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EXPERIMENTS IN THOUGHT-TRANSFERENCE.

The following series of experiments were made by a lady, well known to the editor, with her little girl, aged at the time about four years and seven months. In sending us the notes she says :—

I find that for the present I can make no more experiments with H. ; she is too old to give her impressions quite unconsciously and not old enough to have the importance of the affair explained to her. . . . I enclose you the results of our experiments up to the present. . . . Besides the notes of experiments with cards, I enclose copies of notes of cases where H. guessed what I was thinking of, or I of what she was thinking ; I thought they might be interesting as illustrations.

The experiments were made as follows :—The little girl drew a card out of the pack and looked at it while her mother, who kept her eyes closed throughout the experiment, guessed what the suit was, whether it was a picture card or not, and in some cases what card it was. When no impression as to the card was felt no guess was made. In the following notes P. stands for picture. “Picture right” means a right guess made as to whether the card was a picture card or not. After the first two evenings, when a full record of the experiments was kept, a dash stands for the child’s answer “yes” or “no.” There was no contact.

NOTES OF EXPERIMENTS.

First Evening, February, 1888.

Suits, number, and pictures guessed. First three [cards guessed] right in all respects. Then only tried suits and pictures.—12 more guesses, of which picture right 12 times, suit right 6 times.

February 6th.

First three, suit only guessed—right each time. Then six more, guessing suit and picture, of which suit right three times, picture right six times.

February 7th. 5 guesses.

CARD DRAWN.	GUESS.
(a) H. 6	Cl. ?? — H, not P.
(b) Sp. 2	Cl. — H ?? — Sp. 2.
(c) Sp. 3	Sp. — not P — 4.
(d) H. 3	D ? — Sp ? — H — not P
(e) D. 1	Sp. ? — H ? — Cl. ? — D ? not P.

February 10th. 3 guesses—no impression.

February 10th (later).

(a) H. 2	Not P — H — 2.
(b) H. Kg.	P — D — Kg. — Kg. H.
(c) Sp. 5	Not P. — Several guesses; then H. said she had "made a mistake" about the card.

February 13th. 3 guesses—no impression.

February 27th. 3 guesses.

(a)	No impression.
(b) H. 5	D — not P. — wrong guesses.
(c)	No impression.

I have no record of the exact guesses on the first two evenings. But all notes are contemporaneous. The result of the guessing is written down before we go on to the next card. The lines (—) showed the interval in which *yes* or *no* was answered.

(Signed)

March 19th. 4 guesses.

CARD DRAWN.	GUESS.
(a) H. 1	D — not P — H — 2 — 3 — 1.
(b) Sp. 10	Sp. not P (doubtful) — 10.

Note on (b).—My impression was "a lot of black"—then Spades. I had a feeling it was not P—but seemed to see a crowd. I said "Not P," and hearing that I was right, instantly felt that 10 satisfied my impression. H. proceeded to count the pips,—10 being more than she can take in at a glance,—and I was right.

(c) Blank card! "Can see nothing."

Note on (c).—"Can see nothing" does not represent "had no impression." I had an irritated sensation of not being able to see anything.

(d) Cl. Q. | No impression.

March 20th. 4 guesses—3 no impression.

(a) D. 6	Not P — H or D — 4 — 5 — 6.
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Note.—I guessed the numbers successively, but in fact I saw a plain picture of the top corners.

March 24th. 4 guesses—2 no impression.

(a) Sp. Kg.	D — P — Q. Sp. — Sp. — Kg.
(b) Cl. Knave	Cl. — not P — Kg. — Q — Knave.

January 29th, 1889.

The pack of cards used was an imperfect one; the 8 of spades and the 2, 5, 7, 10 and knave of diamonds having been lost. The ace of spades was counted as a picture card, so that there were 12 picture cards and 34 plain cards. Neither agent nor percipient knew which cards were missing, nor how many.

