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A CORRECTION.

In the *Journal* for November, 1889, in the report of a recent General Meeting, an account was given by me of a paper by a lady, who wished to be called Miss X. On more careful study of the diaries there mentioned I regret to find that this account was in certain important respects inaccurate. I wish, therefore, to withdraw my description entirely before the paper appears, lest any blame should attach to the author of the paper, who is in no way responsible for the statement made, and has, as will be seen, been scrupulously careful to avoid in her account anything like exaggeration of the marvellous element in her experiences. For the actual facts of the case I must refer the reader to the paper itself, which it is hoped will appear in an early number of the *Proceedings*. F. W. H. M.

"THE GIFT OF D. D. HOME."¹

Madame Home has followed up her *Life of D. D. Home* by another collection of the evidence to her late husband's powers;—a collection which, together with what we have printed from Mr. Crookes and others, probably nearly completes such record as is now possible.² Madame Home has worked with care and thoroughness, and there is a good deal of fresh matter, although mostly in a fragmentary form.

In the first place it is remarkable—and in reviewing the earlier book in the *Journal* for July, 1889, we had already been struck with the fact—that no attack of any weight or consequence seems to have been made on the facts recorded in the *Life*.

If the phenomena were due to fraud, this total absence of detection,

¹*The Gift of D. D. Home*. By Madame Dunglas Home. (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., 1890.) 388 pages.

² See also an article by Mr. Hamilton Aidé, "Was I Hypnotised?" in the *Nineteenth Century* for April, 1890.

extending over a career of a quarter of a century, would be unparalleled and almost inexplicable.¹

It is observable, moreover, that most of the more marvellous phenomena were already produced at the very beginning of Home's career. In an account from Mr. F. L. Burr, editor of the *Hartford Times*, the following points are mentioned as occurring in Connecticut, August, 1852. (1) Table moves violently in broad daylight without contact. (2) Levitation of Home (this in the dark, but feet felt). (3) Bell in dim light lifted and carried, and rung, by faintly visible spirit hand. (4) Luminous hand shakes hands of sitters at a distance from Home. (5) Table lifted entirely into air, without contact, in broad daylight. Mr. Burr gets on it and is lifted upon it and at last is slid off from it.

A state of mind logically much more curious than that of simple disbelief is described in some quotations from Hawthorne's *Note Books*, pp. 102-3. After describing some marvels, which he accepts as facts on Mr. Powers' authority, Hawthorne adds: "What most astonished me is the indifference with which I listen to these marvels. They throw old ghost stories quite into the shade; they bring the whole world of spirits down amongst us, visibly and audibly; they are absolutely proved to be sober facts by evidence that would satisfy us of any other alleged realities; and yet I cannot force my mind to interest itself in them. They are facts to my understanding, which it might have been anticipated would have been the last to acknowledge them, but they seem not to be facts to my intuitions and deep perceptions."

Can any conclusion be more impotent and barren? Yet Hawthorne (it is needless to say) lacked neither intelligence nor candour. What he *did* lack was dispassionate scientific curiosity; the habit of regarding the universe as a complex of problems, no one of which can be prejudged, but any one of which may conceivably be resolved by definite observation and experiment. And let certain of our correspondents note that "intuitions and deep perceptions" can cut both ways, and that while their own intuitions as to the truth of certain tenets may be so cogent that they deem it superfluous to aid our plodding inquiry, other people's intuitions may make for just the opposite view; and where is the intuitive umpire who shall settle it between them?

It will be well, perhaps, to give the remainder of my space to a continuation of the list given in our previous review of cases where there is some first-hand evidence for the *identity* of an alleged communicating spirit. It is, of course, impossible now to know what information Mr. Home may have possessed with regard to the family affairs of

¹ For a discussion of a phrase of Mr. T. A. Trollope's see pp. 11-14. It seems clear that Mr. Trollope's doubt was only as to the origin of the messages, &c.,—what he terms the "metaphysical phenomena."

any sitter; but in many of the cases to be cited such previous knowledge on his part seems, for various reasons, to have been regarded as out of the question. In other cases there are physical signs, hands, &c., illustrating the asserted identity.

Page 41.—Mr. Burr's testimony. Name and symbolism (tossing as of the sea) given to an apparent stranger. Table moves untouched by anyone.

Page 77.—Dr. Garth Wilkinson. Sister prematurely born, of whose existence Dr. W. did not know, is described, and small hand seen.

Page 81.—Mr. Rymer receives a message from an aunt Dorothy, of whose existence he did not know. Finds afterwards that he had a half-aunt of that name.

