

JOURNAL

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

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NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

NATGE, HANS, Berlin-Tempelhof, Berlin.

SCHRENK-NOTZING, BARON A. VON, Klenze-Strasse, 64, Munich.

ASSOCIATES.

MILMAN, MRS. W. H., 17, Southwell-gardens, London, S.W.

YOUNG, REV. CHARLES JOHN, F.R.A.S., Stafford-place, Halifax.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Council was held on the 13th of April, the President in the chair, at which the following members were also present:—Dr. A. T. Myers, and Messrs. Edmund Gurney, F. W. H. Myers, and Frank Podmore.

The minutes of the previous Meeting were read and signed as correct.

Two new Associates, whose names and addresses are given above, were elected.

It was resolved that Baron A. von Schrenk-Notzing, of Munich, and Herr H. Natge, of Berlin, be invited to become Corresponding Members of the Society for the current year.

The decease was reported of Mr. O. E. Woodhouse, an Associate of the Society.

Some presents to the Library were reported, including some copies of Part III. of the *Proceedings of the American Society for Psychical Research*, which the Secretary was directed to acknowledge with thanks.

A cash account for the month of March was presented in the usual form. A donation of one guinea from Mr. Edward Grubb, an Honorary Associate, was recorded with thanks.

The House and Finance Committee reported that the rooms not

required by the Society had been let to Mr. R. H. Bate, a Solicitor, at a rent of £25 per annum, from the 25th of March last.

It was resolved that a General Meeting be held on Thursday, the 31st of May and that the next Meeting of the Council be on the afternoon of the same day, at 4.30.

GENERAL MEETING.

A General Meeting was held at the Westminster Town Hall; Professor Sidgwick was in the chair. Dr. A. T. Myers read the following paper:—

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME EXPERIMENTS ON THOUGHT-TRANSFERENCE AND INDEPENDENT CLAIRVOYANCE AT MUNICH.

In the pursuit of such studies as this Society is engaged upon it has always been a matter of interest, and almost always, I am glad to say, of encouragement to observe closely the methods that are being used by similar societies in other countries and the results that are there obtained. For the experimental results that we have reached in hypnotism, post-hypnotic suggestion, and, even more especially, thought-transference are matters of the highest importance as a basis of facts that can be tried and tested again and again in many ways and by new observers; and the limits may be accurately determined of their power to bear the weight of any superstructure that may be built upon them, and which may involve more difficult observation and theory.

At Nancy the power of hypnotism and suggestion has been made most obvious by its long and patient trial on some 4,000 hospital patients, taken as chance brought them, and their striking effects on more than half of them. In 1885 the *Société de Psychologie Physiologique* was founded in Paris and now includes the names of some of those most distinguished in letters as well as in medical science in France. Two years ago, by the courtesy of some of the members of that Society, we were given the rare opportunity at Havre of close observation of a most remarkable case of hypnotic action at the considerable distance of half a-mile or more, and the striking success of those experiments, under test conditions of our own imposing, has been detailed and is recorded in the 10th Part of our *Proceedings*. Later on we were admitted to several experiments at Lyons, and last year at Blois M. de Rochas showed to one of our members a case in which the extreme effects of post-hypnotic suggestion could be watched. The doors of that great French national observatory of the nervous system, the Hospital of the Salpêtrière, have always been open for our

profit; and again and again, (on the last occasion but not least, some fortnight or three weeks ago,) Professor Charles Richet has shown us some of the methods and results of his own unwearied researches in Paris. In Germany this careful system of psychological research by experiment has been far from wanting, though perhaps it has been less widely spoken of, and less has been recorded in print than in France, and it is of the experiments and results at Munich that I should wish to say a few words.

