

JOURNAL

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
New Associates	213
Annual Business Meeting	213
General Meeting	214
Meetings of the Council	221
Recent Experiments by M. Charles Richet on Telepathic Hypnotism	222
Correspondence	226

NEW ASSOCIATES.

- DARELL-BROWN, MRS., 1, Douro Villas, Cheltenham.
 FREER, MISS, 6, Westbourne Grove Terrace, London, W.
 FRY, R. E., King's College, Cambridge.
 LINDSAY, DR. ROBERT, 59, Caversham Road, London, N.W.
 MAJOR, ALBERT, 77, Clapham Road, London, N.W.
 MEADE, MISS, Heywood, Ballinakill, Queen's County, Ireland.
 ROBERTSON, MISS N., 63, Rosaville Road, Fulham, London, S.W.
 SAMUEL, MRS., 33, Trebovir Road, South Kensington, London, S.W.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

Owing to the absence of a quorum on the 28th ult., the necessary business was informally gone through, an adjournment for its completion being held on the 4th inst., in accordance with Rule 15.

The chair was taken by Professor H. Sidgwick. He placed before the Meeting the audited balance-sheet of the receipts and expenditure of the Society during the year 1887, which appears on another page.

Mr. M. Theobald, as auditor, expressed his satisfaction at the care with which the books were kept, but called attention to the excess of the Society's liabilities over its assets at the close of the year. This, it must be understood, is without taking any account of the value of the library, or of the stock of the *Proceedings*. A statement of the assets and liabilities was on the table. It appeared that the deficiency would be to a considerable extent met by the saving consequent on the removal of the rooms of the Society, by the change in the place of holding the General Meetings, and in the probable expenditure in printing during the current year.

The actual number of the Society has slightly diminished during the year, mainly owing to the names of some who had become only nominal members having been struck off the list. The effective strength of the Society remains almost exactly what it was a year ago.

The nominations for seats on the Council being just sufficient to fill

the vacancies, the following were declared duly elected :—G. P. Bidder, Esq., Q.C., Oliver Elton, Esq., A. T. Myers, Esq., M.D., C. Lockhart Robertson, Esq., M.D., Professor H. Sidgwick, J. Herbert Stack, Esq. This was formally done at the adjourned Meeting on the 4th.

A conversation took place as to the means by which the general interest of the members in the work of the Society might be extended and increased. It was decided to issue a circular letter to the members in reference to some of the points discussed.

GENERAL MEETING.

A General Meeting was held on the evening of January 28th, at the Westminster Town Hall. Professor Sidgwick took the chair.

The Chairman, in opening the Meeting, spoke of the great and irreparable loss which the Society had suffered through the sudden death of their President, Professor Balfour Stewart. It had been of the greatest advantage to them that one bearing so high and undisputed a reputation as a physicist had been willing to lead and direct their endeavours to penetrate the obscure region of psychical research. Of the work that had been done under Balfour Stewart's leadership it was not now the time to speak in detail : but all who had watched his management of their affairs would agree that it was marked by three characteristics :—it was thoroughly fearless, it was uniformly circumspect, and it was genuinely sympathetic. He believed it was only by this combination of qualities that they could hope to succeed in the difficult task that they had undertaken : and it was because they could hardly hope to find them again combined in a President of Balfour Stewart's scientific eminence that he had spoken of his loss as irreparable.

Mr. F. W. H. Myers then communicated to the meeting two "Remarkable instances of automatic messages," introducing them with some remarks, of which the following is an abstract :—

I may begin by briefly reminding my audience of the position in which our inquiry into Automatic Messages at present stands. First of all, I tried to show that automatic writing, with planchette or pencil, may often be automatic in the fullest sense, as proceeding from a stratum of the writer's intelligence which forms no part of his conscious life at the time. Next, I gave some cases where the automatic messages have reproduced facts which were never in the writer's conscious mind, but have apparently been transferred to his unconscious mind from the mind of some other person, usually present in the room. Of these telepathic messages the Newnham case was our leading type. It next seemed needful to discuss the singular assumptions of one or more definite *personalities* so common in automatic script,