Page 89.—Mrs. Clarke. Child's spirit gives name of "Doady," a pet name for George, not believed to be known to any one present except Mrs. C. Gestures mimicking favourite action of child—puffing out and patting his cheeks.

Page 101.—Mr. Powers, the sculptor, reported by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Recognised hands and gesture: special sign given by touch; prick of pen-knife on back of both Mr. and Mrs. Powers' hands in reply to question, "What was the last present given to the departed child?"

Page 112.—Mrs. Eric Baker. Important communication on family affairs given by pressure on knees, while alphabet is so held that no one can see it.

Page 116.—Mr. Jencken's friend (anonymous). Tune given with changed notes; the variation only known to two living persons and one dead.

Page 118.—Captain Chawner. Accordion plays in style imitating touch of grandfather on organ, with peculiar quaver at close.

Page 150.—Mrs. MakDougall Gregory. Pearl brought (as an "apport") to mother of a girl who had been known by the pet name of "Motie," or "Mootie," which, it appears, is Hindustani for "Pearl."

Page 151.—The same informant. Home personates Margaret Christy, a former servant in the family of a gentleman present. She had been drowned 40 years ago, and some suspicion had fallen on a fellow-servant, which she seemed anxious to remove.

Page 157.—Mrs. Brancker. Three names given—one of friend not known to be dead, one of a friend never called by Christian name.

Page 164.—Mrs. Brunker (not same person). Two Christian names and surnames rapped out and characteristic messages. "These two ladies" (Mrs. Brunker and her daughter) "were utter strangers to all in the room; even their names were unknown."

Page 172.—Mrs. Honywood. Initials of name given of Miss Lockhart, and grasp of characteristic hand.

Page 286.—Lord Adare (now Lord Dunraven). Private particulars as to deceased friend given.

Page 298.—Mr. Alexander Keith, "a complete stranger to Mr. Home." H. W. K. (initials of son) spelt out by touches on Mr. Keith's knee, and a saying of the boy's correctly given.

Page 306.—W. Crookes and others. Message from "James Fitz-Henry," sent to Mrs. Senior.

About sixteen cases where identity was strongly suggested are thus

added to the previous list. In two cases the fact given was unknown to the inquirer. In one case (Mr. Powers) it was given in reply to a question. Many of the other cases we have cited are not reported with sufficient detail to enable us to appraise their value.

These cases, and the fresh evidence for the physical phenomena, form an important addition to the previous volume. But it is impossible not to sympathise with Madame Home's indignation at the small proportion which the properly recorded séances bear to the total number given by Home. She is justly severe on the timidity, selfishness, carelessness, indolence, ingratitude of the majority of Home's sitters, who after begging séances from him—often with indecorous importunity—were unwilling to make the trifling return of an attested narrative of what they had witnessed. Madame Home, on the other hand, very naturally sees nothing but courtesy and generosity in Home's abstinence from any demand for such testimony. But, speaking not as a critic of Home's character, but as an inquirer into truth, I am bound to say that Home's kindness or indifference on such points was as grave an intellectual error in himself as in his sitters. Such phenomena as those under discussion belonged properly neither to Home himself nor to his sitters, but to science as trustee for mankind. Suppose that I accidentally discovered a specific remedy for cancer, and by it cured some friends of that disease. What would be thought of myself and my friends if we refrained from giving the remedy to the world or recounting the cures in proper detail,—my friends because they did not wish to be known to have had cancer, and I because I did not wish to offend them? Yet Home's sitters were wont to declare to him that their séance had brought them the most blessed assurances of immortality—and then to beg that, for private reasons, nothing more might be said about it.

The fact is that, with the notable exception of Mr. Crookes, hardly any one who watched Home's career seems to have been able to realise that these phenomena, like all other phenomena whatever, are primarily the concern of science, in so much that before they can be referred either to known causes or to unknown, derided as imposture or revered as revelation, we must actually *observe* and *record* them; observe them with that dispassionate care, record them with that scrupulous accuracy from which alone we should expect results of value in any other field.

This simple dogma,—this mere insistence on dispassionate observation, accurate record in *every* department of human inquiry,—is, if I may so say, the sole official tenet of the Society for Psychical Research. Neither Spiritualist nor Sadducee can afford, we think, to ignore it. Let us preach it as often as we find opportunity, and let us practise it as well as we can.

F. W. H. M.

CASES RECEIVED BY THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

The two following cases have but one point in common, but that is an important one evidentially. It is that written accounts of the experiences were communicated to us within two days of their occurrence, less than three months ago.

L. 1073. A^e P^d VISUAL AND AUDITORY.

From Mr. E. White, who prefers not to publish his address.