It appears from the above notes that the total number of experiments was 53, or, omitting the blank card, 52. In 14 of these no impression was received nor guess made. In the remaining 38 the

attempt was made to guess the suit only in three cases, suit and whether picture card or not in 22 cases, and to guess the whole card in 13 cases. It was not settled beforehand how much was to be attempted—this depended on the impression felt at the time. The following is a table of the results :—

ATTEMPTED.	RIGHT.			WRONG.			TOTAL.
	Suit.	Picture.	Number.	Suit.	Picture.	Number.	
Suit only	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suit and Picture	9	22	...	13†	...	...	22
Suit, Picture, and Numbers	7	12*	7	6	1	6	13
Total	19	34	7	19	1	6	38
Number that would have been most probable by chance, say... }	9 or 10	25‡	3**				

* Including case (b) on February 7th, when the whole card was guessed before guessing picture or not.

† Including cases (c) on February 10th and (a) on March 20th.

‡ The most probable number of correct guesses as to picture or not cannot be properly estimated without the details of all the experiments, or a longer series of recorded guesses, because—since the probability of being right by chance in any particular case is greater for the guess “not picture” than the guess “picture”—the most probable number of correct guesses depends on the bias of the guesser. (Owing to the imperfection of the pack these remarks apply also *mutatis mutandis* to the guesses of suit and of number.) If he has no bias—that is, if in the long run he says “picture” as often as “not picture”—half his guesses will in the long run be right. A bias in favour of “not picture” would give a larger number of right guesses, and a bias in favour of “picture” a smaller number—the limiting values in the two directions being $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$. If he guesses “picture” and “not picture” in the true proportions—that is, 12 pictures to 34 not-pictures—he will in the long run be right by chance 325 times out of 529, or about three-fifths of his guesses will be right. The number 25 given in the table is the most probable number of coincidences among the actual cards and guesses in the short series of 14 experiments of which the details are given. On any assumption the actual number of correct guesses in the experiments before us is greatly in excess of the probable number.

** The probability of the number being right in any particular guess is, in a perfect pack, $\frac{1}{13}$, whether the guess be made in two stages (picture

first and then number), or all at once, provided the guess in the first stage is right, as was the case whenever the number was right in these experiments.

The guesses may be differently analysed as follows:—

Suit only right	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Picture only right	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Suit and picture right but not number	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Picture and number right but not suit	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suit, picture, and number right	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Quite wrong	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
							—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

The probability of guessing any card wholly right out of 38 guesses is, of course, less than one.

With regard to the picture guesses, the idea occurs to one that the child may have liked picture cards best, and have had a special manner when picture cards turned up, which unconsciously influenced her mother. On this hypothesis, however, one would expect that the impression of picture or not would be the first to occur, which does not appear to have happened; since out of the 14 cases where the details of the experiments are given, the suit was guessed first in 10 and the picture first in 4 cases. In those 4 cases the card was actually a picture card once.

The following are the notes of the spontaneous experiences mentioned above:—

November 14th, 1885. (H., aged two years and four months.)

“On Friday, November 6th, on coming in from a walk, I went to the nursery, and J. (the nurse) said to H., ‘Tell mother who you met—what little girl.’ The child hesitated and then said doubtfully, ‘Daisy.’ ‘No,’ I said, ‘Margery.’ ‘Oh, did you meet her then?’ said J. I could only say that I guessed. Then J. said, ‘Tell mother what the little girl had on, and you said you wouldn’t like one.’ Again, as H. hesitated, I said ‘Had the little girl a red cloak?’ ‘Then you *did* see her,’ said J. I had not seen the child, and did not know that she had a red cloak. As I said ‘red cloak,’ it occurred to me that it might be some kind of bonnet, but ‘red cloak’ said itself.”

[The little girl was Margery —, of whom we knew very little, and were not in the habit of seeing. H. spoke very little at this time, and was slow at getting the words to express her thoughts, so that I was constantly guessing what she meant, before she finished speaking.]

March 23rd, 1888.

“Yesterday H. and I played ‘I love my love.’ I have long thought that she guessed what I was thinking of, and resolved to try. We had done *M* and began *N*. She could not think of a quality beginning with *N*, so I said, ‘Well, guess mine,’ and thought of *Nice*. I turned and looked at her eyes, and she looked back, then she said at once [*Nice*. When we came to

the 'sign,' I thought of *Needle*—usually we choose an animal. When she said she 'would think of my word,' we looked as before, and she said slowly *Neat*, but could attach no idea to it. She could find no quality in *O*. I thought of *Obedient*. She (after looking as usual, I taking special care not to say the word with my lips) said slowly 'O-be-di-en.' Then, after a pause, 'But that's not a nice thing to be,' (she apparently mixed it with disobedient) showing that the word she was saying did not satisfy her conception of what she wanted."

