

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

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### NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

#### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

LANGLEY, S. P., Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.A.  
 LOMBROSO, PROFESSOR C., 43, Corso Oporto, Turin, Italy.

#### MEMBERS.

BRAMWELL, JOHN MILNE, M.B., Goole, Yorkshire.  
 COLES, DONALD A., M.D., Sydney House, Sutton Court-road, Chiswick, W.  
 HUTCHINSON, FREDERICK W. H., B.A., 1, Emmanuel-road, Cambridge.  
 WISDEN, THOMAS FAULCONER M., Broadwater, near Worthing.  
 NELSON, REV. GEORGE, LL.D., 20, King Edward-street, Lambeth-road,  
 S.E.

#### ASSOCIATES.

BARTHOLOMEW, COLONEL, Bantry Lodge, Glengriff, Co. Cork.  
 BOLDERO, LIEUT.-GENERAL GEORGE N., 20, Westbourne-gardens,  
 Folkestone.  
 GORING, LADY, Strettington, Chichester.  
 HOWARD, HARRY W., Maitland House, Greenwich, S.E.  
 LANCASTER, ERNEST LE C., M.B., St. George's Hospital, S.W.  
 MONTEAGLE, THE LORD, K.P., 17A, Onslow-gardens, London, S.W.  
 MONTGOMERY, MRS., 9, Hartley-road, Exmouth.  
 MORDAN, MISS C. E., 15, Queen-square, W.C.  
 NOAKES, DAVID W., Ernest Cottage, Peyton-place, Royal Hill,  
 Greenwich, S.E.  
 SCHRAM, MISS LILIAN M.E., 178, Earl's Court-road, S.W.

### MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held on November 1st and 29th. The President occupied the chair on both occasions. The following members were also present at one or both Meetings :—Dr. A. T. Myers,

and Messrs. T. Barkworth, Walter Leaf, F. W. H. Myers, Frank Podmore, H. Arthur Smith, H. Babington Smith, and R. Pearsall Smith.

The Meeting on November 1st was summoned to consider a proposal which had been received from the American Society for Psychical Research, by which it would become a branch of the English Society for Psychical Research, under special conditions as to subscription and privileges. After full discussion it was agreed that the general scope of the proposal should be accepted for one year, the exact form of local government of the Branch to be determined later. Mr. F. W. H. Myers was authorised to write to the Secretary of the American Society for Psychical Research to this effect.

At the Council Meeting on the 29th of November, Professor C. Lombroso, of Turin, was elected as a Corresponding Member, and an acceptance of that position was read from Mr. S. P. Langley, of Washington, who had previously been so nominated, subject to his consent. Five new Members and ten new Associates, whose names and addresses are given above, were also elected.

Professor H. P. Bowditch, M.D., Professor W. James, and Mr. S. P. Langley were, subject to their consent, elected as Vice-Presidents of the Society. Under the proposed arrangements with the American Society for Psychical Research it was felt that it would be of advantage for the Society to be thus represented in the United States.

Several matters relating to the arrangements with the American Society for Psychical Research received further consideration. It is hoped that the plan will be complete to lay before the Society at the Annual Meeting in January.

It was agreed that the Meetings on the 31st of January, to be held at the Westminster Town Hall, should be arranged thus:—The Annual Business Meeting at 3 p.m., the General Meeting at 4 p.m., tea and coffee being provided at its close. Should there be time, the Council will meet at the close of the Business Meeting; if otherwise, after the conclusion of the General Meeting.

A present to the Library was received with thanks from Mr. R. Pearsall Smith.

Various matters of routine business were attended to, and it was fixed that the next Meeting of the Council should be on Friday, the 3rd of January, at 4.30 p.m.

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ERRATUM.—By a typographical error in the last number of the *Journal*, the donation which was acknowledged was attributed to "Mr. Myers," instead of to Mrs. Myers (of Brandon House, Cheltenham).

## GENERAL MEETING.

A General Meeting was held at the Westminster Town Hall, on Friday, November 29th, at 8.30 p.m., the President, Professor Sidgwick, in the chair.

Mrs. SIDGWICK gave an account of some experiments in thought-transference with four different percipients in the hypnotic trance, Mr. G. A. Smith, who hypnotised them, being the agent. A full account of these will appear in the next number of the *Proceedings*.

Mr. PODMORE then read part of a paper on "Phantasms of the Dead."

