

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

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### NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

#### MEMBERS.

TALBOT, THE LADY EDMUND, 26, Curzon-street, Mayfair, London, W.  
 TALBOT, MRS., 19, Porchester-gardens, Bayswater, London, W.

#### HONORARY ASSOCIATE.

KLEIBER,\* JOSEPH, St. Petersburg.

#### ASSOCIATES.

CROWE, W. LEADHAM, 24, Cornwall-road, Westbourne Park, W.  
 DARWIN, MRS. FRANCIS, Wychfield, Huntingdon-road, Cambridge.  
 MEDICI, LA MARCHESA, Villa Emilia, Ricorboli, Florence.  
 MURRAY,\* COLONEL HUGH H., R.A., 28, Gower-street, London, W.C.  
 O'NEILL, GREGORY LAMB, M.B., 140, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, New  
 South Wales.  
 WILLIAMS, LADY, Llanfoist, Clifton Down, Bristol.

### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Council was held on May the 10th, the President in the chair, at which the following members were also present:—  
 Professors W. F. Barrett and Oliver J. Lodge, Dr. A. T. Myers, and Messrs. T. Barkworth, Walter Leaf, F. W. H. Myers, and F. Podmore.

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

In consequence of the forthcoming part of the *Proceedings* being

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\* Elected at a meeting on May 31st, to be reported in the next number.

larger than was anticipated (over 200 pages), it was agreed that the published price should be 3s. instead of 2s. 6d.

The means by which the Meetings of the Society could be made of greater interest to Members generally, and by which they might afford more opportunity for conversation, and for Members becoming acquainted with each other, engaged the attention of the Council. Some suggestions were made which will be found embodied in a separate paragraph.

Some other matters of routine business were attended to.

A Meeting of the Committee on Physical Phenomena was held on the same day, at which the President, Professors Barrett and Lodge, and Messrs. Crookes and F. W. H. Myers were present. It was agreed that a review of Madame Home's book, *D. D. Home, his Life and Mission*, should appear in the *Journal* for July.

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#### THE HOUR OF GENERAL MEETINGS—EVENING OR AFTERNOON.

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It may be remembered that the hour of General Meetings was fixed at 8.30 p.m. some years since, in accordance with what seemed the general wish of Members. To this arrangement, however, there is the drawback that little time is left at the close of a meeting for conversation or discussion, especially in the case of Members living at some distance from the centre of London. It has, therefore, been proposed that one, or both, of the winter meetings (generally held in November and January) should be fixed for the afternoon, and that before or after these meetings tea should be procurable by those who cared to remain.

The funds of the Society, which are already fully engaged by printing and other necessary expenses, should not, it is thought, be intrenched upon for refreshments. If the proposed arrangement is decided on, therefore, a small charge will be made for the tea. The Editor invites expressions of opinion on the subject.

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#### GENERAL MEETING.

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A General Meeting was held at the Westminster Town Hall on Friday, May 10th, at 8.30 p.m., the President, Professor Sidgwick, in the chair.

THE PRESIDENT gave an address on the Canons of Evidence in Psychical Research, which it is intended to publish in a future number of the *Proceedings*.

MR. MYERS, as Honorary Secretary, then read a paper by a lady who wished to remain anonymous, describing some recent experiments

in seeing visions in crystals or other reflecting surfaces. As this paper will appear in full in *Proceedings*, Part XIV., almost simultaneously with this we need not abstract it here.

MR. J. K. STEPHEN, in commenting on the paper, inquired, among other things, whether the writer would not have got equally good results if she had concentrated her mind by an effort of will without the use of a reflecting surface, and alluded to the danger of stimulating a superstitious attitude towards psychical phenomena. He also dwelt on the possible connection between the power of visualising, which he was inclined to think rare, and the seeing of hallucinations.

PROFESSOR BARRETT said he wholly disagreed with the last speaker. The paper that had been read was, in his opinion, an extremely able and important one, and the Society was to be congratulated on having had this subject brought before them, for the first time, in a paper marked with such admirable judgment, such wide research, and such scientific caution. He regretted that the author had preferred to be anonymous. He ventured to think, from the facts described in the paper, that crystal-gazing was one form of incipient self-induced hypnotism. Further inquiry and experiment in the spirit of this paper might indicate that the singular psychical phenomena presented by crystal-gazing and the hypnotic trance had a common origin. Among the Hindoos crystal-gazing is not uncommon, only, instead of looking at a crystal, the subject gazes at a spot of a shiny-black substance,—a carefully selected gum. Some interesting letters on this subject, from an officer in India to Professor Piazzi Smyth, had been forwarded to the speaker some years ago by Professor Alexander Herschel, accompanied by a specimen of the "mystic gum," and possibly some extracts from these letters might be worth publication in the light of the paper that had been read. There was one point upon which "crystal-gazers" need to be on their guard, and that was the optical effect known as "after-images." If a patch of bright cloud or sky be gazed at attentively, and the eye then closed or turned elsewhere, an extremely vivid series of colours are seen. These "after-images" are of such brilliance, and their production so easy and harmless, that the experiment is well worth making. The red glow described in one of the experiments in crystal-vision might possibly have been an after-image of this kind. He made this slight criticism with all deference, as the writer of this paper probably was aware of illusions of this kind.