February 23rd, 1890.

I am an old man—in my 87th year—in fairly good health. On the night before Saturday, the 22nd inst., I awoke, and looking out, saw standing beside my bed the person by whom I am regularly called every morning. Instead, however, of her usual question—I hope you are well, or I hope you have had a good night—she said, “This is a bad day for you.” I tried to think what it was that I had intended to do for which the weather—to which I thought she referred—could be “bad,” and finding nothing in my mind, was about to question her on this subject when I saw her going towards the door and did not stop her. I then looked to see if, as was her custom, she had lighted my gas-fire, and found she had not. I then began to speculate as to her motive for calling me thus early—2.10 a.m., but could find no satisfactory solution. I should not, I think, omit to mention that a bright gaslight was burning in my room at the time, or that I have never at any period of my life been subject to mental or other hallucinations.

I found, on inquiry yesterday, that my visitor was seriously unwell, had been so during the night, and *never out of bed*. I cannot, of course, in her present condition, question her on the subject; but when she recovers, as the doctor says she will, I will do so and let you know the result.

EDMUND WHITE.

Later, Mr. White adds:—

March 5th, 1890.

The person I saw and about whom I wrote is now quite well. She is quite certain that she did not go to my room on the night mentioned. She was, in fact, unable to leave her bed then, or for four or five days afterwards.

I ought, I think, to tell you that to avoid the trouble of housekeeping with modern servants I have lived in lodgings, with some exceptions, during the last 12 years, always with the same landlady. She has also two other lodgers—a lady and gentleman, brother and sister—who, though some 12 or 14 years younger than myself, are both old, and not likely to come to my room; and had they done so, could not possibly be mistaken, especially in the light of my room, for the person I saw. The two other lodgers, my landlady, and myself all sleep on the same landing; and, on account of my age, a bell that I could ring in case of necessity has been put in her room; but except once, to try its effect, I have never had occasion to ring it. The other occupants of the house sleep lower down. I had no cause for anxiety respecting my landlady's health and felt none, for although not quite well for a few days previously, it was only on the night mentioned that her illness became serious, and I only heard of its being so on the following day.

My bedroom door is never locked, but the light enables me to see everything very clearly ; and I had the evidence of two senses, namely, seeing and hearing.

My landlady is a healthy person, neither afflicted with sleep-walking nor any other complaint that I know of. Her room is not more than three yards from mine.

And again on March 13th he writes :—

My landlady has no recollection of anything in particular, except that, on the night mentioned, she was in great pain, and slept, if at all, very little. She is, however, quite certain that she did not even get out of bed, much less leave her own room, during the night. Neither she nor I can suggest any cause for the appearance.

The figure seen was as distinct as if met with in the street—nothing dream-like about it. I looked to see if my fire had been lighted, and then at my watch to see the time. My landlady can suggest no cause for the words, “This is a bad day for you,” except that during the night “she thought she was going to die.”

The landlady kindly furnishes her account of the night in question as follows :—

March 14th, 1890.

Mr. White has shown me your letters. You wish me to state a few particulars as to the night in question. I had been ill all the day, was obliged to go to bed early in the evening. Mr. White himself had been in bed all that day until the evening ; he had been suffering from a sore throat and cold. I had been attending him. I think he became a little anxious about my state of health although he did not know I was so ill as I was. I thought I should die, I felt so ill through the night, but I am *quite sure* I did not leave my bed. I was ill with influenza for about four or five days after that.

I have known Mr. White for 20 years ; he having been a friend of my husband's, I naturally feel a very great regard for him and take a deep interest in most things that he does.

P. 131. CL. DREAM.

From Commander F. M. Norman, R.N., J.P., of Berwick.

Cheviot House, Berwick-on-Tweed.

February 19th, 1890.

On February 17th, 1890, I dreamed that I was driving, or being driven, along the road near my house in an open cart with one horse. A man whom I saw passing called out loudly, “Look out, look out, take care !” On looking over the side of the cart, I saw the wheel had come off, apparently owing to the loss of the linch-pin, and was rolling away by itself towards the bank. The cart did not overturn, and I then awoke and got up.

After breakfast I opened my gate for the purpose of going to town. The first person whom I saw was a farmer, well known to me, by name Anderson. He immediately complained to me that as soon as he went out of his house that morning he observed one of the linch-pins of his cart lying on the ground, the cart itself having been driven off by his son, who was evidently ignorant of his danger. Anderson had run after the cart, and had succeeded in

restoring the linch-pin to its place without any accident having happened, though the cart had travelled more than a mile.

