

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

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### NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

#### CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

RAVENSBURG, DR. F. FREIHERR GOELER VON, 4, Nettelbeckstrasse,  
Berlin, W.

#### MEMBERS.

BEST, R. LLOYD STORR, Burlington-crescent, Goole.  
 DAWKIN, WILLIAM, 61, Clifton-street, Larkhall-lane, S.W.  
 MILFORD, THE LADY, 16, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, W.  
 NEWBOLD, MISS A., 9, Claro-terrace, Richmond-road, S.W.  
 NEWMANN, OSCAR P., 84, Newman-street, London, W.

#### ASSOCIATES.

BAYFIELD, REV. MATTHEW A., M.A., The College, Malvern.  
 BRANDRETH, HENRY S., Fairholme, Weybridge.  
 BRAZIER, JOHN J., Ekowe Villa, Southcote-road, Bournemouth.  
 CRESPO, J. CHARTERS, Rio Maior, Portugal.  
 GRAHAM, HENRY R., 8, Marble Arch, London, W.  
 KOHNSTAMM, EDWIN M., King's College, Cambridge.  
 MCKERLIE, MISS HELEN G., Monkstown, Co. Dublin.

#### ASSOCIATES OF THE AMERICAN BRANCH.

BLODGETT, C., M.D., 238, Maple-street, Holyoke, Mass., U.S.A.  
 BUSH, A. P., 149, Pearl-street, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.  
 COX, MISS, 285, Beacon-street, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.  
 DANA, J. C., Public Library, Denver, Col., U.S.A.  
 DEXTER, SAMUEL, 48, Brattle-street, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.  
 FILLMORE, DR. C. W., Providence, R.I., U.S.A.  
 FROTHINGHAM, DR. LANGDON, 92, Charles-street, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.  
 GRIFFING, MRS. C. R., New Rochelle, N.Y., U.S.A.  
 HILL, MRS. CAROLINE J., Reservoir-street, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.  
 LATHAM, MISS VIDA A., B.Sc., Dept. of Medicine, Ann Arbor, Mich.

MASON, H. L., 39, Commonwealth-avenue, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.  
MOORE, DR., 233, East 14th-street, New York, U.S.A.  
PEDIGO, DR. LEWIS, G., Lock Box 259, Roanoke, Virginia, U.S.A.  
SATTERLEE, WALTER, 148, East 18th-street, New York, U.S.A.  
SMITH, WILLIAM HAWLEY, Peoria, Ill., U.S.A.  
STOKES, J. N. P., 48, Brattle-street, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.  
SUMNER, A. M., M.D., 150, Commonwealth-ave., Boston, Mass., U.S.A.  
TALBOT, EDWARD A., 2, Elmo-street, Dorchester, Mass., U.S.A.  
VORSE, ALBERT W., 22, Pemberton-square, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.  
WARD, W. E., Port Chester, New York, U.S.A.  
WOODSTOCK, PERCY, "Waterniche," Brockville, Canada.

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The Eighth Annual Business Meeting of the Members of the Society was held at the Westminster Town Hall, at 3 p.m., on the 31st of January. The President occupied the chair.

The number of Members of all classes, whose names were on the List on the 1st of January, 1890, was 671, showing a nominal increase of 29. Owing, however, to the increased number of those whose addresses are unknown, and of those who from one cause or another have ceased to have any practical connection with the Society, (and who do not receive its publications), the effective strength of the Society must be estimated to have remained about the same. An audited statement of the receipts and expenditure for 1889 was presented to the meeting, and appears on another page. The auditor, in his letter, said:—"It is with pleasure I have again to bear testimony to the accurate and systematic manner in which your accounts have been kept by Mr. Bennett." The President had satisfaction in calling attention to the statement of current assets and liabilities at the close of 1889. This showed that the adverse balance of the last two or three years had now been entirely extinguished, and that there was a small balance of current assets, without taking any account of the value of the Library or of the stock of *Proceedings*.

No further nominations for seats on the Council having been made, and those sent round on January 9th being just sufficient to fill the vacancies, the following were declared duly elected:—Professor Macalister, M.D., F.R.S., Frank Podmore, Esq., H. Arthur Smith, Esq., Professor J. J. Thomson, F.R.S., and J. Venn, D.Sc., F.R.S.

### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council met at the close of the Annual Business Meeting, and at 4 p.m. adjourned to 6 o'clock after the conclusion of the General Meeting. The President was in the chair, and the following Members

were also present at one or both sittings:—Colonel Hartley, Dr. A. T. Myers, and Messrs. Walter Leaf, F. W. H. Myers, Frank Podmore, H. Babington Smith, R. Pearsall Smith, and J. Herbert Stack.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and signed as correct.