and which are by Spiritualists taken to imply the communication of one or more definite spirits. By analogies drawn from dreams, from hypnotism, and from various morbid states, I showed that such apparent duplications or splittings-up of personality may occur within the operation of a single mind, and need not be taken to imply any extraneous agency. Next, extending the survey from writing to other forms of automatism, I tried to show that these automatisms are an active or motor form of hallucination ; or, if it be preferred, that hallucinations of the senses are a passive automatism. I mean by this that in both classes of phenomena alike we have a message of some kind originated in some unconscious stratum of our personality and then rising into consciousness, whether as a *vision* or as an *audition* or on the other hand as a *movement*. Thus it comes to much the same thing whether a man *writes* a message—not knowing what he is writing—or whether he *hears* it, as though spoken, either within himself or outside himself, but not *by* himself. All these forms of reception of a message—vision, audition, movement, or a mere impression less *defined* though often not less *distinct* than any of these—may come interchangeably to any percipient. And as soon as we thus look at these forms of message in connection with each other, it at once occurs to us that writing need not be the only form of motion through which the message from the unconscious part of our being makes its way into our conscious life. The tilts of a table, or other easily movable object, so familiar in Spiritualistic circles and so much derided by the unbeliever who asks “whether the spirits live in the table,” are now seen to form a simple modification of that automatic energy of which we have reviewed so many other examples.

In thus speaking, I am for the time setting aside the question as to *raps*, or as to movements in tables, &c., which the unconscious muscular action of the sitters could not effect. Such movements, if genuinely occurring, indicate the existence of some unexplained source of physical energy, but they do not in themselves suffice to show that such energy may not be developed in some unknown way from the persons present. At any rate, the vast majority of table-tiltings occur under conditions such that the muscles of the sitters might have effected them, just as the muscles of the automatic writer undoubtedly move the pencil. In the case of the tilts, then, as in the case of the written messages, it is from the substance of the message, not from the mere mode of its production, that we must form our opinion as to its source. It may be necessary to add that the conventional ways of getting a message by tilts are two: Either the inquirer slowly repeats the alphabet and the table tilts at the letter required, or the table tilts out the letters by repeating its movement

vice for B, five times for E, 20 times for T, &c., according to the position of the letter in the alphabet. One marked tilt conventionally signifies No, and three tilts Yes.

The cases which I am about to give differ from those previously cited, not only in the fact that the messages come through tilts of a table, but in the nature of the intelligence apparently communicating. In one of them, Mrs. Kirby's case,¹ we have apparently a message proceeding from a living personage asleep at a great distance. In the other case, here to be cited, we have the alleged communication of a disembodied spirit. I need not say to readers of our *Journal* or *Proceedings* that an interpretation of this latter kind must not, in our view, be lightly accepted; and to some minds the singular coincidences which I shall recount may seem explicable by chance alone. I have been anxious, however, to cite the case in order to show how deeply interesting are the problems involved, and to induce other informants, if possible, to send me cases of a similar kind, should such exist.

MRS. FITZGERALD'S CASE.

For the following account I am indebted to Mrs. FitzGerald, of 19, Cambridge-street, Hyde Park-square, W., and her son, Mr. Desmond FitzGerald (at one time a member of the Council of the Society for Psychical Research), to both of whom the cordial thanks of our Society are due.²

Mrs. FitzGerald and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Desmond FitzGerald, have been for some years in the habit of sitting quietly together to receive messages by slight tilts of a table. Mr. FitzGerald has occasionally joined the group, but strangers have rarely been admitted, and the communications have been throughout of a very private kind. I was, therefore, especially grateful for the permission to be present at one of these meetings (May 13th, 1886), and afterwards to print here an abstract of some of the cases in which messages admitting of a definite test have been received by this group. The members of the group, who are all Spiritualists, believe that they can recognise the communicating spirit by certain indications, given by movements of the table, which have never deceived them. They allege that although purely frivolous and untrustworthy messages are sometimes given by unrecognised spirits, the recognised communicants have never stated anything false, nor shown any inconsistency. The three spirits that will here be mentioned (whose true names, with particulars, have been communicated to me) are a Mr. E., an intimate friend of Mrs.

¹ This case will be printed on a future occasion.

² Mrs. FitzGerald has revised the abstract of her papers here given.

FitzGerald's, Lord X. (a near connection, who died in 1870), and Lady S. (her daughter, who died in 1858), through whom the bulk of the communications formerly came, though now this spirit (I use throughout the phraseology of the messages themselves) has passed into a sphere too high to allow her to communicate.

Notes have been taken throughout the whole course of sittings, either during the sittings or at their close. The messages have been awaited in a serious spirit, without impatience or interference, and frequently the group, having met, has separated again at once, on being informed that the occasion was in some way unsuitable; or, as it was generally phrased, that low or strange spirits threatened to assume control. However we explain the messages received, I think it likely that this temper of mind has conduced to their reception; and from this point of view there is an advantage in a previous readiness to attach high value to the expected communication. It is quite possible that, *if* such messages do ever proceed from the spirits of the dead, Spiritualists may be more likely than sceptics to receive them; and it, therefore, seems to me urgently important that Spiritualists should make constant and patient attempts of the kind—adding to their faith, I need hardly say, the care and candour of which Mrs. FitzGerald's group, I think, has given proof.