I may add that he said that it had been done, he felt sure, on purpose, by a man who owed him a grudge.

F. M. NORMAN.

In a subsequent letter our informant adds :—

March 6th, 1890.

After I dreamed, I woke. I woke just as I saw the wheel rolling away. Then I went to sleep again and woke at the usual time for getting up. I am not able to fix the hour of the dream.

I cannot give or suggest any connecting link at all. I had not spoken to the farmer for many days before, and nothing beyond "Good-morning" for weeks, and certainly I had not been reading or talking about anything that would lead up to the dream.

It is notable that the cart of my dream in which I was standing up was a one-horse farm cart. In such a cart I have never set foot since I came to this place 13 years ago.

I spoke to *no one* about my dream till I met the farmer, who was the first person whom I met, just outside my gate, and he at once accosted me with, "Captain, did you ever lose your helm at sea?" Not seeing exactly his drift, I asked him why, or what he meant, and then he told me where he had been, and what for.

The farmer was not a man who would be likely to come to me for help or advice. His *son* was in my Bible-class for years, and I used to call now and then to see the parents, but that is all. *Not* the son in the cart. At the same time, also, the farmer would, no doubt, often *think* of me, and so would his family, as I take a prominent part in public affairs here.

My dreams are few and far between, and are *nearly always* about the sea and early recollections.

If I eat anything that causes "nightmare" it takes the form of "dodging" shells in the trenches before Sevastopol, where I served.

I don't dream of Berwick, its people, or surroundings, more than once in three years.

My dreams, few and far between, are of the sea in the early days of my professional career.

Captain Norman writes again on March 10th, 1890 :—

Herewith I have pleasure in sending you "statements" by the Anderson family. You will observe that Margaret's dream arrests attention in two particulars. (1) That she dreamed about me on the night before the cart was taken out. (2) That she dreamed about the child of the man whom her father suspected. I may say that when I met her father outside my gate, he mentioned Z. as the suspected person; but in my account to you, I believe I purposely suppressed the name.

Anderson declares that *I* have not been mentioned inside his house for a long time before the occurrence.

F. M. NORMAN.

Statement by Mr. Anderson, Farmer, High Greens, Berwick-on-Tweed :—

Between nine and ten on the morning of Tuesday, February 18th, 1890, I went out into my yard, and I at once observed a linch-pin lying in a corner

close to the place where my cart usually stands. It immediately struck me that some one who owed me a grudge had taken the pin out of the axle before my cart had been driven off to my meadow by my son. I lost no time in pursuing the cart, which I caught up just beyond Captain Norman's gate. Fortunately no accident had happened, and my son was not aware that anything was wrong. I gave him the pin and he replaced it. Directly afterwards Captain Norman came out of his gate, and on my telling him the nature of my errand he said that he had dreamed during the past night that he was driving in a cart along the road, and one wheel rolled off for want of a linch-pin.

MICHAEL ANDERSON.

Statement by Peter, son of the above:—

About 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 18th, 1890, I harnessed my father's horse to the farm cart, and drove past Captain Norman's house in the direction of our meadows. Just after I had passed Captain Norman's gate I heard someone shouting after me. On looking round I saw my father, who ran up and produced our linch-pin which he said someone had taken out before I started, but I had noticed nothing wrong, and the wheel was in its place. I replaced the pin and proceeded.

PETER ANDERSON.

MARGARET ANDERSON.

Witness to the above two signatures:—

Statement by Margaret Anderson, daughter of Mr. Anderson, Farmer.

On the night of Monday, February 17th, 1890, I dreamed that I was in a barn, in which was a heap of corn, near the edge of which was a child walking about whom I recognised as the son of a man called Z., who is not on good terms with my father. Then someone said to me, "Captain Norman has paid off his man." I laughed at the absurdity of the dream, and woke laughing.

MARGARET ANDERSON.

Statement by Mary Anderson, sister of the above:—

I sleep with my sister. On Tuesday morning, February 18th, 1890, or some time during that day (I can't remember the exact time), my sister Margaret said, "I had a very curious dream last night. I dreamt that I saw Z.'s child in a barn and I believe it was Z.'s son who took the linch-pin out."

MARY ANDERSON.

P. 132. VISUAL.

Sent to us by Mr. G. E. Pope.

It seems hardly possible to prove that a prediction works its own fulfilment, but the following seems to be as marked a case of the kind as we are likely to get. The writer is Dr. Beddoe, F.R.S. In a later letter he states that he does not recollect the date of the occurrence, but thinks it was somewhere about 1875.

The Manor House, Clifton, Bristol.

November 4th, 1889.