The Psychological Society of Munich was founded in October, 1886, and it has been able to hold meetings every week at which papers have been read and discussions have followed, and with the occasional interposition of a social gathering for more general conversation or a brief holiday, it has continued these throughout its first year and a-half. It has dealt with a wide range of subjects, from a general discussion of the limits of knowledge to the more particular consideration of "Spuk-phänomene" (November 20th), and the special case of "Der Spuk zu Billigheim" (June 30th). Two evenings, at least, they have been kind enough to spend upon the consideration of the *Proceedings* of this Society in a very friendly spirit and, I believe I may say, with a very favourable verdict. They have been engaged with many experimental investigations, and it is with regard to a special class of these experimental cases that I am specially concerned to-night. In their conduct of these experiments they have followed this Society in some respects in testing the truth of the transference of sensations from the hypnotiser to the subject, the transference of touch, of taste, of smell, and, what is more important than all, the silent transference of thought (Von Notzing, *Psychische Studien*, January, 1888, pp. 1-18). In these researches they have been fortunate enough to find an eminent member of their own Society able to act in the very important position of hypnotiser and agent, Baron von Notzing, to whose courtesy much of the information I have to offer you is due. He is taking up the profession of a doctor and has made use of the advantages of a strict training in the experimental sciences, as well as a careful and accurate observation of the illnesses and abnormal conditions of men, so as to fit himself excellently for conducting difficult experiments with a due care of the possibility of disturbing causes. His papers in the *Sphinx*, *Psychische Studien*, and other places offer matter for our consideration. Among them we find careful experiments on a very sensitive subject, Fräulein Lina, as to the reproduction of diagrams. The diagrams had been drawn by a third person—often Baron du Prel—and shown to Von Notzing at a private house and in a room apart from the subject, Fräulein Lina. Von Notzing then went and sat silently in the same room as the

subject, whom he had previously hypnotised, as a rule behind her and out of her sight; accurate precautions were taken to render any ordinary communication impossible, and under these strict conditions Lina produced copies of the drawings which had been shown to Von Notzing, which may be seen here, and which are as good, I think, or even better than any that have been done in England. At present, however, they only form a short series, the work of one subject, and may, I hope, be duly extended. During a course of 40 sances they showed various of these experiments to 70 witnesses, many of them people of importance in Munich, and obtained a very favourable verdict on their results.

But their experimental researches have taken a further and most important step. In their 33rd sance they obtained a most unexpected success, involving, as it seemed, what we should call true independent clairvoyance. The subject was Fräulein Lina, the same young woman who had acted for them throughout in these telepathic experiments, and I believe it was at her suggestion that this extension of the experiments was tried. She was hypnotised by Von Notzing and in a lethargic state. Two of the gentlemen who had come to watch and criticize the experiments bandaged her eyes with a soft cloth, watched them throughout, and were satisfied that she could read nothing with them. When she was in this state of hypnotism she was told that her sense of sight had been transferred from her eyes to the top of her head, and that she would find herself, in consequence, able to read with the top of her head. Then another gentleman, a witness and critic, took a book from the shelves at random, and without looking at it or opening it, so as to avoid all possibility of thought-transference, gave it to her. She took it in both hands, lifted it, opened it, and laid it on her head with the open pages touching the top of the head. She moved it slowly enough to make it possible in some cases for a stander-by to turn over a page or two after the book was lifted out of the range of vision that was possible, even if she could have seen through her bandage, and before it was laid down on the crown of her head. After keeping it for some minutes in this position, touching her head, she gave utterance to a few words of that part of the open pages which was touching her head, which were noted at the time and confirmed afterwards as correct. This seemed to involve great effort and was followed generally by cramps and signs of pain, and after as much as a line had been read she generally fell back exhausted and was allowed to sleep. She seemed somewhat relieved by assurances that no harm would come of it, but generally on waking felt very uncomfortable, with, as she said, "her head open and a heavy weight on it." This experiment was repeated several times with equal success and would

have been repeated even more often but for the subsequent discomfort of the subject, who is a delicate woman and whom they were anxious not to over-tire. Von Notzing mentions by name six of the more eminent witnesses who expressed themselves very well satisfied with the conditions and results. Most of the experiments were made in full light, but one which was in complete darkness was considered equally successful. The subject found it easier to read large print than small, and that tended to show that the physical difficulties of this so-called "transposed" sense of sight were in some respects the same as those of the normal sense. It was considered possible by the observers that the phenomena might be explained by an extremely exaggerated delicacy of the sense of touch, whereby the impressions of the type on the paper could be perceived and read by the surface of the head. This was taken into consideration, and tested by giving the subject a perfectly smooth photograph of print to read (instead of a printed paper), and also a piece of printed paper covered by a sheet of glass between the paper and the head. In both of these cases hyperacuity of the sense of touch would have been of no avail towards reading, nevertheless success was obtained in these also; and the hypothesis of reading by touch in the other cases may, I think, be put out of court. I am not certain that the words read in these last two cases were completely unknown to all those present, so that I have no right to say that the hypothesis of thought-transference was impossible in these special cases. That leads me up to what I should consider as the most important of all the precautions in these experiments, I mean the care taken to exclude any process of thought-transference. The hypothesis that such a power as thought-transference existed was constantly present to those who had the direction of the experiments, and special care was taken to eliminate that one from the many and great difficulties of a trial of true independent clairvoyance,—the perception, that is, of something that is not known to anyone else and is not attainable under the existing circumstances by the ordinary action of the senses. The words of a printed book taken down from a library shelf at random and opened at random, when out of reach of the powers of perception of all others, at any rate, than the subject, and whose open pages are touching the top of the head of the subject when they are read—or, perhaps I should say, in less precise language, when they become known,—offer, I think, a very good example of matter that cannot be conveyed by thought-transference from anyone near or far. The method of its perception can probably be tested, though not without its peculiar difficulties, by frequent repetition and painstaking caution in a small and trustworthy private circle of inquirers.