I cite one case in connection with each of the three communicating spirits mentioned above.

I. Mr. E., when on his deathbed, sent for Mrs. FitzGerald to come and see him. She visited him in his chambers in the Albany and said farewell, he being then past hope, and his death expected at any moment. He blessed her and promised to watch over her. Afterwards his spirit was one of the habitual and most trusted communicants, and Mrs. F. believed herself able to feel sure of his identity, when he came. After many such messages she alluded one day to his death in the Albany. "I did not die in the Albany" was tilted out. Shocked at what seemed the intrusion of some lying spirit in the friend's name, Mrs. F. solemnly repeated the question, "You died in the Albany, did you not?" The answer was an emphatic No. This was repeated several times, and then Mrs. F. was so pained and bewildered at the breakdown of her cherished belief in this spirit's identity and trustworthiness that for a considerable time she sought no further communication. She had no thought of testing the truth of the message, as she considered that she absolutely *knew* that Mr. E. had died in his chambers. It was not till some months later that a common friend accidentally mentioned that Mr. E. had been removed from the Albany at his own wish, when almost at the point of death, with the idea that he would be better nursed in a private house.

It is deeply to be regretted that Mrs. F. did not inquire from the communicating spirit *where* he had died. If the address had been given the test would have been excellent. No further facts, it appears, can now be got from Mr. E.'s spirit. The coincidence is therefore reduced to a single fact; but that one fact is a striking one, and cannot be said to have been in Mrs. FitzGerald's mind.

II. The second point is connected with Mrs. F.'s deceased connection, Lord X. This spirit also came at intervals, and during the winter 1872-3 mentioned, after a prolonged absence (from late in 1872 till May, 1873), that he had been with his son, the present Lord X., at Malta. Mrs. F. had, as she believed, good reason to know that Lord X. was in Scotland, and she set down this message also as false—with less of a shock than in Mr. E.'s case, as this spirit had communicated less frequently and intimately. Some time afterwards a friend (whom Mrs. F. has again found, and who remembers the circumstance) mentioned casually that she had seen in a society journal that Lord X. was at Malta in his yacht. Mrs. F. believed this, without seeking further corroboration, till May, 1886, when, at my request, she wrote to Lord X.'s solicitors as to his whereabouts in 1872-3. The answer, which I have seen and copied, was as follows:—“Lord X. went abroad in November, 1872, and returned about the end of March, 1873. During his absence his address was Yacht —, Corfu. There are no letters addressed to him at Malta, and we cannot give the exact date when he was there.” It seems, therefore, pretty certain that the society paper was rightly informed, and that the present Lord X. was actually at Malta about the time when his father's spirit so asserted.

It deserves notice, as an instance of the characteristic *bizarrierie* of these communications, that this spirit never once gave the title by which they had known him best, nor the title which was his at death, but generally his surname merely, which being a not very uncommon one, did not in any way suggest him to their minds, so that they puzzled for nearly three-quarters of an hour when it was first given.

III. The third case involves a name and date, which were certainly unknown to the sitters. The question here is whether the coincidence can have been due to chance. I prefer to give an abstract of the written account in my possession, as the answers are intermixed with religious matter—too sacred in the eyes of those who received it to be quoted in a paper where the actual origin of these messages is still a subject of discussion. Mrs. FitzGerald's deceased daughter, already mentioned, is represented in messages purporting to come from her as carrying on beyond the grave the same work of befriending the friendless, which was hers on earth. Amongst other names none of them

accompanied with sufficient facts to be traceable, of spirits thus aided in an upward struggle, the name of Mary Allen was given. "She died at a Paddington hospital." "Which hospital, St. Mary's?" "No, at the Lock Hospital, at the age of 18, 16 years ago." This answer was given in 1881. On inquiry at the Lock Hospital the following answer was received:—"Mr. B. begs to inform Mrs. FitzGerald that a registry of deaths is kept in this hospital, but that no person of the name of Mary Allen has ever *died* here. A person named Mary Ann Allen was in this hospital from March 10th, 1865, to March 24th, when she was discharged at her own request, nearly cured."

On further inquiry the alleged Mary Allen said that she had given the hospital as the best place where she could be traced—she having died shortly after quitting the hospital at a small cottage, since destroyed, belonging to a tailor named Gibbs, in Wells-street, Kilburn. No such name or street appears in Kilburn in the *Suburban Directory* for 1866, but this proves nothing, as Kilburn was then a somewhat squalid suburb, and some small streets are doubtless omitted, the *Directory* not professing completeness. The Register of Deaths affords little aid, as Mary Ann Allen is a common combination of names, some eight or ten persons of that name dying in London annually, nor is it by any means certain that the death of a poor woman of this kind would be registered under the same name. We are left, therefore, with the coincidence of date, name, and sojourn at the Lock Hospital. It is observable, moreover, that these alleged facts form part of a series of messages which have maintained a consistent character over some 18 years or so, and have never, as I am informed, been discovered to be false. Few of the communications, however, have admitted of any definite proof or disproof.

