were produced on the wax blanks supplied by Mr. Pierce; which is precisely what the marking, etc., was designed to prove.

At this point, we would pause for a moment to acknowledge the unstinted co-operation of the Hardwicke group, sitting at Niagara Falls, and the Litzelmann group, sitting in Cambridge. Both groups

have displayed great patience in going through with seances, ordered by Walter, which had no result or meaning visible to the sitters.

Since many of the seances in Niagara Falls, in Cambridge, and even in Lime Street, were held under such conditions that the present writers could not have first-hand information as to all or, in some cases, as to any of the details, we are also indebted to those who have so cheerfully furnished reports concerning their part in these tests: Mrs. Roland Baker, Dr. R. J. Tillyard, Dr. Brewer Eddy, Dr. E. W. Brown, Messrs. Joseph De Wyckoff, Theron F. Pierce, F. Bligh Bond, Byram Whitney, Claude Bragdon, and John W. Fife.

And Messrs. W. H. Kunz and J. W. Fife have rendered valuable technical assistance: Mr. Fife in the examination of these exhibits and Mr. Kunz in the preparation of the photographs.

* * * * *

Those of our readers who have studied the earlier instalments of these articles will have no difficulty in recognizing the distinctive Walter thumbprint pattern in all three imprints of April 29th and May 2nd. But they differ from practically all those previously received. There is a wrinkle extending nearly across the thumb, bifurcated at the left of the picture, and located almost 3-16ths inch above the normal joint line. This is identical in all the prints made on wax marked by Mr. Pierce. (The print made on wax marked by Dr. Eddy lacks the lower portion hence does not include this wrinkle.) The wrinkle is one of the transient marks in a normal fingerprint which does not in any way alter the identity of the print.

While we cannot, at this time, make a positive statement as to all the Walter prints which have been made, it is clear that of those available for comparison only that one made at the De Wyckoff solus sitting shows a similar wrinkle. In this print the wrinkle is shallower and the joint line is bifurcated at a different point and in a different form. Hence, these three prints of April 29th and May 2nd are identical and, so far as can now be determined, have a different combination of certain characteristics from any others which have been presented.

Referring again to Walter's statement of April 10th, when he said: "*Whatever I make at Niagara Falls I shall make exactly the same kind of a print here,*" we see that he has made good in a brilliant fashion.

That the print made at the Hardwicke seance of April 29th appears of smaller proportions than the Lime Street print is an illusion. The distance from the tip of the core to the joint line is the same in all these prints. Evidently the wax was not as soft as it was at Lime Street. The impression is not so deep, and is, therefore, narrower.

Collating the results of these experiments, we find that under rigidly controlled conditions, using specially marked wax which, at Lime Street was handled by Mr. Pierce (representing the A.S.P.R.) we have obtained prints of the Walter thumb through two mediums 450 miles apart within 77 minutes. Another print of the same pattern was received at Lime Street on wax marked and handled by Dr. Brewer Eddy.

On May 2nd another print, identical in pattern with these others, was obtained through Dr. Hardwicke at Niagara Falls. Margery was wide awake in a brightly lighted room, and actively engaged in conversation when these Hardwicke prints were made. This is the first time that Walter fingerprints have been made while Margery was awake.

A GROUP OF THREE RECENT SEANCES.

These seances, as well as three others, were held in order that a distinguished European visitor might have an opportunity to study the phenomena of the Margery mediumship. His interest in the fingerprint evidence was such that three of the seances were devoted to this work. As he may wish to present a report of these seances, we shall confine our descriptions to brief statements of the conditions under which the prints were produced and photographs and descriptions of the more important prints. The gentleman in question will be referred to as Dr. "Z"; his name is known to the Research Office, and will be given to inquirers on condition that it is not for publication prior to the presentation of Dr. "Z's" report.

The first of these seances was held at Lime Street, September 9th, 1929, at 9.15 p.m. The circle was composed of Margery, Dr. "Z," Dr. Richardson, Prof. D. D. Brane, Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Richardson, Dr. Crandon, and Mr. Fife. Mrs. Richardson searched Margery before and after the seance with negative results. (To save repetition we will state here that this was true of all three seances.) Margery was under tactual control throughout the period when prints were being made. Dr. "Z" had marked eight pieces of wax, and had these in his pocket. The marks were known to no one else. He alone handled the wax. The water was poured into the hot-water dish, and water was changed as needed by Dr. Crandon. This was done in bright red light of sufficient intensity to enable all in the circle to follow every movement. The wax was placed by Dr. "Z" in light of this same intensity. (In the seances covered by Dr. "Z's" abbreviated reports it is to be understood that the usual procedure is followed, and that the placing and removal of the wax, and the pouring and changing of the water are done in bad light, but the prints are made in total darkness.) The seance-room door was locked by Dr. "Z," who kept the key. The key-hole does not pass through the door, so unlocking from the outside is impossible.

Just before the first piece of wax was to be placed, Mr. Fife suggested to Walter that it would be desirable to obtain a distinctly imperfect print of his thumb, one that was different from any other which had been made. When Walter told Fife that he (Fife) was trying to prove that the prints were not made by means of a mould, the latter admitted that he had some such idea in mind. Walter then said that he "would go him one better." He added, "You think that now that you have me locked in here you can ask me for something quite different from my usual print, and I won't have any mould to make it with." He then said that he would make the first print deformed and the next one normal, and asked for hot water and wax. These were provided

according to the usual procedure. Dr. "Z" told us that the wax which he placed in the dish was his piece, No. 8—as he determined by tactual examination. In approximately two minutes after the water was heard to drip on the table resulting from the withdrawal of the cloth and wax from the hot water, Walter told Dr. "Z" that the print was completed, and the latter removed it from the cold-water dish. This print is shown as Fig. 8.

The next print was finished a little more quickly. The water was changed before the wax was placed, and both operations were carried out in the same period of red light. The print is illustrated as Fig. 9.

The water was again changed and another piece of wax placed as before. Walter said that the water was not very hot, and rapped the wax against the side of the cold-water dish (after completing the prints) to show that it was quite hard. We are showing this piece as Fig. 10. The next blank was placed as above, and Walter announced its completion after a brief delay. This was left in the cold-water dish until the completion of the seance; it is of insufficient importance to warrant reproduction.

Near the close of the seance Dr. "Z" asked Walter if he could make the prints of a child two years old. Walter said that he could, but was not sure that he could do it the next night. He said, "I will give it to you before you leave, and will make my own print alongside it." The seance closed at 10.30 p.m.

After the seance Dr. "Z" examined the imprinted wax and identified the pieces as those which he had previously marked and had placed in the dish of hot water. He kept the remaining pieces for use at the next seance. Mr. Fife examined the prints, and stated that they were of the Walter thumb. His report will follow the last seance of the series since it includes an examination of all the prints in this group.

The next seance was held the following evening at Lime Street, at 9.20 p.m. Dr. "Z" and Mr. Fife sat with Margery. Her wrists were secured to the chair arms with five turns of half-inch adhesive tape cross-marked to the skin with blue pencil. The hot-water dish was at her left in front of Dr. "Z." The latter searched the room with white flashlight after Margery had been thus secured. At approximately 9.45 p.m., Mr. Fife poured the hot water at Walter's request, and Dr. "Z" unlocked the door, let Mr. Fife out, and relocked it. He then placed one piece of marked wax in the dish, and on this he received two prints, one of which is of the Walter thumb. This wax is shown as Fig. 11. Dr. "Z" then called Mr. Fife back into the room and, later, a brief seance was held at which the circle was formed with Margery (still lashed to the chair), Dr. "Z," Dr. Richardson, Mr. B. K. Thorogood, Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Richardson, Dr. Crandon, and Mr. Fife.

During this later seance Walter said that the small print on the wax was that of the thumb of a boy about 4 years of age, whose mother was still living "on your side." He added that he had done some things to his own print which would puzzle Fife and Dudley. This seance

closed at 10.25 p.m. Dr. "Z" identified the wax as that which he had placed in the hot-water dish.

The last seance of this series was held at 117 Lake Avenue, Newton Centre, Mass., in the same small room of Dr. Richardson's home as were the seances of July 16th, 1927, and June 1st, 1928. The circle was composed of Dr. "Z," Margery, and Mr. Fife, reading clockwise. Margery's wrists were secured to the chair arms as before. Her ankles were tied to the chair legs with strong cord, and her body was tied to the chair back with adhesive tape. The hot-water dish was in front of Dr. "Z." The pail for waste water and the kettle of hot water were in front of the table opposite Margery. The table was of the same size as that used in Lime Street, without drawers, and perfectly plain. Prof. Brane sat outside the door at Dr. "Z's" request. Dr. Crandon, Dr. and Mrs. Richardson, and Mr. Dudley sat in the dining-room, but much farther removed from the door of the seance room. These preparations were completed at 9.25 p.m., and between then and 10 p.m. Walter produced four prints on two pieces of wax which Dr. "Z" had marked, and which he alone handled.

There was a brief intermission at ten o'clock to enable the sitters to examine the prints. Dr. "Z" stated then, as well as later, that the wax was that which he had placed in the dish of hot water. During this intermission Dr. "Z" examined the lashings which secured Margery to the chair, and testified that they were as he had left them. At this and the previous seance that wrist ties were cross-marked to the skin with blue pencil, and these markings were undisturbed at the end of the seance.

A brief seance was then held, Drs. Crandon and Richardson, Prof. Brane, and Mr. Dudley standing and Mrs. Richardson seated; Dr. "Z," Margery and Mr. Fife in their original order. Walter said that the small print which appears beside his on these two pieces of wax is that of a child two years of age whose mother is also on his (Walter's) side. The seance closed at approximately 10.20 p.m. Both pieces of wax imprinted on this evening have been photographed, but the position of the child's print in the first piece makes reproduction so difficult that we are using only the second. This is shown as Fig. 12.

All of the prints made at these three seances were made on wax which had been marked by Dr. "Z" and handled only by him. If we include the partial print of the Walter thumb which is overlaid by a more complete impression, we have received, at these seances, ten prints of the Walter thumb and three non-Walter prints. All of these were proved to have been made at the time we suppose them to have been made, and on the wax provided for that purpose.

We come now to Mr. Fife's reports for these dates:

Report of seance of September 9th, 1929, at 10, Lime Street.

At the above seance Dr. "Z" controlled Margery's left hand, I controlled her right hand, and Dr. and Mrs. Richardson, Dr. Crandon and Mr. Dudley completed the circle.

After the medium was apparently in trance, Walter's voice was heard

coming from the direction of the cabinet. I inquired if it were possible, if thumbprints were to be made, to produce one a little out of the ordinary such as a ridge or wrinkle running across the face of the print without destroying the print characteristics. My object in doing this was to eliminate any possibility of the use of a mould, as the more recent prints obtained in this circle were almost perfect in form, with clear, distinct lines and characteristics.

Dr. "Z" then inquired if it were possible for Walter to produce the print of a child's finger or thumb. Walter promised to try the following evening.

Hot water was poured into the dish used for softening the wax, and Dr. "Z" placed a piece of dental wax on the cloth. In approximately five minutes time Dr. "Z" removed the wax from the cold-water dish and remarked that it had a print on it. He then placed a second piece of wax in the hot-water dish, and in a few minutes he removed same from the dish of cold water. This also had print on it. Two more pieces of wax were placed and removed in the same manner by Dr. "Z," and these also carried prints.