The elimination of the possibilities of thought-transference from experiments such as these when once it has been resolved upon, is a matter which can generally be carried out, but which leaves behind some of the peculiar difficulties of this class of cases, the difficulties of perfectly accurate observation for a considerable time of the motions of the subject, often spasmodic, variable, and apparently aimless, and the difficulties of estimating and allowing due scope for hyperæsthesia in any of the senses, but more specially in that of sight, which we have found in other cases so strangely penetrating beyond our expectation. Some four years ago we investigated the case of what was called "second-sight" in a colliery labourer, the "pit-boy Dick." When he was hypnotised and had his eyes bandaged with what might be called reasonable care, he was nevertheless able to discriminate a playing card held some four or five feet in front of him, and it was not till Mrs. Sidgwick and Mr. Hodgson made some experiments upon themselves as to their capacities of seeing things, when they were in a normal condition, with their eyes bandaged, that the extreme limits of what was possible in a normal condition, and *a fortiori* in a hypnotic condition, were at all fully realised by some of us. That the subject, as in the case of "Pitboy Dick," should be perfectly honest in imagining himself to be seeing with something that is not his eyes, is one of a class of illusions with which we are tolerably familiar; and even if his judgment is incorrect as to the means whereby he saw, that is nothing whatever necessarily to his discredit.

The courteous offers of personal observation which the Munich inquirers made to us seemed to our President and Mrs. Sidgwick an opportunity not to be neglected, for we have had no such carefully conducted experiments of this class in England which have had any success, and I had the pleasure of accompanying them to Munich. On the evening of our arrival, March 17th, we had our first séance in the private drawing-room of Herr Keller, with the same unpaid subject, Fräulein Lina; in company with our hostess Frau Keller, Baron du Prel, Herr Hübbe Schleiden, who kindly introduced us, and Baron von Notzing, who acted as agent. On first seeing Fräulein Lina it was plain that we had happened on a very unfortunate occasion. She was obviously out of health; feverish, restless, uncomfortable, though very willing to submit to any experiments. Her friends were quite unfamiliar with this condition of illness in her, they were somewhat anxious about her, and, very justly as I thought, considered it an inappropriate time for severe test experiments. We were first shown in outline the method used in this so-called reading with the top of the head, but the conditions did not allow of its exact application and no results were obtained or expected. The next day

a sharp inflammation of the lungs developed itself in Fräulein Lina and there were signs of serious underlying disease. We waited for the next five days in Munich in hopes of better fortune, but Fräulein Lina was entirely confined to her bed and there could be no doubt that experiments were quite impossible; and so in that direction we could go no further. We had the pleasure, however, of extending our acquaintance among the active members of the Psychological Society at Munich, the Baron and Baroness du Prel, Herr Bayersdorfer, the keeper of their famous picture gallery and President of their Society; Herr Deinhard, and others; and we learnt from the lips of Baron von Notzing some more details of the reading experiments with Fräulein Lina and of the other séances, which left us in no doubt that the conduct of these important matters was in very good hands and that the necessities of caution and the very great difficulties of proof absolute were duly appreciated.

I have tried to give a very slight sketch of some fresh observations which seem to point towards what is generally called Transference of the Senses, in a particular case which has come more specially under recent notice. It would be quite out of place to attempt now to review the whole history and present condition of that most difficult and vexed problem of the so-called transference of the special senses from one part of the human body to another.