In the present state of this inquiry it would, I think, be premature to express, or even to form, any decided opinion as to the origin of these messages. One strong argument against the Spiritualistic hypothesis lies in the extreme paucity of recorded cases where there is any real evidence that facts have been communicated which were unknown to the sitters, and were in any way connected with deceased persons. The exact force of this argument, however, depends on the number of serious and persistent efforts (such as that which I have just recounted) which have been made to obtain communications of this kind. From the vague expressions used by some Spiritualists, I had at one time supposed that such efforts were very numerous, and, therefore, that the negative argument from their general ill-success was almost insuperable. But I have now seen reason to believe that the number of persons who have hitherto used the care and patience requisite to make their efforts of any value is in reality by no means large. There is,

therefore, the less reason to fix an assured limit to the results conceivably attainable, if only I can persuade those who hear me to do their utmost to put these strange alleged possibilities to actual test.

Mr. Edmund Gurney followed with a paper on "Apparitions occurring soon after Death." In most of the cases where persons have professed to have seen or held communication with deceased friends, there is nothing to distinguish the experience which they describe from purely subjective hallucination. It must be remembered that the very idea of purely subjective hallucinations of the senses of sane and healthy people is comparatively a novelty; before the days of scientific psychology (notably through all the witch-period) every fictitious appearance was held to have some objective—usually a Satanic—basis. We now know that the most definite and distinct appearance, seen in waking and sober moments, may still be nothing more than a projection of the percipient's own brain. And among such appearances, some are practically sure to take the form of deceased persons known to the percipient. In cases of this kind, there is no *coincidence* with any external reality, such as we have held to constitute a proof of an objective origin in the case of certain phantasms of the *living*; and very stringent conditions would have to be fulfilled before we should be justified in assigning to the phenomenon any cause external to the percipient's own mind.

There is a curious point, however, which deserves very careful notice; namely, that a disproportionate number of these *post-mortem* appearances follow *closely after* death. In cases where the fact of the death is known to the percipient, this seems easily explicable; because his thoughts may be supposed to have been emotionally exercised with the subject. But we have a number of cases where the fact of the death was unknown to the percipient at the time of his experiences. Many of these—those, namely, when the interval after death was under 12 hours—were published in *Phantasms of the Living*—on the hypothesis that the impression was actually conveyed to the percipient at the moment or before the moment of the death, but that it had remained latent in his mind, and had only after an interval emerged into consciousness and projected itself in sensory form. But this is only a hypothesis—one resting on a certain amount of evidence and needing careful consideration, but by no means to be assumed as certain. And there are other cases, where the interval between the death and the appearance was longer, to which the hypothesis of latency seems decidedly inapplicable. It seems, therefore, that the alternative hypothesis—that the condition of the phenomenon on the agent's side (be it psychical or physical) is one which only comes into existence at a distinct interval after death, and that the percipient

really is impressed at the moment, and not before the moment, when he is conscious of the impression—is one that must be steadily kept in view.

The cases where the appearance or impression shortly followed the death (like all other cases where the percipient of a phantasm has recognised in it some dead person) fall under two heads, which we may distinguish as the *personal* and the *local*. That is to say, the experience either befalls some person who has been linked with the deceased by close ties; or it befalls some one in a place in which the deceased, when alive, was strongly interested. (The remainder of the paper was occupied with the reading and brief discussion of some cases of both classes, most of which have already appeared in the *Journal*.)

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Council was held on the 28th of January, Professor Sidgwick taking the chair, and an interim Meeting was held on the 4th of February, for the formal completion of some of the business. At one or both of these Meetings the following Members were present:—Professor H. Sidgwick, and Messrs. Edmund Gurney, F. W. H. Myers, H. Arthur Smith, and J. Herbert Stack.

The Minutes of the Meeting on the 2nd of December were read and signed as correct.

The Council was informed of the result of the Annual Business Meeting as reported above.

The following were unanimously elected officers of the Society for the ensuing year:—President, Professor H. Sidgwick; Hon. Treasurer, H. Arthur Smith, Esq.; Hon. Secretary, Edmund Gurney, Esq.

The following Committees were appointed, with power to add to their number:—

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE.—Professor Adams, Professor Barrett, Mr. Edmund Gurney, Professor Lodge, Lord Rayleigh, Dr. C. Lockhart Robertson, Professor Sidgwick, Professor Thomson, and Mr. J. Venn.