At the close of the sitting Dr. "Z" examined and pronounced the wax to be the same as that which he had privately marked before the sitting.

I then made a close examination of the prints, and found to my surprise that the first print obtained was a normal negative thumb print of the same pattern as that which I have examined many times since 1927, but running vertically across the ridges was an elevated, irregular ridge. This was what I had asked for during the sitting. The second piece contained a normal negative print of the same pattern as the first, but with this irregularity missing. The third piece carried three prints of the same pattern. One was the same as the first print with all of the same irregularities, but the two other prints, one overlapping the other, were normal negative prints without these imperfections. The fourth piece of wax contained two prints of this same thumb, one irregular and one perfect.

In my opinion these results eliminate the use of any form or mould or other normal means in obtaining the above prints, as no one present in the room had any previous knowledge of my intention to ask for such a print.

I then examined the prints of Dr. "Z," and found no comparison with the prints obtained on the wax.

Report of seance of September 10th, 1929, 10, Lime Street, Boston.

After the room in which the seance was held was thoroughly searched and Margery had been secured to the chair by binding her wrists to the chair arms with surgeon's tape, this tape was then marked by Dr. "Z" with blue pencil by running vertical lines across the tape and the medium's arms. A circle was formed with Dr. "Z" holding the medium's left hand with his right and my right hand with his left while I controlled her right hand.

The dishes for hot and cold water and the small towel all as described.

in my previous reports were on the table between us. On the floor was a kettle of hot water. In approximately twenty minutes time I was requested to fill the empty dish with hot water, after which I was let out of the room by Dr. "Z."

About 15 minutes later the door of the room was opened by Dr. "Z," and I was called in. About ten minutes later the rest of the group, consisting of Dr. Crandon, Dr. and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Thorogood and Mr. Dudley, were called in, and a short seance was held.

After the sitting, Dr. "Z" examined the single piece of wax which had been imprinted and pronounced it to be the same that he had marked before the sitting.

I then examined the wax, and found that it contained two prints. One print appeared at first to be a normal negative thumb print, but closer examination showed the lines around the top of the core were considerably opened up with the lines above the core running close together. Although the pattern was the same as that described as the Walter thumb. This is the first print which contained these peculiar characteristics. The second print was apparently a normal negative thumb print of a child between four and five years of age.

Report of seance at 117, Lake Avenue, Newton Centre, Mass., September 11th, 1929.

This seance was held in the same small room as that used when I sat with Margery and Dr. Tillyard, and before that with Margery and Mr. Bird. There was a small table similar to the one at Lime Street, the same dishes, and three chairs. A kettle of hot water was on the floor. Dr. "Z" and I examined the interior of the room, and found it to be secure and ready for the sitting. We then proceeded to secure Margery to the chair by tying her wrists to the chair with surgeon's tape. Another piece passed around her body and secured to the back of the chair. We then tied her feet, one to each leg of the chair. This was done with strong packing cord. Dr. "Z" then tied the end of this cord running from her right ankle to his left leg. He then marked the tape across to her arms with blue pencil by drawing vertical lines across the tape. This was done to eliminate any possibility of removing the tape and securing same later.

This procedure of tying kept the body of the medium very nearly rigid, and with extreme effort she could extend her hands to within (6) six inches of the table, but no further. The dishes containing the hot and cold water were at least 14 inches from her finger tips.

Dr. "Z" held Margery's right hand, I held her left hand and his right hand. The only light in the room came from a small electric light, a red bulb, controlled by a chain pull hanging low enough to be easily reached. In this light persons and objects in the room were plainly visible.

The dental wax was handled by Dr. "Z," while I twice poured the hot water from the kettle into the hot-water dish on the table.

In a short space of time four prints were obtained on two pieces of wax. A toy xylophone was then placed on the table, and various tunes

and the scale were played. This ceased suddenly, and something struck me on top of the head. This later proved to be one of the small wooden hammers used with the xylophone. The illuminated basket was placed on the table, and while Walter continued to speak and whistle the basket was elevated twice to a distance of about four feet above and around the table in a circular motion.

At the end of the sitting the tape and cord with which the medium was secured were carefully examined, and found to be intact. The room was again searched, and found to be in the same condition as before the sitting began.

Dr. "Z" examined the Kerr containing the prints obtained, and declared it to be the same identical Kerr which he had marked before the sitting. He alone knew what these markings were.

I then examined the prints and found each piece contained two prints; one on each was the normal negative ulnar loop pattern of the Walter thumb as previously reported on by me. The other prints appeared to be of the right thumb of a child about two years of age, and were a different pattern from the child's print obtained at the seance of September 10th, at Lime Street.

(Signed) J. W. FIFE.

Mr. Fife's very brief statement may be amplified in various respects. Fig. 8 shows the peculiarly distorted print which Walter made in response to Mr. Fife's wholly unexpected request for something different. The major feature is an irregular longitudinal ridge which, in the wax, is raised well above the remainder of the print. The papillary ridges cross this ridge, thus indicating that this deformation, great as it is, still bears the impress of the markings found on living flesh. The greater portion of the remainder of the print is made up of broken lines of the Walter pattern. There is just enough of the basic pattern remaining to show that this is a Walter print. It is a unique form of the Walter print, and is quite up to the specifications presented by Mr. Fife. It will be remembered that Walter said to Mr. Fife, "I will go you one better."

This print was made in about two minutes, but as soon as the necessary changes in water and wax could be carried out, Walter made the print shown as Fig. 9. Here we have almost a complete return to the usual pattern, but with the introduction of certain features which make this another unique print. The print is distinctly of the normal negative type, but in addition to the wrinkle which was seen in the prints made during the Boston-Niagara Falls cross-test we find two more horizontal wrinkles between the long wrinkle and the joint line and, at the right of the major wrinkle, a curved, sharp-edged wrinkle placed approximately at right angles to the other wrinkles. This latter fold must have been about as deep as the fold at the joint. As seen in the wax it is characteristic of a skin fold, but not of any flexible material such as rubber.

Turning, now, to Fig. 10, we see that Walter has reproduced the

deformed print shown in Fig. 8, and on the same piece of wax he has made two more imprints of his normal thumb. He said that the water was too cold, and the next print which he made indicates why he wanted softer wax. In that piece of wax he made another deformed print, and alongside it a perfect normal negative in which but one of the wrinkles and none of the deformations appear. Thus in a single seance, he has made three different forms of the Walter print, and has alternated the normal and the approximately normal with the completely distorted form in a manner which suggests complete control of the original from which these prints were made.

If these prints were made by normal means one would naturally expect that Walter would have given some excuse and refused to carry out Fife's request. (In this connection it will be remembered that at the seance of August 25th, 1927, Mr. Fife asked Walter to make a print of his left thumb. This request was made without prior notice to anyone. Walter made three prints which are different from any others received up to that time. He claims that they are of his left thumb.)

Fig. 11 is a very interesting exhibit. For the first time in the history of these fingerprint experiments we have received a print which is attributed to a child. The ridges are fine, clean, cut, and closely spaced. The ridge interval is much smaller than in Walter's prints, and the whole print is different. The thumb is short and broad. Mr. Fife agrees that it is a child's print. Walter said that it is the thumb of a boy about four years of age. It has not been identified, and no indication was given as to the name or nationality of the owner. We are certain that no child was present, in the normal sense, and that this is not the same pattern as that of any of the sitters.

The negative print of the Walter thumb which is seen at the right is worth more than a passing glance. The core is open at the apex. This peculiarity has been seen in a few other prints of Walter's, in particular, those made on August 18th, 1927. But in this case the open space is much larger. Above and to the right of the core the ridges flow together in an unusual way. The ridges of the delta are interlaced in a manner which would set this print apart from any other Walter prints even though there were no other unique features. Again the hypothesis of normal production seems to have been given a set-back.

Taking up the prints made at the last seance of the series, that of September 11th, we have reproduced the better of the two pieces as Fig. 12. The normal negative of the Walter print shows the wrinkle which has appeared in so many of the recent prints, but is like the earlier prints in other respects. The child's print at the right is beautifully clear. Excellent as are the photographs, they do not serve to show the delicacy of the ridges and the perfection of the imprint as a whole. We would draw especial attention to the short distance between the joint and the tip of the impression. Note, also, the fine interlaced lines of the joint. The evidence of the wax is that both the first and second phalanges were impressed, and yet the total length of this print is less than

that of the Walter print down to the joint line. The average ridge interval in this print is approximately one-half that of the Walter prints. The size of the impression and fineness of the ridges is, according to Mr. Fife, consistent with Walter's statement that this is the print of the thumb of a boy two years old.

If these children's prints are of the right thumb they are all ulnar loops. It is quite clear that the small print of Fig. 11 is a different pattern from that of Fig. 12. At this writing we have no information as to the name of this child. But, again, we are certain that no child was present in the small seance room at Newton Centre.

Walter promised Dr. "Z" that he should have the print of a two-year-old child before he left for home, and he has made good his promise. He has done even better than that, for he has given two prints of the latter and another print of the digit of a different child. It is not out of place to remark at this point that the conditions of control were rigid and exactly what Dr. "Z" asked for.

The conditions surrounding the presentation of the prints seem to provide ample safeguards against normal production. But in any case the evidence of the wax supports the statement that these prints are such as are produced by contact of living flesh with the softened wax.

During this series of three seances we received two new fingerprint patterns. Mr. Fife took the fingerprints of Dr. "Z" and Prof. Brane to complete the evidence that the prints obtained at these seances were not those of anyone present.

* * * * *

The next seance for fingerprints was held at Lime Street, September 30th, 1929. The sitters were arranged in two groups, the inner circle composed of Margery, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Max Dessoir, of Berlin, Mr. Dudley, and Mr. Fife. Outside this circle were seated Mrs. Richardson, Mr. B. K. Thorogood, Mrs. Dessoir and Miss Rittner. Dr. Crandon was excluded from the room. The latter group kept in tactual contact without forming a complete circle except during periods of red light, while the wax and the water was being prepared.

Dr. Dessoir had provided himself with marked wax. The nature of the markings was unknown to anyone but himself, Mrs. Dessoir and their niece, Miss Rittner. At a previous seance Walter had instructed him to mark the wax so that the marks would remain clear after the prints were made. He was very emphatic as to the necessity for taking this precaution.

Mrs. Dessoir locked the door of the seance room and kept the key. Margery was searched before and after the seance by Mrs. Richardson with negative results. The box of wax was in Mrs. Dessoir's possession during the seance, and she handed the pieces to her husband as they were called for.

The seance began with cognitions of material provided by Dr. and Mrs. Dessoir, and handled only by them. At the previous seance Dr. Dessoir had asked Walter why he could not read the numbers directly instead of making Margery write them. This is, of course, a reversion to the form of cognition tests which were used four years

ago. Walter readily consented to the change, but said, "That is easy, much easier than what I did. [He had completed a post-hypnotic test on September 28th.] There is nothing to that. It is far easier than impressing them on the medium's brain. It takes a lot of energy to do that." When asked how much more energy was needed to impress these specific ideas on the medium's brain as against that used by him in cognizing the material and describing it in independent voice he replied: "About three times as much."