It was just a hundred years ago last Christmas, that M. Pététin, a doctor in Lyons, found one of his lady patients in a state that looked like eager delirium without any serious disease (Pététin: *Electr. Animale*, p. 7). She seemed entirely incapable of hearing anything whatever that was said to her and was a great puzzle and anxiety to her doctor. She shouted and sang, loud and often, and Pététin, sitting by her bedside, could find no means of controlling her. He urged her to attend to him and to listen to what he had to tell her, but she did not seem to hear a word he said. Suddenly the chair he was sitting on slipped by accident and he fell forward on his face on to the bed where she was lying, and before he could raise himself from this position he exclaimed, "How I wish I could stop her cries!" For the first time, apparently, she heard him then, and to his great astonishment answered at once. "Oh certainly, I will stop," she said, and stop she did, quite obediently. He was very much puzzled at first, for after this she could apparently hear nothing more that he shouted into her ears or even into her ear-trumpet. He came to the conclusion that she had heard him when he was thrown forward on the bed because of his unusual position, because in fact his head had been close to the pit of her stomach when he had been speaking, just after his

fall forwards. This impression was confirmed in him as he found that when he tried to speak to her again, quite low, but in a similar relative position, she could hear him well enough. Her sense of hearing, he concluded, was shifted from her ears to the pit of her stomach. On subsequent trials he found she could also hear him when he whispered to her fingers or to the soles of her feet, though she seemed to remain quite insensible to what he whispered or shouted into her ears or said in ordinary fashion when speaking to her face to face.

Such a history as this first case of Pététin's does not seem to us now to need any such violent hypothesis as that of transference of senses, or indeed any explanation beyond that of the curious illusions and hyperæsthesiæ of hysteria.

Other examples of phenomena which, according to the fashion of the time, were interpreted as Transference of Sensations, *i.e.*, similar localisation of special senses in abnormal parts, were frequently reported after this; in some the sense of smell seemed confined entirely to the fingers, the sense of sight to the forehead or the pit of the stomach, and many strange stories of this kind were current, especially in France in the first half of this century. I cannot pretend to have adequate grounds for forming a judgment in nearly every case, but in those I know, when sufficient details are given, it is possible to satisfy the conditions of the acquisition of knowledge by an abnormal quickening of one sense and blunting of another, or at least, by a thought-transference if by no more direct method, for the matter concerned was known or knowable to one of the experimenters, who, as a rule, was seeking to test the existing knowledge of the subject in the case or to convey fresh knowledge to him.

Among the more scientifically accurate records of recent years there has been very little of independent clairvoyance under the strictest conditions devised to eliminate thought-transference. The interest, then, of the case which Baron von Notzing has recorded and with which we made this endeavour to acquaint ourselves personally, lies in a careful attempt which has been made in it to exclude, what I think many of us would admit has been one possible source of error in similar previous experiments, *viz.*, Thought-transference; and any importance of the conclusions arises from the fact that, supposing it has been possible, which is not a light supposition, to make perfect experiments and to put out of the question all the possibilities of illusion on one side and mal-observation on the other, some phenomena remain which point rather to independent clairvoyance than to thought-transference. How important it would be to multiply such observations with ever-increasing caution, I feel strongly; for the

difference between independent clairvoyance and thought-transference, I cannot help thinking, is, in the present state of our knowledge, very important, and any proof of true independent clairvoyance, so long as there are any indications that it is not impossible, is a matter deserving our very careful attention.

Mrs. Sidgwick followed with the first part of a paper on "Premonitions."

CASES SUPPLIED TO THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

L 323

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From MR. R. V. BOYLE.

3, Stanhope-terrace, W.

July 30th, 1884.

In India, early on the morning of November 2nd, 1868 (which would be about 10 to 11 p.m. of November 1st in England), I had so clear and striking a dream or vision (repeated a second time after a short waking interval) that, on rising as usual between 6 and 7 o'clock, I felt impelled at once to write an entry in my diary, which is now before me.