He began by pointing out that though the crudely materialistic theory of ghosts had gradually fallen into disrepute, most, certainly, of the contributors to the Society's collection of Phantasms of the Dead held that the "ghost" of "haunted" houses showed intelligence, and was in some way connected with a deceased person. Four kinds of evidence mainly were relied upon in support of this position, viz.: (1) The recognition of the phantasm from personal description, pictures, clothing, &c. (2) The manifestation of a purpose by the phantasm, and the furnishing of information outside the knowledge of the percipient. (3) The connection of the phantasm with human remains, or (4) with a past tragedy. He proceeded to show, by a critical scrutiny of the cases included in the Society's records, that all four kinds of evidence occur commonly amongst second-hand narratives, and generally amongst narratives evidentially weak; but are very rarely found in well authenticated first-hand records. From which he inferred that the occurrence of these features is due generally, if not invariably, to the operation of the preconceived ideas of the narrator.

Moreover, there are certain constantly recurring characteristics amongst the better attested narratives hard to reconcile with the attribution of the phantasms to the agency of deceased human beings. Such are (1) the constant occurrence of many wholly different apparitions in the same house, and the extreme difficulty of establishing any close similarity between any two appearances. (2) The occurrence of apparitions of animals and of inanimate objects. (3) The frequent tendency amongst the percipients to unshared and apparently non-veridical hallucinations.

All these points suggest that so-called phantasms of the dead are really casual hallucinations, engendered by some condition of the percipient. That condition, he contended, would frequently be found in the vague alarm arising from inexplicable sounds, which are frequently shown to precede the occurrence of apparitions in a "haunted" house.

It was further suggested that the resemblance between apparitions in the same locality to different witnesses, where not due to the action of expectancy or hints unconsciously given, or to the subsequent assimilation by comparison of experiences originally diverse, may possibly be attributed to the action of thought-transference.

Several stories were given to illustrate the argument, and in particular the accounts of the two "haunted" houses recently advertised in the *Journal*; and in which a considerable number of Members and Associates and their friends have slept, though without seeing anything peculiar.

THE PRESIDENT, in opening the discussion on Mr. Podmore's paper, said that no one had a better right than Mr. Podmore to form a theory of his own on this subject, for no one had spent more time and trouble in the careful and impartial collection of the facts on which his theory was based. At the same time he felt that it ought to be made clear that the responsibility for the theory rested with Mr. Podmore alone, and that it was in no sense the theory of the Society.

MR. F. W. HAYES had two questions to ask about the paper just read. First, what grounds were there for assuming that the variety of apparitions seen in some houses was an indication that they were subjective in origin; why should not several different ghosts haunt a house? Secondly, if expectancy were really a cause of hallucination, why did the things seen vary? A particular appearance being expected, and that state of expectancy being liable to produce a hallucination, it was reasonable to suppose that the hallucination would take the form of the expected appearance and not a different form.

MR. W. B. YEATS said that the materialistic theory of apparitions was by no means dead. It might be a thing of the past among those who were in the habit of attending lectures, but he believed some audiences would be surprised to find among equally intelligent people who did not go to lectures, how many still held it. The fact was, he thought, that those who investigated these subjects, and scientific men generally, had singularly little humility. He had himself gone to work in what he supposed would be called a mediæval way, and had collected the theories and stories of peasants in the West of Ireland, and had found their theories very coherent. Moreover, there was a universal agreement in the folk-lore of different countries and ages. Mr. Podmore had seemed to assume in his paper that apparitions were always connected with human beings, dead or living. But in Ireland many kinds were believed in, including fairies, animals, &c. Ghosts of dead or murdered persons were quite in a minority. Mr. Podmore had said that for the possibility of collective hallucinations we had no evidence except the facts under discussion. But accounts of collective

experiences were common among the peasantry, and their theory was that objective realities took a subjective form. The things themselves were on a plane which we do not reach with our ordinary senses and had to be translated into the language of sense—the result was like a blind man, in attempting to describe colour, saying that crimson was like the sound of a trumpet. In former days people said, *Vox populi vox Dei*, but quite the reverse seemed to be the view of the lecture rooms. He thought, however, that popular tradition should be accepted with all humility. Ideas could hardly have descended through all ages without having some truth in them.

MR. C. G. HARRISON wished to return to two of the cases mentioned by Mr Podmore, which he would call the Knightsbridge case and the B—— case. With regard to the latter he had been carefully through the evidence and thought that two things mentioned by Mr. Podmore, the presence of cats and of doves in the house, would go far to account for the facts. As to the Knightsbridge house, he remembered that in the original report a certain table said to have been used for spirit-rapping, was mentioned as having been in the landlady's room. He would like to know whether, when members of the Society slept in the house, the table was there, or had been removed. It would be interesting to know whether the removal of the table had anything to do with the cessation of the phenomena.

MR. HANSEN asked what noises were heard when the B—— house was occupied by members of the Society.

ANOTHER SPEAKER had failed to gather what Mr. Podmore's view of apparitions was. He seemed to infer from the falsity of certain cases that other well-evidenced cases containing similar characteristics were false too, which was not, the speaker thought, sound reasoning. He asked whether Mr. Podmore could account for the sounds at the Brighton house, and whether the percipients in that case had had hallucinations elsewhere.