MR. J. G. BUTCHER expressed agreement with Mr. Stephen.

MR. F. A. FLOYER said that in viewing all these questions the subjects must be regarded as morbid, and that the influence of the experiments is likely to be bad on the mental or bodily health, though

perhaps this influence might not be great or important. At all events he thought great care was needed.

MR. ELTON called further attention to the possible connection of crystal visions with hypnotism. He said that crystals are good objects for hypnotic "fixation," and inquired whether the author of the paper on *Crystal-gazing* had any hypnotic symptoms. If so, the visions would be hallucinations of a self-hypnotised person—differing, therefore, from those got in other hypnotism, because the person's own memory or fancy, and no operator, would supply the suggestion.

If not hypnotic, the question arose, under what class of phenomena do the crystal visions come? They are not mere visions in the mind's eye, because, unlike these, they are externalised, and cluster round an outward *point de repère*—the crystal—in such a way as to impose on the seer's belief, or, at any rate, upon the construction the seer's senses put upon them; for they are seen "*in the crystal*."

Nor, again, are they like the hallucinations of the artist who could project the figure of his sitters into the chair before him; for these, unlike the crystal visions, could be summoned at will.

Thus, the crystal visions, to sum up, seem of a kind scarcely classified. They are "of such stuff as dreams are made of"—the memories more or less sunken, the image-play more or less fantastic, of the seer. Yet they have the further mark of being externalised, and of clustering round a special object only, to which they come unbidden and uncontrolled.

Touching the President's address, Mr. Elton remarked that experiments like those of Mr. Davey suggest this further canon of research: Even if certain phenomena can, in certain cases, not be ascribed to known causes, yet, if we can *imitate* them with known causes, we have done enough to dispose—till our imitation ceases to hold out—of alleged supernormal causes.

MR. MATHEWS remarked that the effect of the magnifying glass on the crystal vision might be due to suggestion, and could not be taken as evidence of objectivity, as urged by a previous speaker. He also said, referring to Mr. Floyer's remarks, that there seemed to be no reason for regarding such faculties as crystal vision as morbid, unless all departure from the normal type is to be regarded as morbid, so that we are all more or less insane.

MR. FRY inquired whether the visions in the crystal were doubled by pressure on the eyeball.

MR. MYERS explained, in reply to this, that the writer of the paper had tried this and other optical experiments, but that the immediate vanishing of the vision with any movement of the eye made it very difficult to carry them out. The experiment with the magnifying

glass only sometimes succeeded, and the magnifier had to be introduced with extreme caution to avoid a disturbing effect. The writer of the paper was not conscious of any hypnotic symptoms.

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#### MR. HANSEN'S HYPNOTIC DEMONSTRATIONS.

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The wish has been often expressed by various members of the Society to have the opportunity of close observation of the more usual phenomena of hypnotism under trustworthy conditions and without the inconveniences of a public meeting. That what are the limits of the safe and prudent in the methods of hypnotism, as well as its possibilities and advantages, should be thoroughly realised is eminently desirable; and to forward this knowledge, and supply some experimental evidence, a few members subscribed to engage a demonstrator, and an informal meeting of members of the Society was held at the Westminster Town Hall on Thursday evening, May 9th, to enable them and friends whom they invited to witness a series of experiments by Mr. Carl Hansen, of Copenhagen, the well-known hypnotiser. The chair was taken by Mr. Podmore, who, in introducing Mr. Hansen, pointed out that it was his remarkable success at Breslau which had called the attention of Professor Heidenhain to the subject of hypnotism, in 1880, and led to the publication of the interesting book by the Professor on the subject. Seventeen persons presented themselves for experiment, all of whom were unknown to Mr. Hansen and had not been hypnotised before; 10 were found to be readily sensitive. The effects shown were chiefly of the more familiar class; inhibition of speech and sight, obedience to suggestion, &c. Much interest was shown in the production of unilateral catalepsy on the right side after passes made over the left side of the subject's head, the right leg and arm being stiffened, while the left side remained in a state of complete lethargy. An attempt was made to control the pupil reflex by suggestion, the subject being told that the room was becoming dark while a lighted candle was brought up to within two inches of the eye. The only result, however, appeared to be an oscillation of the pupil, which alternately contracted and expanded slightly. An attempt to procure transference of taste from the operator was not successful. One of the subjects, however, showed great accuracy in judging time in the post-hypnotic state, carrying out commands imposed upon him at exactly the specified interval, with an error of, perhaps, less than five seconds. Very good negative hallucinations were also produced—inability to see certain specified persons, &c. About 100 members and their friends were present.