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

The re-election of the Officers of the Society for the ensuing year was unanimously carried as follows:—President: Professor H. Sidgwick; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. Arthur Smith; Hon. Secretaries: Messrs. F. W. H. Myers and Frank Podmore.

The Committees were re-elected as follows, with power to add to their number:—

*Committee of Reference.*—Professor Adams, Professor Barrett, Professor Lodge, Mr. F. W. H. Myers, Lord Rayleigh, Dr. C. Lockhart Robertson, Professor Sidgwick, Professor Thomson, and Mr. J. Venn.

*Literary Committee.*—Rev. A. T. Fryer, Mr. Walter Leaf, Mr. F. W. H. Myers, Mr. F. Podmore, Professor Sidgwick, and Mrs. H. Sidgwick.

*Library Committee.*—Dr. A. T. Myers and Mr. F. W. H. Myers.

*Finance Committee.*—Mr. H. Arthur Smith, Mr. J. Herbert Stack, and Lieut.-Colonel G. L. Le M. Taylor.

Dr. Goeler von Ravensburg, first President of the Society for Experimental Psychology, of Berlin, was elected a Corresponding Member, on the proposition of Mr. F. W. H. Myers.

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

At the request of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, her name was transferred from the list of Members to that of Associates.

A present of a book to the library from Mrs. Passingham was recorded with thanks.

The Finance Committee was requested to prepare an estimate of income and a scheme of expenditure for the current year, for the next Meeting of the Council.

The dates of future General Meetings were determined on as follows:—Friday, March 28th, evening, 8.30 p.m.; Friday, May 9th, afternoon, 4 p.m.; and Friday, July 11th, evening, 8.30 p.m.

Various other matters of routine business having been attended to, the Council decided to meet again on Friday, March 7th, 4.30 p.m.

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Since the above meetings were held official information has reached us of the dissolution of the American Society for Psychical Research as an independent body, and its acceptance of the proposed arrangements under which it becomes a branch of the English Society.

## GENERAL MEETING.

A General Meeting was held at the Westminster Town Hall, on Friday, January 31st, at four o'clock, the President, Professor Sidgwick, in the chair.

MR. PODMORE read the second part of a paper on "Phantasms of the Dead," in which he discussed the evidence brought forward in the two papers "On Apparitions Occurring soon after Death," and "On Recognised Apparitions Occurring more than a Year after Death," published in Part XIV. and Part XV. of the *Proceedings* respectively. As an alternative explanation to that of *post-mortem* agency, Mr. Podmore suggested that in many of the cases the phantasm could be explained as the externalisation of a latent impression, received from the decedent before his death; pointing out that the existence of such latent impression had been proved, and that no definite limits had yet been assigned to the period of latency. In other cases he suggested that the phantasm might be a casual hallucination, communicated by infection to other persons in the neighbourhood of the original percipient, or might be due to thought-transference from the mind of some person who had been acquainted with the decedent. It was contended that in all cases telepathy from the living was, at least, as probable a cause as *post-mortem* agency; and that in more than one case it furnished a more complete explanation. In the only narratives which could be regarded as test cases—where the fact of the death had remained unknown to intimate friends for a period of some days or weeks—the phantasm was not seen until the expiration of this period; that is, until the possibility of telepathy from the living had been established. A few illustrative stories were quoted. In conclusion, Mr. Podmore deprecated alike the rashness which found in these facts conclusive evidence for the survival of consciousness after the death of the body, and the confident scepticism, equally unscientific, which would reject any such explanation as untenable. In our present ignorance the only conclusion which could safely be drawn from the evidence was the practical one, that more evidence is required.

MR. F. W. H. MYERS, in reply to Mr. Podmore, read a portion of a paper which is intended to appear in the next part of the *Proceedings*. He fully agreed that in dealing with such a problem as man's survival of death, we must not slip into assuming an answer without full consciousness of what we do. He considered that Mr. Podmore's paper should be met, not only by actual rejoinder to its arguments, but by something of fuller discussion as to the way in which our psychical evidence generally affects the doctrine of man's survival. For we had to decide whether explanations of Mr. Podmore's, many of which he

admitted to be far-fetched, should, nevertheless, be accounted as less improbable than the supposition that anything in man survives the tomb. To the speaker it appeared that telepathy should be regarded, not as a law standing alone and self-sufficing, but as a first hint of discoveries which could not be circumscribed, a casually reached indication of some unknown scheme of things of which thought-transference, clairvoyance, apparitions at death, might be but incidental examples. It seemed to him that the simplest case of true thought-transference, if once admitted, rendered a purely physiological synthesis of man at least highly improbable, and opened a doorway out of materialism which was not likely ever again to be shut. We had, therefore, empirical grounds for regarding it as a not improbable assumption that the individualised energy which generated veridical phantasms was not coeval with the body, but might have pre-existed, and might survive. He held, indeed, that even the evidence in *Phantasms of the Living* showed good ground for holding that the energy in question was not bound up, in the same way as our conscious mental energies are bound up, with the physiological activity of the brain. It would seem nearer the truth to say that telergic action varies *inversely*, than that it varies *directly* with the activity of the nervous system or of the conscious mind. In considering the question of the survival of this energy, therefore, we had not to deal with a large known improbability, but with a problem whose conditions were such that we, in our ignorance, were bound to account the one solution as no less admissible than the other.