COLONEL TAYLOR asked why, if apparitions were due to subjective hallucination produced by expectation, they did so generally take the form of human beings, and not rather of the fairies and demons of our childhood, or forms purely grotesque.

MR. BARKWORTH, supporting the last speaker, pointed out that in cases unquestionably subjective, like those of *delirium tremens*, the hallucinations do take these fanciful forms. He could not now follow the reader of the paper through his clear and detailed account, but he thought it a sound rule to adopt that the same kind of evidence which would prove unusual, though normal occurrences, such as crimes and accidents, would prove apparitions, unless we set out with a prejudice against them.

MR. PODMORE, in reply to Mr. Hayes, pointed out that the main ground for supposing the hallucinatory figures seen in a "haunted" house to have some objective basis lies in their alleged resemblance. If the apparitions are admittedly dissimilar, it becomes, of course, more probable that they belong to the well-known and not very rare class of casual hallucinations. As regards the second question, expectancy, he pointed out, could only operate to produce an apparition resembling one previously seen if full details of the first appearance were known, which was not always the case.

In answer to Mr. Yeats, Mr. Podmore said he preferred the evidence of educated to that of uneducated persons: and he would not, as a rule, choose to base a scientific theory of ghosts on folk-lore and the fairy tales current amongst peasantry.

In answer to Mr. Harrison, he pointed out that the cats and doves referred to had not generated apparitions elsewhere; and the sounds in the B—— house were not, he thought, fairly attributable to their agency. He could give no information as to the presence of the table referred to, nor could he venture an opinion as to the part played by it in producing the phenomena in the Knightsbridge house.

With regard to the alleged fallacy pointed out by another speaker, Mr. Podmore restated his argument as follows: We know by experience that some, even amongst first-hand ghost stories, are exaggerated and embellished. From certain features being found frequently in second-hand, but very rarely in first-hand stories, we are entitled to infer that these features have been imported into the second-hand narratives by the imagination of the narrators; and there is a reasonable probability that their appearance in the first-hand accounts may be due to the same cause.

In reply to the last two speakers, Mr. Podmore pointed out that we were not dealing with persons suffering from *delirium tremens*, and that it has been well established that a large proportion of the hallucinations seen by sane and healthy persons resemble the human form.

#### AN INTERESTING CASE OF PLANCHETTE-WRITING.

BY MR. HENSLEIGH WEDGWOOD.

Whenever I have an opportunity, perhaps once or twice a year, I sit at planchette-writing with my friend whom I will call Mrs. R., a most observant witness in whom I have entire confidence. We sit opposite each other at a small table, each resting the fingers of one hand lightly upon the board, and when the board begins to move, allow our hand to follow the movement freely without interfering with it in any way.

The following account of our last sitting, on June 26th, is from the

journal of Mrs. R., written the same evening, transcribing the part of planchette from the actual writing, and filling in our own share of the investigation from immediate memory.

*Extract from journal of Wednesday, June 26th, 1889, and copy of planchette-writing with Mr. Wedgwood:—*

“A spirit is here to-day who we think will be able to write through the medium. Hold very steady, and he will try first to draw.”

We turned the page and a sketch was made, rudely enough of course, but with much apparent care.<sup>1</sup>

“Very sorry can’t do better. Was meant for test. Must write for you instead.—J. G.”

We did not fully understand the first drawing, taking it for two arms and hands clasped, one coming down from above. Mr. Wedgwood asked the spirit of J. G. to try again, which he did.<sup>1</sup>

Below the drawing he wrote: “Now look.” We did, and this time comprehended the arm and sword.

“Now I will write for you if you like.”

Mr. W. : “What did the drawing represent?”

“Something that was given me.”

I said : “Are you a man or a woman?”

“Man. John G.”

Mr. W. : “How was it given to you?”

“On paper and other things. . . . My head is bad from the old wound I got there when I try to write through mediums.”

Mr. W. : “We don’t know J. G. Have you anything to do with us?”

“No connection.”

Mr. W. said he knew a J. Giffard, and wondered if that was the name.

“Not Giffard. Gurwood.”

Mr. W. suggested that he had been killed in storming some fort.

“I killed myself on Christmas Day, years ago. I wish I had died fighting.”

“Were you a soldier?”

“I was in the army.”

“Can you say what rank?”

“No. . . . It was the pen did for me, and not the sword.”

The word *pen* was imperfectly written, and I thought it was meant for *fall*. I asked if this was right?

“No.”

Mr. W. : “Is the word *pen*?”

“Yes; pen did for me.”

We suggested that he was an author who had failed, or had been maligned.