I send you particulars of the curious and fatal case of morbid impression

which you take interest in. You are at liberty to make whatever use you please of the history.

Captain B., of Apenrade, on a voyage to Bristol, had on board a young lad, I believe a relation of his, to whom he was much attached. The boy had been strictly forbidden to climb the rigging, but while coming up the Channel he disobeyed the injunction, and falling from a yard to the deck was killed on the spot. Captain B. brought the body to Bristol, and it was buried in the Amos Vale Cemetery; after which the captain took to his bed.

I saw him three or four days afterwards, in consultation with Dr. David Davies. The latter had said to me: "I want your help; my patient has no disease that I can make out, but he has resolved to die, and die I believe he will." The captain was a robust man of middle age, educated and intelligent, and speaking English well. I examined him and could find no sign of disease, except that the body-heat was a little raised, perhaps to 99·5 or so. After some questioning, he opened his heart to us, and told us that on the night after the boy's funeral, while he was lying broad awake, the dead boy had appeared to him, stood by his bedside, and said words to this effect: "Ah! Captain B., you lie in your bed this night, but within a week you will be like me" (or, "you will lie by me"). "I know it will be so," said the Captain, "I shall die on Friday."

We reasoned with him, of course, and did all we could, both by encouragement and by a supporting regimen and treatment, to sustain the vital powers; his brother, who had been telegraphed for, seconded our efforts; but all was in vain; poor B. died on the appointed day.

JOHN BEDDOE.

B.P. 18. VISUAL.

A somewhat similar case was described by Dr. S. Willard in the *St. Louis Courier of Medicine*, for September, 1884, but from a recollection of 50 years before. In this case the patient appears to have seen three phantasmal men in his room one night—one of whom told him that he would be seized with shaking soon after midday the next day and die before sunset. In the morning his wife sent for Dr. Willard, who found nothing the matter with him; nor did another physician who was called in. The man himself said he was quite well but had a settled conviction that all would happen as predicted, which it did.

It is possible that in another way the following dream may have brought about its own fulfilment.

B.P. 16. DREAM.

Mr. W. D., who was in the habit of driving and known to be a daring driver, dreamt that the horses ran away with him and killed him. He mentioned his dream to the groom, who testifies to the fact, and who replied, "You really must be careful." That afternoon, driving alone, he was killed. He had been rather unwilling to drive that day, but was not in the habit of attaching importance to dreams and omens.

Date of occurrence, 1881. Date of record, 1884.

DOUBLE PERSONALITY : MEMORY OF THE SECONDARY STATE REVIVED BY HYPNOTISM.

Dr. Proust, Professor of Hygiene at the Hôtel Dieu of Paris, has recently brought before the *Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques* a very interesting case of "Ambulatory Automatism in a Hysterical Man," or, as it might otherwise be phrased, of double personality with an active second self.

We give a brief *résumé* from the *Revue de l'Hypnotisme*, March, 1890, p. 267.

Emile X., *æt.* 33, is a barrister in Paris; of good ability and education in classical studies, both as a boy and at the University. He was always nervous and over sensitive, with some hysterical attacks and functional derangements of motion and sensation, signs in fact of "*la grande hystérie.*" He could be hypnotised very easily, and whilst M. Luys had him in charge he could be put to sleep by a loud noise, or any sudden impression. One day in a *café* he saw himself in the looking-glass and at once fell into a hypnotic state which frightened his friends and led them to take him to a hospital, where he recovered without any difficulty. Sometimes his attacks were different; he would seem to his companions to undergo no loss of consciousness, but would lose the memory of all his past life during a few minutes or a few days and in this condition of secondary consciousness would lead an active and apparently normal life on foot or on horseback, in his friends' houses or in shops. From such a state he woke suddenly and was entirely without memory of what had happened to him in this secondary state. An instance of this occurred on September 23rd, 1888. He had had a quarrel with his stepfather in Paris, which had excited him considerably, and he fell into his second state. Three weeks later he woke after his usual fashion, without any memory whatever of what had been happening, and found himself at Villars-Saint-Marcelin, in the Haute Marne, more than 100 miles from Paris. He picked up from various sources a little knowledge of what he had done. He was told he had visited the priest of the village, who had thought him "odd"; that he had also stayed with one of his uncles who was a Bishop in the Haute Marne, and at his house had broken various things, and torn up some MSS. of his uncle; that he had run into debt to the extent of £20, and that he had been summoned before the Court at Vassy on some charge of petty theft, and in his absence judgment had been given against him. Again, on May 11th, 1889, he was breakfasting at a restaurant in Paris, and two days later found himself at Troyes. Of what had happened during these two days he could remember nothing. He recollected that before losing his consciousness he had had a great coat and a purse in it containing 226fr.