A second meeting was held in the same place on Friday, May 17th. The attendance of members and their friends was much larger than on the previous occasion. Between 15 and 20 persons, amongst them five ladies, presented themselves for experiment; of these, 11, of whom three were young ladies, and five boys under 16, were found to be sensitive on first trial.

Various experiments were made to demonstrate rigidity, catalepsy, anæsthesia, and unilateral catalepsy with lethargy and anæsthesia of the other side. The muscular force exerted by the hypnotised subjects in sustaining a weight at arm's length was compared with that exerted under similar conditions by a person in the normal state, greatly to the advantage of the former.

The attempts to produce post-hypnotic suggestion after the lapse of a stated time succeeded in several cases, and the inability of the subject, on being awoke, to remember the terms of the command was tested by the offer of money if he could repeat what had been told him. He could not win the money. A post-hypnotic suggestion of sneezing failed in one case—an adult—completely; and in another case produced—after the prescribed interval—a series of movements which more nearly resembled coughing than sneezing. Some amusing hallucinations were imposed upon some of the subjects.

Finally an attempt was made to demonstrate thought-transference. A screen was placed upon the stage so as to completely separate Mr. Hansen from the subject, a boy about 14. In the first experiment Mr. Hansen took some salt into his mouth. Asked what he could taste, the boy replied that he could taste "something bitter—something like salt." Mr. Hansen then rinsed his mouth out with water, and took some gallic acid. The boy said he could taste water, but nothing else. After rinsing his mouth again, Mr. Hansen took some saccharine. The subject said it tasted "something like medicine—something between sour and sweet." As a final experiment, Mr. Hansen took some of the drug rhubarb (*Rheum*) and the subject said he tasted "something hot—like radishes." Experiments in the transference of pain produced no sensation whatever in the subject.

Since it is probable that the interest aroused by Mr. Hansen's demonstrations may turn the attention of members of our Society more strongly in the direction of hypnotism, it seems desirable to conclude with a word of warning against incautious experimenting in this department. No line of investigation seems to us at present more hopeful than this for our purposes, if pursued in a serious and scientific manner; but it is for many reasons undesirable that the sensibility to hypnotisation should be practised upon for mere amusement, or by persons not possessed of the requisite knowledge.

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#### AUTOMATIC WRITING:—THE CARDOSO CASE.

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Readers of this *Journal* may remember a remarkable case of automatic writing, abstracted from *Psychische Studien* of February, 1884, in the *Journal* for September, 1886, and further explained by a letter from M. Aksakof in the *Journal* for January, 1887. The case was briefly as follows. M. Aksakof had a long series of sittings with two near relations of his own, Professor Boutlerof also being sometimes present. A planchette, held by the two relations, pointed to letters in the Roman

and Russian alphabets. By this means the name of "Sardovy, Cardovy, B. Cardoso," was given, with the motto "Emek habaccha" (the Hebrew for vale of tears—though habacca is the proper spelling). M. Aksakof was the only one of the party who knew any Hebrew, and he gave reasons for believing that he had never known this particular phrase. Although, therefore, he did not insist that the message actually came from Fernando Cardoso (the correct name of the Jewish Portuguese doctor intended), he nevertheless considered it clear that some intelligence outside that of the sitters had been concerned in the communication.