“I did not fail. I was not slandered. Too much for me after . . . pen was too much for me after the wound.”

<sup>1</sup> These sketches were sent with the account, but are too large to be reproduced here. For evidential purposes, Mr. Wedgwood’s sketch, made before he had ascertained what Colonel Gurwood’s crest was, and which is given below, is sufficient.—Ed.

“Where were you wounded, and when did you die?”

“Peninsula to first question.”

We were not sure about the word *Peninsula*, and asked him to repeat.

“I was wounded in the head in Peninsula. It will be forty-four years next Christmas Day since I killed myself. Oh, my head. . . . I killed myself. John Gurwood.”

“Where did you die?”

“I had my wound in 1810. I cannot tell you more about myself. The drawing was a test.”

We asked if the device was intended for his crest.

“I had it seal.”

“Had it anything to do with your wound?” (I cannot remember the exact form of this question.)

“It came from that and was given me. Power fails to explain. Remember my name. Stop now.”

The only person besides ourselves present at the sitting was Miss H., an aunt of Mrs. R.’s, and none of us knew anything of Colonel Gurwood beyond the fact of his having edited the despatches of the Duke, of Wellington, not even that his name was John. It is possible that I might have heard of his suicide at the time that it occurred, without its making any impression on me, but I am sure I did not read such an obituary notice as would be published in the *Times*, and when my attention was directed to his editorial work 18 or 20 years afterwards I did not know whether he was alive or dead, and was entirely ignorant of his military career. I never read any history of the Peninsular War, and am perfectly certain that I never had an opportunity of seeing Gurwood’s crest, or knowing anything about it.

When I came to verify the message of planchette I speedily found that Colonel Gurwood, the editor of the Duke’s despatches, led the forlorn hope at the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo, in 1812,<sup>1</sup> “and received a wound in the skull from a musket ball which affected him for the remainder of his life.”—*Annual Register*, 1845. In recognition of the bravery shown on that occasion he received a grant of arms in 1812, registered in the College of Arms as having been passed “upon the narrative that he, Captain G., had led the forlorn hope at Ciudad Rodrigo, and that, after the storming of the fortress, the Earl of Wellington presented him with the sword of the Governor who had been taken prisoner by Captain Gurwood.”<sup>2</sup>

The services thus specified were symbolised in the crest, “Out of a mural coronet, a castle ruined in the centre, and therefrom an arm in armour embowed, holding a scimitar.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Planchette seems to have followed [the *Conversations-Lexicon*, which places the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo in 1810.

<sup>2</sup> Information received from the College of Arms, July 15th, 1889.

<sup>3</sup> *The Book of Family Crests*, Washbourne, 1856.



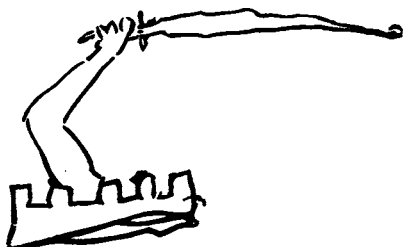
It is plainly this crest that is aimed at by planchette in his very rude design, which represents the arm and sword as issuing from the mural coronet alone, omitting the ruined castle as too complex a subject for the powers of the designer. The drawing was given merely as a test, and if it pointed unmistakably to the Gurwood crest it would fulfil its purpose.

In accordance with the assertion of planchette, Colonel Gurwood killed himself on Christmas Day, 1845, and the *Annual Register* of that year, after narrating the suicide, continues: "It is thought that this laborious undertaking (the editing the despatches) produced a relaxation of the nervous system and consequent depression of spirits. In a fit of despondency the unfortunate gentleman terminated his life." Compare planchette: "— Pen was too much for me after the wound."

The following is the account Mr. Wedgwood wrote of the first séance at the time:—

*June 26th, 1889.*

Had a sitting at planchette with Mrs. R. this morning. P. said there was a spirit there who thought he could draw if we wished it. We said we should be glad if he would try. Accordingly P. made a rude attempt at a hand and arm proceeding from an embattled wall and holding a sword. A second attempt made the subject clearer. P. said it was meant for a test. The spirit signed it "J. G.," no connection of any of ours, he said. We gradually elicited that his name was John Gurwood, who was wounded in the Peninsula in 1810, and killed himself on Christmas Day, 1845. It was not the wound, but the pen that did it.



Something like that.

*July 5th, 1889.*

I made the foregoing memorandum the same day, having very little expectation that there would be any verification.

H. WEDGWOOD.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM MRS. R.'S JOURNAL.

*Friday, September 27th.*

Mr. Wedgwood came, and we had two sittings in the afternoon and evening. I think the same spirit wrote throughout, beginning without signature; but when we asked the name, writing (after some struggle and illegibility) "John Gurwood."