Dr. Dessoir put four slips of paper on the table, one at a time. Each one was read by Walter before the next one was placed. Walter read the first as 13, and Dessoir assented. He hesitated somewhat on the second saying, "This looks like 13," and, after a pause, "It is thirteen." The third one bothered him still more, and finally he said, "I don't know whether I am going crazy or not, but this looks like another thirteen. Haven't you written anything but thirteen?" Dessoir said that thirteen was his lucky number. Walter replied that it was his also. He then stated positively that this was 13. The next paper was promptly read as 27. These were correct. After the seance Dessoir explained that he had made this choice since no one was likely to guess 13 three times in succession. The room was absolutely dark throughout this test, and there was no indication that this was a guessing contest. (During the seance of September 28th Walter had asked Dr. Dessoir to guess what numbers he put down on the table. These were chosen at random in the dark. Dessoir was consistently wrong.)

Following this portion of the seance, which is included in this record in brief in order to keep the continuity reasonably complete, the red light was turned on, and Margery's wrists were secured to the chair arms with four turns of half-inch surgeon's tape. One turn was taken about the chair arm, and then four turns around both the wrists and the chair. This was done with the aid of white light from a flashlight, and while Margery was in deep trance. Dr. Dessoir marked across the tape to the skin with blue pencil in each case. Margery's feet were where Dessoir could control them with his if he wished to do so.

The light was turned out, and Walter said that he was ready for the hot water. With the light on, this was poured by Mr. Fife. After a brief period of darkness Walter said that he was ready for the wax, and, in red light, Dessoir put one piece in the centre of the dish of hot water. The light was then turned out. Control was re-established, Fife's right hand controlling Dudley's left resting on the table so that the latter could keep one finger lightly touching the end of the towel, in order to determine the exact instant that Walter began to withdraw it from the dish to the table. Two minutes after it had been withdrawn Walter said that the water was too hot and the wax was too soft to use, so he had let it cool somewhat. Two minutes after this the wax was placed in the cold-water dish from which it was removed by Dessoir in bright red light. Before touching the wax he carefully examined the dishes, the position of the wax and the towel, and felt around the cold-water dish. He then picked up the wax, and handed

it to Dudley, who, in turn, handed it to Mr. Thorogood. Mrs. Richardson placed it on a vacant chair. More water was poured, and another piece of wax placed as before. Again the wax became a little too soft, and the time was about three minutes to the completion of the print. This one was dropped on the floor, and Walter said that it was still warm. He told Dessoir that it was between the medium's feet. Dessoir drew it out with his own foot, and picked it up. This piece of wax was bent into the form of a letter U, with the print in the flattened surface of the short side. The wax was still warm when Dessoir passed it to Dudley. It was placed alongside the first print, more water was poured, and another piece of wax placed in the same way as before. This third print was made more quickly, and the wax was not as much distorted. The same procedure was followed in each case. After the last print was finished it was noted that the towel was somewhat squeezed out, and was in much the same shape as it would be if a hand had done this. It was lying near the hot-water dish, and more distant from the cold-water dish than on the two previous occasions.

After the fingerprints were finished Walter did some remarkable levitations with the luminous basket while the medium was still tied to the chair, Mrs. Dessoir had, in the meantime, unlocked the door, and Dr. Craondon brought in the basket and remained outside the circle for the remainder of the seance.

The surgeon's tape was cut in white light after Dr. Dessoir had carefully examined the ties and the marks and seen that they were undisturbed.

At the conclusion of the seance, which lasted one hour and ten minutes, Mr. Fife examined the three prints, and stated that they were all normal negatives of the Walter thumb. The first wax used was considerably bent at one end, the second was folded as previously described, while the last was nearly flat. The identification markings were not clear on the first piece, but on the other two they were very distinct and corresponded to the diagram of these markings which Mrs. Dessoir had kept. From this diagram it was clear that the marks used on the first piece were not of a type which could be expected to survive immersion in very hot water. Both Dr. and Mrs. Dessoir stated that the wax pieces Nos. 2 and 3 were the identical pieces which they had marked, and which had been placed in the hot-water dish. There were no prints on the wax other than those of the Walter print.

Another distinguished guest was present on October 4th, 1929, at Lime Street. Again Dr. Crandon was excluded from the seance room. The circle was formed with Margery, Lord Charles Hope, of London, and Mr. Fife. Margery was searched before and after the seance by Mrs. Richardson, with negative results. She was secured to the chair at wrists and ankles with surgeon's tape, and another band was placed around her chest and through the back of the chair. The wrist and ankle ties were cross-marked to the skin with blue pencil by Lord Charles Hope. The latter locked and sealed the door and searched the room very thoroughly. He had provided himself with several

pieces of wax which he marked in private. The above is in accordance with the statements of Lord Charles Hope and Mr. Fife as made after the seance, and agrees with the interpretation of the sounds heard by the rest of the group who were forming a circle in the hall outside the locked door. (This was in pursuance of Walter's request of the previous evening; he said that he would need all the energy he could get to complete this test.) The circle in the hall, reading clockwise, was made up of Dr. Crandon, Miss Harriet Richardson, Dr. Richardson, Mrs. Richardson, and Mr. Dudley.

Under these conditions Walter made five normal negative prints on three pieces of wax, two on each of two pieces, and one on the other. One of each of the pairs was less deeply impressed than its mate, and to such an extent as to indicate that these had been made after the wax had hardened somewhat. Three of the prints are very well defined. After the seance Mr. Fife identified the prints as of the Walter thumb, and Lord Charles stated that the wax in which they were made was that which he had marked and placed in the hot-water dish. The marks were clearly visible in the edge of the wax. No one but these three was in the seance room from the beginning to the end of the seance. Lord Charles Hope made his fingerprints (in ink, as usual), and they are as different from Walter's as they well could be.

It is remarkable that Walter has been able to do so much work under such exacting conditions in consideration of the number of consecutive seances which have been held. There had been but few seances before this last group of thirteen (five of which were for fingerprints), but it became necessary for Margery to rest at its conclusion. It was clear that Walter was confining himself to only a few phenomena each evening, and these were more and more restricted as the seances continued. He has said that he had to depend on the energy of the group and of other mediums from whom he could draw, especially from Mrs. Litzelmann and the group sitting with her, in order to complete his work. As the seances continued he did less and less talking, and it became clear that he was using every means to conserve his energy for the presentation of the phenomena. During four subsequent seances, between October 8th and 16th, there was a slight but noticeable improvement in Margery's energy, but at the same time Walter insisted that he was making use of the energy of others to a very great extent, and that he had to use her as little as possible. Now that this series is finished we may draw inferences from the results. The evidences of depleted energy are so clear in the case of many of the sitters and the reduction in the number and variety of the phenomena was so obvious that we can hardly avoid the conclusion that every phase of the phenomena is conditioned by the quantity and quality of the psychic energy available. The parallelism to the energetic limitations shown in the mediumship of D. D. Home, as described by Lord Dunraven, is so marked that it can hardly escape the attention of the informed reader.

Since all eight of the fingerprints received in these last two seances are normal negatives of approximately standard type, it seems unnecessary to reproduce the photographs in connection with this text.

We have noted that the evidence of the wax imprints of the Walter thumb, whether positive or negative, mirrored or normal, and whether concave or convex in any of these categories, indicates that these are ideoplastic productions. A few of the Walter prints of the right thumb show well-defined ridges in the upper portion as well defined as in the print of the left thumb. But many of these 108 Walter prints are not clear in this area despite the fact that the form of the print and the depth and uniformity of the imprinted section indicate that the pressure was uniformly applied. This lack of definition in one portion is not easily attributable to variations in pressure in the light of the other factors. But on the hypothesis that the print is made by an ideoplastic structure it is conceivable that the operator (Walter) might not think it necessary always completely to define that portion of the thumb which is not essential to identification. If the extent and perfection of a materialization is a function of the quantity and quality of psychic energy available in the circle (as has been specifically claimed by Walter), we may the more readily account for this and other peculiarities of these teleplasmic phenomena.

In evaluating the evidence which has been presented, it should be noted that most of the normal positive prints and some of the negatives present clear indications that the wax was not resting on the table or the cloth at the time the print was made. Many of these prints are on wax which was folded and distorted to a remarkable degree. Also, as has been pointed out in the earlier paper, they do not show the imprint of fingers carrying papillary ridges except in the main print. (An exception in a different group is the wax of January 18th, 1927, which shows a partial print of the Walter thumb on the edge of the wax.) Thus the evidence recorded on the surface of the wax gives a certain weight to the assumption that the manipulation of the wax in producing these prints involves the use of two (teleplasmic) hands or their equivalent.

* * * * *

We have one more seance to chronicle before concluding the present paper. On Sunday, October 20th, Mr. Bird was in Boston for the purpose of collaborating with Mr. Dudley on the final form of the present paper. Part of the afternoon was spent in Lime Street in order that certain original waxes and other records might be consulted; and at about five o'clock, our own work having been completed, we joined in the general discussion. The range and the power of the confederacy hypothesis were being canvassed; and, apropos of the various seances in which there have been but one or two sitters besides the medium, Mr. Bird made the remark, with humorous intent, that in the presence of a critic who was willing to extend the hypothesis of confederacy indefinitely to include each new sitter who might be so fortunate or so unfortunate as to enjoy a successful solus seance, the only way to elude this hypothesis was to conduct seances without any sitter at all. This remark, made quite without serious intent, aroused simultaneous realization, in the minds of Mr. Bird and several others of those present, that the sitter-less seance was after all not an impossibility.

In mediumistic phenomena of the ordinary type, sitters are necessary for two reasons. The phenomena must have sitters about which to revolve, as in the case of psychic touches ; and they must have sitters to observe them. But in the thumbprint we have a phenomenon that is its own record, and that does not in the least require an observer at the moment of its occurrence. Further, in the control by surgeon's tape and blue-pencil marking, we have a means of insuring that, with the medium alone in the seance-room, anything which occurs at any reasonable distance from her is quite free from all possibility of her normal instrumentality.

The situation outlined in the preceding paragraph was canvassed by those present on the afternoon in question, and though no appointment existed with Walter for a seance on that evening, it was agreed that we should hold a sitting, in the hope of securing a thumbprint at a moment when all persons save Margery were out of the room. It was appreciated that certain normal responsibilities in connection with the seance set-up would have to be discharged by some one sitter, and it was the consensus that in the short time available to think the business out, no technique could probably be devised which would absolutely guarantee the innocence of such sitter. It was therefore agreed that, assuming the seance to be successful, it could be regarded only as a preliminary attack upon the general problem of an absolutely fraud-proof sitter-less seance. It was finally decided that all activities before and during the present seance to which any possibility of suspicion might attach should be performed by Mr. Bird. The story may at this point be taken up by him, writing in the first person, instead of in the third, as he usually does in his seance records.

* * * * *

After the discussion of the afternoon, Crandon handed me two tablets of the dental wax, which I verified were entirely free of all markings save the KERR trademark. I took these to my hotel shortly before six o'clock, and there secretly marked them with a rather complicated series of surface scratches and notches on their edges. I returned to Lime Street for dinner around seven o'clock, retaining the marked tablets in my pocket, where they remained until I took them out during the seance.