At the time referred to my wife and I were in Simla, in the Himalayas, the summer seat of the Governor-General, and my father-in-law and mother-in-law were living in Brighton. We had not heard of or from either of them for weeks, nor had I been recently speaking or thinking of them, for there was no reason for anxiety regarding them.*

It seemed in my dream that I stood at the open door of a bedroom in a house in Brighton, and that before me, by candlelight, I saw my father-in-law lying pale upon his bed, while my mother-in-law passed silently across the room in attendance on him. The vision soon passed away, and I slept on for some time. On waking, however, the nature of the impression left upon me unmistakably was that my father-in-law was dead. I at once noted down the dream, after which I broke the news of what I felt to be a revelation to my wife, when we thought over again and again all that could bear upon the matter, without being able to assign any reason for my being so strongly and thoroughly impressed. The telegraph from England to Simla had been open for some time, but now there was an interruption, which lasted for about a fortnight longer, and on 17th (15 days after my dream) I was neither unprepared nor surprised to receive a telegram from England, saying that my father-in-law had died in Brighton on November 1st. Subsequent letters showed that the death occurred on the *night* of the 1st.

Dreams, as a rule, leave little impression on me, and the one above referred to is the only one I ever thought of making a note of, or of looking expectantly for its fulfilment.

* It is right, however, to say that my wife's father had gone to Brighton some months before on account of his health, though he was not more delicate than his elder brother, who is (1884) still living.

I may mention that at a much earlier period of my life I was sitting occupied in a room of a house, from which I could not see the approach to the hall door, when suddenly my thoughts were arrested, and I turned away from my papers, feeling that a person whom I had not been thinking of, nor had seen for years, was at that moment within a few steps of the house, noiselessly, but rapidly, approaching. I listened intently for a knock, which instantly followed. I did not move from my seat, feeling satisfied that what did follow would follow, viz., that a servant immediately afterwards announced the heretofore invisible, but unaccountably sudden, expected visitor. These occurrences I have often thought over, without being able in any way to satisfactorily account for them; they stand out in relief upon a memory but lightly charged with, though not insensible to, such things.

R. VICARY BOYLE.

Mrs. Boyle writes as follows :—

6th August, 1887.

I well remember my husband telling me one morning, early in November, 1868, when at Simla, in India, that he had had a striking dream (repeated) in which my father, then at Brighton, seemed to be dying. We were both deeply impressed and then anxiously awaited news from home. A telegram first reached us, in about a fortnight, which was afterwards confirmed by letters telling of my father's death having occurred on the same night when my husband had the dream.

ELÉONORE A. BOYLE.

The following entries were copied by me from Mr. Boyle's diary :—

Nov. 2. Dreamed of E's F[ather] early this morning.

Written before dressing.

Nov. 17. Got telegram from L[ouis] H[ack] this morning
of his father's death on 1st Nov. inst.

The following obituary notice of the decease of Mr. Boyle's father-in-law occurred in the *Times* for 4th November, 1868 :—

“On 1st Nov., at Brighton, William Hack, late of Dieppe, aged 72.”

On September 17th, 1887, I received from Mr. Boyle a copy (made by Miss P. Hack, niece of the deceased) of an entry made by his mother (sister-in-law of deceased) in her journal, on Sunday, November 1st, 1868, which shows the hour of death. In this entry, after some details of the last hours, occur the words: “At a few minutes after 2 o'clock [p.m.] he ceased to breathe.”

Mr. Boyle informed me that he is a “particularly sound sleeper, and very rarely dreams.” This dream was a very unique and impressive experience, apart from the coincidence.

There was a regular correspondence between Mrs. Boyle and her mother, but for several mails the letters had contained no mention of her father, on whose account absolutely no anxiety was felt.

E. G.

*These three words were added above the line after the subsequent receipt of the letter. But there must apparently have been some misunderstanding; as the evidence which follows seems conclusive as to the hour of the death. [Ed.]

L 324

FROM MR. E. W. HAMILTON.

Park-lane Chambers, Park-lane, W.

April 6th, 1888.

On Tuesday morning, March 20th, 1888, I woke up with the impression of a very vivid dream. I had dreamt that my brother, who had long been in Australia, and of whom I had heard nothing for several months, had come home; that after an absence of 12 years and a-half he was very little altered in appearance, but that he had something wrong with one of his arms; it looked horribly red near the wrist, his hand being bent back.

When I got up that morning the dream recurred constantly to my thoughts, and I at last determined to take a note of it, notwithstanding my natural prejudices against attaching any importance to dreams, to which, indeed, I am not much subject. Accordingly, in the course of the day, I made in my little Letts' diary a mark thus: X, with my brother's name after it.