LITERARY COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Edmund Gurney, F. W. H. Myers, Frank Podmore, Professor Sidgwick, and Mrs. H. Sidgwick.]

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.—Dr. A. T. Myers and Mr. F. W. H. Myers.

HOUSE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Messrs. H. Arthur Smith, J. Herbert Stack, and Major G. L. Le M. Taylor.

The lists of the Corresponding Members and of the Honorary Associates of the Society were read over; and the majority were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Eight new Associates, whose names and addresses are given on a preceding page, were elected.

A Cash Account for the month of December was presented in the usual form, as well as the audited statement of receipts and expenditure for 1887, which had previously been before the Annual Business Meeting. This was referred to the Finance Committee, who were requested to prepare an estimate of receipts and expenditure for the current year.

It was agreed that a General Meeting should be held the second week in April. [Friday, the 13th, was subsequently fixed on.]

The next meeting of the Council will be on Friday, the 2nd of March, at 4.30 p.m.

RECENT EXPERIMENTS BY M. CHARLES RICHEL ON TELEPATHIC HYPNOTISM.¹

The phenomena of Telepathic Hypnotism or *sommeil à distance* have been especially studied in the case of a subject, Madame B., while she has been living in Havre. The first record of these observations was made by Professor Pierre Janet in *Bulletins de la Société de Psychologie Physiologique*, 1885, Tome I., p. 24, and Tome II. (1886), p. 76. Some further experiments made by Mr. F. W. H. Myers at Havre in April, 1886, are detailed in his paper on "Telepathic Hypnotism" in *Proceedings of the Society for Psychological Research*, X., 126 (October, 1886), and the large proportion of successes obtained on the whole under very careful observation attracted considerable attention to the experiments. In December, 1886, Madame B. came to stay with M. X. in Paris, and in January, 1887, M. Charles Richet had full opportunities of testing the effects which he could himself produce at a distance, when the conditions were entirely under his own control. The results he obtained, he has published in *Revue de l'Hypnotisme*, February 1st, 1888, pp. 225-240, and they contain so much that is of high interest and importance that it would seem appropriate to reproduce them here in *résumé*.

When Madame B. had come to M. X.'s house in Paris, December 28th, 1886, M. Richet thought it best to begin by hypnotising her in the ordinary fashion for 13 days in succession before trying any telepathic experiments. She was a good subject, and full control was easily gained. He hypnotised her, as a rule, in the afternoon, some time between 3.30 and 6.30, and kept her asleep for several hours. The house where she was living was about half-a-mile from his own.

EXPERIMENT I.—On January 12th he went out towards M. X.'s house at 9.10 a.m. with the intention of hypnotising Madame B. before

¹ A brief account of these experiments was given by M. Richet himself in the *Journal* for October, 1887.

he saw her. He had told no one of his intention. On reaching her room, at 9.30 a.m., he found her awake, said he wanted to speak to M. X., and went out with him. In the afternoon when he was with Madame B. and had hypnotised her as usual, she said she had felt tired all day, and added, without any suggestion on his part, that she began to feel sleepy 20 minutes before he came in the morning, and that her drowsiness was because he had been thinking of it as he came. This was not a success inasmuch as she had not gone to sleep, and her remark may possibly have been suggested by seeing him at such an unusual hour, but there was some encouragement to be drawn from it.

EXPERIMENT II.—He thought it best to draw lots to settle the day and hour of his experiments; this fixed the next experiment for Friday, January 14th, 3 p.m. On coming out of his physiological laboratory about a mile from Madame B., at 3.10 p.m., he turned his attention to putting her to sleep until 3.45. He then went into the house, found she was out and had been out for an hour, and waited for her return. She returned at 3.51 and said to C., who opened the door, before she knew of M. Richet's presence in the house, "I can't get on: my legs are trembling so." She was then told M. Richet was there, but there was nothing surprising in that, for it was his usual time for a visit. He put her to sleep as usual and then she told him, without any questions asked, that 20 minutes before she had got home she felt very uncomfortable, could not tell what she was looking at in a shop, and turned quickly to come home in fear she would fall and be run over, her legs were so unsteady. It was not like anything else she had felt. On the whole this experiment deserves to be considered as only a partial failure.

EXPERIMENT III.—He had given Madame B. almost distinctly to understand that he would not hypnotise her on Saturday, January 15th. However, when he got home he changed his mind and made the attempt from 11.1 to 11.8 a.m. He reached M. X.'s house at 12.28 p.m., and on inquiry learnt that Madame B. had been in a sleepy state, of which she could recollect very little, from 11.5 a.m. up to noon. It was in fact a partial but not perfect success.