Some new facts have now come to light, which M. Aksakof has detailed in *Psychische Studien* for March, 1889, and which strikingly illustrate the difficulty of tracing the origin of messages given in this manner. In the first place, there is now no doubt of the source from which the quotation is derived. M. Aksakof tried in vain to find it in such works of Cardoso's as the British Museum contains. But in March, 1885, Herr Wittig, sub-editor of *Psychische Studien*, accidentally read an article in the *Salon*, Heft VI., 1885, in which "Emek habaccha" was quoted as the motto of B. Cardomo (*sic*) and a reference given to Wichmann's *Die Poesie der Sinnsprüche und Devisen* (Düsseldorf, 1882). M. Aksakof examined this book, and found on pages 312, 313, the motto "Emek habbacha" ascribed to B. Cardoso (*sic*). The coincidence of the misspelling is in itself enough to indicate the origin of the planchette message. But there is further proof; for Wichmann's book contains two other mottoes which appeared in the planchette messages. One is as follows, Γρεγορει, *Ich wache* (the Greek misspelt and mistranslated). This reappears in the planchette message as *Gregorei*, mistranslated in another way as *Custodite*. Again in Wichmann's book occurs the motto, "*Il piu bel fior ne coglie*," loosely paraphrased "*So bleibt das Feinste*." This motto reappears in the messages, and is there paraphrased "*Das Feinste überlebt*." Planchette, however, was aware that *gregorei* was the second person singular of the imperative and that the Latin word offered as a translation was a plural;—but this M. Aksakof knew. Neither of the mediums knew any Hebrew or Italian, but the young man knew a little Greek. The source of the quotation thus definitely ascertained, the next point was to find out whether any of the persons present could have seen Wichmann's book. Professor Boutlerof is now dead; but it is plain that the quotation cannot have come from his mind, as, though present when the Hebrew words were given, he was not present when the Greek and Italian words were given. No one of the other three could remember to have seen the book. The book, moreover, is a conspicuous one; making up for the deficiencies in its scholarship by brilliancy of colour

and gilding and largeness of type. Nevertheless it is conceivable that it may have lain on some shop-counter, and that M. Aksakof or his step-son may have turned over a few leaves;—the lady who aided in holding the planchette does not know the Greek alphabet and could hardly have reproduced the *Γρηγορει* of the book. Against this possibility M. Aksakof argues that to learn by heart the Hebrew and Italian mottoes would take an appreciable effort of mind,—an act at least of conscious attention.

To this argument the experiments in crystal-gazing recounted in *Proceedings*, Part XIV., supply a completer answer than, perhaps, could ever before have been given. "Miss X.," it will be remembered, saw in the crystal a printed announcement of the death of a person well known to her, forming a piece of news which she could be quite sure that she had not consciously seen or heard. On searching, however, she found that the announcement in the same, or nearly the same, words had appeared in the outside sheet of the *Times* of the day before, which she had held in her hands for a short time, without consciously reading it. Thus the mere unconscious imprint of some three lines of print on her retina had enabled those words to reappear in the "message" externalised as a crystal vision, from some subconscious region of her mind. Now crystal-vision and planchette-writing are eminently analogous phenomena; it is possible, therefore, to suppose that a momentary glance at even foreign and uncomprehended words might enable them to reappear in planchette's message.

This seems to me the most probable view, although I am aware that in certain cases (as in some of "M. A. (Oxon.'s)" and in the Schiller case, often before referred to) there is much difficulty in explaining the message as a mere reproduction of words casually seen in a normal way. It may be added that the characteristic levity and shiftiness of these automatic messages was shown throughout. For instance, the *soi-disant* "spirit" (who was the same on each occasion when a motto was given) asserted that he had read "Gregorei" on a coat of arms, and had got the Italian quotation out of Tasso.

F. W. H. M.

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#### CASES SUPPLIED TO THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

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L. 829.

We have received the following from Professor Elliott Coues, of Washington :—

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE, LONDON SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

GENTLEMEN,—Among many cases which are within my knowledge, of the possession and exercise of certain psychic faculties on the part of persons commonly called clairvoyant, I select one which I think will interest your



Society, not on account of its mystery or novelty, but of its extreme simplicity and thorough authentication. The incident itself is of the most trivial character, followed by no consequences whatever to the person to whom the little accident occurred, and I can see no reason why it should have stimulated a clairvoyant's faculties into activity, more than any one of a thousand little occurrences of any day; unless it may be (as is indeed probable) that some specially strong magnetic *rapport* existed between the unconscious "agent" on the one hand and the surprised "percipient" on the other. Both parties to this unexpected and unintended experiment in psychic science are well known to me. Mrs. E. A. Conner, who kindly, at my request, allows the use of her name, is widely known in this country as a writer and speaker of no ordinary ability. The other lady desires to remain unknown by name, but I can attest her rare psychical faculties and absolute integrity, after an intimate acquaintance of several years' duration.

The case is simply this: In Washington, D.C., January 14th, 1889, between 2 and 3 p.m., Mrs. Conner is going up the steps of her residence, No. 217, Delaware-avenue, carrying some papers. She stumbles, falls, is not hurt, picks herself up, and enters the house.