The speaker went on to reply in detail to many of Mr. Podmore's arguments; and united with Mr. Podmore in earnestly inviting fresh evidence which might help to decide the controversy in one way or the other.

THE PRESIDENT, in calling on Members to discuss the papers that had been read, said that he had often at meetings of the Society warned his hearers that the views of those who read papers or spoke must be taken as their individual views, and not as in any way representing the views of the Society. But on this occasion the difference in the views expressed by the two honorary secretaries made any such warning superfluous.

MRS. BIDDER described an instance of an apparition independently seen by several persons in a house one after the other, without communication, which, as it seemed to her, could not be explained by telepathy.

MR. PODMORE thought this case was analogous to some which he had dealt with in his paper. No one else making any remarks,

MR. PODMORE said, in reply to Mr. Myers, that the latter had two

great advantages over him in this discussion, in that first his side appealed to the emotions, and that secondly, on his side ridicule could be employed without impropriety, which it could not on Mr. Podmore's. With regard, however, to the explanation by thought-transference of apparent haunting which had so much amused Mr. Myers, he might say that he had in his hand letters from two members of the Society—written quite independently and without having seen his paper—suggesting a similar explanation. No doubt in some cases it demanded an extension of the possibility of thought-transference beyond what we had positive evidence for, to apply it as he had done to explain phantasms of the dead, but the alternative was between straining a known cause and assuming a new one, and he thought that the known cause should be strained to the utmost before assuming that we had adequate grounds to establish a new one. He was glad Mr. Myers had put so ably and so strongly as he had done what Mr. Podmore himself felt to be the strongest argument for believing in the possibility of *post-mortem* communication—namely, that the fact that telepathy appeared to be a mode of super-sensuous communication made it likely that it would continue after the body had ceased to exist.

MISS L. FLINTOFF gave some account of remarkable experiences which she had had in haunted houses and otherwise.

THE PRESIDENT said that the point to which he wished to direct attention was, by what further investigation could we determine this fundamental disagreement between the two speakers of the evening. His own view was that it was difficult to decide the question without further evidence. It is by patient accumulation of evidence that we must hope ultimately to arrive at the truth, and it was to be hoped that all members of the Society would help in collecting this. For himself he must confess that he thought there would be no difficulty in studying this evidence in an unbiassed spirit—the temptation to bias being equal on the two sides. For while Mr. Myers' view was the most interesting, it would be far more difficult to establish than Mr. Podmore's, so that while our larger hopes would draw us one way, our desire to carry our investigation as rapidly as possible to a successful conclusion would draw us the other way.

MR. FRYER asked Mr. Podmore how he would account for instances where the visions of the dead seen by dying people included persons really dead, though their death was unknown to the percipient.

MR. PODMORE said that he had come across several such cases, but thought they could be accounted for by thought-transference from the living who knew of the death, or by deferred (latent) impressions received before the death of the person seen.

MR. H. A. SMITH asked Mr. Podmore whether he could conceive

any circumstances about appearances of the dead which might not be accounted for by some possible extension of telepathy such as those he had suggested in his paper.

MR. PODMORE admitted that he could not. He had tried to do so and failed. At the same time he thought that the evidence might be extended in such a way that at a certain point the hypothesis of telepathy from the living would become more improbable than that of communication from the dead. To take an extreme case—if a shipfull of shipwrecked persons all appeared to their friends, some little time after the wreck and before the news was known, he should be disposed to attribute the phenomenon to *post-mortem* agency rather than to anything else.

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#### AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

The American Society for Psychical Research held its Annual Meeting in Boston, on January 14th, Professor William James presiding.

It was resolved that the American Society should cease to exist as an independent organisation. The Chairman then called the meeting to order as the First Meeting of the American Branch of the English Society, and gave a brief account of some experiments by Professor Janet in hypnotism.

The Secretary, Mr. Hodgson, then read some cases of telepathy, &c., selected from the narratives which he had received during the year, and which will eventually be published in the *Proceedings* or *Journal*. The next meeting of the Branch will probably be held towards the end of February.