These facts reminded Professor Proust of the well-known case of Félicité X., and of the more recent case of Louis V. (*Proceedings of the Society for Psychological Research*, XI., 497), in which the memory of the secondary personality was recalled by hypnotism. Emile X. was easily hypnotised, and in that state could give a full account of what had happened to him in

his states of secondary personality. In his first of these two attacks he described how he had lost some of the £20 at cards, and told the complete story of what he had done when staying with his uncle the Bishop, and afterwards with the priest. In the same way as to his visit to Troyes, he told the details of his journey, of the friends he had dined with there, and where he had left his overcoat and purse. Notes were taken of his hypnotic account, and on the strength of these he wrote to the hotel keeper at Troyes asking for his coat and purse, and describing where he had left them. Two days later, to his great astonishment, he received them both, and the 226fr. in the purse. The Court at Vassy also, when his true condition had become known, reversed the judgment given against him.

HYPNOTISM AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

We reprint here an article which appeared simultaneously last month (April 5th) in the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal*, describing the very valuable and eminently practical demonstrations which a Member of the Society for Psychological Research, Dr. J. Milne Bramwell, has given to a distinguished and critical assembly at Leeds, of the attainment by hypnotism of an anæsthesia profound enough to admit without consciousness of the performance of surgical operations which are otherwise very painful.

A number of the leading medical men and dentists of Leeds and district assembled at the kind invitation of Messrs. Carter Brothers and Turner, Dental Surgeons, of Park-square, Leeds, on March 28th, to witness a series of surgical and dental operations performed in their rooms under hypnotic influence, induced by Dr. Milne Bramwell, of Goole, Yorkshire. Great interest was evinced in the meeting, as it is well known that Dr. Bramwell is quite a master of the art of hypnotism as applied to medicine and surgery, and is shortly to publish a work of considerable importance on the subject. Upwards of 60 medical men and dental surgeons accepted invitations. Amongst those gentlemen present were the following :—Mr. Thos. Scattergood (Dean of the Yorkshire College), Professor Wardrop Griffith, Mr. Pridgin Teale, F.R.S., Professor Eddison, Dr. Jacob, Dr. Churton, Mr. Mayo Robson, Mr. H. Bendelack Hewetson, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Moyuinan, Mr. Littlewood, Mr. Henry Gott, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Edmund Robinson, Mr. William Hall, Dr. Braithwaite, Mr. Best, Mr. Wood, Dr. Light, Dr. Caddy, Professor McGill, Dr. Turner (Menston Asylum), Dr. Hartley, Dr. Hellier, Mr. W. H. Brown, Dr. Bruce (Goole), Mr. Dennison, Mr. Edward Ward, Mr. H. Robson, Mr. King, Mr. Glaisby, Mr. Sherburn, and Mr. Wayles. A letter, expressing his regret at his inability to be present, was read from Dr. Clifford Allbutt, in which he stated that he remembered the time, 35 years ago, when Liston performed several serious operations, using hypnotism as the anæsthetic applied by a scientific lay friend, in Lincolnshire. Mr. Jessop was also prevented at the last moment from being present.

The object of the meeting was to show the power of hypnotism to produce absolute anæsthesia in very painful and severe operations. The first case

brought into the room was that of a woman, aged 25. She was hypnotised at a word by Dr. Bramwell, and told she was to submit to three teeth being extracted, without pain, at the hands of Mr. Thomas Carter; and further, that she was to do anything that Mr. Carter asked her to do (such as to open her mouth, and spit out, and the like) as he required her. This was perfectly successful. There was no expression of pain in the face, no cry, and when told to awake she said she had not the least pain in the gums, nor had she felt the operation. Dr. Bramwell then hypnotised her, and ordered her to leave the room and go upstairs to the waiting-room. This she did as a complete somnambulist.

The next case was that of a servant girl, M. A. W., aged 19, on whom, under the hypnotic influence induced by Dr. Bramwell, Mr. Hewetson had a fortnight previously opened and scraped freely, without knowledge or pain, a large lachrymal abscess, extending into the cheek. Furthermore, the dressing had been daily performed and the cavity freely syringed under hypnotic anæsthesia, the "healing suggestions" being daily given to the patient, to which Dr. Bramwell in a great measure attributes the very rapid healing, which took place in 10 days—a remarkably short space of time in a girl by no means in a good state of health. She was put to sleep by the following letter from Dr. Bramwell addressed to Mr. Turner:—

"Burlington-crescent, Goole, Yorks. Dear Mr. Turner,—I send you a patient with enclosed order. When you give it her she will fall asleep at once and obey your commands.