November 13th, 1888.

"I have been taking a tonic lately after lunch, and H. likes to see me take it. But on Wednesday, the 7th, I gave it up, and she did not remind me of it as usual. Yesterday (Monday), as I got up from lunch, I thought, 'I will take my tonic to-day,' and at that minute H. said, 'Take your medicine.' I was surprised and said, 'But I have not been taking it lately; what made you think of it?' H. said, 'I don't know; it came into my head.'"

The last of these experiences is less striking than the other two, but is worth mentioning in connection with them.

IMPORTANT CORRECTION

AND FURTHER PARTICULARS RESPECTING MR. DOBBIE'S CLAIRVOYANTS
AND MODE OF EXPERIMENTING.

Mr. Dobbie writes from Rothesay Villa, College Park, South Australia, on January 6th, 1889:—

Referring to case M. 6 [*Journal*, Vol. III., pp. 333-6] a great mistake has been made. I notice that at the bottom of page 335 of November *Journal* you state that you asked me for a copy of the notes "taken at the time of the experiment." You then quote my reply that in that particular case I neglected to make notes at the time. Now that is quite a mistake. The notes I sent you re the "sleeve link" case, and which appear in the *Journal*, are a copy of the notes I wrote down the moment the words were uttered. I make a practice of doing so. When, in my letter of October 17th, 1886, in reply to your query, I stated that I had not taken notes at the time, I thought your question referred to an earlier case of clairvoyance in connection with the finding of a gold pencil-case which had been lost. I sent you the particulars,* but you have not published them, at which I am surprised, because I consider it was by far the most remarkable case of the three, the possibility of thought-transference being more completely shut out.

I will now answer the questions.

(1) Whether my clairvoyants are in any way professional, or accept money for their services?

* We have not got the letter (dated, Mr. Dobbie tells us, March 8th, 1886) which contained these particulars, but hope that Mr. Dobbie may be able to let us have them again.

Answer : No, I have never given them a farthing, nor do I recompense them in any indirect way. In fact, the experiments have been a great tax upon them during the past four years, and have greatly interfered with their home duties.

(2) Are they well educated ?

Answer : They are sufficiently educated (the young ladies I mean) to conduct a school of *young* children, but make no pretension to the higher branches of learning. They are educated to about the same extent as those who pass through a good Government or State school, and are solid, sensible young women of irreproachable character. They have a school of 60 young children.

(3) Whether, in noting down conversations with clairvoyants, I make a note of the questions as well as the answers, and whether I give merely a summary of the information elicited ?

Answer : I rarely ever interfere by asking questions, as I have found by experience that the results are far more satisfactory when I simply remain silent and write down *all* the words they utter, as I did in the cases of the sleeve link and Coliseum. If you refer to the fifth line from the bottom of page 336 of *November Journal*, you will notice in italics a sentence which is the weakest part of the whole ; that was the result of my asking a question which, as Mr. Adamson rightly says (on p. 338), "should not have been put." Mr. Williams, the male clairvoyant, is an intelligent young man of 24. He has charge of one of the departments in one of the leading drapery establishments of this city (Adelaide). I have never, either directly or indirectly, rewarded him in any way. He is fairly well educated.

METHOD OF OPERATING.

My usual method of operating is to put them to sleep by a few passes, and then quietly to wait until they tell me they are ready. I then silently slip the article in question into their hands, and in from two to five minutes they begin to speak in a perfectly natural way, and I write down what they say. In most cases when the specimen is the hair of a person who is ill, the Misses Dixon will simply hold the hair in their hands for an interval of from five to fifteen minutes, and then sit up to the table, open their eyes (though still asleep) and write out a diagnosis of the case and prescribe remedies. In most cases they correctly describe the ailments, although in some cases (even when I am fully aware of the circumstances) they are entirely wrong. Some of the cures have been very remarkable ; but I am not prepared to positively assert whether the cures were effected by the remedies, or were the result of faith, or, in other words, the action of the mind on the body.