Those present at dinner were Dr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. J. H. Brown, Mr. Dudley, Dr. Crandon and myself—and of course Margery. At about nine o'clock we went up to the seance room, and sat in a circle in the usual way, with Crandon at the medium's right and myself at her left. Preliminary arrangements were as follows :

I lashed the medium's wrists each to the corresponding arm of the chair, with surgeon's tape. I passed the tape several times around each wrist, exercising care that the separate turns should not overlie one another, but should rather cover as much of the wrist and forearm, longitudinally, as was possible. [The necessity for this measure arises out of the fact that with the wrist secured at a single point only, the hand may be used rather freely, rotating about the fixed point of the

wrist as a fulcrum. In a final experiment I should wish some measure of finger control in addition to the general immobility of the arm as such ; for the present occasion the knowledge that the forearm could not be elevated to give the hand any appreciable play was adequate.] After each wrist was taped, I made a rather complicated series of criss-crossings in blue pencil from the tapes on to the psychic's skin.

The tapes were wrapped very snugly, and I was particular to see that they were firmly attached to the skin and to the chair arm all the way around. At the end, when I inspected these bonds before releasing the medium, the pencil markings were entirely undisturbed, and there was ample evidence that the tapes had not been in any way loosened, detached, or otherwise shifted or manipulated.

The medium wore slippers and stockings as an added measure of foot control ; and in preference to attaching the tapes to the stockings, thereby ruining the latter, it was agreed that the ankles might be tied with non-adhesive material. Dudley attended to this, and I examined his ties after he made them, and again at the end of the seance ; they had not been in any sense disturbed.

No control for the head was used at this seance. It was agreed with Walter that on a repetition, the chest might be securely lashed through the under-arms to the chair-back, making it impossible for the psychic to bend forward. This is evidently as satisfactory as neck control, and a bit safer.

On the table there stood, initially, the empty hot-water basin with the cloth across it, and the filled cold-water basin. On the floor outside the circle and behind Crandon stood the galvanized iron bucket with hot water, not far from the boiling point ; and the empty waste bucket.

Under these conditions we sat, no notice being taken by me of the order in the circle. At about the usual interval after the red light went out Walter spoke, and we held parley with him, explaining what we wanted. He said that he could do it, and would do so, adding that there were two things that he was now able to do always and anywhere and in any company : the VCO machine and the thumbprint.

After perhaps ten minutes of conversation Walter indicated that he was ready for the thumbprint experiment. Crandon turned on the red light from the rheostat, the bulb being located on the mantelpiece ; all sitters arose ; all save myself left the room, and I checked them up as they left, closing the door behind them, but not locking it, because this seemed unnecessary in view of what was to follow.

I now turned on the overhead red light from the switch beside the door, so as to afford the maximum of red illumination ; I proceeded to the table and filled the hot-water basin from the reservoir bucket ; I deposited one of my marked tablets of dental wax in the hot water basin ; I put out both lights and opened the door and left the room.

Outside in the hall I left the seance-room door slightly ajar so that Walter might address me. I remained at the doorway in such position that it was impossible for anybody to enter or leave. I checked up on the other sitters, and all were present in the hall.

After two or three minutes Walter spoke up and said that the print was ready and for me to come and get it. The interval had been more or less occupied with the usual noises of manipulation on the table and in the water, as well as of the medium's restlessness, which I thought a bit more pronounced than usual.

I entered the room, closing and locking the door behind me ; I went straight to the table, recovered the wax from the cold-water vessel, and put it in my pocket ; I turned on the ceiling light and admitted the other sitters. As they entered I checked them over, and exercised due caution that nobody left the room during this time—a task rendered easy by the fact that the outer hallway was much lighter than the seance-room. When all sitters had entered, I locked the door and pocketed the key. This makes opening of the door from outside impossible since the key-hole does not go through. The status is now that if there was a concealed confederate, he is still in the room.

The sitters resumed their places, and when they were all seated I turned off the red light and took my place. Walter talked for a moment or two and then said he would produce a second print. At his word, I arose, turned on the overhead light, unlocked and opened the door, and checked the sitters out. I then locked the door, added hot water from the bucket to the basin on the table, deposited the second marked blank therein, put out the light, and let myself out. During the ensuing interval I repeated what I had done before, checking up on the presence in the hallway of all sitters and ensuring that no person entered or left the seance room.

When Walter called out to me that the second print was ready, he said further that the water was not hot enough, and that he did not believe the result was much good. In fact, I should have emptied the hot-water basin into the slop-bucket and refilled it with all hot water ; instead of which, through unacquaintance with the procedure, I had merely added enough hot water to what was already in the basin to fill the latter. As a result, the water was entirely too cool, the wax did not soften properly, and the "imprint" was a mere formless dent in the surface of the wax, with only the vaguest traces of lines.

I entered the room, locked the door, recovered this print in red light, admitted the sitters checking up on them as they came, locked the door again and pocketed the key. We resumed our seats, and in darkness had a bit more talk with Walter, which was interrupted by his announcement that he must go.

With the door still locked and both red lights going, the medium having emerged from her trance, I examined her bonds in white flashlight and satisfied myself that they had been disturbed in no sense whatever. I then cut her loose ; after which I unlocked the door and checked the sitters and the medium out. I then relocked the door ; and again the status is that if at any stage an unauthorized person was in the room, he is still there (I follow Houdini and all who have examined the room at a later date in denying the existence of secret exits). With the rheostat red light on full force and the overhead red light added to

this, I now examined the room carefully and at leisure with the aid of the white torch. The result was entirely negative. I let myself out and reported to the other sitters, awaiting me in the hallway.

I should state specifically that at all times when I returned to the door after having locked it, I found it still locked, and had to unlock it.

The first blank used was considerably deformed in the imprinting process, but I was able to identify it. The second one was deformed not at all, and carried all my marks without modification of any sort.

(Signed) J. MALCOLM BIRD.

REVISION OF PART II. SERIES 2.

The print obtained on the first blank is sufficiently remarkable for reproduction (Fig. 13). Every reader will appreciate that it shows two Walter thumbprints, overlapping. (There is a faint trace of a partial print above the 9 in the date, but this may not show in the reproduction.) Both prints are normal negatives of quite the usual pattern and form. There is, however, one feature which presents unusual difficulties in the way of normal production.

Let the reader experiment with his own thumb in wax or any other plastic. It is easy enough to make a first print, and to lay down a second one that shall overlap the first. But we have not found it possible to do this without almost completely obliterating the earlier print in the region of the overlap. A glance at Fig. 13 will show that no such complete obliteration has occurred. There is a small triangular area in which the core of the upper print (as they stand on the page) has cut so deeply into the wax as to eliminate the peripheral lines of the lower one. Save for this area, both sets of ridges are complete in detail, like two sets of intersecting co-ordinate curves. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that these prints were simultaneously impressed. The intersecting grooves in the wax produce an almost perfect checker-board effect.

Referring to the imprints on the wax of September 9th, 1929, 3, it will be seen that the two overlapping Walter prints act in a much more normal manner. The second (the lower one) obliterated practically all the lines of the upper print. But even this print is not a normal one, for we find that the normal finger cannot be extracted from the plastic wax quickly enough to make a second print, which is, in all essentials, as perfect as the first one. Yet in this instance Walter has made *three* prints on the same piece of wax, and the ridges are almost equally perfect in all three. If the finger is chilled to facilitate its removal from the wax, the wax is also chilled at that point and rendered less plastic.

Therefore we feel that this print of October 20th, 1929, is not only a unique piece of evidence, but is clearly indicative of the ideoplastic process.

And we repeat, it was obtained with the medium alone in the room,

and tied up in a manner which we believe to constitute a complete guarantee against any normal activity by her in the zone of the table.

The next seance for fingerprints was held on October 29th, 1929, at Lime Street. The circle was formed as follows: Margery, Dr. Richardson, Mrs. Hubbs, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Litzelmann, Mr. Thorogood, Mrs. Litzelmann, Dr. Crandon.

The usual preparations had been made for fingerprints, and, pursuant to Walter's request at the previous seance (October 23rd) a glass container (a clear glass beaker) and wooden plug had been provided by Mr. Thorogood together with wax for sealing the plug. The beaker and the plug were marked for identification. Mr. Dudley marked a piece of dental wax by embedding a very old and unusual type of pearl button in the wax. Mr. Thorogood added his own marks (known only to him), and weighed the wax very carefully. These and subsequent weighings done by Mr. Thorogood are with weights which are checked against secondary standards. These weighings may be accepted as accurate to 0.0001 gramme.

As there was considerable talk by Walter about matters not connected with fingerprints, this will be omitted from this condensed record. He requested rehearsal of a technique which he intended to use in making fingerprints, and asked that the medium's hands be tied. Adhesive tape was procured by Mr. Dudley, and Dr. Crandon taped Margery's wrists to the chair arms. She was in deep trance at this time. This was done in red light. As soon as the red light was turned out Walter asked that Mrs. Litzelmann (who was also in trance) be moved around in front of the table with her back to Margery, and that we form a circle with Mrs. L., so as to leave Margery outside it. With red light on this change was made. Mrs. L. was not awakened when her chair was dragged across the floor to its new position. Hot water was poured by Dr. Crandon into the dish used for that purpose, and Mr. Thorogood placed the marked wax on the cloth. The circle was formed as Walter had requested, Mrs. Litzelmann now occupying the place in the circle previously assigned to Margery. The red light was extinguished. Mr. T. took the time of placing the wax in the dish. (Using a stop watch.)

After a brief delay the wax was heard to drop into the beaker. (Time by stop watch 7 minutes 53 seconds.) Walter remarked that the plug was a very fine one, and added: "It smells of banana oil." (This was correct. It had been lacquered that afternoon.) Evidently he tried to put the plug into the beaker, but it slipped out of his terminal and rolled on the floor. It was retrieved by Dr. Richardson and replaced on the table. As judged from the sounds, Walter experienced some difficulty in handling this smooth wooden plug, but finally got it into the beaker. He then shook the beaker so that we heard the wax rattle about inside it. The beaker is approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diam. and $4\frac{1}{8}$ ins. high to the bottom of the plug.

Walter then asked for more hot water, and that a piece of sealing wax be put in the dish. This was done in red light. Dr. Crandon poured

the water and Mr. Thorogood placed the wax in the dish. With the light out, control was resumed. Walter found that the sealing wax would not work at the temperature of the hot water, and asked that a wax melting at a lower temperature be supplied for the next sitting. (We had discussed this matter with him at the previous seance, but he thought that he could soften the wax even though the temperature of the water was not high enough to accomplish this result.) He then asked that Margery's wrists be released, and, with red light on, the tapes were cut close to the chair arms by Dr. Crandon. As soon as the light was turned out Walter asked if we had noticed how Margery removed the adhesive tape after it had been cut loose, and while she was still in trance. He added: "She is pretty rough about it, but it does not hurt her. (This had been noted in connection with an earlier seance.) While the red light was on, Margery had torn the tape from her wrists (four or five turns spaced well apart) with a series of quick pulls. Her eyes were tightly closed, and her face showed no sign of pain.