"J. MILNE BRAMWELL."

"Order.—Go to sleep at once, by order of Dr. Bramwell, and obey Mr. Turner's commands.

"J. MILNE BRAMWELL."

This experiment answered perfectly. Sleep was induced at once by reading the note, and was so profound that, at the end of a lengthy operation in which sixteen stumps were removed, she awoke smiling, and insisted that she had felt no pain, and, what was remarkable, there was no pain in her mouth. She was found after some time, when unobserved, reading the *Graphic* in the waiting-room, as if nothing had happened. During the whole time she did everything which Mr. Turner suggested, but it was observed that there was a diminished flow of saliva, and that the corneal reflexes were absent, the breathing more noisy than ordinarily, and the pulse slower.

Dr. Bramwell took occasion to explain that the next case, a boy aged eight, was a severe test, and would probably not succeed; partly because the patient was so young, and chiefly because he had not attempted to produce hypnotic anæsthesia earlier than two days before. He also explained that patients require training in this form of anæsthesia, the time of training, or preparation, varying with each individual. However, he was so far hypnotised that he allowed Mr. Mayo Robson to operate on the great toe, removing a bony growth and part of the first phalanx, with no more than a few cries towards the close of the operation, and with the result that, when questioned afterwards, he appeared to know very little of what had been done.

It was necessary in his case for Dr. Bramwell to repeat the hypnotic

suggestions. Dr. Bramwell remarked that he wished to show a case that was less likely to be perfectly successful than the others, so as to enable those present to see the difficult as well as the apparently easy, straightforward cases, "in fact," as he said, "to show his work in the rough."

The next case was a girl of 15, highly sensitive, requiring the removal of enlarged tonsils. At the request of Dr. Bramwell, Mr. Hewetson was enabled in the hypnotic state to extract each tonsil with ease, the girl, by suggestion of the hypnotiser, obeying every request of the operator, though in a state of perfect anæsthesia. In the same way Mr. Hewetson removed a cyst, of the size of a horse bean, from the side of the nose of a young woman who was perfectly anæsthetised and breathing deeply, and who, on coming round by order, protested "that the operation had not been commenced."

Mr. Turner then extracted two teeth from a man with equal success; after which Dr. Bramwell explained how his patient had been completely cured of drunkenness by hypnotic suggestion. To prove this to those present, and to show the interesting psychological results, the man was hypnotised, and in that state he was shown a glass of water; he was told by Dr. Bramwell it was "bad beer." He was then told to awake, and the glass of water offered him by Dr. Bramwell; he put it to his lips, and at once spat out the "offensive liquid." Other interesting phenomena were illustrated and explained by means of this patient, who was a hale, strong working man.

Mr. T. S. Carter next extracted a very difficult impacted stump from a railway navvy, as successfully as the previous case. Dr. Bramwell described how this man had been completely cured of very obstinate facial neuralgia by hypnotism, which had been produced by working in a wet cutting. On the third day of hypnotism the neuralgia had entirely disappeared (now some weeks ago) and had not returned. The man had obtained refreshing hypnotic sleep at nights, being put to sleep by his daughter through a note from Dr. Bramwell, or by a telegram, both methods succeeding perfectly.

At the conclusion of this most interesting and successful series of hypnotic experiments, a vote of thanks to Dr. Bramwell for his kindness in giving the demonstration was proposed by Mr. Scattergood, Dean of the Yorkshire College, and seconded by Mr. Pridgin Teale, F.R.S., who remarked that the experiments were deeply interesting, and had been marvellously successful, and said: "I feel sure that the time has now come when we shall have to recognise hypnotism as a necessary part of our study."

The vote was carried by acclamation.

Messrs. Carter Brothers and Turner were cordially thanked for the great scientific treat that they had so kindly prepared for the many to whom hypnotism had been first introduced that day, and for the further opportunity (afforded to the few who had seen Dr. Bramwell's work previously) of studying its application as an anæsthetic.

Mr. Henry Carter replied for the firm and the meeting closed, the patients looking as little like patients as persons well could, giving neither by their manners nor expression the slightest suggestion (except when external dressings were visible) that they had suffered, or were suffering from, in some cases, severe surgical interference.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARE APPARITIONS OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE?

We have received from Mr. Doveton a rejoinder to Mr. Myers' letter in the last number of the *Journal*. To print it at length might prolong the controversy unduly; but in justice to Mr. Doveton, we print the passages containing the substance of his reply to Mr. Myers' criticisms.