* * * *

I have little confidence in the abilities of my clairvoyants to track the Whitechapel murderer. I tried them once in tracing a prominent man who suddenly disappeared from Adelaide two or three years ago, and was found dead a fortnight afterwards. My clairvoyants insisted that the man was alive and wandering about south of Adelaide, whereas he must have been dead all the time, and was found *north* of Adelaide. Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

A. W. DOBBIE.

CASE SUPPLIED TO THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

G. 183.

I gave an abstract of the following case of a haunted house (G. 183) in my paper on "Phantasms of the Dead." (*Proceedings*, Vol. III., p. 113.) Since then some further evidence has been obtained, and the case is now probably as complete as we can at present hope to make it, since there is little chance of obtaining Mrs. Robinson's address. It will at once strike the reader that in all its recent appearances "the ghost" of this case is very unlike the ghost of most of our narratives, and its always appearing in the same part of the room, its persistence for several minutes, its unchanging form during each appearance, all strongly suggest a real effect of light of some kind; and, in fact, this is what suggested itself to several of the percipients. Its slow movement backwards and forwards through, as appears from the plan, a small angular distance is what might be expected if the effect was due to a light outside, —say, a temporarily illuminated window,—shining through a thin and slightly moving blind (with, perhaps, a hole in it) and between the curtains. It would be rash to affirm that this would be a sufficient explanation without knowing the place, and without experimenting, but if a chance of verifying this hypothesis should occur it is to be hoped that it will be made use of.

ELEANOR M. SIDGWICK.

Mr. Podmore writes:—I saw Mrs. W. on July 8th, 1888, and she gave me the facts which I embodied in the following narrative, since corrected by Mrs. W.

8th July, 1888.

My father, John Hunter, was a surgeon practising in W—, and at the time of his marriage his wife's mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Barber, rented V— Cottage and came to live in it in order that they might be near their only child. This would be about 1826, as I was born in 1827.

I have always heard that they were told, as soon as they came to live there, that the house was haunted; the story given to account for the haunting being very much what my son has given in his letter of the 10th of June last (see below), except that I never remember to have heard that my father was called to the inquest. It is possible, however, that this was the case, as my father practised in W— before his marriage.

My grandfather died soon after coming to live in the house. My grandmother, however, lived on in the house until 1851. After her death my father bought it, but sold it again shortly afterwards. Some time after my brother-in-law, Mr. A. bought it, and my son, J. H. W—, rented it from him for some years. Recently Mr. A. has again sold the house.

My sister and I, as children, occasionally slept in the house during my grandmother's lifetime. On one occasion—I cannot remember the date, but I was not 15 at the time — my sister, 15 months younger than myself,

rushed into my bedroom, which was the inner room, crying out "What a shame to try to frighten me so, Margaret." I was in bed, and when she saw this she was very much astonished, and told me she had seen in the outer room a white figure behind the door, and thought it was I in my nightdress. We had both, I think, heard at this time that the house was said to be haunted, but we only laughed at it.

Some time afterwards I remember we both heard footsteps—as of a man in stockings—going upstairs and about the house. We told our grandmother, who, in spite of our entreaties—for she was very infirm and used a crutch—insisted on going downstairs, but found no one there. The room in which my sister saw the figure—now separated from the "inner room," which has a separate entrance from the passage—is the same room in which Mr. Hill and the others have since seen a figure. But my son used to talk about the "haunted room" to all his friends, and this may have caused them to see the "ghost."

The evidence of Mrs. Robinson, who acted as caretaker for some months, is the most reliable, for she had certainly never heard of the reputation of the house. I will try and find her address and ask her to write out her account.

Of late years, whilst Jack has occupied the house, I have slept in the "haunted room" several times, but have seen and heard nothing abnormal.

I should state that the villagers conceived a dislike to Mrs. Robinson, and, I understand, tried to frighten her by flashing a bull's-eye lantern on the house, and so on; but I don't think that any trick could account for the figure which she saw.

