

SPOOK MYSTERY

and its

SOLUTION

By
Prof. I. Prendergast
||

National Psychic Research League

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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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Spook Mystery and Its Solution

ANNOUNCEMENT

Following is a reprint of an advertisement that appeared in a Los Angeles, California, evening paper in June, 1923.

SPIRITUALIST Salesman—We are developing an Oil Lease owned by a Spiritualist located by Spirit Leota. Commissions right See me now. Don't wait.—Bldg. West 3rd St

Following is a reprint from Bob Shuler's Magazine, Minister of the Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California, November, 1923.

"WE NOTE WHERE MRS. H. S. JOINER has lost her wad by listening to the advice of spooks in making investments in a Gold Mine. She says she is a Spiritualist and that the Spirits told her the Gold Mine was a sure thing. It failed to materialize however. A few months ago a local newspaper carried an advertisement of a Spiritualistic oil well. It appears the spirit Leota had located this well and it was a rich find indeed. Several spiritualistic suckers bit but the oil well was a dry hole, we understand. It does seem a pity for people to be thus hoodwinked and yet it appears that if they

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can not bite at one thing they will take the bait, hook and sinker in another. And we suppose there is about as little harm done by spirits selling bogus gold mines and imaginary oil wells as in any other manner. The fools who buy haven't sense enough to keep their money anyway and we suppose the spirits had just as well get it as for some other kind of shark to steal it from them. Personally we have no money in gold mines recommended by ghosts or in oil wells discovered by the spirit Leota, but those who have are welcome to make their investment and collect their dividends.

"In June, 1924, a Minister who was President of the Minister's Alliance (at that time) in Long Beach, California, reported to an investigator (Deputy Sheriff) of the Sheriff's Office, of Los Angeles, County, California, that there were many complaints made to ministers, as well as himself, from people who had lost their money through the advice of Spirit Mediums. The minister said that there would have to be some action taken to drive these fakers from their nefarious practices.

"The investigator told him, that it would require the aid of an authority on Psychic Phenomena, and he said that he knew of a man who was an investigator, magician and an authority on Psychic Phenomena, who was living in Long Beach at the present time, and was a friend of his, and he said I will call on him, as I know that he will be more than glad to help us, as he has exposed these fakers many times, in his work.

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“The investigator called on Mr. I. (Red) Prendergast and explained the situation, and he consented to help at once. So both called on the Minister, and after the Minister explained the nature of the complaints, he asked Mr. Prendergast if he would come to the Ministerial Alliance meeting, in July, and give a talk on the solution of the Spirit problem. Mr. Prendergast consented.

“At the July meeting of the Ministerial Alliance, held in the Baptist Church, Long Beach, California, Mr. Prendergast gave a talk on Spook Mystery and its Solution, (his talk is in this book), and he told of the old method of abolishing these fakers, which had proved unsuccessful, and outlined a plan of procedure which would secure the desired results.

“After this meeting Mr. Prendergast was told by prominent Ministers and laymen, that an organization was needed to drive these fakers from their nefarious work, and that if he would head such organization, they would all give him their support.

“Mr. Prendergast started to make investigations in Los Angeles County, and in November, 1924, he had concluded his investigation. And he turned the evidence over to the proper authorities.

“November 19th, 1924, a charter was issued, by the Secretary of State, of California, for the National Psychic Research League. (Its purpose is outlined in this book).

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“The League consists of three departments; Investigating, Lecturing and Literature, and is a non-profitable organization.”

One of the crying demands of Christianity today is to rid the country of these fakers who under the guise of religion break into the sacredness of the home life and bring distress to their dupes.

Faith in God; trust founded on the word of Jesus of Nazareth; belief in a true religion, and confidence between man and wife are disturbed and destroyed by these FAKERS, and in the end their victims lose their money, their friends, their loved ones, and their own self-respect.

NOW is the time to help in this great work of exposing and driving these FAKERS from their nefarious business of preying upon the people.

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and Write Messages on a School Slate in the Light.

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In this book we present the correct solution of these problems, and expose the apparently uncanny manifestations of the Spirit Faker.

1. What is meant by Spirit Fakers?
2. What is a sincere, or genuine Spiritualist?
3. What became of the Palmist, Crystal Gazer, Mind Reader and Clairvoyant when Cities Passed Ordinances Prohibiting them from Operating?
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6. Is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle a Faker, is he Insane, or is he being Duped?
7. How do these Fakers Operate?
8. What is dangerous about the Spirit Fakers?
9. What was the Old Method of Abolishing these Fakers?
10. What is the real way of preventing these Fakers from Working.

The Above problems and their correct Solution are given by the Authorities of the NATIONAL PSYCHIC RESEARCH LEAGUE. (Their Kansas City, Missouri office).

Every Theologian, Educator, Police Chief, Sheriff, Detective and Peace Officer as well as every home should have a Copy of this Book so as to guard against these Fakers.

This is a Mystery Book of Truth, Fully Illustrated, not Fiction or Theory.

Sent to any address Postage Paid on receipt of PRICE \$1.00.

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

We publish in this book the first of a series of articles on the work of seers, psychics and spirit mediums. These articles have been prepared following extensive investigation in connection with the National Psychic Research League whose experts have spared no effort or expense to uncover what we will show to be frauds and fakes. No statement is made in this book which can not be proven and the exposures reported, have actually been made. It is in a spirit of helpfulness and sense of duty that these articles are published.

The stories published by us are for the purpose of enlightening those who are seeking the truth regarding fake mediums. Therefore as well as gaining the knowledge of the counterfeit, it will help in the research of genuine psychic phenomena.

Nothing in any of our articles should be construed as an attack on sincere people engaged in psychic research work, who are really trying to get in touch with the spirit world. Although we do not believe that spirit communication or production is possible, we will credit those who are seeking the truth in such work, with having a worthy purpose.

The time now has come, it appears to us, not to refute these scientists, but to separate the wheat from the chaff,

or the real from the spurious, so that we all may know what to believe.

Our exposures as well as being educational, can be used for entertaining purposes, as the plans are very simple, and with a little practice, one will be able to produce the weird effects even as the fake mediums do.



CHALLENGE TO MEDIUMS

I hereby denounce all so-called Spiritual Mediums as imposers and Swindlers, and I will give any Charitable Institution FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS if, after seeing any of their manifestations twice, I cannot explain how they performed by human agency.

Prof. I. Prendergast.

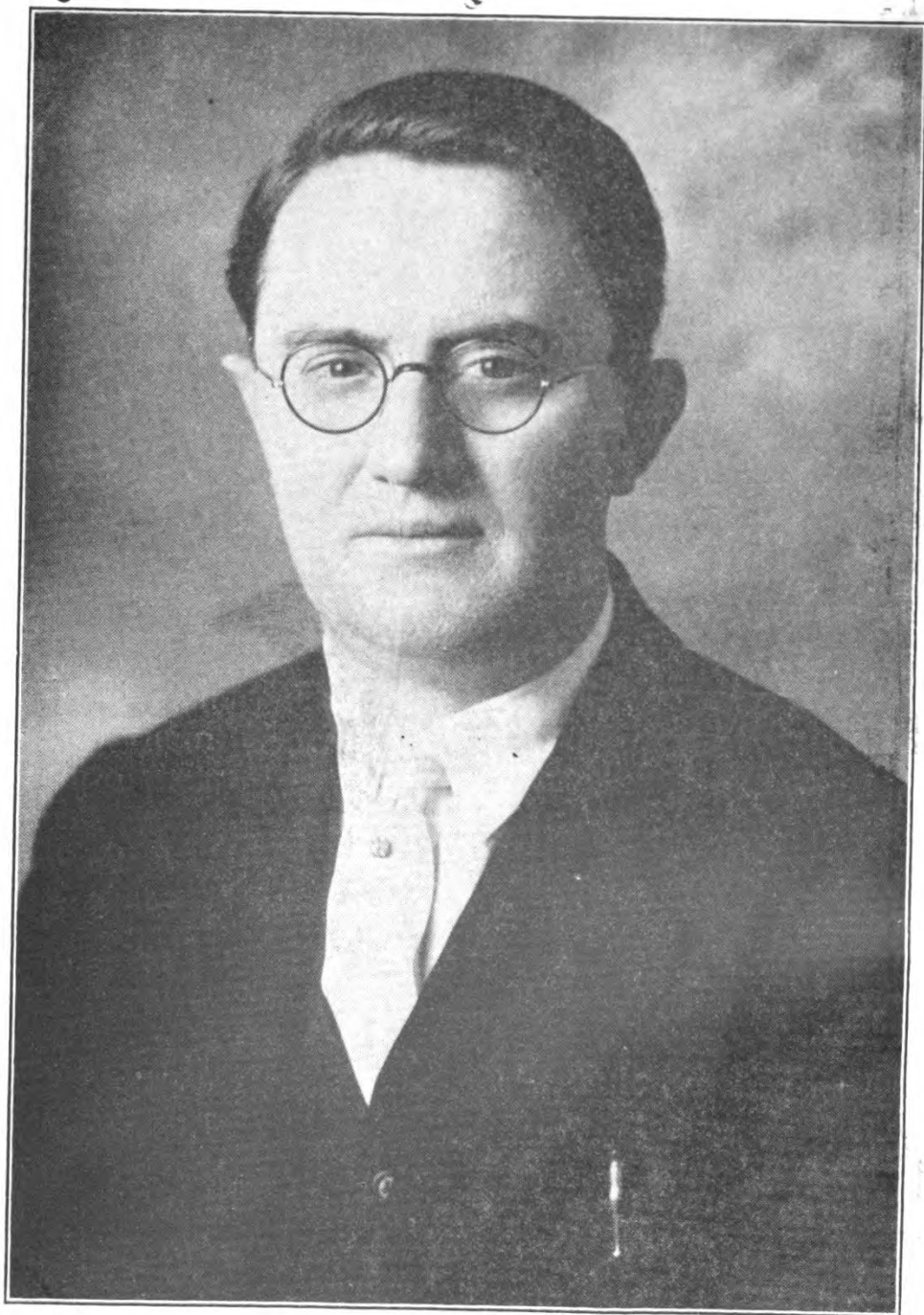
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Professor I. Prendergast, Author

Solution of Spiritualism

"Spiritualism" is the modern type for the demonstrations and doctrines of the ancient arts and cults of deception.

The beginning of modern spiritualism was in 1848 at Hydesville, Wayne County, N. Y., when Kate and Margaret Fox (two little girls known as the Fox Sisters) worked Spirit Knockings. The fame of these two children soon spread over the continent, and the tales of spirit phenomena attracted the attention of scientists, who made investigations, which caused international publicity for the Fox Sisters.

Then the cult began to spread like wildfire; mediums went everywhere holding nightly seances and reaping rich harvests financially in this country and in Europe. Societies were organized by multitudes of the semi-religious.

In 1888 one of the Fox Girls published a confession to the fraud, which they had practiced. The spirit knocks which they produced was done by cracking their big toes.

Today these schemes, mysteries and secrets of so-called mediumship have leaked out, through exposure and confessions of mediums.

Lily Dale, Cassadaga Lake, N. Y., for nearly two generations, has been one of the largest camping grounds for spiritualist camp meetings in the United States and the best mediums of the spiritualist cult have operated there, and they were exposed by George Leo Wilkins, who was a spiritualist medium for nearly Twenty-Five Years, and has lived and worked at the Lily Dale Camp.