EXPERIMENT IV.—On Monday, January 17th, an attempt made from 11.51 a.m. to 12.4 p.m. produced no result at all, either in action at the time or in description under subsequent hypnotism. Madame B. had had a bad night and was not feeling well.

EXPERIMENT V.—On Tuesday, January 18th, another attempt from 11.15 to 11.25 a.m. produced no result. M. Richet's attention was a good deal disturbed when he had been trying to concentrate it.

EXPERIMENT VI.—On Wednesday, January 19th, an attempt was made from 9.11 to 9.26 a.m.; and during the day, from 1.15 to 1.40 p.m., M. Richet talked over his experiment with a friend and showed him how he set about it. He went to M. X.'s house at 5.10 p.m. and found Madame B. in a somnambulant state. She told him that when she was dressing in the morning she felt a sudden headache. She finished dressing and went downstairs, but the headache got worse and she went back to her room and lay on

her bed. From the evidence of the other members of the household she must have gone downstairs about 9.20, and it is likely the headache began about 9.13 a.m. She was found at noon lying on her bed, saying she was tired and could not manage to go down. This was the first time such a thing had happened to her in Paris, and they were surprised to see her come down at 1.35 p.m. in a somnambulant state. She made her excuse by saying M. Richet had put her to sleep at 1.30 and had ordered her downstairs at 1.35. She lay asleep during the afternoon on a sofa, saying she had orders to wait for him. This was a partial success; she had felt some influence when he first tried to act on her at 9.11 a.m., and she had passed into a somnambulant state at 1.35, when he was showing his method of procedure to his friend.

EXPERIMENT VII.—This was on the whole the most successful experiment. On Friday, January 21st, he was very busy and did not reach M. X.'s house till 6.10 p.m. He found Madame B. tired, and as he was in a hurry he said he would not put her to sleep that day. At the time he spoke he genuinely meant what he said, and Madame B. took him as speaking in good faith, for she was a little annoyed and said that if he did not want her she would go home the day after to-morrow. After she had left the room the idea struck him that he would try to put her to sleep telepathically nevertheless. He pretended to go out, slammed the front door, and slipped noiselessly into the drawing-room, which was separated from Madame B. by the hall and the dining-room. He told Madame X. his secret but ordered her not to speak on any account to Madame B. or to C., and not to allow them to see her. From 6.20 p.m. onwards he tried to induce sleep in Madame B. at a distance. At 6.25 he heard her go upstairs; at 6.34 he requested Madame X. to tell C. to ask Madame B. to come downstairs. C. had no idea he was not gone. At 6.38 Madame B. came down and went into the kitchen. From 6.42 to 6.56 M. Richet concentrated his attention again on putting her to sleep. About 6.45 Madame B., when talking to C. in the kitchen, said she felt sleepy and tremulous. To avoid sleep she put her hands into cold water, a proceeding she had on some previous occasions found effective; but this time it was not adequate, and after five minutes she lay down on the kitchen table, and Madame X. who came into the kitchen for the first time at 6.52, found her there in a somnambulant sleep. M. Richet followed at 6.55 and she said to him, "Why have you not waited? I was just coming into the drawing-room because you were calling me?" This was to M. Richet the most valuable and convincing of the experiments. Madame X., who was the only person who knew of his presence, had not seen Madame B. from 6.20 to 6.52; she had spoken once to C., but had given her no clue whatever. The weak points in the experiment were that M. Richet had on all the other days but this been in the habit of hypnotising Madame B. at various times between 3.30 and 6.30, and that it was conceivable she might have come to know of his presence by some unexplained means.

EXPERIMENT VIII.—On Saturday and Sunday, January 22nd and 23rd, no attempt at telepathic hypnotism was made, and M. Richet found her wide awake when he called. On Monday, 24th, he resolved to try again, and

the time determined by lot was 2 p.m. That happened to be a particularly inconvenient time, and one when she would have very little expectation of seeing him. From 1.38 to 1.50 p.m. he gave his thoughts to it; at 2.5 he reached Madame X.'s house, entered quietly with a latch-key, and asked Madame X. to look for Madame B. She was found in light somnambular sleep in the workroom. From 2.5 to 2.15 he tried to put her to sleep more deeply, without success. At 2.15 Madame X. brought her into the drawing-room with her eyes shut, stumbling over the pieces of furniture; M. Richet watched her from a small back room adjacent for five minutes, trying to induce her to come to him, but she sat where Madame X. had placed her and did not move. At 2.20 he came out and spoke to her, and she said she had been put to sleep by him at 1.20. That was before his attempt had begun, but there was good reason to think her time inaccurate. She had gone into the workroom at 1 p.m. to mend a stocking, and when she was waked she admitted that the amount of work she had done must have taken her three-quarters of an hour. If she had gone to sleep at 1.45 that would have coincided with his attempt to influence her. The experiment on the whole was a partial success, but incomplete inasmuch as he could not attract her to the small back room where he was, and that her somnambular sleep was not nearly so deep as was usually produced when he was in contact with her.