The MS. of above was left with Mrs. W. for her signature and she returned it the next day (July 9th) with a letter saying:—

"I have read over your notes attentively, and made one or two slight alterations. I am sorry that I can help you so very little with regard to dates, and I must decline to affix my name to the document, or to give you the name and address of my sister. She has lost her husband and is in an exceedingly delicate state of health. . . . In the cottage there were only three bedrooms. One stood apart from the rest, branching off by five steps from the staircase, and it was in that room that the murder was said to have been committed, and there in early days the ghost was said to appear. But *no one* of whom I have any knowledge ever saw the apparition there. The other two rooms were connected, not by any passage, but you passed through the one to get to the other, and it was in the first of these that people professed to see the spectre."

From Mr. J. H— W—, 14, Southall-street,
Strangeways, Manchester.

10th June, 1888.

Mrs. Adams lived in the house for some months at two or three different periods.

The Robinsons occupied it one winter and spring. They may have heard of "Lydia's ghost."

The house has been sold and is now unoccupied.

The story, as I have heard, is that the house was formerly occupied by an old lady and her daughter Lydia. No servant slept in the house, but a girl came to them every day from a neighbouring cottage. One morning, being unable to rouse anyone to give her admittance, she became alarmed and went for the doctor (my grandfather, John Hunter), who placed a ladder up to the bedroom window and ascended it. Then he saw the two women lying on the floor with their throats cut. He was too late to save the old lady, but having sewed up Lydia's throat she recovered. Lydia averred that they had mutually agreed to commit suicide (and I believe a verdict to that effect was returned in the one case), but my grandfather expressed his opinion that the old lady did not commit suicide, an opinion he formed from the position of the body, which was lying with the neck carefully placed over a basin. He gave no evidence to incriminate Lydia, as he considered her daft. Lydia afterwards left the village, and no one knew what became of her. At last the idea gained credence that her ghost haunted the cottage. *Voilà tout!*

(Signed) J. H— W—.

Mr. A. G. Leonard and I saw Mrs. Adams and Sarah Newman in January, 1885, and the following account was drawn up by us from our recollection and notes of the conversation, and has been subsequently signed as correct by the persons concerned.—F.P.

21, St. Bartholomew's-road, N.

January, 1885.

Mrs. Adams says :—

I have never seen the light myself. Several people, however, have seen it while I was in the cottage and have told me what they saw.

Mrs. Robinson (whose address cannot now be ascertained) told me that she awoke and saw the light on Christmas Eve, 1883, between 12 and 1 a.m. She thought it was one of her girls and said, "Maggie, is that you?" On receiving no answer, she got out of bed and the figure vanished. So convinced was she that it was one of the girls that she went into their room, but found them both fast asleep. She returned to bed and the light reappeared.

Sarah, my servant, has seen the light several times. She at first attributed it to some reflection from the looking-glass. It was I, however, who placed the looking-glass in the room, and Mrs. Robinson had seen the light before this was done.

Miss Wray, Mrs. W., Mrs. Robinson, Miss R. H—, Mr. Leonard Hill have told me that they saw the light.

On one occasion, when several of us, including Mr. Ruck, were downstairs, Sarah came down and said, "Now if you all come up you can see the light." We went up at once but the light had disappeared.

(Signed) M. ADAMS.

Sarah stated that this was the only occasion on which she saw the light when she was not in bed. She was coming downstairs one evening last autumn without a candle, and saw the light (through the open door) in the position in which it always appeared—near the cupboard. She saw it move towards the window and it seemed to settle on the blind. She ran downstairs and called the others, but when they came nothing was visible.

The light seemed a bluish flame about 2in. long, surrounded by a halo about 10in. long by 6in. broad; or, as Sarah described it, it was bright in the centre with a light shadow round it. It appeared to be about 6ft. from the ground. It never altered its appearance as Sarah looked at it. It would move slowly from the cupboard to the mantelpiece, to and fro, taking about one minute in the passage. It always kept at about the same level. After she had heard last autumn of the light being seen, Sarah determined to try and see it herself, and slept in the room for some time. She used to lie awake in the hopes of seeing the light and did distinctly see it several times—once, at the end of October, 1884, three consecutive nights. The light always appeared (if it showed itself at all) between 12 and 1 a.m. This Sarah ascertained by consulting a clock which stood in the room.

Sometimes she woke up and found it there, but more generally she was awake when it first appeared. Sarah was in the habit of waking up at odd times during the night, so that no conclusion can be drawn from her having done so on these occasions.