The effort was at first incoherent, but developed into the following sentences:—

“Sword—when I broke in, on the table with plan of fortress—belonged to my prisoner; I will tell you his name to-night. It was on the table when I broke in. He did not expect me; I took him unawares. He was in his room, looking at a plan, and the sword was on the table. Will try and let you know how I took the sword to-night.”

In the evening after dinner.

“I fought my way in. His name was Banier” (three times repeated). “The sword was lying on the table by a written scheme of defence. Oh, my head. Banier had a plan written out for the defence of the fortress. It was lying on the table, and his sword was by it.”

To a question:—

“Yes; surprised him.”

Mr. Wedgwood thinks the name of the Governor of the fortress of Ciudad Rodrigo was Banier; but he says this would not be a test, as *he knew it*. He is going to see if he can find anything in Napier's *Peninsular War* corroborative of what is said about the sword.

“Look. I have tried to tell you what you can verify.”

Mr. W.: “Can you tell me where else to look?”

“I have no power to direct you. We have exhausted, but I wished to tell you about poor Quentain . . . to tell you a secret of poor Quintain's, which is on my mind. It might once have made a difference; but not now.”

We had a difficulty in reading the name. Mr. W. thought it Quinlon, and asked if this was right?

“Not quite: a t. . . . Quentain. Not quite [right], but nearer: try again to-morrow.”

Mr. W.: “Is power exhausted now, and shall we stop?”

“Yes.”

Saturday, *September 28th*.

Mr. Wedgwood and I sat again this morning. First came some preliminary scribbling and circling, and then the right spelling of the name at which John Gurwood was trying last night.

“Quentin. I knew him, and a secret of his that might have made a difference, but I was pledged.”

Mr. W.: “Tell us what the secret was?”

“I should like to try.”

Mr. W.: “What difference would it have made to you?”

“Might have done to him: on my mind.”

Then followed a word here and there among much that was illegible. I copy what we succeeded in reading. “—in the army—scrape— the sake of another—very foolish, but nothing—wrong— for verdict—was unfortunately—what there was let me go on, I am trying—say that, but quite mistaken—case in all its—his commission—of second (company?) private soldier going out gave to his Colonel very strong feeling about it all.”

The above filled four pages. We pondered over it, but could not make out any more. When planchette was put back, the following was volunteered:—

"Tell James I remember him quite well. He will recollect about Quentin's trial."

Mr. Wedgwood's friend, Captain James, of course, was meant. Mr. W. said he would write and ask him; but did the writer mean that Captain James knew the secret?

"No one knew it." (Two lines illegible.) "James will tell you, I have not power. He was tried by court martial."

Mr. W.: "This Quentin was in the army then?"

"Yes. —rest of them would have—but—I cannot write plainly in answer, though I try. I wanted to tell you about poor Quentin, but have not power without further practice. I knew a secret of his at the time of his scrape—conduct—offices—. The—court martial—I did not."

Mr. Wedgwood here suggested we should stop for a time, to see if rest would increase the power. We sat again for a few minutes before lunch, directly after which he left by train; but the control was then different, and the few words written did not appear to have any special interest or meaning.

Mr. Wedgwood writes on October 31st, 1889:—

I find that there was a famous court martial on Colonel Quentin in October, 1814, in consequence of a round robin signed by 24 of his officers. I had a vague recollection of the name of Colonel Q. as a friend of George IV., and something must have turned up about the court martial in the early twenties when the 10th Hussars became notorious, as I found I had heard of the round robin. The accusation, too, was of a want of proper directions to his subordinates in action, so no reticence of anybody could have made any difference, and he was himself the Colonel of the regiment.

With respect to the capture of Banier, the only chance of verification would be from the family, and Miss Gurwood has not answered my letter.

#### CASES RECEIVED BY THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

L. 831. A° P<sup>a</sup>

We have received the following account of an apparently telepathic impression from the Rev. A. T. Fryer, who writes on April 19th, 1889:—

I know the two persons who have written the enclosed. I have seen the envelopes and they bear the dates, February 13th and February 15th, 1889, posted January 31st and February 4th respectively, as shown by post marks. I can vouch for the truth telling capacities of the percipient and her mother.

#### E. M.'s NARRATIVE.

Very early on Sunday morning, February 3rd, when half asleep, half awake, I became vaguely conscious that a gentleman I know living in America was trying to influence me in some way. This feeling at once thoroughly woke me up, and I seemed to know that Mr. ——— was thinking of me at that time, and that he was sending me a proposal.

Various circumstances made this most unlikely, one being the fact that I believed him either to be engaged, or on the point of being engaged to an American lady. So I tried to go to sleep again, and did all I could not to think of the impression I had received. But it was no use, a stronger will than mine kept forcing my thoughts to America, and I felt certain a letter was coming.