At or about the same time—certainly within the hour, probably within 30 minutes, perhaps at the very moment—another lady, whom I will call Mrs. B., is sitting sewing in her room, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant. The two ladies are friends, though not of very long standing. They had walked together the day before (Sunday, January 13th), but had not met this day (the 14th). Mrs. B. "sees" the little accident in every detail. The vision or image is minutely accurate (as it afterwards proves). Nevertheless, it is so wholly unexpected and unaccountable, that she doubts it were not a passing figment of her imagination. But the mental impression is so strong that she keeps thinking it over, and sits down and writes a letter to Mrs. Conner, which I enclose. The letter is written, of course, without any communication whatever between the two ladies. Mrs. Conner receives it next morning, Tuesday, the 15th. I happened to call on Mrs. Conner that day, on another errand, when she hands me the letter, and verifies it in every essential particular to me verbally, from her side of the case. The little accident had happened exactly as Mrs. B. described it from the clairvoyant image she perceived.

You are at liberty to use the letter for publication, only suppressing the writer's name. Its naïveté and spontaneousness, and obvious lack of any possible afterthought, reflect the occurrence so perfectly that what I have written would be superfluous, were it not that I thus am able to attest, from Mrs. Conner herself, that the psychical impression made on Mrs. B. was the exact reflection of an actual occurrence.—Very truly yours,

ELLIOTT COUES.

1726, N.-street, N. W., Washington, D. C., U. S. A.  
January 21st, 1889.

The letter referred to is as follows:—

*Monday Evening, January 14th, 1889.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I know you will be surprised to receive a note from me so soon, but not more so than I was to-day when you were shown to me

clairvoyantly, in a somewhat embarrassed position. I doubt very much if there was any truth in it, nevertheless, will relate it, and leave you to laugh at the idea of it.

I was sitting in my room sewing, this afternoon, about two o'clock, when what should I see but your own dear self; but, Heavens! in what a position. Now, I don't want to excite your curiosity too much, or try your patience too long, so will come to the point at once. You were falling up the front steps in the yard. You had on your black skirt and velvet waist, your little straw bonnet, and in your hand were some papers. When you fell, your hat went in one direction and the papers in another. You got up very quickly, put on your bonnet, picked up the papers, and lost no time getting into the house. You did not appear to be hurt, but looked somewhat mortified. It was all so plain to me that I had ten notions to one to dress myself and come over and see if it were true, but finally concluded that a sober, industrious woman like yourself would not be stumbling around at that rate, and thought I'd best not go on a wild goose chase. Now, what do you think of such a vision as that? Is there any possible truth in it? I feel almost ready to scream with laughter whenever I think of it; you did look *too* funny, spreading yourself out in the front yard. "Great was the fall thereof."

I can distinctly call to mind the *house* in which you live, but for the life of me I cannot tell whether there are any steps from the sidewalk into the yard, as I saw them, or not.

Now do tell me, dear, if I saw correctly or not, or if the thing was shown me simply to give me something to laugh about?

Hope you got home last night without any adventures. And now "Good-night."

Sincerely your friend,

This letter came to us in an envelope addressed: Mrs. E. A. Conner, 217, Del. Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C., and with the postmarks, Washington, D.C., Jan. 15, 7 a.m., 1889, and Washington, N.E.C.S., Jan. 15, 8 a.m. Some further letters in the postmarks are illegible.

Mr. Myers wrote to Mrs. Conner (who has now moved to New York) asking certain questions relating to the incident, to which she replied on March 7th, 1889. The questions and her answers are printed below.

*Question 1.*—(a) Did Mrs. B.'s letter give a true description of the accident (as you have already said to Dr. Coues that it did)?

(b) Was the dress ("black skirt, velvet waist, little straw bonnet") correctly described? and was this the dress in which Mrs. B. had last seen you?

*Answer 1.*—(a) I can only repeat—Yes, exactly.

(b) As correctly as if I had described it myself. I do not know whether it was the dress in which Mrs. B. had last seen me or not, but it was one she had often seen.

*Question 2.*—In what way did you identify the *time* of the accident? It looks as though Mrs. B.'s vision—"soon after 2"—might have *preceded* the accident, which Dr. Coues speaks of as occurring "between 2 and 3."

*Answer 2.*—I was writing that day in the Congressional Library. I finished my work, and passed out through the Capitol Building. As I did so, I glanced at the large clock in the hall, and it lacked 20 minutes to 3. It was not more than a minute till I reached the steps where I fell, so that it must have been within a few seconds of 19 minutes to three. I have no means of ascertaining whether the vision preceded the accident.

*Question 3.*—Have you ever heard from Mrs. B. that she had any vision of you of the kind, at any other time? and, if so, was it correct?

*Answer 3.*—Mrs. B. and myself are intimate friends. She had seen a vision of me once or twice previously, merely as an appearance, not doing anything in particular.

*Question 4.*—For form's sake I will ask you to state whether a slip on the front steps like this is *unique* in your experience?

*Answer 4.*—I have stumbled and fallen a few times in my life, not oftener than other people.