On several nights she got out of bed but the light always vanished as soon as she did so, or as soon as she lit a candle. It would vanish all at once, not gradually as a reflection might do. When she only sat up in bed the light would remain.

Sarah professed to think that the light was only a reflection from the looking-glass. She stated that she had noticed that it was generally seen on moonlight nights. The light was always seen against a cupboard door which was painted with ordinary dull paint, whence it would move to the fireplace and back. On the hypothesis of its being due to reflection from the window, Sarah was quite unable to account for the movement of the light to and fro, as the mirror was fixed to the wall. She did not think that any movement of the blind, through a draught, would sufficiently account for the motion. The villagers think the place to be haunted. It is an old cottage—about a century old. They say that a girl murdered her mother here. There are stains—supposed to be blood-stains—on the floor, which cannot be scrubbed clean.

For some time during 1884, Sarah slept in the front ground-floor room. It is now used as a sitting-room. The head of her bed was against the partition between the room and the hall. She used to hear regularly every night, between 12 and 1 a.m., a sound as if someone was rapping with his knuckles at the head of the bed. This was continued for some time, and Sarah was quite unable to account for it.

(Signed) SARAH NEWMAN.

16th January, 1885.

From Mr. Leonard Hill, 45, Carlton Hill, N. W.

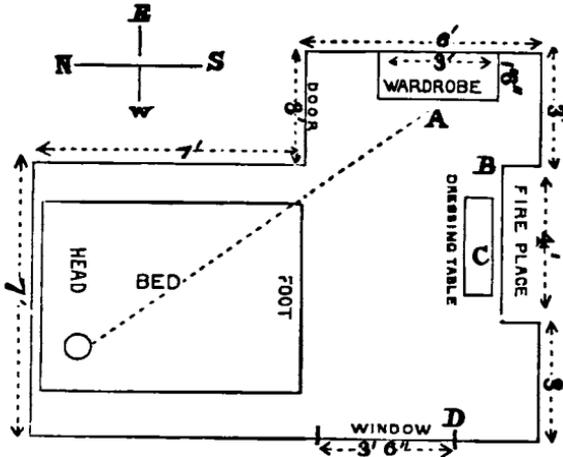
18th March, 1887.

— In the autumn of 1884 I was staying with Mr. W— at his cottage at W—, and during my visit I saw the vision described below.

It was on the night of Sunday, September the 21st, 1884, that it appeared to me. I occupied the bedroom, which is upon the first floor, by myself; it was the second night I had slept in this room alone, but my wife, who

was on these occasions sleeping with her mother in the next room, had previously occupied it with me for about a week.

The following diagram represents the room with the furniture in ground plan; the measurements given are guessed from my recollection only, and are not precise.



Before proceeding further, I should state that I had heard second-hand accounts of the "ghost" having been seen in this room by Mrs. Robinson and others, but I had not had any confirmatory evidence of it myself.

At about 3 a.m. (*i.e.*, to be precise, on the morning of September 22nd), I woke up, naturally, so far as I know; I was lying on my right side—that is, with my face towards the west wall. I was perfectly conscious and wide awake, and though not aware of anything abnormal occurring in the room, I had a feeling of constraint to turn round to look towards the east wall. Turning my head over my shoulder I saw there a hazy column of light, extending from about a foot, or a little more than a foot, above the ground, and some five feet in height. The room was pitch dark, and I could see absolutely nothing but the light, which was, I noticed, about where I remembered the wardrobe was.* I then turned round again, shut my eyes, and settled myself with the idea of getting to sleep, but soon again turned to look at the object. I had not any feeling of actual fear, only a slight nervousness and chilliness, except for a moment when I fancied it was coming towards me. Upon looking intently at the light, I observed it to be of a misty, almost phosphorescent nature, having the distinctive character of appearing to be illuminated from within. It then appeared gradually to assume a definite form, and in the course of, say, 5 or 10 seconds—though it seemed to me longer at the time—I concluded it was of the form of a woman in a night-dress, whether an old woman or young I could not say; in a few seconds more, however, I made out that it had the appearance of a young woman

* The wardrobe has plain, painted doors, not glazed, and is not capable of reflecting light.