While this wax was being imprinted, Mr. Thorogood had control of both of Dr. Crandon's hands with his left hand. The circle was completed through Mrs. Litzelmann, and Margery was in her usual place in the cabinet with tape controls as described above.

After some further conversation by Walter, both mediums were brought out of trance. Mrs. Litzelmann was much astonished to find herself in this unusual position in the circle, and, for a moment or two, was unable to orient herself. She felt that the front of the room had no business to be facing her! She said that she had tried her best to stay awake during this seance, as she wanted to know what was going on, but she could not do so in spite of her best attempts. She added that she always dreamed when she went to sleep but that when Walter put her to sleep she did not dream at all, and never knew what had happened.

The seance closed at 10.15, having lasted 70 minutes.

After the seance, in the book room, the beaker was examined. It contained the piece of wax which had been previously marked. On this was a normal negative print of the Walter thumb. The wooden plug had been driven into the beaker very tightly. Resting on the plug near one edge was the piece of sealing wax somewhat deformed, but showing no sign of the ridge markings of a thumbprint. It was depressed as though Walter had attempted to make his print. Removing the plug, we found the dental wax still wet. The fingerprints of those whose complete prints had not previously been recorded were taken in ink and the records were signed and witnessed.

Mr. Thorogood weighed the wax before the next sitting, and reports that before the seance it weighed 35.0307 grammes, while after the seance its weight was 35.0224 grammes. A loss of 0.0083 gramme. This loss may be accounted for by the chipping off of some very small particles while it was being softened or, perhaps, by such small particles adhering to the cloth. There was no sign that the piece had chipped after it hardened. The date was not marked on the wax until after the

check weighing. The loss is so slight that the weight constitutes an additional control. The original markings were intact. The pearl button is a very old one—probably nearly 100 years old—and it is doubtful if more than one other of this pattern is in existence. This duplicate is still in Mr. Dudley's possession.

The prints obtained at this seance are shown as Plates 4A and 4B.

The following seance was held at Lime Street, November 1st, 1929, at 8.40 p.m. The circle was as follows: Margery, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Dudley, Miss Harriet Richardson, Mr. Litzelmann, Mrs. Hubbs, Mr. Thorogood, Mrs. Litzelmann, Dr. Crandon. Margery's wrists taped and marked as previously described.

Preparations had been made for fingerprints as at the last seance. A beaker (600 c.c.) with a wooden plug had been provided by and both marked by Mr. Thorogood. The plug was so designed as to make it easy to seal it to the beaker. Mr. Thorogood had provided himself with specially marked wax. Mr. Dudley had some small pieces of marked dental wax for use in sealing the beaker.

Margery entered the trance state promptly (Mrs. Litzelmann was entranced soon after), and Walter came through. He said: "I am experimenting to-night." And then, speaking of fingerprints, he said: "We are all ink to-night." (Record prints in ink had been taken on the standard forms of Mrs. Hubbs, her son David, and of Margery.)

Walter asked for hot water in the dish. With the red light on Dr. Crandon poured the water. While the light was still on, Walter said: "Wax." His remark was not understood, and the light was turned off. Walter repeated his request, and in red light Mr. Thorogood placed a piece of marked wax in the hot-water dish. Light out. Walter then asked that the circle be formed in front of the table. Dr. Crandon and Dr. Richardson joined hands after changing position of chairs. Walter remarked that the water was very hot. A little later a sound was heard as though the wax was rapped against the side of the beaker, and Walter said: "Come here to me, wax." Then: "Come here, plug." With these statements we heard sounds as though the wax had been dropped into the beaker, and then as though the plug had been placed. (The plug had been provided with a rubber cork as a handle.)

Doctors Crandon and Richardson found their position uncomfortable, and Walter permitted them to break the circle, but then asked that they contact the sitters next to them with the free hand, saying: "This keeps the energy from flying off the ends." When Dr. Richardson touched Mr. Dudley's right hand there was a distinct sensation of cold, which continued during most of the rest of the seance.

Walter asked for a fresh dish-full of hot water. With the light on, Dr. Crandon replenished the hot-water dish. Mr. Dudley placed two small pieces of wax (for seals) in the dish. Light out. After a slight delay there was a sharp crack, and Walter said: "Sorry, but I have cracked the glass jar. You will have to use a heavier one. When you put the light on, better put some tape around it before you move it." When asked as to the nature of the crack he replied: "It goes down the

side to the bottom." He added: "I have made a fingerprint, and it has a sharp peak in the centre. I have put prints on both seals." When asked if it was his print, he answered, rather disgustingly: "Of course, it is my print." He told Dr. Crandon to cut the medium loose, and let her wake up. Margery awakened before the tapes were cut. Mrs. Litzelmann awakened at the same time. The seance closed at 9.25 p.m.

An examination of the beaker showed that it was cracked in two places on the side where the last seal had been placed. Evidently the last piece was too cold to take a good impression, and the extra pressure had driven the plug into the beaker so hard that the glass cracked. Tape was applied to the beaker to hold the broken piece in place. The beaker was taken to the book room, where we saw that it contained the wax marked by Mr. Thorogood on which was a normal negative print of the Walter thumb. (See Fig. 14.) This wax had been marked by embedding the head and a little of the filed-off shank of a copper rivet in the wax, so that the whole was covered by the wax. The water was hot, and the wax had softened so much that when Walter put his thumb down the wax was pushed away from the copper. One of the seals stuck firmly, but the other (evidently the second one to be applied) was loose. Both bear the impression of the Walter thumb, and both carry the impression of the "scar" made by the copper rivet. These indentations are alike, and are in the same position as the shank of the copper rivet in relation to the characteristics of print in the beaker. The seals carry the markers of silk thread which were embedded in them for identification. The weight of the wax has not been checked since to do so we would have to break the seals which have been applied by Walter. The print in the beaker is illustrated as Fig. 15.

During the whole of this seance Margery's wrists were secured with adhesive tape. At its close the tapes were in place, and the markings showed no sign of strain.

The next seance for thumbprints was held on November 5th, 1929. Another beaker was provided, and a new type of plug with a flange to prevent cracking the beaker. Cut-outs at diametrically opposite points made it easy to seal this plug into the beaker. A rubber stopper was inserted in the plug as a handle. Wax was marked by Mr. Dudley and Mr. Thorogood, in the order named, and the last named weighed each piece. He also marked the beaker and plug for future identification. Pieces of specially marked wax for sealing the plug were provided by Mr. Dudley.

When the fingerprints were made the circle was as follows: Margery, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Crandon, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Litzelmann, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Thorogood, Mrs. Litzelmann, Mr. Fife (controlling Margery's right hand). Outside the circle, Mrs. McLaughlin, and Miss Pierson.

As this seance may be reported in full in connection with another series of seances to which it seems to be intimately related, it seems best to give only an outline of the results in this article.

Margery was under tactual control. She went into trance promptly, as did Mrs. Litzelmann. Mr. Fife poured the hot water. Mr. Thorogood placed the wax (in red light, as usual), and shortly Walter said that three prints had been made on this piece of wax, which he placed in the beaker and sealed. Another piece of wax was placed as before, and three more prints made. Including the print on one of the seals holding the cover of the beaker in place, and a print made on a small piece of wax, eight prints were made this evening between 9 p.m. and 10.15 p.m. Four of these prints were normal negatives of the Walter right thumb. The other four consisted of two prints each of two strange patterns.

Control of Margery's hands was continuous while the wax was exposed. With the exception of the small piece of wax imprinted last, the prints were made on wax which had been previously marked, and which retained the markings. It will be noted that Dr. Crandon did not control Margery's hand during the time when prints were being made.

The next seance was held at Lime Street, November 15th, 1929. The circle was formed by Margery, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Thorogood, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Litzelmann, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. D. D. Walton (Trustee of the A.S.P.R.), Mrs. Litzelmann, and Dr. Crandon. Outside the circle, Miss Harriet Richardson and Mr. Allison (London, England).

The preparations for fingerprints were as usual. Mr. Dudley had specially marked wax. The seance began at 8.40 p.m.

After some conversation by Walter with reference to matters not connected with fingerprints (matters which, for the sake of the evidence, should not be published at this time), he said to Mr. Walton: "I will make a print for you. A big one for you and a little one for Button (Wm. H. Button, of the A.S.P.R.). Do you want it done with the medium alone in the room or with you alone with the medium? It is your choice." It was determined that it should be done with Mr. Walton alone with the medium. Her wrists were taped to the chair arms by Dr. Crandon, and the tapes cross-marked with blue pencil, all under Walton's supervision. Mr. Dudley broke a piece of the marked wax and gave both pieces to Mr. Walton, who confirmed the markings. All this was done in red light, and in the same period of red light Dr. Crandon poured the hot water into the dish and everyone left the room except Mr. Walton. After about ten minutes, during which we heard Mr. Walton in conversation with Walter, the latter called us back and said that he had obtained the prints, two of them on one piece of wax.

After an interesting and important test of the Richardson Voice Cut-Out under new conditions, the seance closed at 9.45.

An examination of the wax which had been imprinted showed two prints. One is a normal negative of the Walter right thumb. Close to it is a small and very perfect print such as might be made by a child. The lines are very fine, closely spaced and clean cut. This last is a new pattern in our list of strange prints. Walter did not give us any hint as to who had made this print.

The last seance of this year to be held at Lime Street was on November 25th, at 8.30 p.m. Margery was in the cabinet with wrists lashed to chair arms as previously described. The circle was formed outside the table as follows : Mrs. Litzelmann, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Thorogood, Mr. E. W. Sherburne, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Litzelmann, Dr. Crandon. Outside the circle, Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin, and a gentleman (whose name is not given.—ED.).

Wax had been prepared for this seance by rolling out pieces long enough to take three fingerprints without crowding. (At a previous seance (November 5th) the thumbs had overlapped the edges of wax so that two on each piece were not well impressed. This wax was marked with pieces of oiled linen cut in peculiar patterns, and attached to the back of each piece of wax. In addition, Dr. Richardson marked each piece, and then Mr. Thorogood applied his own marks and weighed the pieces. Each piece was sealed in its own envelope. After considerable conversation by Walter on various topics connected with the forthcoming trip to England, he asked for hot water. The usual procedure was followed. Mr. Dudley placed one piece of wax in the dish of hot water. The circle was again closed and, in darkness, two prints were made on this piece of wax. Following further talk by Walter, the seance closed at 9.40 p.m., and we descended to the book room.

The wax was examined, and found to carry a print of the Walter right thumb and another print which was a strange pattern. All the marks were identified by those who had applied them. The wax was weighed the next day, and the weight checked *exactly* with that which had been recorded before the seance.

The notes of these five later seances are included in greatly abbreviated form in order that the prints obtained may be included in the tabulation which covers all of the prints made up to and including November 25th, 1929.

* * * * *

This concludes the presentation of the major portion of the evidence concerning teleplasmic fingerprints in wax. We believe that these records not only establish the validity of these prints as supernormal productions, but also constitute a valuable addition to the evidence in support of the ideoplastic hypothesis. Before presenting a brief summary of the results to date (November 25th, 1929) we shall list certain pertinent facts culled from the records of these fingerprint seances.

TABULATION.