Mr. Doveton, after complaining with some warmth of Mr. Myers' suggestion that he exaggerated in talking of "countless well authenticated ghost stories," says:—

Many of my well authenticated cases I own were from books, and not first-hand from ghost seers, but the stories *were* well authenticated, and bore the stamp of truth on them. I have, moreover, a certain number of cases told me *at first-hand*—indeed, not a few.

In estimating the value of the evidence on this subject we must take stories from standard works on Apparitions, as representing the consensus of human belief, into consideration, when such are well attested—why not

He adds:—

I am not concerned with *dream figures*, but with those apparitions that confront us when we are as *wide awake* as I am at this moment. . . . I refer to the apparitions who *touch you*—talk to you—sometimes obscure by their form familiar objects in the room, and sometimes are seen by their own light—a light which plainly emanates from themselves.¹

In re the clothes objection I own it is hard to explain, but in my opinion a disembodied spirit would appear to us as it *conceived itself clothed*, and that would naturally be in its usual habiliments in order to facilitate our recognition of it. Thus will the dress itself be purely *phantasmal*—an appearance only—whilst the Ego, or *soul* beneath, will be still material to spirit sense, and occasionally palpable even to our physical sense of touch.

He explains that he regards

Phantasms of the living as purely *subjective* appearances merely, for the simple reason that the soul cannot be in the body and out of it (as far as we know) at the same time, *unless* the individual be in a state of trance.

Finally he urges that

The fact of an apparition being seen by *two or more persons at once* is a strong proof of its objectivity, it being far more improbable that the sense of two or more should be *simultaneously* deceived in precisely the same manner, than that there should be an objective appearance there!

¹ These characteristics occur in the case of apparitions of persons undoubtedly alive. See for examples of one or more of them this number of the *Journal*, p. 253, and *Phantasms of the Living*, cases numbered 295, 297, 299, 213, 311. Apparent solidity is common, but see for special mention of it a non-coincidental case quoted in *Phantasms of the Living*, Vol. I., p. 513. Other cases, coincidental and non-coincidental, might be quoted.—ED.

ILLUSIONS HYPNAGOGIQUES.

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

SIR,—I should like to know whether the following experience, which seems to me in some respects analogous to crystal-vision, is at all common. I am a very light sleeper, and frequently begin to see dream images while my brain is so far awake that I can study them and register them in my memory. As far as I can make out, the process of their appearance is as follows: I close my eyes, and see the broken blotches of light on the dark ground of my eyelids, which are, I suppose, the remains of light impressions on the retina common to most people. Among these, ever since I was a child, the first direction of the attention to them always produces an appearance of moving brown sand, interspersed with little square fat black capital letters of which I have never been able to distinguish more than one or two. A friend of mine has the same experience, only that her letters are cubical and light brown. When these go out of the field of sight their place is taken by lines or threads of light, which arrange themselves into geometrical shapes, and thence into somewhat conventional leaves and flowers. These pass away into coloured masses, which suddenly quicken into definite pictures, the colours becoming vivid and the lines definite. I have seen a reddish mass suddenly become brilliant orange and take the shape of the pulp of a half-cut orange, with one quarter taken out and lying beside it on the plate; or, again, I have seen a dim, non-luminous mass of colour suddenly light up into the picture of a brilliant evening sky, against which rose the head and shoulders of a cavalry officer in a red coat, riding in a country lane. Sometimes the quickening process is applied to the form only; an irregular coil of the light thread I mentioned before has presented itself to me first as a serpent, next as an irregular circle of old rounded small blocks of stone, and my mind has hesitated as to which suggestion to accept. I do not think my dream pictures have ever moved or acted while I was sufficiently awake to register them in my memory; but it has been curious to watch the moment at which they became definite impressions on my retina, instead of mere suggestions of my conscious imagination. I have had the converse experience also, when the dream image has remained imprinted on my retina *after* waking. The fact of their thus quickening seems to me to give force to Mr. Myers' argument in last month's *Journal*, since the fact seems to supply all the machinery necessary for telepathic impressions on the mind to clothe themselves in visual form.—I am, &c.,

AN ASSOCIATE.

[Hallucinations of the type of which our correspondent's experiences are interesting examples have received the name of *illusions hypnagogiques*, and have been described by Maury, Müller, and others. Mr. Gurney gives a general account of them and some instances in *Phantasms of the Living*, Vol. I., p. 390, and p. 474, foot-note.—ED.]

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Science*, April, 1890)London, 1890*
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* Presented by the Author.

† Presented by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson.

§ Presented by Mrs. Passingham.

‡ Presented by the London Spiritualist Alliance.