Mr. Richard Hodgson will act as Secretary and Treasurer for America. He will superintend the affairs of the Branch, make a personal examination of psychical phenomena, collect and sift evidence, etc., subject to the supervision of an Advisory Committee consisting of Professor William James (Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.), and Mr. S. P. Langley (Smithsonian Institution, Washington).

The annual assessment of Associates of the American Branch is \$3. They are entitled to the free receipt of the ordinary published *Proceedings* of the Society and of the monthly *Journal*. Those who wish may, with leave of the Council, become full *Members* of the Society by the annual payment of \$10. Results of investigations in America will be utilised in articles to appear in the *Proceedings* or in the *Journal*. Meetings of the Branch will be held, at which papers will be read and discussion invited.

## INFORMATION GIVEN BY PLANCHETTE-WRITING.

BY MR. HENSLEIGH WEDGWOOD.

My experience in planchette-writing has been mainly acquired in sittings with two sisters, whom I will call Mrs. R. and Mrs. V., of whom the younger, Mrs. V., has far the stronger influence in producing the writing. With her the board in general begins to move much sooner and in a more vivacious way than with her elder sister. When the two sit together the board moves rapidly along, like a person writing as fast as he can drive, while with me and one of the sisters the action is often feeble and labouring. But neither of the sisters can obtain anything whatever when they sit by themselves. The board remains absolutely motionless under the hands of the solitary operator.

When trying for writing we sit opposite each other at a small table, I with my right hand, my partner with her left on the planchette, while the writing produced is upright to me, and upside down to my partner, from whom, however, the effective influence seems to proceed. The precise nature of that influence is not very easy to understand, and is, I think, very commonly misapprehended. Writing by planchette is often called "automatic," and the pencil is conceived as being worked by the muscular action of the sitters, under the guidance of a blind impulse, as little understood by them as the finished result is foreseen by a pair of birds instinctively engaged in the construction of their first nest. But this is directly opposed to the experience of myself and my partners. When I am sitting at planchette with one of them, I *know* that I am merely following the movement of the board with my hand, and not in any way guiding it, my only difficulty being to avoid interfering with it. It seems to me exactly as if my partner, in whom I have perfect confidence, was purposely moving the board and I allowing my hand to follow her action, interfering with it as little as possible. And she gives to me an exactly corresponding account of her own share in the operation. Thus we give to the outside world our united testimony of a fact which, as far as each of us is concerned, lies within our own direct knowledge, viz., that the writing traced out by the pencil is not produced by the muscular exertion of either of us.

We have, then, in planchette-writing, if our account is to be believed, the manifestation of an agency invisible to us, yet capable of moving the bodily pencil either in mere scribbling or in such a way as to fix an intelligent message on the paper.

The December number of the *Journal* contains a narrative of a sitting at planchette where Mrs. R. and I received information of facts in the life of Colonel Gurwood, which we were quite certain

had never been known either to us or to the only other person who was present at our sitting.

M. Cl. Aut. 674.

On the 4th December last I had a sitting with Mrs. R. and her sister, which afforded evidence not less decisive of the intervention of an intelligence cognisant of matters of which we had no intimation.

Not long after my arrival on a visit to Mrs. R., mention was made of a mysterious breakage of a thick washhand-basin which had taken place on the previous Sunday, closely resembling other breakages which had occurred in the house from time to time in a like unaccountable manner. On one occasion a water-bottle was *seen* to explode on the dressing-table when no one was near it. On the Sunday in question Mr. R. and his sister-in-law, Mrs. V., were in the breakfast-room directly under Mrs. R.'s bedroom, Mrs. R. with the children in the drawing-room, and the servants at supper in the kitchen, when Mr. R. and Mrs. V. were startled by a loud crash in the room above them. Mrs. V. immediately ran in to her sister in the drawing-room and they went together upstairs to see what had happened. They found the thick washhand-basin in fragments on the floor; the larger pieces in front of the washstand, but quantities of smaller fragments scattered over the floor to a distance (as I estimated) of five or six feet, in a way that could not possibly have been produced by a mere fall on the carpeted floor: the basin must have been dashed down with great violence.

While talking of these matters I sat down to planchette with my hostess and her sister, and Mr. R., coming into the room and hearing what we were talking about, said that some half an hour ago he had heard a noise in the breakfast-room for which he could not account in any way. It sounded like the lid of the metal coal-box slamming down, but the box had been already closed, and, besides, the noise seemed to come from the other side of the room. Soon afterwards he said that his presence always seemed to interfere with planchette-writing, and he left the room. Mrs. R. and I had begun sitting, but planchette suggested a change, and Mrs. V. and I had our hands on the board.

Planchette: "If Mr. Wedgwood will ask I will try to answer."