Negative prints of Walter right thumb (normal and distorted)	100
Ditto, left thumb	4
Positive prints of Walter right thumb	17
Ditto, plaster cast of paraffin glove	1
Mirror-positive prints of Walter right thumb	1
Mirror-negative prints of Walter right thumb	1
Total Walter prints	124

Illegible, but claimed by Walter as of his thumb	2
Mark Richardson prints*	2
John Richardson prints	2
Prints of " X " (June 2nd, 1928)	2
Prints of child, 4 years of age (September 10th, 1929) ...	1
Prints of child, 2 years of age (September 11th, 1929) ...	2
Prints of two strangers, two each (November 5th, 1929) ...	4
Print of child (November 15th, 1929)	1
Print of stranger (November 25th, 1929)	1
Total prints received to November 25th, 1929	<u>141</u>

The above list includes all prints. Many are not good enough to be reproduced photographically (they would not survive the half-tone process on any but the finest plate paper). Two or three are in the doubtful class as to their proper category (whether mirror or normal), and these are listed as normal negatives.

In this group of 141 prints there are eleven distinct patterns in three different types.

Seventy-six imprints were made on wax which retained the identifying marks applied before the seance.

Fifteen prints were made under such conditions that the collateral evidence is equivalent to or stronger than the evidence of the retained markings listed above.

Six solus sittings have been held with Margery as the medium, with a total of twelve Walter prints and two children's prints obtained under rigidly controlled conditions.

Seven Margery seances for fingerprints were held in houses other than 10, Lime Street.

One of these seances was held when Dr. Crandon was in Europe, and with a group quite different from the usual one.

One seance in absence of all sitters and under rigid mechanical control of the medium has led to a double print of striking character.

Twenty-one seances were held when Dr. Crandon did not control Margery. At sixteen of these seances he was not in the seance room when the prints were made.

On twenty occasions two or more prints have been made on one piece of wax. One, as above, when a right and left thumbprint were thus placed. Once a positive and a negative print were thus paired. Four times a child's print has appeared with a Walter print. Twice he has made his print with those of two strangers (adults) and once with the print of another adult. Once two negatives overlap on the same piece of wax as a deformed negative (all of the Walter thumb), while again

* Since the first article was published, a more careful examination of the first and faint print of July 6th, 1927, claimed by Mark Richardson, indicates that it is probably a negative print of the thumb, and that the print of July 12th, 1927, also claimed by Mark, is a positive print or model of the same thumb.

two negatives overlap in a fashion suggesting their simultaneous imprinting.

Two seances with a different medium (Dr. Hardwicke) in a distant city have resulted in Walter prints in the absence of any of the Lime Street group.

Excluding the partial prints which were referred to in the description of the plaster cast of the paraffin glove ("Psychic Research," Dec., 1928) we have received 120 prints of the Walter thumb (right) over a period of five years and six months—from May 17th, 1924, to November 25th, 1929.

It will be seen from what has been recorded that 91 of these imprints were certainly made at the time we suppose them to have been made and on the wax blanks provided for that purpose. Economy of hypothesis—quite aside from the fact that the medium was controlled—warrants the supposition that the other prints were made in the same manner as these 91.

SUMMARY.

In presenting this supplementary article and adding the results of these later seances to the evidence already presented in "Psychic Research" (January to December, 1928), we believe that we have established the following facts:—

1. The presence or absence of any sitter or group of sitters does not alter the type or nature of the prints obtained nor the apparent ease with which they are produced.
2. The prints are not a function of the locality of the seances.
3. The prints are not a function of the conditions of control.
4. These prints are not a function of any normal mould or model.
5. The Walter print can be obtained through a medium other than Margery.
6. A different fingerprint pattern can be obtained on request.
7. A different fingerprint pattern may be unexpectedly presented.
8. A deformed print of the Walter thumb may be obtained without prior notice.
9. The same fingerprint pattern can be obtained through two mediums widely separated (450 miles) within a short space of time (77 minutes).
10. Margery can be in her normal state of consciousness while such Walter prints are being made through a distant medium.
11. Margery may be rigidly controlled while a Walter print is made in the absence of any sitter.
12. Margery's presence is not necessary to the production of the Walter thumbprint.

“ A CRITICISM OF CRITICISM.”

By Dr. R. BERNOUILLI, of Zurich.

In the January, 1930, issue of *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie*, the leading German psychic journal, an excellent article appears from the pen of the above writer, one of the assistant editors, which seems valuable for all serious students. The Journal in recent issues has dealt with various aspects of the Centurione voice mediumship in Genoa. Professor Lambert of Stuttgart, criticising the methods of control used, and Professor Bozzano replying in defence. Professor Kröner of Berlin, has also in a recent issue published his criticism of the Valiantine sittings in Berlin last year.

Dr. Bernouilli seems to have had these, and other articles, in mind when he penned the following :—

“ When four years ago we changed the title of our Monthly Journal *Psychische Studien* (Psychic Studies) under which for half a century it had fought for the reality of occult phenomena, for the title *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie* which it now bears, such a change was only made for very good reasons. It was then no longer considered enough to give reports on general phenomena observed without any deep responsibility, though the quantity of matter supplied seemed to guarantee a certain probability in the reality of supernormal facts. We wished to go a step further : *viz.*, to build up a new science from positive material observed and judged by well balanced and sympathetic methods.

Criticism undoubtedly is necessary in such an enterprise, from every point of view.

Firstly, there must be the observation of the phenomena ; stringent control and check of one's own senses while engaged in such observation ; clear judgment as to what sources of mistakes may be creeping in ; and careful judgment of any indications which may be observed for or against the supernormal nature of the results observed. All these are absolutely necessary conditions, to begin with.

Secondly, a very clear record of the proceedings must be kept, a record which does not leave room for misunderstandings and disputes later, a record, not only of the phenomena observed, but of all the conditions under which they took place.

Shall criticism start right away with the observations ? Shall it question whether such phenomena *a priori* are possible ? This must absolutely be denied. A criticism which comes too soon can cause terrible disaster in our subject for we can hardly put down with certainty at the outset what is possible and what is not.

A second question might be put thus, “ Shall the criticism be applied to the *observations* or to the *report* of these ? ” In my opinion it is at the latter stage that criticism must begin, but here, too, there are some necessary limits to be observed. A report can set forth contradictions,

lapses, uncertainties, but even then there may be no judgment possible of the real nature of the phenomena.

Let us look a little more closely into the problem. Every medium starts with a period when the phenomena have only been observed in a family circle, when insufficient and contradictory reports of phenomena are often testified to. If criticism has started then, if it had pointed out the absolutely worthless control and nearly worthless records, it would have arrived at the point which many critics reach, when they throw away “the baby with the bath.” That is to say, they would have denied the reality of the phenomena with quite good reason. The consequences of such criticism would be that mediums could not allow even the kindest critics to experiment with them, and we should never have arrived at the point when a medium would give himself up to the more strict conditions of scientific investigation. In a word, psychic science would have had the ground cut from under its feet at the outset. We should not have been able to go beyond the uncontrolled stage of the eerie evening’s entertainment in the family circle.

Because of the fact that some patient observers have been willing to begin in such unfavourable conditions for scientific observation and have secured the full confidence of the medium at this stage, they have been able to exercise more and more strict control, and because of this, psychic science stands to-day on a more secure scientific basis.

Criticism proper can only begin to show its positive aspects after we have systematically secured supernormal phenomena with suitable subjects. After we have separated phenomena as clearly as possible from everything of a doubtful character, productive criticism can start, and we have to be grateful that the methods of observation to-day are so perfected that if they are clearly adhered to, no doubt whatever as to the nature of such phenomena should exist.

But suppose the methods used should still not be quite satisfactory, is criticism entitled to give judgment as to the nature of any phenomena observed? I, personally, deny this most emphatically. Criticism has only the duty of pointing out very clearly that the conditions provided do not answer the demands which allow of an absolutely positive statement, and exercises its right if it shows that such experiments are not sufficient to give psychic science an absolutely secure basis. It may even deny the scientific value of such attempts, but it is obligatory to show where the weakness and failing lies, not in the sense of condemnation, but with intent to correct deficiencies.

Our Journal has several times during the last year tried to offer critical discussion of individual cases in this sense. It was unavoidable that in the zest of the fight, undesirable harshness should here and there creep in, causing bewilderment and sometimes dismay and pain. Especially is there a danger that criticism which goes too far and lacks the necessary sympathy, should produce denial and contra-statements to which one cannot refuse publicity and out of which endless controversy arises; everyone seeming to claim the right of the last word. Criticism

is a sharp weapon which must be handled with extreme care and absolute precision if it is not to do fatal damage. The most important question which it has to decide upon, is whether a report can serve further research work. The editors try to make a serious selection in this sense, but many things may possibly be printed that cannot be vouched for with 100 per cent. certainty, though even such reports still have their relative value. I personally, however, take the point of view that psychic science can only use the absolutely tested and clearly confirmed material if it wishes to proceed to further conclusions and generalisations. And the conclusion of all (and more important than criticism from first and second-hand experience) is one's own positive work from personal observation, the development of experimental methods, and an effort to win from the results secured, conclusions that may lead to a general understanding of the facts.

THE CURVE IN THE ROAD.

Poem transmitted by Walter Stinson, control of Margery, October 1st,
1929.

The way has been made more clear to us
 It isn't so clear to you—
 For we're just a wee bit ahead on the road
 And the curve cuts off your view.
 Each day give some help to your fellow man,
 Life gives you a chance to serve,
 In that way you become a part of the plan
 With a glimpse of the road round the curve.
 And he would be chiefest among you all
 The server who carries the load,
 For he sees in his heart from the very start
 The view 'round the curve in the road.
 And we think that this knowledge will help you on
 Will help you to carry your load,
 To know in your heart from the very start
 There's a view 'round the curve in the road.

W.S.S.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Coinciding with this issue of PSYCHIC SCIENCE, we reach the *Tenth Anniversary of the Founding of the British College of Psychic Science*, for, in April, 1920, the house at 59, Holland Park, was opened for the work now well established in its new home at Queen's Gate.

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The decade has seen notable work undertaken and carried on without sensationalism in a subject which can so easily be made sensational. The methods adopted have been dissociated from open public propaganda, nor have they sought the aid of religious enthusiasm which might be so easily invoked. That is the work of other groups. The College has, rather, been anxious to form a school of serious study and research, not for the scientific only but for the ordinary man and woman seeking guidance in a new and fascinating study. First steps often for many, but well chosen and directed, they have started hundreds of students on a long and valuable journey with reliable charts for guidance. The aim has been instructive and constructive, keeping steadily in mind the importance of the facts studied and the implications of these facts or individual lives, and for humanity as a whole.

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It is impossible to estimate the joy in the knowledge of new truth, the soothing of deep sorrows in lives apparently wrecked by tragic partings, and the hope with its healing balm which has found a way into many minds and hearts through the demonstrations given by College sensitives during these years. The record is one of faithful service to the truth of psychic facts as seen by the founders and by those who acting on the Council, have loyally carried on the work to the present day.

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PSYCHIC SCIENCE, the College Quarterly, has been a strong arm of the work during the last eight years, and the present Editor, Mr. Stanley De Brath, may rejoice in the high estimation in which the journal is held both at home and abroad.