To me the most convincing proof of the correctness of the vision is a sentence you will find like this, if I remember right, in the letter: "I do not know if there are steps from the sidewalk to the yard," &c. The queer fact is that there were two steps from the sidewalk to the yard, the street having been cut down. On the top one of these two steps, in the yard, I stumbled. Mrs. B. had never seen this house, I having only removed thither a few days before.

(Signed) ELIZA ARCHARD CONNER.

M.Cl. 670.

Professor Charles Richet sends the following case to Mr. Myers. We have not printed all the medical details given.

*Paris, le 8 Mars, 1889.*

J'ai un très beau cas de lucidité, que je vais vous raconter avec détail.

Vous ne savez peut-être pas que mon beau-père, Mr. F. A., a été malade assez gravement à partir du mois d'août, 1887. (C'est lui dont j'ai eu l'occasion de parler dans les *Proceedings S. P. R.*, 1888, p. 126, Exp. XL.) Il a été de plus en plus malade jusqu'au mois de janvier, 1888. A ce moment (janvier et février, 1888) j'interroge à plusieurs reprises Alice [a person whom Mr. Richet hypnotised] sur la santé de Mr. F. A. J'avoue que je croyais Mr. F. A. absolument perdu, et un jour entre autres en février, 1888, j'ai interrogé Alice; elle m'a dit, "Ne vous inquiétez pas." Pour ma part je croyais que Mr. A. ne vivrait plus que huit jours.

De fait, contrairement à ce que je pensais et ce que pensaient tous les médecins, il a à peu près guéri. [Certain symptoms, however, described by Mr. Richet, remained, which necessitated the constant attention of a surgical nurse.] Quoiqu'il soit âgé (76 ans), qu'il s'amaigrisse beaucoup, et que ses forces ne s'améliorent pas, à partir du mois de février, 1888 (vers le 9 février environ) il a été sans empirer. . . .

A diverses reprises (peut-être trois ou quatre fois) j'ai demandé à Alice de me parler de lui. Elle m'a dit, "Ne vous inquiétez pas; je vous en parlerai."

Il y a deux jours, le Jeudi, 7 mars, à une heure de l'après-midi, dès que j'ai endormi Alice, elle me dit (ce sont ses paroles textuelles que je copie d'après la sténographie que j'ai prise) : "J'avais hâte de vous voir ; je voulais vous voir hier pour vous parler de Mr. A. Ou il est plus souffrant ou il va avoir une crise ; de la fièvre, de l'altération, de la fatigue. Quel mauvais moment ! Le mal s'aggrave ; il est très abattu. Il ne faut rien attendre pour cette crise là." (Cela signifie que la crise ne se terminera pas par la mort.) "Il ne pourra pas bouger ni faire un mouvement. La douleur est surtout dans les reins, à gauche, et très forte. Ce ne sera pas la dernière crise. Il la supportera encore. Elle aura lieu avant peu, dans deux ou trois jours. Elle sera plus forte que toutes celles qu'il a eu depuis un an. Le moment approche. Il souffrira moins à la fin. Il mourra au moment où vous ne vous y attendrez pas ; ce n'est pas dans une crise qu'il mourra. Il ne pourra pas prendre d'aliments, on lui mouille les lèvres. . . . Il avait peur de mourir ; maintenant c'est bien changé, et il est plus indifférent." \*

Voilà ce que m'a dit Alice à une heure le Jeudi. Ce même Jeudi soir, en rentrant chez moi, je trouve ma femme fort inquiète, et elle me raconte que dans la nuit du mercredi au jeudi, vers une heure du matin—[here Mr. Richet relates in detail how for the first time for 13 months the attendant had been unable to assist Mr. A., who had been in great agony for three hours, until at length a surgeon was sent for, with whose aid the sufferings of the patient were instantly relieved.] Il est évident, et même absolument sûr, qu' Alice n'a pu savoir cela ; moi-même je l'ignorais absolument à une heure.

Il y a donc là un fait de lucidité très remarquable, que je vous signale d'une manière tout-à-fait spéciale. Remarquez combien cela coïncide avec (1) l'observation relative à la maladie de mon beau-père que je vous ai racontée ; (2) l'Observation XIV., p. 164, que j'ai publiée dans les *Proceedings* S. P. R., 1888.

Il faut noter comme essentiel que depuis un an et un mois jamais Mr. A. n'a eu une crise aussi forte et avec autant d'angoisse que dans la nuit de mercredi à jeudi.

(Signed) CH. RICHEL.