For 13 days and nights this conviction seemed ever present with me—try as I would not to dwell upon it.

Not even receiving on the 13th a letter from this very gentleman, telling me that as I had refused to marry him the previous autumn he had at last fully made up his mind to propose to an American girl, and to be married very shortly—altered my conviction.

On February 15th I received the letter of proposal, saying that at the last moment he could not propose to the American, and would ask me once more. The letter was written late on Saturday evening, February 2nd (allowing for difference in time between America and England at the very time I had the impression that a letter was being written). It was posted on the 4th.

My mother remembers my telling her of my impression before I received the letter.

#### STATEMENT FROM E. M.'s MOTHER.

I remember "E. M." showing me a letter on February 13th from a friend of hers (who is abroad), stating that he was likely to propose marriage to a young lady. "E. M." then told me that previously, in the night of February 3rd, whilst lying half asleep, she had a strong impression that he was going to propose to her, though from what he had before written this seemed most unlikely, but a letter received two days later proved that her impression was right.

#### ANSWERS FROM E. M. TO MR. FRYER'S QUESTIONS.

1. Corroborative statement?—I enclose my mother's. I mentioned my presentiment to no one else except to you. I told my mother on February 13th, when I received the first letter (which I showed her), that I had a presentiment that a letter of proposal was on its way to me from Mr. —.

2. May I see the two envelopes?—Envelopes enclosed. The first letter was written January 31st, the second was dated February 2nd, 11 p.m.

3. Have you ever had any similar experience?—Yes, on three occasions, but I cannot get them corroborated, as my brother and the friends concerned object to answering questions on the subject. The first time was during August, 1879. I was away from home, and was just recovering from an illness. I awoke one night feeling certain that my only brother was in a railway accident. I immediately lighted a candle and looked at my watch—eight minutes to 12—as I did so I felt that he was unhurt, and that all danger was over. The next day my brother unexpectedly arrived, and I found that he had been in a slight railway accident the night before. The accident took place a few minutes before midnight, as he also had looked at his watch. The second time, February 27th, 1885. A strong conviction that something (I knew not what) utterly unexpected would arise on or before May 21st that would cause unhappiness to two people and entirely alter the course of their lives. I mentioned this a day or two after to the person chiefly concerned, in the hope that whatever it was it might be averted. This person only laughed at it, and as late as May 20th declared it could not come true—it was pure imagination on my part. It came true on the 21st. The third time, September, 1885, that a great friend of mine, of whom I had not heard for some time, was staying in a certain place in lodgings, and was at the time very unhappy and worried. This also proved to be true.

4. Can you say how long before February 3rd you had heard from or of him [the gentleman in America]?—No one had mentioned his name to me for weeks, but I had had a few lines from him during January.

5. Had you talked about him or read any letters from or about him on or about the 1st or 2nd of February, 1889?—No.

6. Were you in ordinary health?—Yes. I always have more or less constant headache, and my headaches had been very severe just before—but were better at the time.

7. What initials?—E. M. will do.

In answer to an inquiry whether she had ever had hallucinations or impressions which were *not* veridical, "E. M." writes:—

I have never had any strong impression, hallucination, or dream that has *not* come true—beyond one dream that repeats itself about every year at uncertain intervals. I have had it five or six times.

I wake up dreaming that a man with red hair and a red beard is leaning over my bed with a knife in his hand. Sometimes he has hold of my shoulder. For some minutes after I am awake I still seem to see and feel him, his hot breath coming on my face. I try and knock his arm on one side, and it goes through him. After about two minutes he gradually fades away. It is always the same face, and I cannot—since I first had the dream about six years ago—conquer my horror of red-headed men, though I have never seen any man like the man I see; I have tried moving my bed to another part of the room, but the dream still comes.

#### L. 1049. COLLECTIVE.

FROM MR. SEPTIMUS ALLEN, STEWARD of HAILEYBURY COLLEGE.