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Time has taken its toll of many who have been associated with the early days of the work as valuable helpers. Among these we would mention Mr. John Heelas, who passed at Christmastide. A member of the Society of Friends, he studied the evidence for survival, and, having proved it to his satisfaction, became an earnest advocate of the facts. His own sincerity and genuine joy in this truth heartened others in investigation, while his interest in psychic literature led him to use the best books to widen his reach to others. His large generous hand and heart found a way to comfort many, and as a member of the College Council for many years he gave it a quiet, steady support.

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Mr. G. C. Ashton Jonson, the Vice-Chairman of the College Council, was all too suddenly taken in January. Only a few days before I had lunched with him, and his interest and enthusiasm in all psychic matters was a matter for pleasurable comment. Since his pilgrimage to South Africa as a voluntary secretary to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1928, he

had grown in wisdom and in stature, and gave promise of future leadership. But other purposes had to be served, and we can but speed him on his new way. As Hon. Librarian of the R.A.C. he had accomplished a quiet but effective work in this great club. A fellow College Councillor, a member of the Club, said one day: "I was amazed on visiting the R.A.C. Library to see a well-organized section labelled 'Psychical Research,' and I wondered whom we had to thank for this." Later he found that it was the work of Mr. Ashton Jonson, who told us that it was one of the most popular sections of the Library, so popular that some books he could never keep on the shelves.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Heelas and to Mrs. Ashton Jonson, both earnest students and loyal collaborators with their partners in the good work.

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Dr. Abraham Wallace, M.D., passed away at Paignton, Devon, at the ripe age of 80 years. His wife pre-deceased him only a year before. He leaves a son and two daughters. In 1889 he came to London and settled in Harley Street as a specialist in Gynecology. He was on the staff of the "Lancet," and a member of the Council of the Society for Psychical Research. He had at his death been a student of psychic facts for sixty years, and had personal friendships with Miss Florence Cook, Mrs. Mellon, Cecil Husk, Mrs. Emma H. Britten, Florence Marryat, Stainton Moses, J. J. Morse, Bournsnel, and many other workers, including F. W. H. Myers. The mortal remains were cremated at Golders Green, January 27th, the service being conducted by Mr. E. W. Oaten, whose personal friendship had extended over twenty years.

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This year the College dinner takes place at the Café Royal on April 3rd. Many members and friends are expected, and some visitors of distinction will be present. Tickets can be obtained from the College Secretary.

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The Annual Dinner of the Psychic Research Circle of the Lyceum Club, on January 20th, was a pleasant and friendly occasion. It is one of the most popular dinners held at this great women's Club. Under the able Presidency of Mrs. Champion de Crespigny, the College Chairman, one speaker after another gave his quota on "What it was convinced *Me*." The Rev. G. Vale Owen, Mr. Ernest Oaten, Mr. E. A. Radford (a former Lancashire M.P.), Miss Estelle Stead and Mr. Shaw Desmond each delighted the audience with the very personal note which the title evoked in their speeches.

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Mr. Shaw Desmond continues his excellent work in a contribution to *Britannia*, in the February issue, called, "The Truth about Mediums," illustrated by excellent portraits of Mrs. Osborne Leonard, "Margery," Miss Geraldine Cummins, and Rudi Schneider, all of whom are so representative of excellent present-day aspects of Psychic Science. He argues for the potential honesty of mediums faced with a very subtle and varying power, and for those who care for their gift he has unbounded appreciation. "*Nearly all the modern mediums of first-class importance whom I know are exceptionally healthy physical specimens. I have gone*

through my lists of those of this class I have met, and have yet to write down my first degenerate. That is astonishing but true."

Perhaps this fact, so well known to us, will get home to many readers of this popular journal through Mr. Shaw Desmond's able pen.

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"Margery's" visit to London in December was short, but effective in that it gave a group of serious students first-hand acquaintance with herself and her gift. The report will be published later, and in some aspects will be astonishing, following remarkable experiments in the now famous "thumb print" results achieved in Boston last October, under rigid tests described by Mr. Malcolm Bird and Mr. Dudley in the January "Psychic Research," the American S.P.R. Journal. Lord Charles Hope, "Dr. X.," a well-known English scientist, and Professor Max Dessoir, of Berlin, a Psychic Researcher of the old school, had separate séances, and will no doubt publish their individual reports in good time.

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Rudi Schneider has finished his series of séances with a group of scientists at the National Laboratory, and has returned to Austria with a hundred per cent. testimonial as to the reality of his telekinetic powers. An adequate report has been prepared by Mr. Harry Price and others which it is believed will form a landmark in the scientific investigation of psychic phenomena.

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The above makes pleasant reading for serious students as against the uniformly destructive criticism emanating from an official of the English S.P.R. referred to elsewhere by the Editor. Protests regarding this are arriving, not only from English pens, but from Continental. The February issue of "Zeitschrift für Psychologie," of Berlin, deals with Mr. Besterman's destructive attack on the work of Frau Silbert of Graz, and the Editor, Dr. Paul Süner, defends her mediumship vigorously, from personal experience in many sittings.

We have so often spoken of this medium's work, so closely examined at the College and reported on in past issues of the journal, that we need add nothing, but rejoice that she has found an able defender in Dr. Süner, who regards the English writer as an "inexperienced young man"! This is a mild epithet compared with some launched at him by indignant students in Budapest, who also suffered under his scathing pen.

Karl Roth, in "Pester Lloyd," a Hungarian paper, also defends "Das Grazer Medium" (Frau Silbert), giving his personal experience, and in "Das Neue Licht," published in Vienna, he writes on the same theme.

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The January-February issue of "Revue Metapsychique," of the Paris Institute, gives a good deal of space in its foreign column to the attack on Valiantine by Dr. Kröner, of Berlin, and to Mr. Dennis Bradley's reply, and invites Mr. Bradley to bring Valiantine to Paris, where the fairest and most harmonious auditions required will be allowed and observations made by a member of the Institute, and a report issued.

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The next International Psychical Research Congress meets in Athens in April. Copenhagen, Warsaw, Paris, have been each notable, in that

they brought together representatives of various countries scientifically interested in psychic facts. The distance of Athens will be a hindrance to many from the West who would have liked to be present on this occasion.

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Dr. Tanagras, President of the Hellenic Group of Psychic Study, has invited Mme. Lotte Plaat, whose second visit to the College is noted elsewhere, to be present at the Congress as a demonstrator. Mme. Plaat, during her spring visit to us, spent some time in the north with the Sheffield and Bradford groups for Psychical Research, also with a private group in the Midlands under the care of a College member. These visits were arranged by the College, and proved most acceptable; good accounts of the results have been forthcoming.

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Dean Inge's remarks on Psychic Science only provide amusement for real students, although he no doubt pens them in serious vein. In the "Evening Standard" for February 5th, he says: "It may amuse my readers to hear two ancient ghost stories," and proceeds to give a letter addressed to the younger Pliny, which tells of a house in Athens which was rendered uninhabitable by reason of psychic disturbances, and which ceased when the body of a man, found at a given place by clairvoyance, was given decent burial.

Shaw Desmond, in the "Britannia" article quoted above, vouches for a similar incident known to him in the West of England, and there are hundreds of well-verified instances on record. I have myself helped at "laying the ghost" in recent times in several houses made well nigh unbearable. Some Deans are very ignorant! Even in such a utilitarian paper as "The Property Owners' Journal," for November, 1929, a recent case is reported from Bangalore, India, in which a tenant claimed that weird noises made it untenable, and that stones and rubbish were thrown about. The Judge ordered the owner to repay the rent which had been paid in advance.

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The second story given by Dean Inge is about the same date, and is from a collection of supernatural stories, "The Lover of Lies," by a Greek author, which, "of course, he may have issued himself," says the Dean. It has, however, a wonderful semblance to truth as we know it. A loved wife who left a husband and two small sons, is seen after her death by both her husband and the younger boy together. She spoke to them, and blamed the husband for having omitted to burn one slipper when they destroyed all her other clothes and ornaments. It had fallen down under the chest, she said. It was noted that the Maltese dog began to bark, and the apparition vanished. The slipper was searched for, and found and burned. Again we could provide many parallels from recent psychic history. There is no necessity for inventing lies when truth tells the same tale.

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The Dean concludes: "I do not think that the kind of evidence which psychical research tries to establish is of the slightest value in the religious sense, it does not, and cannot prove anything that the religious mind wants to know. For there is a non-religious belief in survival

and a non-religious desire to prove it. In spite of my sympathy with those who have lost those they love, I do not think that the nature of things can give them what they ask."

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And yet F. W. H. Myers, from his study of Psychical facts, held that Psychical facts formed the preamble of all religions.

A comment on such an attitude appears in Sir Oliver Lodge's "Conviction of Survival," the first F. W. H. Myers' Memorial Lecture. "There be some religious men of little faith who resent this attempted intrusion of scientific proof into their arena; as if they had a limited field which could be encroached upon. These men do not realize as Myers did the wealth of their inheritance."

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We regret to hear that the medium, Aaron Wilkinson, of Yorkshire, has passed over. His loss will be much felt by Mr. J. A. Hill, who has made such valuable use of his talents.

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In a recent talk on the wireless, Dr. W. H. Brown, of Oxford, in dealing with his experiments in mediumship, had the boldness to say: "I should consider myself as failing in my duty as a psychologist if I did not pay attention to these matters." That is the new and worthy attitude of a number of modern scientists to this matter.

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Among recent lecturers and demonstrators at the College, have been the Rev. Drayton Thomas, Mr. Aaron Wilkinson, Mr. E. Hayward, Mr. Vout Peters, Mrs. Josephine Ransome, Mr. W. S. Hendry, Mr. Ritherdon Clark and Miss Lilian Henderson, of Glastonbury, all providing matter for earnest thought and discussion among members.

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It is a pleasure to hear that our contemporary, "Light," has been purchased from Messrs. Hutchinson by the London Spiritualist Alliance, and is under the complete control of this society to which it was formerly attached. Under Mr. David Gow's continued able and wise care, may it go on to increasing usefulness.

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The College has had heavy expenses in establishing itself in the new quarters, and the Council is glad to think that members remember this from time to time by giving extra assistance. Thanks is due to the following donors for generous assistance during the past quarter:—

	£	s.	d.
A Swiss Friend	25	0	0
Commander Lawder	1	1	0
Mrs. Campbell	3	3	0
A Dutch Friend	0	9	6
Mrs. Asknis	1	9	0
A Friend (through Mrs. de Crespigny) ..	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£32	2	6

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE SPIRITUAL ADVENTURES OF A BUSINESS MAN.

By T. A. R. Purchas. The Psychic Press (7s. 6d. net) and Simpkin & Marshall.

The name of Mr. T. A. R. Purchas is widely known in South Africa as an old and consistent student of psychic facts, and from such a volume of personal experiences is valuable. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, as head of the "Psychic Press," considers the publication of these records eminently worth while, and Robert Blatchford, whose first efforts to verify the survival of his wife were made through Mr. and Mrs. Purchas' group in Johannesburg, writes a pleasing introduction.

The records are from careful notes kept by Mr. Purchas of sittings with a group of friends begun during the war years, and maintained with intervals till the death of his wife in 1925.