L. 830.

We are indebted for the following narrative to Mr. Rawlins, who is a master at Eton :—

*April 2nd, 1888.*

The circumstances of the "appearance" to which you allude were as follow : I meant to run with the boys' beagles, but, owing to the interruption of a visitor, could not start till nearly an hour after the right time. I expected to find them in the neighbourhood of Wraybury, but failed in my search. On my way home I was crossing a ploughed field between Wraybury and Datchet, completely lost in thought as I trudged over the heavy ground, when I fancied myself to be standing in a crowd opposite the White Hart Hotel in Windsor, waiting for the return of the Queen from the station to

\* Ces détails sur les aliments, la sécheresse des lèvres, et l'indifférence progressive à la mort, sont absolument vrai.

the Castle; as the carriage passed me I thought I heard the report of a pistol over my left shoulder, and turning round saw a man struggling with the bystanders; I did not, however, see his face, and the vision (or whatever it was) passed away. When I arrived at my house a servant came into my study with "Have you heard the news?" I was convinced that the Queen had been shot at before he told me. The time of the appearance coincided, as far as I could calculate, with the actual fact. There was nothing to bring the Queen into my mind, nor did I know that she had gone to London; but—and here the value of the incident is destroyed—the attempt as I saw it took place about 150 yards from the scene of the actual occurrence. Nevertheless, it was a strange coincidence.

(Signed) FRANK H. RAWLINS.

Some questions were put to Mr. Rawlins and kindly answered by him on March 21st, 1889. The questions and his answers are as follows:—

*Question 1.*—Was the vision a merely mental one, or was it apparently external? and if the latter, did it blot out the actual surroundings or mix itself with them?

*Answer.*—The vision was apparently external. I was in a brown study, and was not conscious of the surroundings—a ploughed field—at the time when I seemed to see the crowd, and the passing of the Queen and the arrest of the culprit, whose face, however, I did not see distinctly.

*Question 2.*—What was the date of it?

*Answer.*—March 2nd, 1882, about 4.45 p.m., as far as I can remember.

*Question 3.*—Was any written note made of it at the time?

*Answer.*—No. Directly after I came into my house my servant told me that the Queen had been shot at. I cannot remember how soon after the event I told anyone.

As I believe you know, the facts of the attempt on the Queen's life did not correspond to the appearance.

Mr. Rawlins further says:—

I have not had any experience resembling my *visap*. It is true that I am able in the dark or with closed eyes to recall faces and to seem to see them before me; but this is an effort of the will, whereas the appearance in question was involuntary and causeless.

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#### M.Cl. 672.

The following account was dictated to me by the late Mr. Clement W. Tancred, of 23, Duke-street, Manchester-square, and signed by him, July 25th, 1888.—F.W.H.M.

In August, 1879, I was in New Zealand. In the Mackenzie County, about 25 miles off, was a station held by a Mr. Smith. My old shepherd was suddenly called up to that station, hearing that his brother and the son of the owner had been lost [in the snow] with their dogs. They had a large search party—some 20 or 30 persons—but could find no traces of the bodies. They concluded that there had been a drifted wall of snow on the top of a ravine, which

the dogs' barking had disturbed and which had buried the party. They sank holes in vain for three weeks, and were going to give up on the next Monday. On the Sunday evening an absolute stranger, a Scotchman, strange to the neighbourhood, and on his way to a distant station, came and stayed a night at Mr. Smith's and heard the story. Next morning this man came to my shepherd and said: "You and several others must come with me, and I will show you where the men are buried." He said that in a vision he had seen the position of the bodies. Before the party started he described the position. It was quite apart from the previous trial-pits. They sank a shaft where he told them and came on a stick and the feet of the younger man. They dug from that point, and found the whole party. My shepherd told me this on his return to my station.

CLEMENT W. TANCRED.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

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#### ARE APPARITIONS OBJECTIVE, AND DO ANIMALS SEE THEM?

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[The following letter, which we have somewhat abbreviated, reached us too late for insertion in the May number of the *Journal*. We subjoin also Dr. Klein's report of the remarks he made at the meeting in March, which bears on the same subject, and which also reached us too late to be used in its proper place.]

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

SIR,—I was present at a meeting of the Psychological Research Society on March 18th, when the subject before the meeting was that of some apparitions occurring after death. During the discussion which followed Mr. Myers' paper I asked him whether he had formed any theory on what, for want of scientific nomenclature of greater exactness, I called the "Dynamics" of these apparitions, the substance of the answer being that he had not formed any precise theory. Conceding the reality of apparitions, the point raised by me in my question is, I would submit, one the elucidation of which would more than anything else enlighten us as to the objective or subjective character of these phenomena.