In the year 1872 I was living in Leeds, where I had the supervision of one department of an engineering works. At this time one of my wife's brothers was living with us. He was a journeyman painter, employed by a firm of decorators in Leeds. My wife had two brothers and one sister who were all deaf and dumb. This one, John, had taken a severe cold from having got wet in the early morning, and working all day in his damp clothes. A very bad attack of rheumatic fever followed. Can you imagine a man suffering from intense rheumatic pains, swollen hands and arms, so that he could not use his fingers, *which were his only means for conversation*, if so, you can picture one of the most distressing cases, and one, I hope, we may never see the like. Not a pain could he describe, not a wish could he make known. He got worse, and we were told by the doctor that we should send for any members of the family that might desire to see him. At this time, one afternoon, my wife and I were at tea (our two children were out), when we heard pleasant musical sounds in John's bedroom, as he was the only person upstairs, we were very much surprised, and went up at once, we found him lying upon his back, with his eyes fixed upon the ceiling, and his face lighted up with one of the brightest of smiles. We did not disturb him, but I fetched in a gentleman, who was our next-door neighbour, to witness what we felt to be a strange occurrence. After some little time (I cannot say how long now), Jack awoke, and used the words "Heaven" and "beautiful," as well as he could by the motion of his lips and facial expression. He also told us, in the same manner, upon becoming more conscious, that his brother Tom and sister Harriet were coming to see him (and considering that they were also mutes) we felt that of all members of our family residing in Herts or Cambs, that these two were the least likely to undertake such a journey, but in (perhaps) fifteen minutes, a cab drove up to the door, from which they alighted. They had sent no intimation, nor had any one else of their coming. After his partial recovery, when able to write or converse upon his fingers, he told us that he had been allowed to see into Heaven, and hear music, it was beautiful.

What were those musical sounds, and how did Jack know that Tom and Harriet were travelling?

SEPTIMUS ALLEN.

Haileybury College, *March*, 1889.

#### MR. PODMORE'S QUESTIONS AND REPLIES.

1. Are you musician enough to be able to describe more particularly the

music which you heard? Was it like a song or like instrumental music? and if the latter, like what instrument?

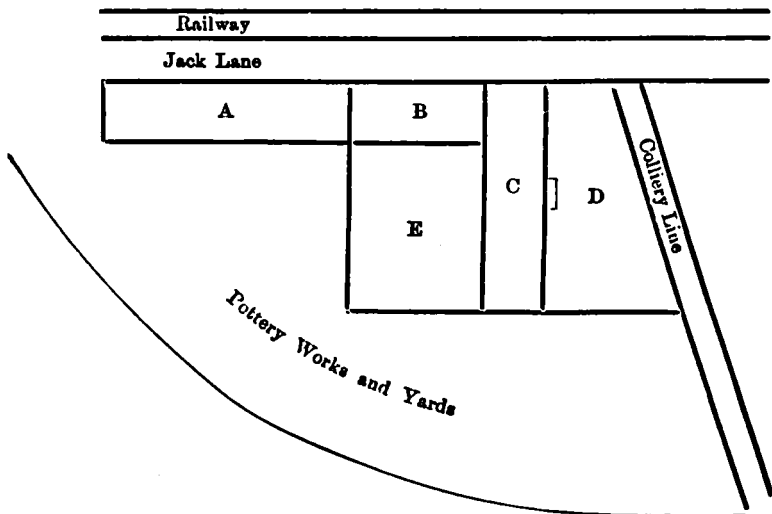
I have always had the idea that the music was as if instrumental, and composed of many chords, such as I imagine would be produced by a strong current of wind upon a harp.

2. How long did it last? Did you hear whilst you came into the room, as well as before you were there? And did the gentleman hear it whom you fetched in?

I cannot say how long it lasted, or whether we heard after we got into the room; our attention was given to John, who we thought was dying.

3. What was the address of your house in Leeds? Was it one of a row of houses, and was it possible for the sound to have come from next door or from the street?

Pottery House, Hunslet, Leeds. Not one of a row, it was a portion of what had been a large house, situate in Jack-lane. This rough plan is as near correct as I can make it now.



A. House of Mr. Britton, sen. B. House of Mr. Alfred Britton. C. House of Mr. Allen. D. Garden ditto. E. Yard ditto.

The music could not have come from next door or from the street.

4. Is your brother-in-law still living? If so, would he write out an account also?

My brother-in-law died about six years ago.

5. Can you give me the address of the gentleman referred to?

Mr. John Britton, Pottery House, Hunslet. We have not heard anything of the Brittons for some years, and I think that we heard of Mr. John Britton's death eight or nine years ago. At the time of my brother-in-law's illness a young clergyman was living with us, and my wife says that while I ran for Mr. John Britton this clergyman went for the doctor. If you cared

to inquire of him the last I heard of him he was a curate at St. Columba's, Haggerstone, N.E. His name is (Rev.) John Barnes Johnson.

6. I suppose your brother-in-law being a deaf mute would hear absolutely nothing? Did he ever at any other time describe himself as "hearing" music or anything else?

I do not think he ever *heard*; he used to *feel* sound vibrations, caused (say) by an engine whistle at a railway station, or the report of a gun, but I do not think he ever heard as we do.

7. You speak of his eyes being open, and later on of his waking up. Was he asleep or in a trance, do you suppose?

I think he must have been in some kind of a trance; his eyes were open.