EXPERIMENT IX.—On Tuesday, January 25th, he made no trial from a distance, but called at M. X.'s house at 3 p.m., and found Madame B. in somnambular sleep of an abnormal type. She did not answer him at first or Madame X. Her eyes were half shut and fixed constantly on the back of a gold watch which had been given to her the day before. When he had touched her forehead and closed her eyes she said that it was the watch which had put her to sleep, and begged to be forbidden to look at it in future. At 6.50 he waked her, said good-bye, and pretended to go away, but in reality stayed and tried to put her to sleep from 6.55 to 7.10. This produced no perceptible result. The condition which followed upon gazing at the back of the gold watch was like that which Braid has described as consequent on fixing the eyes on a bright object.

Two other experiments were made by M. Pierre Janet in M. Richet's presence at Havre on Madame B. in September, 1886, and have not hitherto been published. In the first, when lunching together at noon, they agreed that M. Janet should put Madame B. to sleep at about 3.30 p.m. He was more than half-a-mile from Madame B., and made the attempt from 3.33 to 3.45. They went together to her house, which they reached at 4 p.m., and found her hypnotised. She said to M. Janet, "You put me to sleep at half-past three"; which was nearly accurate. The second trial was next day, from 3 to 3.12 p.m. M. Richet went alone to the house at 4 p.m. and found her asleep, and learnt from Mademoiselle Gibert that she had been awake at 3 p.m., and was probably asleep about 3.15 or 3.20.

This series of observations M. Richet wishes to subject to strict criticism. The hypothesis of *voluntary* deception by Madame B. he rejects as receiving no support from the long watching and examination by M. Janet,

M. Gibert, M. X., and himself. It is at any rate as certain as the *bona fides* of M. Janet, M. Gibert, and himself. That expectant attention or auto-suggestion might produce such results he fully admits, but contends that previous knowledge of the day and hour would be necessary for that, and that such knowledge was impossible in the cases he counts as successful. A comparison of the times adopted by the operator and the times of the sleep effected shows that on an average the effect followed about 10 minutes after the beginning of the distant attempt. It is interesting to observe that in the 10 cases in which M. Janet can claim similar effects the average interval has been nine minutes.

He suggests four possible hypotheses of explanation :—

- (1) Chance. (2) Deliberate cheating. (3) Expectant attention.
- (4) A real telepathic influence.

As to chance, he remarks that in all the 22 cases of success that he and M. Pierre Janet together have met with the sleep does not precede but follows the attempted influence. The chance against that would be the same as against tossing "heads" 25 times running, viz. :—500,000 to one. The facts, however, may perhaps be regarded as not so absolutely certain as to warrant this application of the calculus of probabilities. Supposing it might be assumed that the choice of a time for somnambulo sleep must be taken between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., this would give about 21 periods of 25 minutes each. It would then be 21 to one against the chance that his attempt would coincide within 25 minutes of Madame B.'s sleep. Now, out of nine trials he had six successes. The probability against that by chance would be 500,000 to one. That is about the same chance, says M. Richet, as that I shall die in the next 10 minutes, and does not deserve any attention ; the interesting point is the accuracy of the experiments.

The hypothesis of deliberate cheating may be dismissed for the reasons previously given.

The hypothesis of expectant attention needs very careful consideration. That no previous hint should be given such as a hypnotised person may catch requires minute care. M. Richet feels this strongly ; he hopes and believes he has avoided these difficulties, but he cannot be absolutely certain. Those who can be absolutely certain of what they say are very lucky men. If he were one of them this question of telepathic hypnotism would be now decided. But taking things as he is obliged to take them, he would give his verdict that either his observations have been very incomplete and very untrustworthy or else there is really such a thing as telepathic action. This is the conclusion of his reason, but it is not sufficiently in accord with his general habit of thought to be as yet received as a firm faith. Still, why should action at a distance be so difficult a hypothesis ? Is it not the hypothesis of gravity and of magnetism ? We are so familiar with them that we think them easy, but for all that we do not understand them. In this matter of telepathy we have no other hypothesis open to us, but we need more experiments to drive conviction home.