**What Became of the Palmist, Crystal Gazer,
Mind Reader and Clarivoyant When
Cities Passed Ordinances Prohibit-
ing Them From Operating?**

When cities passed ordinances prohibiting these fakers from operating, the majority of them formed Spiritualist Churches, which entitled them to come under the heading of non profitable, and non taxable organizations, which really proved a benefit to them, as they had no license or taxes to pay, and they operate just the same, only as Rev. Soandsos Spiritualists. Most of these Spiritualist "ministers" hold services and conduct marriages. They give free public readings but it's the private readings and seances that they cash in on. In California there were about 200 individual spiritualist churches each of them issued diplomas to whomever they saw fit, which made them Spiritualist ministers, the numbers of which run into thousands. The majority have no churches; these operate in their homes giving spiritual advice, circles, readings, spiritual healing and hold seances.

If you have been in one of these faker's establishments in recent years you will have observed a framed diploma displayed somewhere about the rooms.

What Is Meant By Spirit Fakers?

Spirit Fakers are persons, institutions and concerns, who operate under the guise of religion by trick and device, or otherwise, to defraud the public to the end that they be put in communication with spirits, for advice and information, as well as seeing spirits and kindred pretenses.

What Is A Sincere, Or Genuine Spiritualist?

A sincere or genuine spiritualist, is one who talks or lectures on his belief in the spirit world, but does not claim that through himself, spirit communication or production is possible.

What is the Difference Between Clairvoyance and Spirit Trance?

Clairvoyance is seeing, or an insight into the spirit world. Spirit Trance is where the mediums claim that they are gifted with power to communicate direct with spirits. There is very little difference between clairvoyance and spirit trance, the latter merely giving them better protection in their misleading work of preying upon the people. As there is no proof of spirit com-

munication or production, and it is a proven fact that mediums have grossly misled people with their spiritual advice it remains that they are nothing but fakers.

What is the Difference Between A Magician and A Spiritualist?

A magician uses the art of magic for entertaining purposes exclusively and he makes it known to his audience that it is for that purpose only.

A Spiritualist uses the work of magic to deceive the people, to the end that they will produce spirit communication and production.

Is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle A Faker, Is He Insane, Or Is He Being Duped?

Conon Dayle is not a Faker, as he produces no spirit communication or production.

He is not insane, because any man that makes from three to five thousand dollars a night lecturing, is not likely to be insane.

Nor is he being duped because while he was in America in 1923, lecturing, he was warned that the mediums, Eva Thompson and others, were fakes, but nevertheless persisted in attending their seances making a pitiful spectacle of himself kissing the supposed hand of his dead Mother at their seances and continued to bank his reputation as an investigator, by acclaiming them genuine spiritualists.

When he was informed that these mediums would be investigated, exposed and the evidence of their fakery made public, he assured the informants of his sincere co-operation, but instead, he (Mr. Doyle) informed the Secretary of the New York Spiritualists Association by letter, of the contemplated exposure of Eva Thompson. However, despite his tipping them off, the investigation was made, resulting in their exposure, arrest, trial and conviction.

When he was faced with the damaging evidence of the tip-off letter, Mr. Doyle admitted writing the letter but failed to give an explanation of his conduct, merely saying, "My, my, my, how peculiar," and when shown the evidence of Eva Thompson's conviction he again said "My, my, my, how peculiar." I shall have to look into this; instead of which, Mr. Doyle immediately canceled all his lecturing engagements and hurriedly left the Country.

How Do These Fakers Operate?

Most of them operate in Spiritualist Churches, halls and homes. They call themselves spiritual healers, spiritual advisers, clairvoyants, mind readers, mental telepathists, mental thought projectionists, crystal gazers, psychics, and palmists.

They claim that through their spirit guides, they can produce spirit communication and production, which is generally done by spirit slate writing, spirit photography, spirit paintings, spirit messages, materialization and trumpet seances. The information that they convey to their dupes at these readings and seances, are furnished in advance by field workers who operate in conjunction with the fakers.

They advertise themselves in a very attractive fashion, particularly appealing to people who may have trouble or are in quest of information, such persons seeking consolation from these mediums, who although they claim many powers, in reality possess none of them. Following is an outline of some of their advertising.

MIND READING

This method I mention here, is used by some old timers, who know that many dupes are suspicious of the mediums where they have to write their questions, so this effect answers the purpose.

The medium has a lady assisant, and this assistant always receives the visitors in the waiting room. When a dupe arrives, this lady has a book in her hands, which she has apparently just been reading. There is no furniture in the room except some chairs. The lady seats the visitor; and tells her that the Madam is not quite ready to receive visitors, but she will be availabe in just a few minutes.

The assistant then says, "While you are waiting, just write down the questions you wish to ask," and she gives the dupe a sheet of paper and a pencil; and as there is no table on which to write, she also hands the dupe the book that is in her hand. The assistant places the sheet of paper on the back of the book and says, "Write the questions you desire answered on that sheet of paper and keep it. Madam prefers to have you write them down so you will not forget them. Sign your name to them and address them to some one in the spirit world that is dear to you.

The dupe does as requested, and the lady again tells

her to "just keep her questions." She now relieves the dupe of the book. She waits and converses for a while, and then says, "I will go and see if the Madam is ready." She retires to the other rooms, and incidentally takes her book with her. She quickly returns with a duplicate book in her hands which the dupe thinks is the original, and says, "Madam is nearly ready, and she will be out in a few moments."

She converses with the dupe until the medium comes in who proceeds to give the reading, which fully answers the questions.

Exposure

The first Book was a new one and had a paper cover on the backs. Under this cover, on each back, was a carbon sheet, with a sheet of white paper under it. When the assistant went to see if the medium was ready she left this book with the medium, returning quickly with the duplicate. The medium read the impression and committed all to memory before entering.

There are many other methods worked with this same effect, sometimes the fakers use Wax pads and clip boards that hold the paper.

Psychic and Spirit Medium

I TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT YOU WISH TO KNOW about friends, enemies, rivals, sweethearts or future wife or husband, as case may be, and everything else which you are interested in—without you speaking one word—keeping nothing hidden from you, and if I find I can help you to make your life brighter and happier I will inform you so at once.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED \$1.00

There never has been any genuine spirit communication or production. Every medium that ever stood the test, has been exposed. Thousands of them have from time to time been arrested, exposed, tried and convicted, but the penalties were so small that most of them continued operating.

We defy and challenge any spirit faker who claims to be genuine to stand the test.

What is Dangerous About the Spirit Fakers?

Spirit fakers working by trick and device under the guise of religion, break into the sacredness of the home life. Confidence between man and wife is disturbed and

destroyed by them and in the end their victims loose their money, friends, loved ones and their self respect.

Investigations have proven that the first thing the mediums do is disturb the harmony of the home, especially if the person is married. They also endeavor to influence them to invest in fake business transactions, which have no real merit and from which the mediums reap the benefit.

What was the Old Method Of Abolishing These Fakers?

Magicians, the persistent enemies of spirit fakers, have frequently exposed them.

Newspapers have published articles exposing their fraudulent methods of operating.

Cities have passed ordinances prohibiting them from operating. However, none of these methods has acted as a real deterrent. The first two methods mentioned only aroused the curiosity of the public, and in the latter case they merely returned to their nefarious practices under another guise.

What is the Real Way Of Preventing These Fakers From Working?

The real way of preventing these fakers from working is to follow the purpose of the NATIONAL PSYCHIC RESEARCH LEAGUE.

The purpose of this organization is to obtain, by all lawful means, evidence, and place the same for consideration and action before the proper Federal, State and Municipal authorities of the United States of America, against certain so-called persons, institutions and concerns, to-wit: Spiritualists Churches, Mind Readers, Mental Telepathists, Mental Thought Projectionists, Slate Writers, Crystal Gazers, Psychics, Palmists, Clairvoyants, Trumpet Seances, Materialization seances and kindred cults operated under the guise of religion by trick and device, or otherwise, to defraud the public to the end that they be put in communication with spirits, for advice and information, as well as seeing spirits and kindred pretenses.

This is a non-profitable organization, and is maintained by Free Will Subscriptions, which are spent in the furtherance and for the betterment of this necessary work, which consists of investigations, lecturing and literature

Spirit Paintings

The medium has you choose a clean canvas from among several which are in a pile, and he has you examine same, to convince you that it is a blank. He informs you that he will produce a picture of some dead relative, or friend on the canvas with the aid of the spirits, which he then proceeds to do.

Spirit paintings were perhaps first used by the Bangs Sisters, two celebrated mediums who operated on the South Side in Chicago, and who realized thousands of dollars from this experiment.

It has been used by numerous mediums and stage performers since that time, and has been improved from time to time, until today it is among the most marvelous pieces of apparatus of this type ever conceived of. The medium can supposedly produce the picture of any human being that has ever dwelt on this earth, any king, queen, potentate, famous personage, mother, brother, father, sister or sweetheart, whether living or dead.

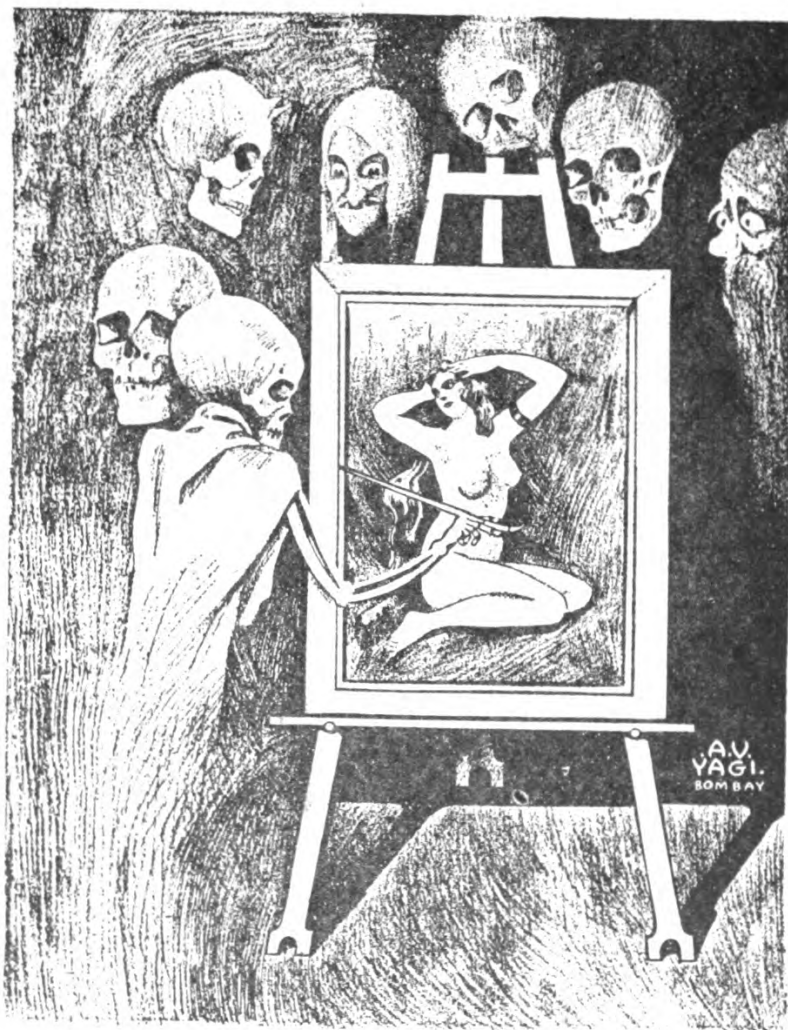
This has been a favorite trick with the craft and many have been fooled into believing the phenomena to be

authentic. It is said to be one of the most profitable lines in the business because it requires a clever medium to "put it over" successfully.