One of the apparitions described at the meeting will serve as an illustration of my meaning. An Indian officer (General Barter), in good health, seated smoking by the side of a hill road, sees a European on horseback, accompanied by two syces, who rides down towards him. When the group is within a few paces of the officer he perceives it to be an apparition, and the whole vanishes on his springing forward to clutch it. The sound of the pony's hoofs had been plainly heard, not only by the officer on that particular occasion, but also on many others by his wife and servants, so much so that these latter were accustomed to speak of the spot where the occurrence happened as haunted—a galloping sound being continually noticed. The Colonel's dogs, with him at the time, appear to have been influenced, as they fled with marks of terror.

Assuming the credibility of the narrative, and that it was not a dream "suggested" by hearsay and the ghostly tattle of the natives—two questions

spring prominently forward. Had the Colonel been provided with a detective camera, would a photograph of the vision have resulted? Had a phonograph been installed in the bungalow adjacent, would it have recorded the sound of the gallop? The mere suggestion of the above tests places before us the scientific contradictions in the narrative which so perplex students of this class of phenomena. To the officer all might be purely subjective, but then, why were his dogs affected? On the other hand, how can we explain the creation of actual sound waves, noticeable by many ears and at many times, together with the absence, on soft ground, of any footmarks? Why should the apparition have no power to affect matter in a downward direction, and yet retain that power in a lateral one?

ARTHUR PALLISER, JUN.

“The Rev. Dr. Baynard Klein asked how far the attitude of the dogs, as mentioned in the case [the above described experience of General Barter’s], had been ascertained; he thought much importance should be attached to that circumstance, if properly authenticated. It would tend to show that the apparition was not merely subjective, and as such, affecting exclusively the person who recorded it, but that it was something external to him, something substantial, capable of being apprehended even by animals, whose imagination, as regards ghosts, might reasonably be supposed to be free from any such preoccupations. The hypothesis, on the other hand, that souls might render themselves visible to animals as well as men, is too interesting and important to be overlooked.

“It might perhaps be said that it was merely the sight of their master’s fright, depicted upon his countenance, that affected the dogs, and not any sight of the apparition, but that would scarcely explain the details which we have just heard.

“Altogether, he thought this circumstance of the dog’s fright a most interesting feature of a most interesting case, and hoped it would be possible to ascertain more positively the authority on which the related circumstance ultimately rests.

“Dr. Baynard Klein also explained briefly the sense in which he was using the terms ‘objective’ and ‘subjective.’ An impression might be called objective, not merely when proceeding from an object external to the person’s body altogether, such as seeing a tree on the other side of the road; but also if proceeding from some cause within the person’s organism, but not from unconscious changes in the nerve centres, for instance: seeing a flash of light from some pressure affecting the tract of the optic nerve, or experiencing the sense of hunger caused by the state of the stomach after prolonged fasting.

“On the other hand, dreaming, according to this classification, belongs to the class of subjective phenomena.”

[The following letter also relates to this subject.]

SIR,—I should like to make a suggestion as regards the argument for the objectivity of apparitions, based on their apparent effect on animals.

Is it not possible that the dogs in—for instance—General Barter's narrative were afraid, not because they saw *something*, but because they saw *nothing*?

It appears to me not improbable that there was a real sound caused by the shifting of loose gravel, or some other physical cause, which resembled that of a horse's hoofs so strongly as to suggest the approach of a horseman both to the General and to his dogs (and on other occasions to Mrs. Barter and others). In the case of the General, this state of expectation was, on the hypothesis I am suggesting, the immediate cause of the remarkable hallucination he experienced, in the same sense that looking into a crystal is often apparently the immediate cause of a hallucination to the lady whose paper was read at the meeting in May. But in the case of the dogs, the expectation may simply have led to bewilderment when the expected sight of a pony did not follow as usual the accustomed sound of approaching hoofs—bewilderment which would be increased by what, if they saw nothing, must have appeared the eccentric behaviour of their master.

I throw this out only as a suggestion to be kept in view in interpreting the behaviour of animals on such occasions; and will merely add that the establishment or overthrow of my hypothesis would not, in my opinion, affect in one way or the other the question whether the hallucination seen was veridical.—I am, &c.,

ELEANOR MILDRED SIDGWICK.

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[We have received some interesting correspondence about Multiplex Personality and the Probable Continuity of Mental Action, but as Mr. Myers has expressed a wish to defer further discussion of this subject till after the Paris Congress (of which a notice will be found below), we have thought it best to withhold these letters till October.—Ed.]

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#### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY.

We have received, by the courtesy of Professor Charles Richet, our corresponding member, the official notification of a Congress of which he is the Honorary Secretary, and which members of our Society may like to attend. It is a "Congrès International de Psychologie Physiologique," and meets at Paris, in the Exhibition grounds (Trocadéro), on August 5-10th. A ticket of membership will cost 10fr. We hope in the July *Journal* to publish a programme of the subjects for discussion, which will include, we believe, several of the problems with which our Society is concerned.