On the following Monday morning, the 26th March, I received a letter from my brother, which bore the date of the 21st March, and which had been posted at Naples (where the Orient steamers touch), informing me that he was on his way home, and that he hoped to reach London on or about the 30th March, and adding that he was suffering from a very severe attack of gout in the left arm.

The next day I related to some one this curious incident, and I commented on the extraordinary coincidence of facts with the dream with all but one detail, and that was, that the arm which I had seen in my dream did not look as if it were merely affected with gout: the appearance it had presented to me was more like extremely bad eczema.

My brother duly reached England on the 29th, having disembarked at Plymouth owing to the painful condition of his arm. It turned out that the doctor on board ship had mistaken the case; it was not gout, but a case of blood poisoning, resulting in a very bad carbuncle or abscess over the wrist joint.

Since my brother's return, I have endeavoured to ascertain from him the exact hour at which he wrote to me on March 21st. He is not certain whether the letter to me was written before noon or after noon of that day. He remembers writing four short letters in the course of that day—two before luncheon and two after luncheon. Had the note addressed to me been written in the forenoon, it might nearly have coincided in time with my dream, if allowance be made for the difference of time between Greenwich and Naples; for, having no recollection of the dream when I woke, according to custom, at an early hour on the morning of the 21st, I presume I must have dreamt it very little before eight o'clock, the hour at which I am called.

I may add that, notwithstanding an absence of 12 years and a-half, my brother has altered very little in appearance; and that I have not to my knowledge ever noted a dream before in my life.

E. W. HAMILTON.

I have seen the diary with the entry (X, Clem) under Tuesday, March 20th, 1888, though, as Mr. Hamilton says, "it was early the next morning

that I had the dream ; for I generally consider all that appertains to bed relates to the day on which one gets into it."

I have seen the letter, signed Clement E. Hamilton, and dated Naples, March 21st, 1888, which says, "Am suffering from very severe attack of gout in left arm."—E. G.

April 12th, 1888.

L 325
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FROM MR. G. LEVESON GOWER.

14, South Audley-street, W.

March 31st, 1888.

I was asked to give you an account of an incident which happened to me on the occasion of the death of my aunt, the late Lady Marian Alford. The date of this was, I fancy, Wednesday, February 8th, though this could easily be verified. On that day I had gone down in the afternoon to Surrey, to speak at a political meeting at a place called Oxted. After the meeting was over, and as we were driving away, I was suddenly seized with a strong feeling which I can describe in no other way than a vivid sense of the presence of death : it seemed to me that in some way and on some person unknown to me death was exercising at that moment its power. I put the thought aside, but it recurred so powerfully that I looked at my watch, which was then 10.5 p.m. On my return to London next morning I found that my dear aunt had died, after a seizure of only a few hours, the same evening, if not at the precise time, a very short while before the hour I looked at my watch. Had I known that she was ill I should not have thought this event worth repeating, but I had not the slightest knowledge of her illness. Her family, including myself, had latterly known that her life was precarious, but we none of us anticipated this sudden and fatal attack. Curiously enough, however, a friend of mine, Mrs. G., had been for some while very dangerously ill ; and at the time of this sentiment (I can hardly call it a *presentiment*) I was convinced that my friend had died. This was so strong that on my return home, when I saw by my father's face that something serious had happened, I at once concluded that Mrs. G. was dead. She is now, I am glad to say, out of danger, and well on the way to recovery.

G. LEVESON GOWER.

Mr. Leveson Gower adds, on April 12th, 1888 :—In reply to your question, I have never to my recollection had a similar impression to that which I related to you—though, of course, I may have forgotten such an instance.

The following is an interesting case of the violent fright of an animal, occurring at the time of an abnormal appearance.

G 316

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From *Man and Beast*. By the REV. J. G. WOOD. (London: Dalby, Isbister and Co., 1874.) Vol. II., pp. 339-343.

I have (writes Mr. Wood) for a long time had in my possession a letter from a lady, in which she narrates a personal adventure which has a singularly close resemblance to the Scripture story of Balaam. . . . At the time

of the occurrence the lady and her mother were living in an old country château in France.

"It was during the winter of 18—that one evening I happened to be sitting by the side of a cheerful fire in my bedroom, busily engaged in caressing a favourite cat—the illustrious Lady Catherine, now, alas! no more. She lay in a pensive attitude and a winking state of drowsiness in my lap.