I asked what was the crash Mr. R. had just heard.

Planchette: "Noise from upstairs made by spirits with material object."

"Was it in the room above?"

Planchette: "Yes."

"What was it?"

Planchette: "Mrs. R. will find out."

Mrs. R. accordingly went upstairs to look, and while she was away

something was said as to the probability of my witnessing some similar display.

Planchette: "Not yet—you see the better class of spirits war against the smashing fraternity."

Mrs. R. could find nothing out of order, and returned saying she had looked everywhere.

Planchette: "No, you did not."

Mrs. R.: "Whereabouts am I to look, for I can see nothing?"

Planchette: Wash—(an illegible scribble) "that side of the room."

We asked, "Were you trying to write washstand?"

Planchette: "Yes."

Mrs. R. went up again, and, meeting with no better success came down for more specific instructions where to look.

Planchette: "Slop-jar" (written very large).

Mrs. R., laughing, said she hoped that was not smashed, and went up for the third time. She found the slop-jar in its usual place by the washstand, and when she came to look closely into it, found the water-glass lying broken all to bits in the bottom. She had not removed it from its usual place on the top of the carafe since morning, from whence it had apparently been lifted off and dropped into the empty slop-jar from a height sufficient to cause the crash heard in the room below.

Mrs. R. brought us down the jar to show how completely the glass was smashed.

We then asked, "Was this done by the same spirit who broke the basin?"

Planchette: "The same adverse influence; not the same spirit, but influence."

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#### CASES RECEIVED BY THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

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M. Cl. 12.

Mr. Podmore writes:

Mr. Watts who told me the incident immediately before writing it down at my request is quite unable to find any explanation of the matter. He is quite clear that he had no opportunity to tell anyone beforehand, that the image of the broken statue had actually come into his mind at the moment when he was brushing his hair, and the violent shock which he seems to have felt when he saw his dream realised is strong evidence that he is not mistaken on this point.

From Mr. J. Hunter Watts, of 39, Seething-lane, E.C.

*July 16th, 1889.*

I will endeavour to commit to paper the little episode which I related to you verbally. About six years ago I was with my brother George in Paris, where he bought for some eight or ten francs a plaster of Paris, "Venus de

Milo"—a ghastly copy of the original. I protested against the purchase as I had to share the bother of bringing the thing home, and as it was some four or five feet high our fellow travellers imagined we had with us a corpse rolled up in paper. Arrived home I would not consent to the house being disfigured with the thing, so as a compromise my brother planted it on the summit of a fern rockery in the corner of the garden, where it stood for many months, and I had forgotten its existence save when it was directly in sight. Out of sight it was out of mind. One autumn morning, just after I had risen from bed, I was combing my ambrosial locks before the looking-glass, and I caught myself reflecting that after all it was a pity the thing had blown down and broken, for it did not look so bad at a distance surrounded by the ferns. "Strange, too," I thought to myself, "that the head should be so neatly decapitated, though the fall made no other fracture." Then I pulled myself up mentally, for all at once it came to my mind that I had been dreaming, and I smiled to myself that such a trumpery thing should be the subject of my dreams. The whole matter would have been forgotten, would have gone to the limbo of things unremembered, but on going downstairs to breakfast and finding the table not yet furnished, I went for a stroll into the garden. It was wet underfoot and a strong wind was blowing. When I came to the fernery I gave a start and for a moment I stood *tout ébahi*, for there was the poor Venus de Milo, the body unbroken, lying across the ferns, and the head, neatly decapitated, in the middle of the walk, exactly as I had seen it in my dream. For the moment I was convinced that I had been walking in my sleep and had visited the garden, but that I found could not be the case as it had rained all night and my garments would have been wet through, and my feet, if unshod, muddy, or their covering, if they had any, defiled, which was not the case. Neither am I given to walking in my sleep. I have never done so. I walked back to the house feeling, to use a vulgar phrase, "knocked all silly." Can it be, I asked myself, and I have asked myself the same question a score of times since, that while my body material slumbered in bed some immaterial part of my being wandered in the garden. If so, that immaterial part of me had a remarkable disregard for wind and rain.

The episode is a trifling one, but it has often given me pause and it remains to me inexplicable. As you know I am a Bank Holiday sort of young man, not given to day-dreams.

J. HUNTER WATTS.

In answer to the inquiry whether the statue could have been seen from his bedroom window, or from any other window in the house, Mr. Hunter Watts says:—"No, impossible; only by stretching the head out of window another side of house—from rooms occupied by ladies."

A lady to whom Mr. Watts related the dream corroborates as follows.

45, Hungerford-road, Camden-road, N.

August 9th.