The manifestations took the form of automatic writing and clairvoyance, first by the hand of a friend in the group, and later through Mrs. Purchas, who developed an excellent faculty on the same lines. The group, rather unusually, sat in complete darkness while the messages were written, light being turned on to read the messages. Distinctive independent raps indicated the presence of various communicators, and on some occasions it is noted these were awe-inspiring, and profoundly affected the sitters, indicating that power for physical phenomena was present in the group.

The abundance of the records make only a selection possible, and Mr. Purchas has done this with care, with his eye on those who can only read the bare facts and had not the privilege of the group who were fully satisfied by internal evidence of the supernormal character of the communications.

Messages were given and sent to strangers, and recognition of facts secured, prophecies regarding happenings in the war in Europe, and relating to individual friends, evidence of personality and clairvoyance, so clear that identification of the individual from a group of photographs was made on several occasions, and teaching as to the laws governing communication, covered some of the aspects of the mediumship. From these groups comfort and conviction spread out to a wide circle in South Africa, and no doubt contributed to the knowledge which Sir Arthur found there on his tour in 1928.

Mr. Purchas has had a wide experience of business life in South Africa and elsewhere, and has held important public positions, and he is right in offering such credentials to the reader, who on this still little known subject has to rely on the good faith of the narrator.

This faithful record of a home circle developing its own sensitive, is so much in harmony with hundreds of other experiences, that for students it needs no endorsement, and we warmly recommend it to our readers.

JESUS CHRIST AT WORK.

By R. A. Bush. The Two Worlds Publishing Co. 303 pp. 4s. 6d.

It is a great pleasure to see this book proceeding from the press of The Two Worlds Publishing Co. instead of *Strange Christian Beliefs*, and *A Thanksgiving Sermon*, which used to hold up Jesus Christ to ridicule. This is a series of messages to a private circle. Most of these must be called commonplace matter which may be of genuine use to those to whom they were given. Others, like Stainton Moses' *Spirit Teachings*, are at variance with the known opinions of the recorder. Others are warnings which we shall do well to heed. Such are those given on p. 110 :

"History is not devoid of many instances of neglected and repudiated warnings. Do not be afraid of being called credulous, but take them seriously to heart. Unless a rapid alteration is made in the life of this nation and other nations of Europe and elsewhere, unless they change their daily life and national policy to more spiritual expression and action, terrible suffering will come upon them all."

This is not uncalled for. Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, P.C., writes in *The Coming Renaissance*, p. 17 :—

“Subsidy and Research are busily engaged in the invention of fresh and more tremendous weapons of destruction, so that poison gases are being perfected, compared to which those used in the war were but the instruments of children ; and plans elaborated by which in ‘the next war’ great cities may be wiped out and whole populations destroyed like a wasp’s nest.”

This is reinforced by Mr. Winston Churchill’s *Aftermath*, p. 453. It is worth the attention of the Churches which consider only the personal relation of the Christ, and ignore His overlordship in the world to “rule with a rod of iron” the nations that refuse to develop spirituality. (Rev. xii. 15).

S. DE B.

THE TESTIMONY FOR SPIRITUALISM.

By J. S. Wilmore, M.A. Psychic Press, 2, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

This little book, price 1s., by the late Judge at the Native Court of Appeal in Egypt, is an able summary of the testimony of men of science to the reality of the evidences for Spiritualism. We recommend it to those who want the evidence in a readily accessible form.

LA REINCARNATION, D’APRES LE DOCTEUR G. GELEY.

Editions Jean Meyer, 8, Rue Copernic, Paris, xvi, 40 pp., 1 fr. 50.

This is a letter from Dr. Gustave Geley to Professor Calderone on the subject of Reincarnation. It summarises the teachings of antiquity and modern believers, and presents the inference. It does not, however, enter upon the question of Time in respect to re-birth, nor does it touch upon the question whether the phenomena relied upon may not be explicable by the complex nature of the soul formed by group-souls in the personality.

LEON DENIS INTIME.

Preface by Sir A. Conan Doyle. Editions, Jean Meyer, 8, Rue Copernic, Paris, xvi, 168 pp., 8 fr.

A valuable little book, written by his Secretary, Mdlle. Claire Baumard, in which she gives interesting details of his private life. With reference to the all too frequent frivolity with which spiritualist “experiments” are undertaken, she reproduces M. Leon Denis’ remarks on the subject :—

“Experimental spiritualism, as may easily be understood, is a dangerous and double-edged weapon. Practised with wisdom and method as it was by the Master, it is a sacerdotal function, but entered upon with frivolity it loses all character of study, and becomes an amusement, which is also a danger. To be of use and profit, it should be limited to those who regard the moral aim. That is why the clergy think it wise to forbid these experiments to their flocks.”

OUR AFRICAN WINTER.

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. John Murray, 7s. 6d. net.

Sir Arthur’s Pilgrimages, of which this is the fourth, have added considerably to our knowledge of practical psychical work in other English speaking countries, for his unexampled interest in these matters has thrown every door wide open to him. No other investigator has to our knowledge taken such a burden upon himself, which has resulted in a new stimulus to societies and individuals in the States, in Canada, in Australia and New Zealand, and now in South Africa. Sir Arthur’s association with the Boer War, made this visit in 1928-29 peculiarly interesting to him, and every aspect of South African problems is discussed and looked at from Boer and Briton and native standpoint, as far as possible.

The audiences for the psychic lectures were large and enthusiastic, and the usual controversy in the papers expressing clerical and lay differences with psychic facts, was kept going merrily. Every large city produced its quota of interest, and we can feel that in South Africa, as elsewhere, the knowledge of survival and communication is spreading, though the rigidity of the theological concepts held by the Boer population is scarcely yet touched by newer thought.

Rhodesia and Kenya were included in the trip, which covered white Africa in a comprehensive way.

The book is dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Jonson, who so kindly accompanied Sir Arthur and Lady Doyle, and rendered them constant service in the heavy secretarial work and interviewing which accompanies all Sir Arthur's itineraries.

THE ARYAN PATH.

Vol. I, No. 1, January, 1930.

This is another new monthly, issued by the Theosophy Co. (India), Ltd., 51, Esplanade Road, Bombay, at 2s. 6d. monthly, and tends to represent the Theosophical teaching as outlined by Mme. Blavatsky. It is liberal in its outlook, and the matter well presented. Mr. C. E. M. Joad has an interesting article on "What Eastern Religion has to Offer Western Civilization," and concludes: "The gift of contentment is therefore the chief gift which the East has to offer to the West, and this gift can only be received by those who have recovered the conviction of the fundamental worth-whileness of things."

THE LIFE AND WORK OF MRS PIPER

By Alta Piper. Kegan Paul & Co, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.

Miss Piper has done an excellent service both to her distinguished mother, the subject of her writing, and to the distinguished pioneers who studied the Piper mediumship and made the results a foundation stone for the reality of trance sensitivity in the records of the Society for Psychical Research.

A mediumship which began in 1885 and continues to the present day, with but a brief period of inactivity in its course, is almost a record, and testifies that mediumship in itself is not injurious to bodily or mental health.

To Dr. Richard Hodgson, who gave his years to Mrs. Piper's gift, and grew from a sceptic to a convinced spiritualist through the proofs he received, Miss Piper pays homage, both for his care of her mother's gift and for his devotion to the cause of psychical research. Also to Professor Wm. James for his unflinching belief in Mrs. Piper and his continuous kindness; and to Sir Oliver Lodge and Lady Lodge and family, for hospitality and encouragement during two English visits which Mrs. Piper made, journeying with her children among strangers for months, in order that the lucidity she manifested might be tested in a country and among a people quite unknown to her.

Mrs. Piper made the sacrifices for the work we know a great medium has to make. The usual activities, social enjoyments and interests of life, were limited, much reading and conversation with others was banned, so that as far as possible the conscious mind might not be drawn upon in the sittings. For years Mrs. Piper laid such a restraint upon herself, for she was personally deeply interested in the scientific results, and accepted cheerfully the hardships of a pioneer worker.

After Dr. Hodgson's death the investigation fell into new and perhaps less experienced hands, with the result that the delicate gift and Mrs. Piper's health suffered, through foolish physical experiments applied to test the validity of the trance already thoroughly proved in previous years.

Her guides, "the Emperor group," found new difficulties in bringing her out of the trance condition, and advised a withdrawal of the power for a period. Some power for automatic writing remained, but for four years no trance condition was again obtained until 1915, when a message, attributed to

F. W. H. Myers, who had so often used Mrs. Piper in the past, came for Sir Oliver Lodge.

The book is a worthy study of a sensitive woman, made faithfully and tenderly by one who had most opportunity of seeing her in all the conditions required by her work, and the re-actions accompanying work of such an unusual nature.

THE DRAMA OF EUROPE.

By Stanley De Brath. Stockwell and Co., 7s. 6d.

This is a somewhat startling book. It is not history as commonly understood, it is a series of "Acts" in two European dramas. The first shows the causes of the decline and fall of Greece and Rome; the second the similar "Acts" of Christian history. The remarkable point about the book is that it really does show in a highly convincing manner, the reasons for rise and fall of each nation by the temper and mentality of successive generations. We are far too apt to regard Greek, Roman, Celt, or Saxon each as a "sealed pattern" of each historical type; or on the other hand to imagine each nation to be of much the same mentality as we know them now. Neither of these suppositions is exact. Mr. De Brath shows with a singular lightness of touch which makes his book eminently readable, why this is the case. We read with much amusement the anecdotes that reveal the real character of the Northmen and the story of their conversion.

The book is a remarkable one, and will surprise many readers by the logical development of the proposition that all rise and fall depends on moral outlook. This is not an entirely new view of history; it has been taken by many high authorities such as H. F. Pelham, LL.D., D.C.L., and Professor Mahaffy and several other leading authorities, but we have never before met with it in so dramatic and readable a form. "If the certain knowledge of the real existence of the soul, its survival of bodily death and its self-wrought destiny is sufficiently widely disseminated, it must exercise an enormous effect on future developments," says Mr. De Brath, and in this knowledge he sees the continuance of the British Empire in face of its present-day problems. An appendix on Metapsychic Research gives guidance to the reader as to psychic investigation, in which the British College is kindly mentioned.

There are few thinkers in our ranks who are able to see the powerful implications of these facts and their importance to humanity as this writer does, and all serious students should possess themselves of this valuable work, the fruit of a life-time of thought.

THE GAME OF LIFE AND HOW TO PLAY IT.

By Florence Scovel Shinn. Messrs. Fowler and Co. 2s. net.

A new thought book by an American author, aimed to encourage readers to experiment with courage on life's problems.

BEYOND.

Further Talks by Dr. Lascelles. Edited by Rosa M. Barrett. C. W. Daniel Co. 3s. 6d. net.

This is a continuation of the talks in a former volume, "The Seekers," through Dr. Lascelles, the healing control of Mr. Simpson. These were given at the centre at 29, Queen's Gate, and many questions asked and answered by inquirers are added to the various chapters. All interested in spiritual healing will find food for thought in these chapters.

A short biography by Mr. Simpson, which tells of the finding of his healing gift, prefaces the talks, for the compiling of which readers are indebted to Miss Rosa M. Barrett.

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