Although my room might be without candles it was perfectly illuminated by the light of the fire.

There were two doors—one behind me leading into an apartment which had been locked up for the winter, and another on the opposite side of the room, which communicated with the passage.

Mamma had not left me many minutes, and the high-backed, old-fashioned armchair which she had occupied remained vacant at the opposite corner of the fire-place. Puss, who lay with her head upon my arm, became more and more sleepy, and I pondered on the propriety of preparing for bed. Of a sudden I became aware that something had affected my pet's equanimity. The purring ceased, and she exhibited rapidly increasing symptoms of uneasiness. I bent down and endeavoured to coax her into quietness, but she instantly struggled to her feet in my lap, and spitting vehemently, with back arched and tail swollen, she assumed a mingled attitude of terror and defiance.

The change in her position obliged me to raise my head, and on looking up, to my inexpressible horror, I then perceived a little, hideous, wrinkled old hag occupied mamma's chair. Her hands were resting on her knees and her body was stooped forward so as to bring her face into close proximity with mine. Her eyes, piercingly fierce and shining with an overpowering lustre, were steadfastly fixed on me. It was as if a fiend were glaring at me through them. Her dress and general appearance denoted her to belong to the French *bourgeoisie*; but those eyes, so wonderfully large, and in their expression so intensely wicked, entirely absorbed my senses and precluded any attention to detail. I should have screamed, but my breath was gone while that terrible gaze so horribly fascinated me. I could neither withdraw my eyes nor rise from my seat.

I had meanwhile been trying to keep a tight hold on the cat, but she seemed resolutely determined not to stay in such ugly neighbourhood, and after some most desperate efforts, at length succeeded in escaping from my grasp. Leaping over chairs and tables and all that came in her way, she repeatedly threw herself with frightful violence against the top panel of the door which communicated with the disused room. Then, returning in the same frantic manner, she furiously dashed against the door on the opposite side. My terror was now divided, and I looked by turns, now at the old woman whose great staring eyes were constantly fixed on me, and now at the cat, who was becoming every instant more frantic. At last the dreadful idea that the animal had gone mad had the effect of restoring my breath, and I screamed loudly.

Mamma ran in immediately, and the cat, on the door opening, literally sprang over her head, and for upwards of half-an-hour ran up and down

stairs as if pursued. I turned to point out the object of my terror ; it was gone. Under such circumstances the lapse of time is difficult to appreciate, but I should think that the apparition lasted about four or five minutes.

Some time afterwards it transpired that a former proprietor of the house, a woman, had hanged herself in that very room.

We ascertained from Mr. Wood the name of his informant, and wrote to her brother, General K., from whom we received the following reply :—

January 21st, 1885.

SIR,—I hasten to enclose a communication from Miss K., which I received by this morning's post, and have only to add that my sister does not appear to have previously heard of Mr. Wood's book, and was quite unaware of her story having been published.

The circumstances narrated occurred in an old house in Boulogne-sur-Mer, I fancy about 1845. It was, I think, in 1858 that Miss A., a friend of Mr. Wood, asked me to give her the story in writing. I thereupon wrote to my sister and got her to send me an exact account of what happened, and a copy of this account, with a few trivial emendations, I gave to Miss A.

From that moment until you wrote to me I had not heard of it, nor did I know what had become of it.

Mr. Wood's book, *Man and Beast*, I saw for the first time last night, and the account given there is word for word the same as I gave to Miss A.

The apparition was once again seen by Miss K. in the same house and under extremely singular circumstances.

J. W. A. K.

The enclosure is as follows :—

I was one evening sitting by my bedroom fire, nursing a pet cat, which was sleeping on my lap. Suddenly she struggled to her feet, and standing on my knees, swelled her tail out in my face, and exhibited the usual signs of fear, as if a dog had been facing her. I stroked and spoke to her, but her fear evidently increased, so that I could scarcely hold her. I then became aware that a very ugly old woman was sitting on the chair at the other side of the fire-place, her hands on her knees and staring fixedly at us. I was too frightened to scream, but tried still harder to hold pussy. I had, however, weakened my hold, and she made her escape, bounding into the middle of the room, and rushed wildly between the doors, against each of which she dashed herself as if to force an exit. This violent scene gave me breath ; I screamed, and when my mother came in the cat leaped past her, and ran up and down stairs for some time as if mad. I need not add that when my mother came in the old woman had vanished.