bending slightly forward, with the near right arm slightly extended, and the hand a little raised ; the face—of which I remember seeing only about half or three-quarters—also somewhat forward, the attitude altogether giving the idea that she was looking for something on the floor. The head was covered by a white hood, with a white band passing underneath the chin, like a nun's headdress. The contour of the face was rather oval, but I could not distinguish any features. The light was brighter and less misty just below what I took to be the nightdress, giving me the idea that I saw feet, though without definite form ; the face also was, I think, somewhat brighter than the rest of the body, and it appeared as though the dress veiled the light and thus rendered it misty. I now remembered Mrs. Robinson's explanation of the appearance as being caused possibly by a light from outside the window being thrown into the room. I therefore turned my head quite round to the right—I was reclining with my body a little raised on my left elbow, I think, and my head turned a little to my left—in order to see if any rays of light were crossing the room. There was no light whatever across the room, of this am perfectly certain ; but I was struck with the fact that I saw no sign of the window : the apparition was the only thing in the room that was visible.

Until this time it had remained resting (I can hardly say standing, as it was not touching the ground) where it first appeared to me, at A, but it now commenced to move towards the fireplace, rising a little as it went, moving as a whole, without any change of either form or attitude, and its motion was not perfectly regular, it almost stopped some three or four times in travelling from A to B.

On reaching B it remained a moment and then returned *backwards* (i.e., without turning round) in a similar manner : this to and fro movement, between A and B, it repeated two or three times, and then moved onwards to C., still rising a little as it went, until it was about three feet, or a little less, off the ground ; it then stood still for some seconds, after which it moved very slowly towards where I knew the window was ; then it seemed to oscillate and I couldn't make out what I saw ; then it vanished and I saw the window and the whole of the room normally.

During the whole of the vision the room seemed to me unnaturally dark, and I am not conscious of having been able to see any object in the room (except perhaps the bar at the foot of the bed), while the apparition was at C, but of this I have only a confused recollection. Directly the column of light vanished, however, I could see the window and other things with some distinctness. Upon this taking place I jumped out of bed instantly and went to the window, and raised the corner of the white blind, which was drawn down the whole way. It was a clear, starlight night, with no moon, and everything was perfectly still. I looked down directly on to the roof of the bay window below—and, afterwards, out of the open window—to see if I could discover anyone there, because that was the only position from which such a light might be thrown into the room, and to reach that position a short ladder would be necessary. I could not discover nor hear anything, and I feel convinced that the light was not cast into the room by any artificial means.

Though startled, I had not any feeling that I had been looking at something supernatural. I at first concluded it was caused by my waking up suddenly, and mislocating the window, imagining it to have got into the wrong place, because when I looked round I could not see it, and because lying awake afterwards I could create the figure out of the window and blind; but on thinking the matter over afterwards I felt that that explanation was not adequate. I have not slept in the room since.

(Signed) LEONARD HILL.

I saw Mr. Leonard Hill in the late autumn of 1884. He gave me a full account of what he had seen, corresponding with that given above. He has seen no hallucination at any other time.

He was disposed at first to think his experience was in some way due to his having mistaken the position of the window and having taken the waving blind for a moving figure. But he afterwards, in the course of conversation, dropped this interpretation, and confessed himself unable to account for what he had seen.

He told me that though he had heard rumours of the ghost, he had heard no details of the actual figure seen.—F. P.

From Miss H—.

October 30th, 1884.

It was only one night that I saw the strange blue light of which Mr. W— speaks. I had often slept in the same room before, but never seen or heard anything to disturb me. But this night, after being asleep for about two hours, I suddenly awoke, and had a feeling that there was something unusual about the room. For a little while the feeling was so strong that I would not open my eyes, but when I did I saw a strange blue light, about six feet high and two broad. I must confess to being a little frightened at first, then thought, What nonsense to be frightened at what can be accounted for if you only look calmly into it. But look and argue as I would, there was nothing that could possibly cause this light, and as I watched it it passed away. This worried me, but after a time I went to sleep, but twice again woke in the same startled manner and saw this light, which was unlike anything I have before seen. It had the appearance of a shrouded human figure. Each time I saw it it remained about five minutes, then faded away; twice it was on the left-hand side of the fireplace, but the last time I saw it it was between the fireplace and the window. What this thing was I know not; it was no optical delusion, and I was wide awake at the time I saw it. For more than a week after this I slept in the same room, hoping I might again see and be able to account for this strange appearance, but it never visited me again. I have written at greater length than I intended, and fear I have given but a weak description of what I saw. One wants to see this light to be able to realise how strange and unreal it is. If anyone were to ask me, Do I believe in ghosts? I should say I most certainly did not, at the same time I should be very glad if the mystery of that night could be cleared up.