It is of course essential that the medium presenting the act be able to previously obtain photographs or likenesses of the subject he desires to produce.

The method used is to have a wooden frame about 24 by 18 inches, containing the blank canvas. The canvas is then exhibited front and back to the audience, and placed upon an easel. A light is immediately placed behind the frame in order to show the spectators that no one approaches from the rear. Thereupon the lights are lowered and a spirit picture materializes on the canvas.

The method of presenting this supposedly supernatural phenomena is to have a picture previously painted on the canvas (in reality unbleached muslin). Using sulphate of iron for blue, nitrate of bismuth for yellow, sulphate of copper for brown. Mix a strong solution of each, with warm water, and with a separate brush for each color, paint a portrait or landscape, which, when perfectly dry, will be invisible. Immediately before presenting this trick, dampen the muslin slightly to produce the picture. The action of the prussiate of potash on the other chemicals brings out the colors thus producing the picture.

*Spirit Painting*

When the canvas (picture) frames are placed on the table for examination, you have the ones that are fixed, covered with a shell, (a frame canvas like the others, only it fits over the ones fixed) and when stalling, or talking, the shell is dropped, and the fixed picture is then at hand.

Spirit Table That Talks

The medium will hold his services in a house where he operates principally in the front room, and having two other rooms adjoining. After the people are gathered, the medium opens the services with a prayer, followed by a hymn.

The rooms are dimly lighted, not dark, and the medium proceeds telling his audience that the spirits will communicate their message through the table to them.

So as to assure the audience that there is no trickery in his work, the medium expresses his willingness to have the table taken to any other room, or to have it taken apart and put together again, after being searched and examined, or that it may be lifted from the floor and held in the air, as the spirit will communicate just the same. People who wish messages call out to the supposed spirit, and then hold their ear to the table, when a faint ghostly voice answers them.

Exposure

If a coil of wire is run secretly around a room, either under the floor or in any other concealed position, and if a teleohpne transmitter be attached to it from some other building a telephone not connected by any wires whatever, but simply located anywhere within the coil, will repeat all words spoken into the transmitter. This is not wireless telephony, as many may suppose, but simply a case of induction. It is the same thing that frequently causes a wire to transmit words over another wire running parallel to it, if the latter has a ground return.

Here is the way one medium worked it. He ran a secret coil around each room and installed the receiver in the top board of the table, the center section of which was hollow. In fact, the top of the table appeared to be veneered, and quite thin. He poured melted paraffine in the hollow around the apparatus to hold it steady and make all parts sound alike, and concealed two or three transmitters behind ornaments in each room, enabling any words spoken in the room to be carried to a distant confederate. Electricians can easily work out the details for you.

Mental Thought Projection in Lighted Room

The medium tells his sitters that he will try and demonstrate the mental thought power, with which he is gifted, having come into this power through his spirit guide.

He advises his sitters to think of some dead friend's name, and also think of something that they desire to know. Now when the medium has done this, he says, "I will now write on the piece of paper which I have here, what you have on your minds." He shows them an envelope, and places the paper in it; he then takes another piece of paper, and says to the sitters, "I will now let you tell me what you had on your minds, and I will write what you say on this piece of paper." When this is done, he takes this piece of paper and hands it out to the people to read and hold. He then says, "To show you that my spirit guide was with me, I will now open the envelope that I had sealed, and will prove to you that I wrote exactly what you were thinking of." He proceeds to tear open the envelope, takes the paper from it and passes it out to the sitters, to show them that he is correct.

He then states that as his spirit guide was with him, he will be able to give his sitters the proper advice that they are seeking and tells them what they desire to know, to the best of his judgment, and to satisfy the sitters.

Exposure

This so-called spirit power is nothing but fakery of the worst kind, for the plans used are as follows:

The medium has a prepared envelope with a sheet of very sensitive black pencil carbon paper, with the impression side facing the back. This envelope is the top-most one of several which the medium holds in his hands. When he writes the supposed items on the slip of paper at the beginning of the experiment in reality he writes nothing, merely pretending to do so. After this he folds the paper in two and inserts same in the envelope, the sitters now being requested to call the subjects that was on his or her mind. Upon this being done, the medium writes it down on the paper, in order, as he says, to guard against any misunderstanding.

What really happens is that he receives the duplicate carbon impression on the inside of the folded paper within the envelope. After the medium calls aloud the items as given him by the spectators, all that remains to do is to rip open this envelope and produce the paper, which, now, of course, contains the duplicate of the chosen writings. As the paper is removed, the envelope is carelessly crushed in the hand and tossed aside.

He had the carbon sheet glued to the inside of the envelope, the carbon paper thus remaining in the envelope when he drew out the paper.

Producing Spirits in Vacant Room

The medium invites you to take him to a vacant room unknown to him (the medium). You may also have ten or twelve of your friends who are unknown to the medium. By doing so you know that he has no confederate there.

On the arrival of the medium he requests every one to take a chair and form a circle. He then has the people who sit on each side of him hold his hands and his feet. They may even tie him to the chair if they wish.

After this is done the medium suggests that the lights in the room be turned out, and he sings a hymn asking all to join in, (to obtain the proper spirit effect.) After the hymn, the medium and every one sits quietly for about fifteen minutes. Presently, a light spot will appear near the center of the circle, it gradually growing larger and larger until a complete spirit face is discernible. The spirit remains visible four or five minutes, and then gradually fades away.

In 1923 in Paris a medium dumfounded a large gathering of scientists and it was published in the papers in this country. The seance was nothing more than that explained above.

Exposure

Procure a dark blue toy balloon, about twelve inches in diameter. Then get a little black wooden fountain pen tube, about half an inch in diameter; glue the open end of the balloon to the inside of the tube, allow it to dry, and blow up the balloon to its full size, painting on one side of it a grinning skull and a face on the other. (Luminous paint can be obtained from any first-class magical dealer, it is visible in the dark and will dry very quickly if a little dryer is added to it). Whittle the tube slightly on the end farthest from the balloon, so you will be able to determine by touch which is the bottom and so the faces will be upright in the circle and not crosswise or upside down; then place the tube in your mouth and draw the balloon back into it, placing same in your upper coat (or vest) pocket, giving the appearance of a fountain pen.

The moment the lights are turned out bend your head over until your lips reach the tube and draw it out of your pocket. Then bend your head forward toward the center of the circle and gradually blow into the tube until the balloon is inflated, so those at your right will see the face, and those at your left will see the skull. After permitting the people to enjoy the chills for a few minutes, gradually allow the air to escape from the balloon, draw the balloon back into the tube, and with a little maneuvering of the head it is an easy matter to get groans and the effect is accomplished.

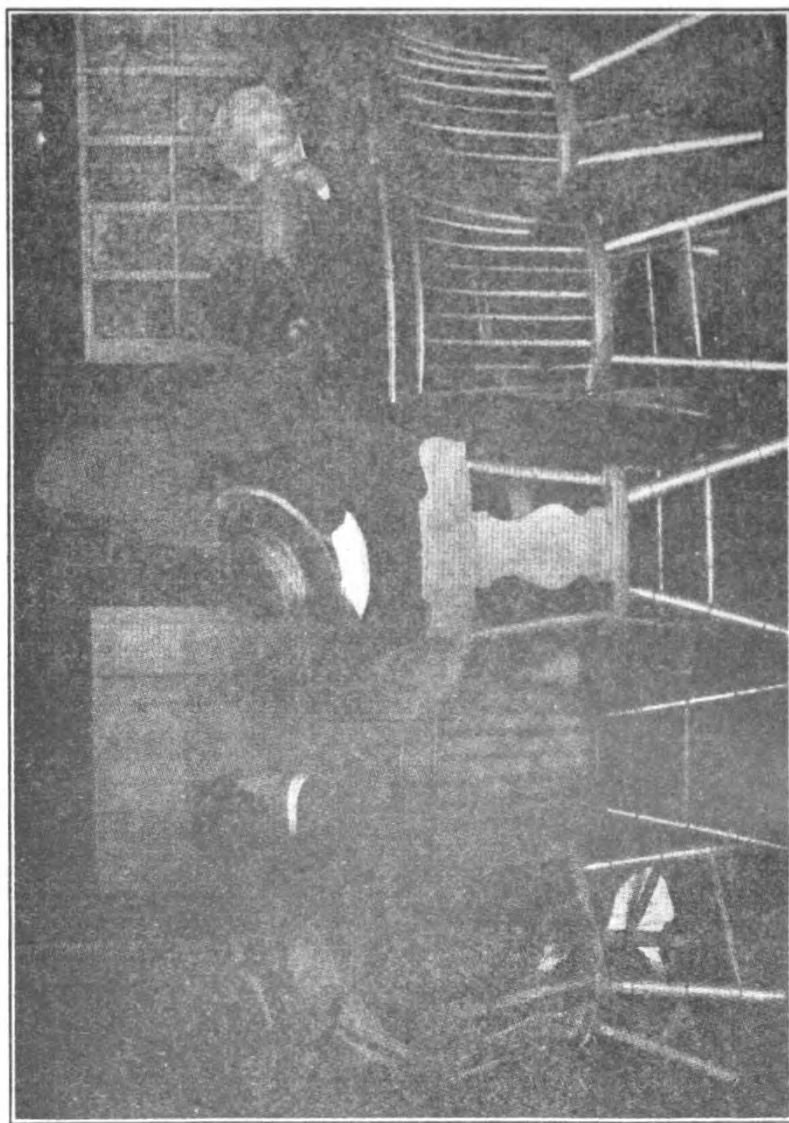
Both the people that have been holding you will tremble and perspire as if under a terrible strain. The leader of the party will generally say, "Turn on the lights, and turn them on quickly. We are a lot of fools. This man is possessed of a supernatural power," or words similar.

They will turn on the lights and the ones that were holding you will swear that they never let go of you, which, of course, is true, as they had not. Those at your left will swear that they saw a skull, while those at your right will swear that they saw the face of a beautiful woman, and the argument will be among themselves and attention diverted from you.

Materialization Seance

Materialization is where the spirit of a departed human being is supposed to again take on a material form and appear on earth.

These seances are always held in the dark. They can not be held any other way, as they are all fakes. When the medium gets the sitters ready for the work, the lights are turned out and he opens the services with a prayer and hymns, as it gives a religious effect, holds the atten-

*Materialization Scance*

tion of the people better, and insures their sitting quietly throughout the seance.

Some mediums use a cabinet and some use a wire cage, in which they are locked by the sitters; then as the lights are turned out the so-called spirits will appear from the cabinet or cage, the spirits occasionally talking directly to the sitters. There appear also, faces, hands and angels, which the sitters think are spirits. Sometimes these spirits talk to the sitters, they thinking it the spirit of some dead relative or friend.