All I can at all remember about the Venus is that Mr. Watts told us one morning that a strange thing had happened, he having dreamt that the statue had been decapitated, and on going into the garden he found it was so,

and that the head of the Venus had been cut clean off, and had rolled on to the path from the figure, which had been placed in the rockery among the ferns. He was very much astonished as the dream was vivid, and he saw the headless statue as he had seen it in his dream. We could never explain how it happened, the head being as it were cut off.

M. ADAMS.

M. Cl. 675.

We have received the following case through the Rev. J. A. Macdonald. The coincidence of the urgent knocking with the need of the child may, of course, have been due to chance—but it is not impossible that the knocking was the vague hallucinatory form taken by an impression of the danger, received by the unconscious self, clairvoyantly or otherwise.

The Beeches, White Hall-road,  
Woodford,

March 17, 1889.

Over 30 years ago I was directed by the doctor to apply a leech to the chest of my son, a child of about two and a-half years, and did so at about half-past ten in the evening. I took the leech off and stayed the bleeding; and being weary retired to rest, and fell into a sleep. From this sleep, in about an hour's time, I was awakened by hearing a sharp knocking at my bedroom door, which was shut. The knocking was so urgent that I called out, "Who's there?" No answer being returned I went to the door, but found no one there. It then occurred to me to look at the child. I did so, and found that the bleeding had re-commenced and the blood was flowing freely from the wound. I succeeded in stopping the hemorrhage, and am convinced that but for this knocking calling my attention the child might have bled to death. This is the only instance in which I had such an experience.

(Signed)

W. Fox.

Mr. Macdonald writes:—

Mr. Fox is a chemist whose place of business is in Houndsditch. He holds that the knocking which he could not explain upon natural principles, was a special interposition of Divine Providence.

P. Cl. 636.

The following much more striking experience, sent to us by Mr. Romanes, may have been of the same kind, or may have had an element of telepathy in it from his sister.

18, Cornwall-terrace, N.W.

November 20, 1889.

Towards the end of March, 1878, in the dead of the night, while believing myself to be awake, I thought the door at the head of my bed was opened and a white figure passed along the side of the bed to the foot, where it faced about and showed me it was covered head and all in a shroud. Then with its hands it suddenly parted the shroud over the face, revealing between its two hands the face of my sister, who was ill in another room. I exclaimed her name, whereupon the figure vanished instantly. Next day (and certainly on account of the shock given me by the above experience), I called in Sir W. Jenner, who said my sister had not many days to live.

I was in good health, without any grief or anxiety. My sister was being attended by our family doctor, who did not suspect anything serious, therefore I had had no anxiety at all on her account, nor had she herself.

I have never, either before or after this, had such an experience.

(Signed)

G. J. ROMANES.

P. 637.

The following case is probably analogous to the last. It comes to us through the Rev. H. Kendall, of Darlington, from a lady who does not wish her name or that of the percipients to be printed.

The late Colonel M., of the Militia, resided at S. I was companion to his wife for many years, travelled with them into various countries on the Continent, and altogether was with her more than 30 years. At the time when I went to them Mr. M.'s elder brother, Thomas, was a captain in the Militia where Mr. M. was an officer, and the regiment remained at B. for 12 months. B. is six miles from S. and Mr. M. used to come home every evening. One cold evening in the month of March, in the year 1855, Mr. and Mrs. M. sat reading for a while over a fire in the bedroom before going to bed. At 11 o'clock they were startled by hearing the brother call aloud "Will" on the stairhead, the name by which he was accustomed to call Mr. M. Both heard the voice, and Mr. M. rushed to the stairhead exclaiming, "Whatever brings you here?" he having left him at B. and supposing him to be there. There was no one to be seen. When I went to them in the morning they told me immediately of what had occurred. They had been very much disturbed by it through the night. During the day Mr. M. rejoined his regiment at B. as usual. His brother Thomas was there still and apparently well. But in the evening about six o'clock, when the exercises of the day were over, he was standing in the street with him when he suddenly dropped down dead. From frequent references to the subject in after years I know that Colonel and Mrs. M. were firmly convinced that the voice they heard was a reality, and that it was an intimation of the impending death of Captain Thomas. The fact that they told me of it in the morning, when the captain was still well and likely to live, shows that it could not be an imaginary thing on their part, the result of apprehension respecting him. Colonel M. and his wife were among the most excellent people I ever knew, and I remained at the Hall till the grave had closed first over him and then, nearly 15 years afterwards, over her. E. W.

*October 21st, 1889.*

L 834.—A<sup>d</sup> P<sup>n</sup>

The following is from a lady who does not allow us to print her name, for fear of paining the relations of the friend who appeared.