In reply to further inquiries, Miss K. writes, on January 31st, 1885.

Boulogne-sur-Mer.

DEAR SIR,—I very much regret not to be able to answer the very interesting questions you put to me with regard to the account of my interview with the ghost, but my health has for some time been weak, and writing is a very great weariness to me.

I quite well remember writing the account you speak of, many years ago,

for a friend. It was a strictly accurate account, not in the least embellished, and you are quite welcome to publish either, or both accounts, but I object to my name appearing in print.

H. K.

Miss K. writes further in February, 1886 :—

The second apparition occurred at the time of the serious illness of one of the members of our family. I was leaving the patient's room for the last time that night when I met the old woman in the passage, but the sight caused no emotion. I was too anxious to be frightened. I was, however, reminded of it next day by the sick nurse—a French nun—when she told us that not only she, but her patient also, had had a most disturbed night, owing to a succession of noises, such as rustling garments and footsteps in the room, and that her patient, usually quietly dozing, was constantly calling out to ask who was in the room. She declared she would not sit up alone another night. This was the more remarkable that she had some time before expressed her determination to leave us if one of our party continued to sit up with her, as she wished to be allowed the sole control of the sick room, and in consequence she had been left alone till that night. She, however, saw nothing, only heard.

I have seen other * apparitions, and am not aware of having had hallucinations.

H. K.

GENERAL K. writes again :—

Poste Restante, Florence, Italy.

March 1st, 1886.

According to the account Miss K. gave me of the occurrence mentioned in her note, the *garde malade* (since dead) said that her patient had been in a state of intense alarm during the night, calling for help against an old woman that wanted to kill him ; the same added that she would not again go through such a night alone on any account. Miss K. also told me that she first perceived the old woman ascending the stairs in front of her ; that she followed the apparition, who passed into the sick room and there disappeared.

With regard to the old house at Boulogne, I find that it has since been divided into two houses, and it may perhaps be useful to add that I and, to my knowledge, others have had repeatedly therein personal experience of strange sounds at night which it was never possible to account for.

J. W. A. K.

CASE OF A "DOUBLE" SEEN BEFORE DEATH.

In the following case, it is quite possible that the proximity in time of the apparition and the death was accidental ; and the form of the apparition certainly suggests temporary ocular derangement. The point which ought as far as possible to be ascertained, is whether appearances of this type, occurring shortly before the death of the person represented, are too frequent to be dismissed as purely subjective hallucinations.

* It is probable that the word *no* has been accidentally omitted before *other*.

FROM MRS. CHAPRONIERE.

2, Hotham-villas, Putney.

April 14th, 1888.

I was in my bedroom being undressed by my maid, Mrs. Gregory, who had been with me for 41 years, and she was unfastening my bracelet when I saw, just behind her about two feet off, her exact resemblance. She was then in perfect health. I said to her, "Why, Mrs. Gregory, I see your fetch." She smiled and said, "Really, ma'am," but was not in the least alarmed. On the following Sunday, she was only poorly. I went for a doctor at once, who said she was a little out of sorts. On Wednesday evening she suddenly died. It was about the same time that her double had appeared to me just a week before. This was about 15 years ago.

SOPHIE CHAPRONIERE.

I have seen Mrs. Chapronière, and questioned her about the case. She told me that she had never had a hallucination of vision on any other occasion. The "double" was as distinct as the real person, and an exact reproduction. The death was very sudden. Mrs. Gregory had been slightly unwell for a couple of days before it took place, but was able to enjoy her food, and no anxiety was felt on her account. A daughter of Mrs. Chapronière states that she clearly remembers that her mother mentioned the apparition at once, before the death.—E.G.

April 24th, 1888.

THE DISTURBANCES AT BRAMFORD, IN SUFFOLK.

In November and December, 1887, paragraphs appeared in several London and provincial newspapers, giving accounts of mysterious occurrences in a cottage occupied by a widow and her family, at Bramford, near Ipswich. Stones and dirt were reported to be thrown at the windows, and small household goods and articles of clothing were tossed about the premises. A member of the Society paid a visit to the spot to make inquiries. He made the acquaintance of the occupants of the "haunted" house, however, and very carefully examined the witnesses. His conclusion, after hearing all the evidence obtainable, was that the children—a girl of 11, and two younger boys—had practised trickery.