Exposure

To get the effect of these seances, the medium uses silk gauze on which is painted pictures with luminous paint (luminous paint can be bought from any first class magical dealer). They also have cardboards on which are painted hands, faces and forms and it is with these that the medium produces several spirits. They occasionally remove their shoes placing gauze over them and in that way they are able to produce as high as four spirits at one time. Removing their shoes may account for the graveyard smell that some people claim they have sensed at a seance. They also use a reaching rod, which is a small tool a little longer than a pencil, containing smaller tubes on the inside which work in the same manner as a telescope. These are usually three or four feet long

when extended. On the smaller end of the rod is a small clasp, similar to a tieclasp, to which this gauze is fastened and floated around the room. Frequently these reaching rods are hollow, permitting the medium to talk through them and give the impression the voice is that of a spirit. They usually talk in a whisper keeping their lips apart, as that changes their voice. The silk gauze is so fine that yards of it can be placed in a vest pocket without being noticed, and the cardboards are invariably slipped under the medium's vest while the reaching rod can be secreted in his coat pocket.

Following is a method that has been worked by women mediums, who allowed their sitters to bring their own clothes for the medium to wear, the medium stripping and donning them to prove the entire absence of trickery in their work.

The ladies are invited into the cabinet to disrobe the woman medium and dress her in their own clothing. Now, for "modesty's sake" the medium retains a black underskirt on her person until she is dressed in the committee's clothing, when she reaches under her skirts, loosens the black underskirt and removes it. She then lifts the other skirt as high as possible, showing the committee the bare skin and that she wears no other clothes. Then the medium is ready to perform her work.

Now, the medium actually wore a hollow belt next her skin, which contained the gauze and the reaching rod, the top of the black skirt covering it so that the committee did not see it.

The way to catch these fakes is to grab the so-called spirits if the medium will let you get close enough. But the mediums either hold your hands when you go near the "spirits" or they in some manner block the way so one cannot very well do so.

In 1923 the Spirit Medium named Eva Thompson of the First Spiritualist Church of New York City, was exposed, arrested, tried and convicted, with her husband, for working this same materialization seance. Eva Thompson was the medium upon whom Sir Arthur Conan Doyle banked his reputation as being the most authentic medium in the world. Conan Doyle was warned this medium was a fake, but in spite of same he attended her seance and made a pitiful spectacle of himself kissing the supposed hand of his dead mother. It was her exposure and arrest that precipitated Conan Doyle's departure from the United States.

Mental Telepathy Second Sight Reading

Mental telepathy and second sight reading are very mysterious. The dupe will fall for the fake mediums work, because the medium apparently is able to tell you what you wish to know. The work which I mention here is work I have known fake mind readers to use in swindling the dupes.

This work is also used by magicians for the pure purpose of entertaining but they make it known that it is for that purpose only.

The following code is the same that has been worked by fake mediums in their parlors and week-day spirit meetings. They have one of the brothers of the meeting go in the audience and get the questions while the medium sat on the platform, in a "supposed" trance, communicating with the spirits.

The act requires two or three people, the lady in the act generally being the medium, and the one who remains on the platform, blindfolded if you desire, that being unimportant. In this work the medium uses a code of speech, which is based entirely on figures.

Exposure

The figures are 1 to 0: The letter I stand for (1); the word GO for (2); CAN for (3); SEE for (4); AND for (5); PLEASE for (6); WILL for (7); NOW for (8); GIVE for (9); TRY for (0); NEXT means repeat the last figure.

Questions in the audience ordinarily are on the subjects of love, travels, marriage, business or sickness, and the following 99 questions will practically cover any question that ordinarily is asked by the audience. These questions and the numbers corresponding to the questions must be memorized by all who work the act. A few days effort and even a child can memorize them.

Numbers and questions to be memorized:

1. Will I get my money soon?
2. Will I ever be rich?
3. Should I sign the papers?
4. Where will I meet my future husband?
5. Where will I meet my future wife?
6. Will I get a letter soon?
7. What business will I succeed in?
8. Will an operation be necessary?
9. What caused the bad feeling between us?
10. What kind of weather will it be?
11. Will I get a present?
12. When shall I marry?
13. Will I soon be promoted?
14. What are my worst faults?
15. Will I be sorry for what I have done?
16. Will the promise be made good?
17. Can I trust my friend?
18. Will a certain party ever walk again?
19. Will I have a quarrel with a certain party?

20. Will I lose my position?
21. Who wrote the insulting letter?
22. Is my sweetheart true to me?
23. Will I soon get news?
24. Will a certain party soon be free?
25. Will I become an artist?
26. Will I ever be successful on the stage?
27. Where will I find my lost article?
28. Will we ever make up?
29. Can I trust my husband?
30. Will I be successful in motion pictures?
31. Will I succeed in dressmaking?
32. Will I make a good tailor?
33. Shall I go into the picture business?
34. Will I get my patent?
35. Am I mediumistic ?
36. What caused the fire?
37. Will I soon hear of a wedding?
38. Will I get my insurance?
39. Who did the shooting?
40. Who committed the murder?
41. Will I be disinherited?
42. Can I trust my Lawyer?
43. Who poisoned my dog?
44. Will I get my divorce?
45. Will I be lucky in lottery?
46. Will I be cured?
47. Will my troubles soon be over?
48. Shall I go away soon?

49. Why was our engagement broken?
50. Will I get the money that is owed me?
51. Will my friend assist me?
52. Will I succeed in speculating?
53. Can I trust my servant?
54. Will I ever be a widow?
55. Shall I marry the light or the dark one?
56. How soon will my luck change?
57. Does he ever see her any more?
58. Shall I accept the offer?
59. Shall I sell the farm?
60. How many children will I have?
61. Shall I renew my lease?
62. Shall I get my wish?
63. Will I get the office that I am seeking?
64. Can I be an aviator ?
65. Is my sweetheart true to me?
66. What profession shall I follow?
67. Will my husband stop drinking?
68. Is he living or dead?
69. Shall I always have to work for a living?
70. Would I make a good masseur?
71. Who will win the game?
72. Will he be elected?
73. How long will I live?
74. Will a certain party lose their mind?
75. Where shall I go from here?
76. Will I succeed in my examination?
77. Will I get my license?

78. Will it be a boy or a girl?
79. Shall I buy or sell?
80. Am I taking the right medicine?
81. If I make the change will I prosper?
82. Shall I join the army or navy?
83. Will I succeed if I leave the U. S. A.?
84. Is my life in danger?
85. Will my health be better soon?
86. Will they ever regain their mind?
87. Shall I sell my property?
88. What shall I invest my money in?
89. Shall I join the church?
90. Are they happy?
91. Who is my rival?
92. Shall I take a journey soon?
93. Will the operation be a success?
94. Will I succeed in music?
95. Can we trust the nurse?
96. Is my judgment correct?
97. Will I ever see my son again?
98. Will I get my reward?
99. Can we trust our help?

Now, when you and your assistant have these memorized, you can walk through the audience and let anyone whisper a question in your ear and the manner in which you ask your assistant to answer the question tells her the question. For instance the party asks, "How many children will I have?" You say to your assistant:

"PLEASE you TRY to answer this lady's question." Your assistant will say: "Madam, I see you will be a mother of a large family of six children" (or whatever answer the assistant see's fit to give). The words PLEASE and TRY in speaking to your assistant were the cue words, PLEASE stands for 6, and TRY stands for 0, and the question, "How many children will I have?" is number 60 in your list.

For illustration: A party asks you to have the medium tell you if they should marry the light or the dark one. You say to the medium, "AND I want you to answer this question NEXT," AND means 5, and NEXT means repeat the last number, consequently you have told the medium 55, which is, "Shall I marry the light or the dark one?" in your list.

Parlor Clairvoyance

The word clairvoyance means seeing, or an insight into the spirit world. The mediums practicing this claim that through their wonderful power, or second sight they are able to see and describe disembodied spirits; to receive messages by signs and symbols; to see transpiring events, and also that it is possible for them to look behind the curtain that hides the ones past or break the veil that obscures your future.

These mediums generally work in parlors and they advertise that they can call you by name, tell past, present and future, generally charging from 50 cents to \$3.00 a reading, (or donation) as they call it.

Exposure

This is what often happens when a woman calls on one of these mediums. On entering the parlor the medium "Sizes up" the woman, and requests her to be seated, in a chair across the table from the medium. The latter has the woman write on a piece of paper, her name and what it is she wishes to know. The medium instructs the woman to fold the paper (after writing on it) in such a way that she (the medium) cannot see what is written and then she requests the woman to hold it over a small lighted lamp, placed upon the table, so the paper will catch fire and burn. After the paper is burned the medium goes into a supposed trance for a few minutes and while in this trance she will call the woman by name, tell what she wrote on the paper, and also answer the question that was written; but she does this in a round-about way. After this is done, the medium then gives the woman advice to the best of her ability. The medium also will tell the woman that she should call again in a few days, saying she may be able to get some further advice for her.



Parlor Clairvoyance

Now the victim of this medium will go home thinking that the medium is possessed of spirit power. The truth is that the medium actually read the message. When the medium requested the woman to place the note over the lamp, she held the note in her fingers, presumably to show the woman how to burn it, and it was then that the medium substituted for the paper on which the woman had written, a piece of paper that she had palmed in her hand and which resembled the one that was written on. After this was done the medium went into a supposed trance, presumably closing her eyes, but actually peering through her half opened lids and reading the woman's message, which she held under the table top. After reading it, the medium slipped the note into a pocket of the table cloth, which hung down on her side of the table.

Dark Trumpet Seance

The fake medium generally holds trumpet seances in a large room where 20 or more people gather. He then tells his audience that the purpose of this seance is to try and bridge the great chasm that separates them from their beloved ones that have gone before (meaning dead). Some mediums use another line of talk to get this same effect.

The medium then suggests that they form a large



Parlor Clairvoyance

circle (and that two members of the audience hold his hands and feet, so as to insure his not moving. Some mediums suggest that they be tied.) The medium then tells the people to take cards (which lie on a table) and to write their names on them, as well as write the name of some beloved relative or friend that has passed into spirit life. If anyone has some business matter that is troubling them at the time, they should also write it down. After this the medium requests the people to place the cards on the table, with the writing faced down. Calling their attention to the fact that he is firmly held (or tied), making it impossible for him to touch any of the cards, he then has one of the people, turn out the lights, saying: "If the people are all sincere, we will be able to produce the greatest of all phenomena, spirit voices, receive messages, and advice from our beloved friends."