The Rev. S. Milford, of Haileybury College, kindly furnishes the following notes of an interview which he held with Mr. and Mrs. Allen:—

- (1) Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Allen have ever had any other auditory hallucination.
- (2) As to the nature of the sound, Mrs. Allen says it resembled singing—sweet music without distinguishable words. She cannot say the number of notes, but the sounds continued until she reached the door of the bedroom. She went upstairs as soon as she heard the music.

Mr. Allen's impression is that the sound was that of an Æolian harp—i.e., not the ordinary staccato notes of the harp, but the sustained full notes as of an organ.

#### MRS. ALLEN'S STATEMENT.

My brother was deaf and dumb from his birth, but could make a few inarticulate noises which those accustomed to him could interpret. No one else would have regarded them as words. He had been lying ill for about a fortnight with rheumatic fever, and was so weak as to be unable to talk on his fingers to me as he usually did. I had thought him that morning rather stronger, and as the improvement continued I left him to go down to tea. I had been sitting in the kitchen about five or six minutes—as the open staircase communicated with my brother's bedroom I could easily hear any noise—when I was startled by sounds of singing, as I thought, and immediately went upstairs, when the sounds ceased just before I reached the bedroom door. When I entered the room my brother was lying with his eyes wide-open, gazing into the far corner of the room, away from the door. He evidently did not hear me coming in, and continued for fully twenty minutes in this state. Although I stood close to him he did not seem to show any sign of recognition, but went on smiling, and his lips moved as though he were in conversation with some one, although no sound came from them.

We had sent Mr. Johnson, the curate who was lodging in the house, to fetch the doctor as soon as I had called Mr. Allen upstairs. When the doctor came, my brother was in the same condition as that in which I had found him, but after the doctor had given him a teaspoonful of medicine (ether?) he seemed to revive and made me understand in his inarticulate speech that he had been to Heaven and had seen "lots of angels," his mother, his sister, and his little brother. All this came out in broken, disjointed utterances. After this he seemed to fall into a drowsy state, but this appeared to have been the crisis of the fever, and he began gradually to regain strength. He could not, however, walk about at all for more than three months.

As soon as he could use his hands he began at different times to tell me more details of what he had seen. I cannot remember more than I have

stated above, but I am sure that he told me all this at first, although the details were fuller afterwards. He also used the words "beautiful music," but I cannot say whether he heard sweet sounds or only saw "harpers harping with their harps."

I told Mrs. Britton—our next-door neighbour—of the music that we heard, and my impression is that Mr. Britton came in *and saw* my brother as he lay.

In March, 1883, about five hours before my brother's death, while I and the nurse were watching in the room, my brother, looking just as he did on the former occasion, smiled, and said quite distinctly and articulately "Angels," and "Home."

I have taken this statement from Mrs. Allen.

L. S. MILFORD,

Clerk in Holy Orders,

Assistant Master in Haileybury College.

March 11th, 1889.

Mr. Johnson writes:—

I remember the case of the deaf mute to which you allude. I was lodging in the house at the time, But I certainly did not hear any strange music, nor do I remember hearing either Mr. or Mrs. Allen speak of it. Deaf mutes sometimes make strange noises in their attempts to speak, but such sounds are by no means musical.

26, De Beauvoir-road, N.,

J. B. J.

February 28th, 1889.

M. 669.

HYPNOTISATION FROM A DISTANCE.

The following is a translation of a letter from Dr. Liébault, of Nancy, to Mr. Myers:—

Nancy, August 5th, 1889.

DEAR MR. MYERS,—I send you a copy of a letter which I have written to Professor Beauvis—a letter concerning an experiment in the production of somnambulant sleep at a distance made by Professor Liégeois and myself. Here is the copy:—

"As I know that you like to receive observations of the same kind as those which you have already successfully undertaken with Camille S. but which you were unfortunately unable to continue, I hasten to communicate to you another very interesting experiment made by M. Liégeois and myself on the same somnambule. From the knoll in my garden, where you also placed yourself for experiments (29 metres from my study), M. Liégeois, by mental suggestion, put Camille S. into somnambulant sleep in 12 minutes. It was on the 1st of August at 18 minutes past 8 by my clock that the Professor began to act mentally. I think that our precautions not to reveal the presence of the operator were well taken. In particular M. Liégeois, not having come to my consulting room for at least a fortnight, it was for that reason alone difficult for Camille S. to suspect his presence in the neighbourhood. It is a remarkable thing that, when Camille had fallen into her sleep [trance], she was no longer *en rapport* in that state with a doctor who was present—Mr. Neilson, of Kingston, Canada—with whom she had been, for the last two days, in the recent habit of being *en rapport*, the doctor having received the rare permission to hypnotise (*endormir*) this somnambule. But when M. Liégeois got near the sleeper, she responded perfectly to him, and her arms—a sign of communication passing from person to person—became cataleptic under his action."

(Signed)

A. A. LIEBAULT.