*July 4th, 1889*

I have noted down the remarkable incident I mentioned. The time of its occurrence was in the early part of July, 1885, between 1 and 2 in the morning. I was wide awake, not having slept at all, when all of a sudden I was startled by a bright light, and I saw at my bedside a tall figure, and distinctly recognised the face of a valued old friend who resided many miles

from my home. He was earnestly gazing at me, and on vanishing from my sight the room became dark as before. My sister, who occupied the next room, on hearing me make an exclamation, came in and found me striking a light, when I told her whom I had seen. Strange to say we received an early communication from a member of his family acquainting us that our dear old friend had passed away at the very time he appeared to me.

The narrator's sister confirms the above statement as far as her part in it is concerned.

What follows is from notes made by Mrs. Sidgwick immediately after talking over the above circumstances with the two ladies.

The gentleman who appeared was an old and intimate friend of both sisters, and corresponded constantly with them. They had not heard from him for a little while before his death, and though they knew that he was ailing they were not at all anxious, knew of no cause for special anxiety, and had not had their thoughts turned to him in any special way.

The lady who saw the apparition had not been to sleep—she is a bad sleeper—but was lying with her eyes shut trying to sleep. Suddenly she became aware of a bright light in the room and opening her eyes saw by her bedside the tall figure of her friend. The light, she told me, was like daylight and was at the side of the bed where she saw the figure. She had time to see the figure gazing earnestly at her and to notice that it was wrapped in a cloak or dressing gown. She saw half the figure—as far down, I suppose, as the bed would let her. Apparition and light vanished together. She was startled and agitated, got out of bed and had some difficulty in finding the matches and striking a light, owing to her agitated condition.

I do not think that either sister has now an independent recollection—apart from their knowledge of the day of the death—of the *day* on which this strange experience occurred, but it made a deep impression on both, and when the letter announcing the death reached them, which must have been within two days, they were satisfied that appearance and death were coincident. Their recollection that the appearance occurred not long after midnight is, I think, independent of subsequent information, though they are not quite sure whether it occurred between 12 and 1, or between 1 and 2.

A search for the letter announcing the death, which the percipient kindly undertook, proved fruitless, but the time of its occurrence, mentioned in the letter, "quite agreed," she writes, "with the very time I noted down of his appearance to me. This coincidence surprised and greatly impressed myself and sister."

I was shown various newspaper cuttings relating to the death and funeral, from which I copied extracts. The death is announced as having occurred on July 5th, and an obituary notice stated that the cause was general break up rather than any specific ailment. In an account of the funeral it was stated that on the coffin plate was the inscription: "Died July 6th, 1885, age 75 years." As the ladies pointed out to me, the fact that the death was announced in the newspapers as having occurred on the 5th, and on the coffin plate as on the 6th, tends strongly to show that it occurred very soon after midnight, and, therefore, confirms their recollection of its coinciding in time with the apparition.

I was told many things which showed that they were intimate friends of the gentleman who died, and that his thoughts might naturally turn to them.

The percipient assured me emphatically that she had had no other experiences of the same kind.

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#### CASES ABOUT WHICH FURTHER INFORMATION IS DESIRED.

A very interesting case of apparently telepathic communication on several occasions between two persons not specially connected with one another has been sent to Mr. Myers anonymously by the percipient, a lady, who wrote from Exeter, where she was temporarily staying, but who gave no clue to her identity. The case had all the appearance of being perfectly *bonâ fide*, but in the absence of authentication cannot be made use of, which we regret, as the experience is curious and unusual. Should this meet the eye of the sender we hope that she may be induced to give her name in confidence to some member of the Literary Committee, or to a common friend. This has been done in other cases. For instance, the name of "E.M.," whose experience was described in the *Journal* for December, 1887, is absolutely unknown to all members of the Literary Committee except Mr. Fryer.

Further information is also desired about the following case received through Mr. Fryer. It is an account of an appearance seen on the road, at a point somewhere between Bowness or Burgh-by-Sands, and Mungrisdale, or Mount Grisdale, Cumberland, near a miner's cottage, about midnight and by moonlight, about the year 1858 or 1859, in August. Our informant cannot remember the exact spot, but remembers that it was on the main road.

An apparition of a woman, dressed in white, from 10ft. to 12ft. in height, crossing the road, in front of a dogcart, occupied by three persons. . . Horse startled, refused to go, ears forward, and backing.

She passed from one side of the road to the other, through two stone walls, then through the cottage garden, then through fields beyond, and then up and over the mountain side.

Of the three persons in the dog cart who are all said to have seen the figure, one is dead, one sends us the above account, and the third writes that he remembers "something of the kind," but thinks that "very likely the whole thing might be explained without recourse to the preternatural theory."