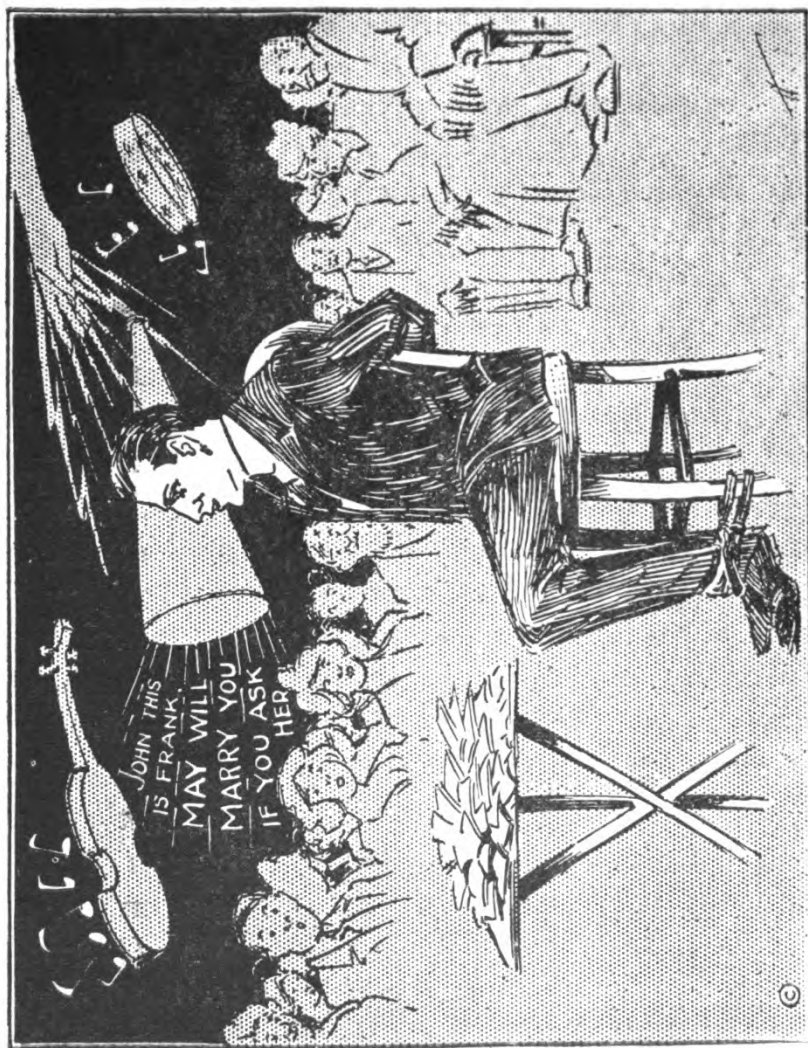
The medium in opening these seances generally says a prayer, in the darkness, followed by the singing of a hymn before going on with the fake seance, as it creates religious atmosphere.

Exposure

The trumpet and apparatus for this seance (as sold by some magical dealers) consist of a tin trumpet 24 inches in length, with a turned wooden mouth-piece in the smaller end. This is given for examination, but the

medium has concealed under his vest, a block of wood that just fits the large end of the trumpet. On the inside of this block of wood are eight nails protruding about one-sixteenth of an inch, which holds a card $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and also a little shielded electric light globe that is operated by the pressure of a button on the bottom side, as the entire wooden block conceals a small flashlight battery.

The room is now in darkness, the medium (releases his hands,) reaches for the trumpet (which was also on the table), and removes a concealed end of the trumpet that he had under his vest. He then reaches for one of the cards, turns it, writing side up, upon this block of wood between the nails, places the trumpet over the same, and with his eye close up against the supposed mouth piece; he presses a little button on the bottom of the wooden fake, which turns on the light in the horn, and he is then able to clearly see the card, although the rest of the room is in darkness. The medium then goes on reading one question after another, through the little fake that he places on the bottom of the trumpet, and each time he places the cards on the table, (being, of course, sure to turn the writing side down). He gives every one a message, and more than likely informs them that if they develop, it should be a matter of time until they are able to communicate with the spirits without having to attend a seance.

*Dark Trumpet Seance*



Buddah With Crystal Ball

He usually sells a trumpet to the majority of people attending the seance, claiming to have magnetized the trumpet and receives sums varying from five to one hundred dollars for them which in reality were made for him at a tin shop at a cost of about thirty cents.

This test converted hundreds to a belief in spiritualism.

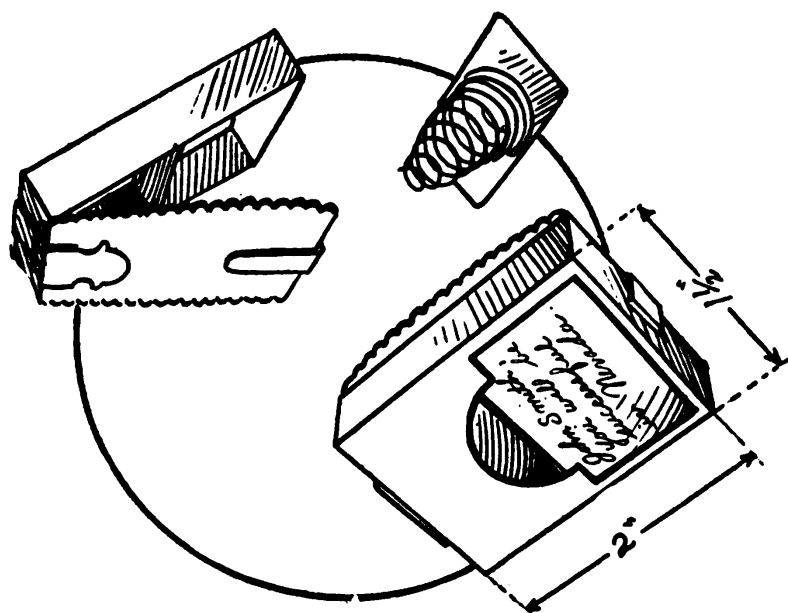
Crystal Gazing

Crystal gazing is of very ancient origin. It was first traced to the Egyptians, who used it in the practices of divination, and has been in existence ever since. The work which we mention here has been used by fake mediums for swindling purposes for years.

This work is also used by magicians purely for the purpose of entertaining, they always making it known that it is for that purpose only.

Faro Box Fakes

This is used by fakes in a meeting to get messages from the dead or living. After the people are requested to write their questions on the cards, the same are picked up by the assistant, who uses the black bag, and makes a switch on the platform. While the medium is giving the audience a little spiritual buncum, the assistant is



Faro Box Fake

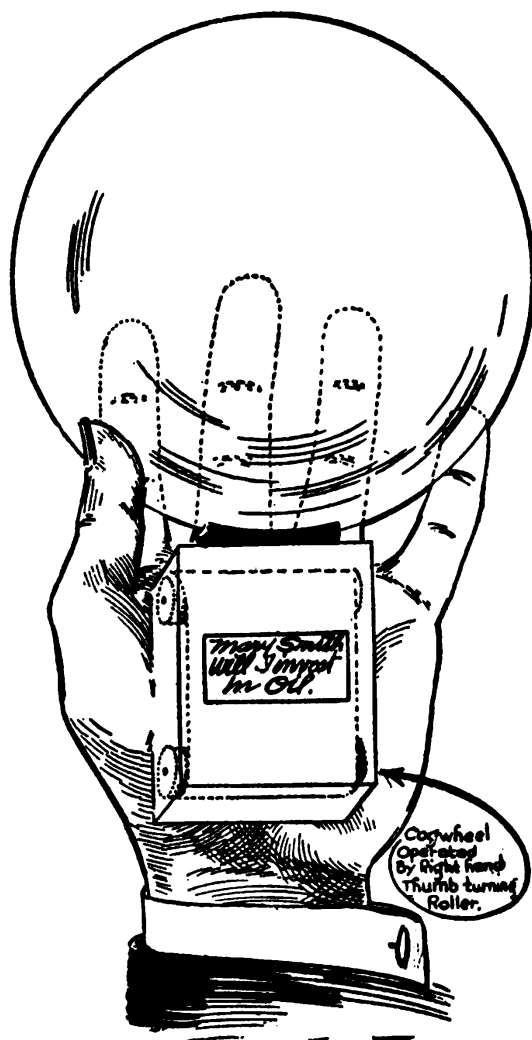
copying the questions onto other cards, which he places in the faro box to have ready for the medium.

The faro box is a small metal box two by one and one-half inches with a tickness of one inch. The box contains two compartments. The cards are placed in the front compartment, (which has an opening above it so that the top card on the pile may be read.) The medium conceals the faro box in the palm of his hand. Each time he reads a card and answers the question, he pretends to clean the crystal with the silk handkerchief, and while so doing pushes the card just read into the back compartment, so that the next one is visible. A spring in the front compartment keeps the pile of cards pushed up to the top of the box.

Fifty or more questions can be answered by htis method.

Blackboard Method

The audience is requested by the medium to write questions on paper, or cards. They are then gathered up by an assistant, who makes a black bag switch, leaving phoney questions, instead of the real ones on the table, placed on the platform. The real questions are taken back of the wings of the platform, where the assistant writes the contents or questions on two large black-



Hand Fake

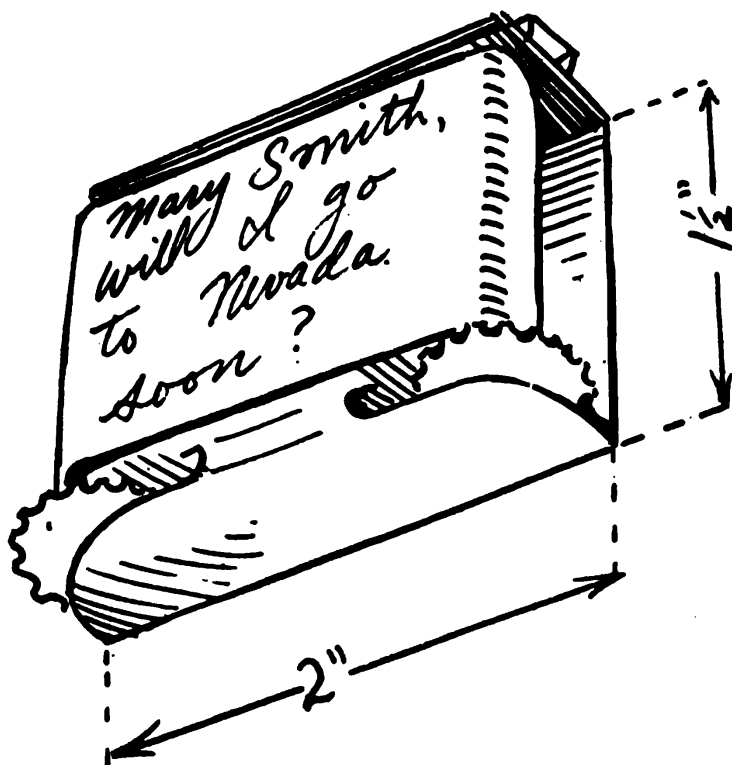
boards, one being on the right and the other on the left side of the platform, but out of the audience's range of vision.

When the medium has finished his talk to the audience he announces that he will try and get in communication with his spirit guide. He picks up a crystal ball that was lying on the table, walks from one side to the other of the platform, (supposedly gazing at the crystal, but in reality glancing at the different questions on the black-boards) and then calls out the name of a person who wrote a question, answering it any way he deems advisable.

Hand Fake Method

By careful observation you will notice that there is a little shield made of metal on top of this hand box; this is oval-shaped and attached to the box proper, and upon this the crystal rests, balanced with the thumb and little finger.

After the questions are written they are gathered up, and switched as mentioned above. They are then copied on a slip of paper. The hand fake is taken to the platform table, under a handkerchief, and when the medium picks up the crystal ball he also picks up the handkerchief, being careful not to expose the fake. The



people are under the impression that the handkerchief is to keep the crystal clean, but it is really used to hide the fake.

A slight movement of the right hand thumb turns the cog at the lower right hand of the box, advancing the strip of paper ribbon on the rollers so that a new question can be brought into view instantly.

Metal Ball Fake

The same effect, as mentioned above is given by the medium and his assistant, only a metal crystal ball is used.

This ball has two slits in it. When the assistant has the questions back of the platform, he copies them on a slip of ribbon paper and tucks one end of the paper into the ball (hollow part) until he has all the questions in same. Then when the medium gets the ball, all he does is to keep sliding the ribbon paper out of one slit into the other with his thumb and read the questions as they go by.