(Signed) R— A. H—.

Mr. A. G. Leonard saw Miss H— in the spring of 1885, and ascertained from her the following additional particulars :—

Before occupying the room she had heard that the house was haunted, but not the precise form of the ghost. The appearance came three times in the course of the night, and grew more distinct each time : at first it appeared simply as a light, which assumed the shape of a shrouded figure ; the same shape was preserved on the two subsequent occasions, but the figure seemed more defined. Miss H— went to sleep in the intervals.

Miss H— looked towards the window, but could see no light emanating from thence. The night-light was burning all the time, and by its light she could see the various objects in the room distinctly. The appearance did not move, and seemed to her, on the last occasion, to remain for five or six minutes. It then vanished all at once.

She felt very cold ; and as if there were something extraordinary in the room—a mysterious presence.

Miss H— states that she is not imaginative and that she has never experienced any other hallucination.

(Signed) A. G. LEONARD.

May 11th, 1888.

Miss Wray writes in March, 1885 :—

About six months before I went to stay at W—, someone mentioned in my hearing that a ghost was said to appear there. At the time I was engaged in conversation, and paid very little attention to what was said. Certainly I had not the least idea what form the apparition was supposed to take. The first day I was at the "Cottage" I asked Miss Adams which was the haunted room. She told me they had decided not to let any visitors know ; she also said they had seen nothing themselves, and believed the whole thing to be a superstitious idea of the village people. As far as I can remember, it was about the 9th or 10th of September [1884] when I first slept alone in the room which I afterwards found was the one reputed to be haunted. I had a night-light, and awoke between twelve and one o'clock, but saw nothing unusual. The following night it was very dark, there being no moonlight ; and, if I remember aright, it was thick and foggy, with no stars to be seen. I had no night-light, having forgotten to ask for one. For some time before going to sleep I read by candle-light. Between twelve and one o'clock I awoke with a horrible sensation of fright and cold. The room was quite dark, with the exception of a pale blue light, with scarcely any perceptible form, about the height of a middle-sized woman. I immediately sat up, but the bed hid from me the lower part of the light. The upper part was slightly shaped in the rounding of the head and shoulders, but very indistinctly, no features or arms being visible. The light appeared to be near the left-hand side of the mantelpiece, and I looked at it for some minutes, trying to account for a light being there, but on seeing an almost imperceptible movement in it I became frightened and lit my candle. I then got up and walked about the room but could see nothing, and looking out of the window found that the night was still very dark. I returned to bed and fell asleep with the candle

burning and was not again disturbed. In the morning I told Mrs. Adams what I had seen. Since then I have seen Mr. Leonard, who has asked me to write an account of what I saw. I feel now that it is very little and hardly worth telling. Since then I have heard that there are others who have seen the appearance much more distinctly, and who describe their sensations as having been very disagreeable.

In another letter Miss Wray says :—

April 8th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—The questions contained in your letter of March the 30th I will now try to answer.

I was living at W. from the last week of August to the third week of September last year, and I believe it was on the night of the 10th of September that I saw the strange appearance in the “haunted room.”

Before seeing you I had heard from Mr. Leonard Hill his account of the “ghost,” but I did not think it agreed with my own experience. Perhaps you may remember that evening at Mrs. Adams’ that Miss H—— gave the greater part of her account after I left, and we had not before that time spoken of the matter to each other. Sarah’s account of what she saw I have not yet heard. I did not sleep in the “haunted room” after the night on which I saw the apparition. When talking to you I did mention having once had a feeling that something or someone was bending over me, but this might easily be attributed to nightmare, as I am not subject to hallucinations.

(Signed) CONSTANCE WRAY.

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* Presented by the Translator. † Presented by the Author.

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The remainder of this list will be given in the April number of the "Journal."