Our informant believes that the figure has been seen there by others. He also tells us that a woman had in former days been murdered by her husband in the cottage.

We shall be glad if any of our readers can give us information about similar appearances there or elsewhere, or about the tradition; or if they can suggest any plausible explanation of the phenomenon.

## SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1889.

| Dr.  | £   | s. | d. | £    | s. | d. | Cr.  | £   | s. | d. | £    | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|------|----|----|--|-----|----|----|------|----|----|
| 1889.  |     |    |    |      |    |    | 1889.  |     |    |    |      |    |    |
| Jan. 1.—To Balance in hands of Treasurer ... | 66  | 12 | 0  |      |    |    | Dec. 31.—By Literary Committee ...             |     |    |    | 21   | 0  | 3  |
| Do. Secretary ...                            | 10  | 0  | 0  |      |    |    | " Library ...                                  |     |    |    | 2    | 6  | 5  |
|  |     |    |    | 76   | 12 | 0  | " Printing                                     |     |    |    |      |    |    |
| Dec. 31.—, Subscriptions:—                   |     |    |    |      |    |    | Proceedings, Part XII. (bal-                   |     |    |    |      |    |    |
| " Members ...                                | 279 | 6  | 8  |      |    |    | lance of) ...                                  | 118 | 18 | 6  |      |    |    |
| " Associates ...                             | 279 | 6  | 0  |      |    |    | Proceedings, Part XIII. ...                    | 69  | 1  | 0  |      |    |    |
|  |     |    |    | 558  | 12 | 8  | " XIV. (on                                     |     |    |    |      |    |    |
| " Life Subscriptions ...                     |     |    |    | 42   | 0  | 0  | account of) ...                                | 60  | 0  | 0  |      |    |    |
| " Donations, ...                             |     |    |    | 9    | 4  | 0  | Journal, Nos. 49—62 ...                        | 106 | 8  | 6  |      |    |    |
| " Sale of Publications:—                     |     |    |    |      |    |    | Indices and Title Pages, Pro-                  |     |    |    |      |    |    |
| Per Trübner & Co. (July, 1888,               |     |    |    |      |    |    | ceedings, Vol. V., and                         |     |    |    |      |    |    |
| to June, 1889) ...                           | 34  | 7  | 10 |      |    |    | Journal, Vol. III. ...                         | 9   | 15 | 0  |      |    |    |
| " " American S. P. R. ...                    | 47  | 3  | 9  |      |    |    | General ...                                    | 23  | 0  | 5  |      |    |    |
| " " Secretary ...                            | 10  | 12 | 9  |      |    |    |  |     |    |    | 387  | 3  | 5  |
|  |     |    |    | 92   | 4  | 4  | " Covers and Binding ...                       |     |    |    | 2    | 13 | 8  |
| " Rent—(Rooms not required at 19,            |     |    |    |      |    |    | " General Meetings, ...                        |     |    |    | 28   | 18 | 0  |
| Buckingham Street, 12 months                 |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Advertising, ...                             |     |    |    | 2    | 8  | 0  |
| to Michaelmas, 1889) ...                     |     |    |    | 25   | 0  | 0  | " Travelling Expenses (Members of Council)     |     |    |    | 8    | 0  | 0  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Salary to Secretary (Sept., 1888, to Sept.,  |     |    |    |      |    |    |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | 1889) and Commission on Subscriptions          |     |    |    | 130  | 16 | 8  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Rent (12 months, to Michaelmas, 1889) ...    |     |    |    | 45   | 0  | 0  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Housekeeper (12 months, 19 Buckingham        |     |    |    |      |    |    |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | Street) ...                                    |     |    |    | 12   | 0  | 0  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Reading Room and Stationery ...              |     |    |    | 3    | 6  | 5  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Postage (Secretary's) ...                    |     |    |    | 53   | 13 | 3  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Gas ...                                      |     |    |    | 2    | 8  | 6  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Repairs ...                                  |     |    |    | 6    | 5  | 0  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " General Expenses ...                         |     |    |    | 32   | 5  | 10 |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Donation of previous year transferred to the |     |    |    |      |    |    |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | Edmund Gurney Library Fund ...                 |     |    |    | 5    | 0  | 0  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " Balance in hands of Treasurer, ...           | 50  | 7  | 7  |      |    |    |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    | " " Secretary, ...                             | 10  | 0  | 0  | 60   | 7  | 7  |
|  |     |    |    |      |    |    |  |     |    |    | £803 | 13 | 0  |
|  |     |    |    | £803 | 13 | 0  |  |     |    |    |      |    |    |

I have audited the above Receipts and Expenditure Account, with the Books of the Society, and certify that it is correct.

28th January, 1890.

MORELL THEOBALD, C.A.