Crystal Stand Fake

The above effect is also used in this method. When the assistant is in back of the stage he copies the ques-

tions on a hand fake (as mentioned above). This fake is in a hollow compartment at the top of the stand, and is covered by a false slide, which is pushed back by the medium, when he commences. The stand is used to hold the crystal ball, and stands about four or five feet in height. When the medium is supposedly gazing into the ball he is really looking at the questions on the paper roller. He turns the roller the same as mentioned above, to get to his next question. After reading them the medium answers the way he sees fit.

Spirit Slates

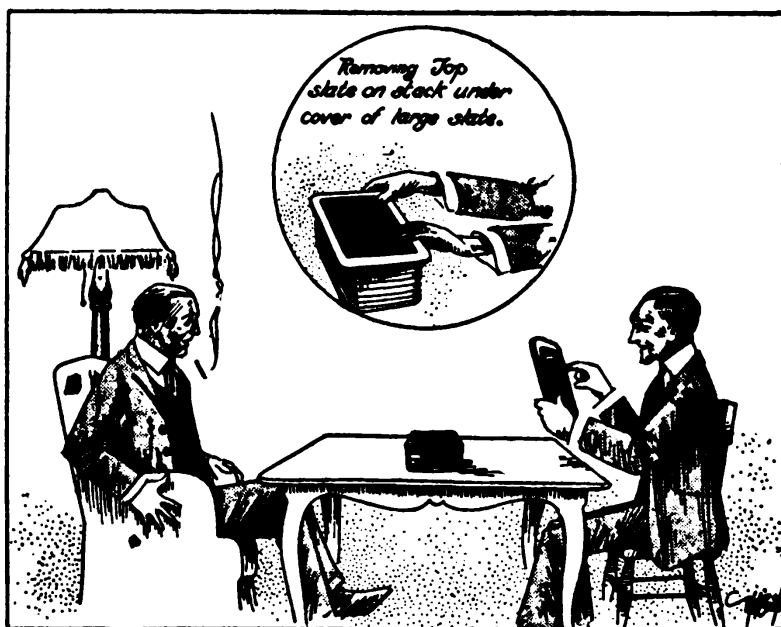
You clean the slates thoroughly, and spirit messages and other effects will appear while you are holding them.

Spirit slates have converted a lot of people into a belief in spiritualism, as the methods used are so mystifying. You can bring your own slates.

Following are the up-to-date slate methods used by the fake mediums who call themselves spiritualists.

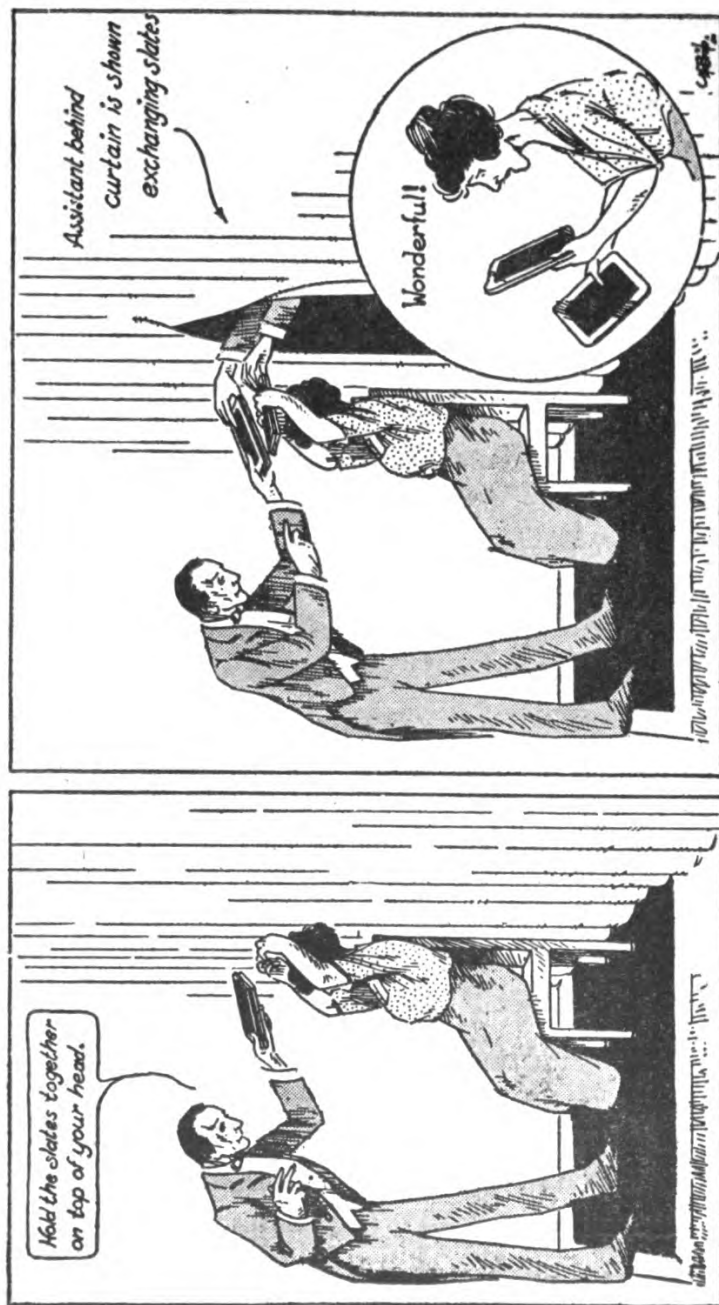
Nine Slate Method

A woman visits the medium, and upon being ushered into his inner office sees only two chairs and a bare table

*Nine Slate Method*

upon which are 7x7 inch slates and one large 12x9 inch slate. The woman is requested to take a seat on the opposite side of the table from the medium. She is handed one of the small slates and told to write at the top of it her name and also some of the questions that she wishes answered and is then requested to place the slate, with the writing face downward, on the top of the stack of slates. The medium places the large slate upon the top of the stack and requests the woman to write upon it the initials of some one in the spirit world. Whereupon the medium lifts the top slate from the pile (large slate, holding the initials toward the woman) and requests her to gaze intently at the initials for two or three seconds, and places same back upon the stack of slates. The medium then grasps the hands of the woman and calls her by name and answers in a round-about way, all of her questions.

The explanation of the above is very simple. The medium gives the woman a small slate to write on, and then places it back upon the other slates, and after the initials are written on the large slate it is also placed upon the stack. When the medium takes the large slate and holds it with the initials facing the woman, he also picks up the small slate that the woman wrote upon, but as it is small it is concealed behind the large slate, and enables him to read what the woman wrote, therefore he answers her questions in the way he sees fit.

*Double Slate Switch*

Double Slate Switch

After the ordinary dupes have consulted the mediums for a few times, they, as a rule, have implicit confidence in them and do not look for trickery of any kind. This enables the mediums to work freely, as they know who their dupes are, and what it is they are seeking to learn.

The following effect requires a double room, portieres and an assistant.

A woman calls on the medium, and is seated in the parlor. The medium gives her two slates to examine, also to wash if she desires. He then tells her to hold them on her head (both together); he also tells her to call out to her spirit a question that she wishes to know, and then be in silence for a few moments. After this is done the medium tells the woman to lower the slates, separate them and see if the spirit sent her a message. She does this and is astonished to see that her spirit has answered her message in writing.

This effect is very simple. The medium tells the woman to hold the slates flat upon her head, and call out to the spirit and ask a question. The hidden assistant, hearing what the woman wishes to know, writes down the answer on two slates that he has with him behind the portieres. Then he holds them together, the same as she has hers. When the medium says, "Lower your

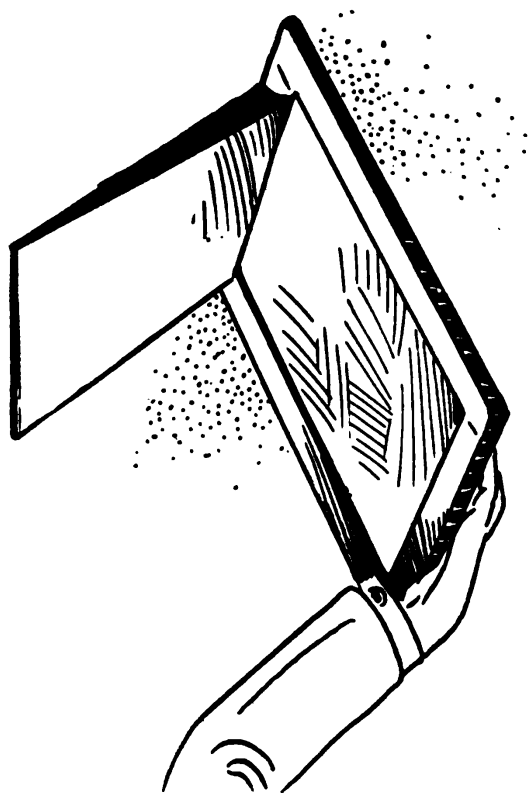


slates now," he (the medium) reaches for the woman's slates, so as to make the woman think that he is assisting her, but while he is doing this, the assistant pushes the slates out from the portieres behind the woman, directly above her slates, so when the woman releases her slates, the assistant takes them, and the medium in turn takes the assistants and hands them to the woman. She opens them and to her surprise there is a message in writing. The woman would swear that the medium never touched the slates at any time, never paying attention to the time that he handed them down to her.

Some mediums tell their dupes to bring their own slates, which they often do, but as there are only four or five kinds of slates in the city, the medium has a few of each of them, and when he sees a dupe bringing her own slates, he gives the hidden assistant the cue which ones to use. This is done by code words in the medium's speech.

Three Slate Method

The dupe enters the parlor of the medium. There are three common school slates lying upon the table. The medium tells the dupe to write her name and a question upon one of the slates, and when she has finished, to place same, writing down, upon the table. The medium then places the dupe's slate upon one of the other slates, and the third slate upon the dupe's slate.

*Flap Slate*

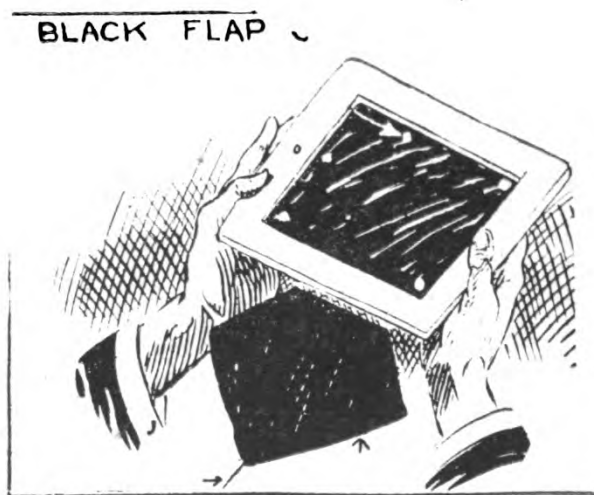
Now that the dupe's slate is in the center of the other two, the medium stands them upon edge, and requests the sitter to hold them tight with her hands and to think of the question that she wishes to know. Then the medium calls the dupe by name and answers the question in a roundabout way, and the dupe will swear that the medium never saw what she had written on the slate, as she was very careful not to let him see it.

The slate nearest the medium is what is known as a flap slate. The slate part is on a hinge, and moves on a secret catch. When the medium has the dupe think of a question, he (the medium) releases the catch and the flap slate drops half way towards the medium, enabling him to see through to the dupe's writing. After seeing it, the medium replaces it with his thumb.