A. T. M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

DEAR SIR,—In the January number of the Society for Psychological Research *Journal*, Mr. George G. Beazley mentions that it is desirable I should give some further clues to the *modus operandi* of my slate-writing performance described by numerous witnesses in the Society for Psychological Research *Proceedings*, Part XI.

The object of my paper referred to was to demonstrate what the testimony of honest witnesses might be like under certain peculiar conditions, and I had no intention of placing myself in the position of a public instructor of legerdemain.

It seems to me (for reasons I referred to in the October *Journal*, 1887) that it is undesirable to intrude this question further upon the readers of the Society for Psychological Research literature; it may, however, interest Mr. Beazley and others to know that for some time past I have contemplated such a paper as they propose, and provided the publishers of a forthcoming volume regard my contribution as being of sufficient public interest, I shall be quite willing to make public many of my own methods and those of others. In the event of their publication, I will see that due notice is given to all those whom I think are likely to be interested in the subject. Up to the present time I have been debarred from carrying out my intention, owing to circumstances I need not detail here.—I am, yours truly,

S. J. DAVEY.

Bournemouth.

February 8th, 1888.

The following is the translation of an extract from a recent letter of Dr. Liébeault, of Nancy, to Mr. Myers:—

“February 1st, 1888.

“We have had, at six leagues distance from Nancy, some remarkable facts—not noises merely, but objects thrown in a closed room, persons, or rather one young girl, raised from the ground and undressed in the dark, though in the charge of several persons who were holding her. This happened at a village on the frontier, Berzanges-la-Petite. The girl was brought to me, in order that I might calm her nerves, which had been over-excited by the hidden assaults of which she had been the object. M. Liégeois and I brought her into a somnambulant state at the first sitting. She departed, calmed, and they promised to let us know if the persecution recommenced. It recommenced in an intensified form, and they actually called in the police to protect the girl, and the members of the force who were sent made a report which confirmed the previous information. But no message was sent to us, for fear that our coming should cause some expense to the country people with whom we should have lodged!”

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1887.

Dr. 1887.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jan. 1.—	To Balance Invested in Consols	...	63	0	0		
	„ Do. in hands of Treasurer	...	62	15	3		
	„ Do. „ Secretary	...	10	0	0		
					135	15	3
Dec. 31.—	Subscriptions:—						
	„ Members	...	380	0	0		
	„ Associates	...	238	15	0		
					668	15	0
	„ Life Subscription	...	10	10	0		
	„ Donations	...	51	2	7		
	„ Free Distribution Fund	...	6	10	0		
	„ Sale of Publications:—						
	Per Trübner & Co. (July 1886						
	to June 1887)...	...	64	11	5		
	„ „ Secretary	...	26	9	6		
					91	0	11
	„ Rent—(Two upper floors at 14,						
	Dean's Yard, 12 months to						
	Michaelmas 1887)	...	55	0	0		
	„ Interest from Investment	...	1	17	10		
	„ Sundry Receipts	...	0	10	0		
					£1,021	1	7

Cr. 1887.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Dec. 31.—	By Literary Committee	...	178	16	9			
	„ Library	...	14	6	2			
	„ Printing:—							
	Proceedings, Part X.	...	112	13	6			
	„ Part XI. (on acct. of)	...	25	0	0			
	„ Part VI. (2nd edit.)	...	24	0	0			
	Journals, Nos. 33—36 and Supple-							
	ment of 35	...	79	4	6			
	Index and Title Page to Vol. II.	...	5	2	6			
	General	...	15	0	0			
					261	0	6	
	„ Covers and Binding	...	5	6	6			
	„ Journal (Early Nos. of)	...	2	19	0			
	„ General Meetings	...	34	17	0			
	„ Advertising	...	13	10	0			
	„ Travelling Expenses (Members of Council)	...	4	13	6			
	„ Salary to Secretary (Sept. 1886 to Sept. 1887)	...	130	0	0			
	„ Rent and Service (12 months to Michaelmas							
	1887)	...	150	0	0			
	„ Housekeeper (2 months, 19, Buckingham-st.,)	...	2	0	0			
	„ Furnishing	...	2	14	3			
	„ Reading Room and Stationery	...	5	2	1			
	„ Postage (Secretary's)	...	56	12	0			
	„ Gas and Coals	...	10	16	3			
	„ General Expenses	...	39	12	1			
	„ Balance Invested in Consols	...	63	0	0			
	„ „ in hands of Treasurer	...	35	15	6			
	„ „ „ Secretary	...	10	0	0	108	15	6
						£1,021	1	7

I have audited the above account with the books of the Society and find it to agree, and I have seen vouchers for all payments.
 3rd January, 1888.

MORELL THROBALD, F.C.A.

228 *Journal of Society for Psychical Research.* [Feb., 1888.]