Spirit Writing on One Slate

The mediums use an ordinary slate, quite clean, wrapping same together with a piece of chalk in a sheet of newspaper. The spirits are invoked to write a message upon it, and when the newspaper is undone the slate is found to be covered with the spirit writings.

This trick is rendered very effective if a greeting that particularly appeals to the dupe is written on the slate. For example if the dupe is seeking advice from a deceased friend or relative, the slate message should read,

*Spirit Writing on One Slate*

"I am happy and watching over you day and night."

Exposure

Take an ordinary school slate, and cut a thin piece of cardboard so that it fits easily, but neatly, inside the frame, and covers the slate.

Over one side of the cardboard paste a sheet of paper closely resembling the color of the slate, and on the other side of the cardboard paste a piece of newspaper closely resembling the newspaper the slate will be wrapped in.

Before giving the reading write a message on the slate, covering the writing with the cardboard, (black side uppermost) then, showing the slate to the dupe, apparently clean, profess to invoke the spirits to write upon it.

Procure a newspaper and wrap the slate in it (in full view of the dupe), saying also that you will enclose a piece of chalk for the spirits to write with. Later, undo the newspaper, and the cardboard being underneath will fall on the newspaper and be effectively disposed of. Then show the slate covered with the writing.

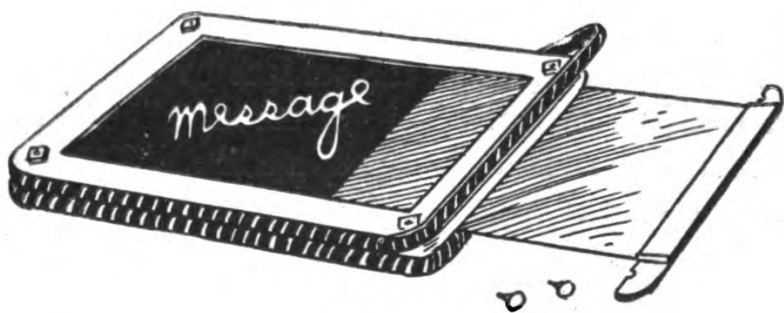
One Slate Switch Method

The dupe sits opposite the medium with a plain kitchen

table between them. The drawer of this table, on the medium's side, is out, which provides a receptacle in which reposes a slate, containing a message addressed to no one in particular but generally applicable to any one furnishing a name of a spirit and their own signature.

The medium now requires the "sitter" to write ballots addressed to different spirit friends, and instructs him to fold them into small compass, while the medium watches and folds another ballot in his lap. The sitter cannot see this for the edge of the table on the opposite side cuts off his view of the medium's hands. The medium hides this blank ballot between his second and third fingers while he stirs the ballots to get the "magnitism." Dropping his blank, he picks up a written one, which does not disturb the original number of ballots written, and carries it back into his lap, where he opens it and reads the names upon it at a glance. Meanwhile, he gets the written slate out of the receptacle and holds it with his knee against the under side of the table, and then with soft pencil quickly inscribes the names in their proper places at the beginning and ending of the message.

The trick is now done, for all the remaining part of the seance is to pick up a blank slate from the table, emphasize the fact that it is clean, take it over the top and, unperceived, shove it in the receptacle, take out the one held by the knee and which is received by the hand of the sitter, who reaches under the table, scratches upon



A Trick Slate

it with the finger nail, and when the sitter draws it out on the other side he is certain that the medium could not have written the message with one finger "upward and backward," so he is left with no other conclusion than that it "must have been spirits."

The Chemical Method for Slate Writing

This method is not in vogue among the mediums, for the reason that it destroys the surface of the slate for a second communication. The nitrate of silver pencil or lunar caustic writes lines upon a slate. This writing will disappear the moment the moisture of the breath strikes it (as we breath upon eye-glasses), but when the slate is washed or rubbed over with a rag or sponge wet with salt water, the writing will reappear. The slates are held under the table until dry, then from apparently clear slates these writings appear. They are "convincing" evidence of supernormal intelligence, producing writing from nothing, under strictly "test conditions."

If you confront a medium with a pair of slates and demand conditions in perfect accord with the principles of scientific research in other directions, you will either find him out of "force" or he will show you the door for presuming to challenge his powers at an inopportune moment.



Fake Finger

Spirit Message on Mirror

The medium hands the dupe a mirror and requests her to breathe on it, and a spirit message will appear. The mirror can be polished again by the medium, and the experiment can be repeated.

The medium has advance knowledge of the dupe's call, therefore he has a message fixed on the mirror, that will satisfy her.

Exposure

Sharpen a piece of French Chalk to a point, and with it write on an ordinary looking-glass. Polish lightly with a silk handkerchief, and the writing will disappear.

Spirit Writing on Business Card in Light

The medium requests the dupe to hand him a business card, (or blank card). On doing so, the medium holds the card between the thumb and second finger, and requests the dupe to name some dear friend or relative who is in the spirit world. The medium then waves the card in the air, slowly, and hands it back to the dupe, and on it is found the name of the deceased person

The dupe is assured that it is the writing of the spirit.

Exposure

The medium has on a fake finger (same can be bought at any first class magical dealer), with a piece of pencil lead attached to the tip. With a little practice the name that has been asked for can be easily written while the card is being held in the manner described.

Spirits Play Tambourine, Ring Bells, Break Dishes, and Write Messages in the Light

The medium places a Tambourine, Dinner Bell, Dishes and a school slate on a table, which is on the platform. He announces that if the people will sit quietly, and be sincere that he may be able to get the spirits to play the tambourine, ring the bell, break the dishes and leave a spirit message on the slate.

After the people are sitting quietly, the medium picks up a piece of black velvet cloth, about two feet square. He holds two ends of it, with his hands high in the air, and lets it down till the lower end comes even with the outside of the table (or the side nearest the people). After holding it there for about two minutes, the tambourine starts to play, and the dishes fly into the air and fall to the floor breaking, and then the medium puts down the velvet cloth, and requests the people to pick up the slate and when they do, they find spirit writing upon it.

Exposure

When the medium picked up the velvet cloth, he also picked up a false hand, which has a clasp to it, he did this unknown to the people. He then placed the hand on the right hand side, and attached it to the rod that ran inside the velvet, at the top, making it resemble his hand, he then took the free hand and played the tambourine, threw out the dishes and wrote a message on the slate, and when he called to the people to look at the spirit writing he slipped the false hand into his pocket. (These hands can be had at magical dealers).

Spirit Table Tipping in Light

The medium has the sitters gather around a table, and place their hands upon it, he tells them that if they are sincere the spirits will raise the table.

Exposure

In doing this work, the medium generally uses two accomplices, one on either side of the center of the table to do the lifting as it diverts attention from himself. The accomplices have what appears to be a watch chain attached to both vest pockets to which a hook is fastened, the hook having the appearance of a watch charm. The



Spirit Table Tipping

hooks catch the table top, and the accomplices, by moving their bodies raise and lower the table.

Spirit Table Raps in Light

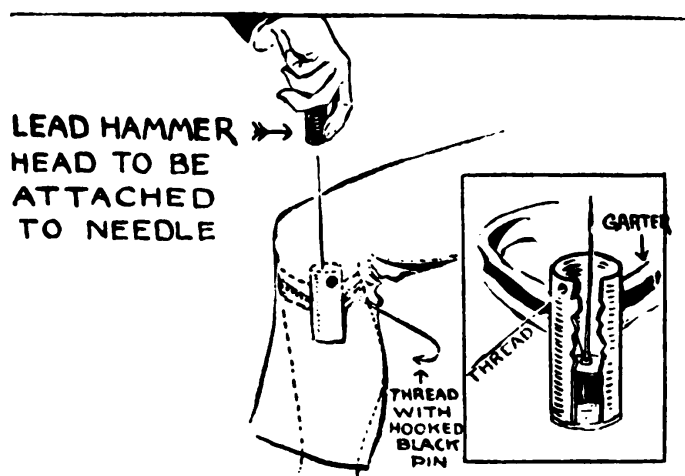
The medium has his dupes sit around a large table, and requests them to hold hands, placing their feet upon those of the person sitting next to them so as to be certain that no one moves. After sitting quietly for about five minutes strange raps are distinctly heard emanating from the table.

Exposure

Attached to the medium's garter is a tube in which a needle slides. To the bottom of this needle a thread is secured terminating at a hook fastened to the other trouser leg. To the top part of the needle is fastened a round piece of lead which acts as a hammer. Spreading the legs raises the lead hammer causing the rap.

The Bag Test

The medium is covered from head to foot with a large cloth bag. The mouth of the bag is closed by a



Spirit Table Raps

gathering string. The medium has access to this string through an opening in the hem on the inside of the bag. When the bag is drawn up over his head, he draws down a long loop of this string, while the committee pulls out the slack (except the loop), which closes the bag. The string is now tied and sealed by the committee, but when the lights are out, the medium releases the string loop, which permits the bag to open in spite of all the knots and seals, and he is free to perform with both hands. Concluding, he gets the bag over his head, pulls down the loop, and the committee is satisfied.

The Flour Test

During a dark seance under the guarantee of the flour test, the medium sits with both hands filled with flour, which reasons convincingly that were his hands upon the instruments the presence of flour would betray his infidelity as a "psychic organism." But the seer simply empties the right hand flour into a pocket, cleans his hand upon a cloth, furnishes "occult" energy, and in conclusion opens another package of flour, and is found, when the lights are up, holding flour in both hands; to the believers, an innocent object of inhuman skepticism and doubt.

The Foot and Paper Test

The Foot and Paper Test of "psychic organism" consisted in placing each foot upon a sheet of white paper, then drawing outlines around them with a lead pencil. This accounted for the medium's whereabouts while manifestations were occurring at distant parts of the room, and convinced the circle that if the medium left his chair, these lines could not be regained, if lost. But this test would prove to be no impediment to the ambitious "psychic" for in this case he silently walked around the room, operated with both hands, returned to his seat, reversed the sheets of paper and drew two outlines, doubtless adding many to the faith by the "infallible test" which proved to the circle that he had never stirred from his seat.

Eusapia Palladino Seance

The entire proceedings of the Munsterberg expose of one of the greatest mediums is contained in the article "My Friends, the Spiritualists" by Hugo Munsterberg. It appeared in the *Metropolitan Magazine* for February, 1910, and from it we shall quote several paragraphs:

"We must keep in mind that we have to do with a woman who has specialized in these very performances for thirty years. Always the same silly, freakish, senseless pranks repeated on thousands of nights before small groups of more or less superstitious people under conditions entirely different from ordinary life, with poor

illumination and with complete freedom to do just what she pleases. Is it surprising that a certain virtuosity is secured which understands how to adjust the performance in every moment to the special people and their special mood to be prepared for every new emergency.

“One week before Christmas, at the midnight hour, I sat again at Madame Palladino’s favorite left side and a well known scientist on her right. We had her under strict supervision. Her left hand grasped my hand, her right hand was held by her right neighbor, her left foot rested on my foot while her right was pressing the foot of her other neighbor. For an hour the regulation performance had gone on. But now we sat in the darkened room in the highest expectancy while Mr. Carrington begged John to touch my arm and then to lift the table in the cabinet behind her, and John really came. He touched me distinctly on my hip and then on my arm, and at last he pulled my sleeve at the elbow. I plainly felt the thumb and the fingers. It was most uncanny. And finally, John was to lift the table in the cabinet. We held both her hands, we felt both her feet, and yet the table three feet behind her began to scratch the floor and we expected it to be lifted. But instead, there suddenly came a wild, yelling scream. It was such a scream as I have never heard before in my life, not even in Sarah Bernhardt’s most thrilling scenes. It was a scream as if a dagger had stabbed Eusapia right through the heart.

“What had happened? Neither she nor Mr. Carrington

ton had the slightest idea that a man was lying flat on the floor and had succeeded in slipping noiselessly, like a snail, below the curtain into the cabinet. I had told him that I expected wires stretched out from her body and he looked for them. What a surprise when he saw that she had simply freed her foot from her shoe and with an athletic backward movement of the leg was reaching out and fishing with her toes for the guitar and the table in the cabinet! And then, lying on the floor, he grasped her foot and caught her heel with a firm hand, and she responded with that wild scream, which indicated that she knew that at last she was trapped and her glory shattered. Her achievement was splendid. She had lifted her unshod foot to the height of my arm when she touched me under cover of the curtain, and without changing in the least the position of her body, her foot played thumb and fingers.

"After the scream, at least let us not repeat the ridiculous excuse that she sometimes uses tricks when by chance genuine phenomena do not arise, but that she can perform the same acts at other times by mere spiritual powers. No, we had here the perfectly typical performance. Everything occurred in exactly the same style as in previous seances, and the conditions of supervision were the best which she allows at all. To put your foot on hers is never allowed, as the poor woman has a nervous "weakness" in her instep. Thus the only allowed supervision of her feet is in being sure all the time that

her foot is on yours. I did indeed feel her shoe all the time. When the scream occurred and her foot was caught, I distinctly felt that her shoe pressed my foot. A hook on the right shoe probably pressed down the empty left shoe. If her foot had not been caught, that performance would have been the best in the whole seance and the cabinet mysteries worked in our presence would never have been under stricter conditions. Her greatest wonders are absolutely nothing but fraud and humbug; this is no longer a theory but a proven fact.

“There are ever so many charming, well-to-do men and women in the world who could never be discouraged, even by such complete exposure of fraud. They are only the more eager to try the next time under still stricter conditions. May these good people find all the spiritual joy in having their elbows tickled by her toes.

“The spirits, supposed to know our thoughts and intents, have never warned their mediums of an attack by skeptical persons. They had failed to warn Palladino that the man on the floor had disregarded the conventionalities favoring the free exercise of that spiritual limb before he had seized it and caused her to give forth the shriek that heralded the doom of the cruelest humbug ever cradled in America.”

Hand Clapping Test

The hand clapping test is where the medium, while sitting in a chair, during the dark seance, is to keep clapping his hands. On the table in the center of the circle are a slate and typewriter. When the lights are turned out, the medium is still clapping his hands and when the lights are turned on again there are found typewritten messages as well as a message on the slate. The clapping of the medium's hands is to insure that there be no trickery in his work.

Exposure

After the lights are turned out, the medium slaps his face with his left hand, and with his right he takes some typewritten messages, which he had prepared, from his coat pocket and tossed them carelessly on the table, and with his right hand he writes a message on the slate. He then strikes the space key of the typewriter with his finger, to sound like the writing of messages on the typewriter.

Second Sight Test

Two performers, usually a lady and a gentleman, are required for this seance. The gentleman introduces the lady, who is then escorted by a committee, chosen from the audience, to a room in a different part of the house, in which she is secured under lock and key. Several of

the committee then guard the room, while the others return to the concert-hall and give the performer the following particulars:—Time shown by any watch (not necessarily the proper time); initials of any person in the room; any number of four figures; any word of four or five letters; number of cigarettes in any case, and kind of case; amount of money in any purse, and kind of purse. After this has been done a member of the committee takes pen, ink, and paper to the lady, who immediately writes down the time, initials, number, etc.; these, on examination, are found to be correct, although she has never left the room, neither has the performer left the stage, and no connection of any description exists between them.

This inexplicable performance is thus accomplished: The performer is provided with a small writing pad, 3 1-2 in. by 2 in., consisting of a piece of card-board, on which are held, by means of two elastic bands, several cigarette papers. This pad, together with a small piece of soft lead pencil, is placed in the right-hand trousers pocket. As the various items are called out, the performer stands with his right hand in his pocket, a perfectly natural attitude, and appears to be thinking deeply; but he is really writing down the particulars, one under the other, on the cigarette paper, which, with a little practice, can be done quite legibly. He then tears off the paper and rolls it into a small ball between the fingers.

A piece of plain paper is now obtained from any member of the audience, in order to prove that a prepared piece is not used, and together with a Fountain Pen, supplied by the performer, is taken, by one of the committee, to the lady. While the paper is being obtained the performer has ample time to remove the cap from the pen-nip, and before placing it on the opposite end of the pen in the place provided for it, he inserts in it the small ball of paper which is thus secretly carried to the lady. On receipt of the pen and paper the lady requests to be left alone for a few seconds, as otherwise she will not be able to obtain the aid of "the spirits," and in the absence of the committee-man she takes a hair-pin, and with it extracts the ball of paper from the pen, reads, and writes out the required information.

It is necessary that the order in which the various items are called out should be known alike to the performer and the medium, as otherwise the "time" might be mistaken for the "number," and other errors might occur. A number of letters to indicate the various kinds of purses and cigarette cases, as "L." for leather, "S." for silver, etc., should also be agreed on between the two parties.

It will be obvious that the above trick is subject to much variation according to the taste of the performer, and may be elaborated if desired. A throw of dice; a person's age; or the name of a selected card (write "8D" for eight of diamonds, etc.) may be substituted for any of the items given above.

Spirit Messages by Wax Pad

There are many methods of wax pad messages. This trick, which is a very good one, is performed by a method very little known. The effect is as follows:—Any person writes on a piece of paper any word or series of words to form a short sentence, and having done so, folds the paper and puts it in his pocket. At this stage the performer introduces a reel of telephonic wire, the end of which, containing a loop, is handed to the writer, with a request that he will place the loop over the ball of the left thumb. This having been done, the performer places the reel against his forehead, and, after a few seconds' thought, writes the message, or an answer thereto, on the blackboard.

To obtain this result, all that is necessary is to be provided with a piece of paper smeared over on one side with white wax, or common washing soap; also a slab of plate glass by way of writing board. The paper is placed on the glass, waxed side downwards, in which condition the assistant takes it to a gentleman in the audience. When writing on the paper a very faint impression, invisible to anyone who does not actually look for it, is obtained on the glass. In the act of taking the glass back from his assistant the performer obtains the desired cue. The use of the wire is optional, but, of course, it adds much to the effect of the trick.

New Dictionary Trick

This is an improvement on the old trick under the name, as any dictionary may be used, whereas formerly the trick depended entirely upon a dictionary composed of one page repeated throughout. The effect is as follows:—

The performer hands a sealed envelope to a spectator, asking him to take care of it, and not break the seal until requested. . A dictionary is then given for examination, after which a lady inserts in it, at any page, a playing card. A counter bearing a number, say 27, is taken from a bag containing fifty, all numbered differently; the dictionary is open at the page containing the card, and due note is taken of the twenty-seventh word indicated by the counter, and which is, we will suppose, "Magic." The gentleman is next requested to open the envelope, and on doing so finds to his astonishment that it contains a card on which is written "Magic, n, sorcery; enchantment," in exact accordance with the word chosen, apparently by chance, from the dictionary.

The seeming mystery is easily explained. Obtain a new quarter pocket dictionary, and, having opened it somewhere about the middle, bend the covers right back until they touch each other. Any new book used thus will ever afterwards, unless otherwise maltreated, open readily at the same page. After the dictionary has been examined the performer allows it to fall open at this page, into which he secretly introduces a playing card

previously palmed in his right hand. The book is then closed.

The performer, still holding the book, gives a card, identical in every respect with the other one, to a lady, with a request that she will insert it between the leaves in any position and push it right into the book. The performer, of course, takes care that the two cards do not clash. In this condition the dictionary is laid on the table.

A small bag, preferably of silk, is next introduced, from which the performer takes a handful of counters numbered from 1 to 50 and gives them for examination, after which they are returned to the bag. Any person is now allowed to place his hand in the bag and remove one counter, but it is needless to say, however careful he may be, the number chosen will be 27, which is accounted for by the fact that the bag is provided with a division through its entire length, forming two pockets, one of which contains the counters numbered 1 to 50, and the other, fifty counters all bearing the same number, *i. e.*, 27.

The dictionary is now opened by the performer at his own page, which every one will take to be the one chosen by the lady; someone is asked to note the twenty-seventh word on that page as indicated by the counter, the trick being brought to a conclusion as already described.

The performer can always ensure the left-hand page of the opening being read, by holding the book, with the card, in such a position that the twenty-seventh word on the right-hand page cannot be seen. Care must also be taken not to expose the duplicate card.

The Traveling Medium

The traveling medium generally works towns of one thousand to fifty thousand population, and he does not make his coming known until he has located, and is prepared.

He will look for one of the old citizens of the town that knows everyone, as well as their business, he will take this person (whom we will call the field worker) into his confidence and show him where he can make a little money.

The medium always makes these field workers sign a contract which binds him to secrecy and which would afterwards effectually prevent him from making public his share in the transaction; as his fellow-townsmen would see, if this contract were made public that he had helped to fleece them. The contract states that the field worker shall have half of the proceeds of the readings; and in return for the same he has to furnish the necessary information, and to guard the secret well.

After the medium has settled and rented suitable rooms for his work, he will advertise in the local papers, as well as by hand bills, and he will require the field worker to be at the rooms, at the given hours that they are supposed to work. The medium will then have the field worker planted in a room where the dupes can not see him, but the field worker can see the dupes as they enter, and after the dupes sit waiting for the medium, the field worker conveys the information, that he knows of the dupes to the medium, then the medium sometimes walks out and call the dupes by their names, which is quite surprising to them. When the medium ushered the dupe into the reading room he would tell them some very interesting facts of themselves, as he knows.

. Now if the medium is working in a large town of a country, the field worker generally knows a lot about the people in the near by towns, so he tips this information off to the medium, and it sounds like business for him so he will write the prospect dupe a letter. Following is an outline of a letter, so you can grasp the idea of the work, so beware of any such letter if you should receive one.

Mrs. M. C. P.,

O——, Mo.

Dear Madam:

At one of our seances recently the spirit of a young man made his appearance and gave his name as Jimmy

P——. He claimed to be your son and strongly expressed a desire to communicate with you. If I can be of any service to you, you may command me.

Faithfully yours, ——."

Now if a mother receives a letter of this kind, she no doubt would travel through rain or snow to get to the medium, and then when she heard her sons voice in a Materialization seance, it would probably be the ruination of this poor woman, financially as well as mentally.

IT PAYS TO BE POSTED, SO BEWARE OF THESE FAKES.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Following is a reprint of an advertisement that appeared in a Los Angeles, California, evening paper in June, 1923.

SPIRITUALIST Salesman—We are developing an Oil Lease owned by a Spiritualist located by Spirit Leota. Commissions right See me now. Don't wait.—Bldg. West 3rd St

Following is a reprint from Bob Shuler's Magazine, Minister of the Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California, November, 1923.

"WE NOTE WHERE MRS. H. S. JOINER has lost her wad by listening to the advice of spooks in making investments in a Gold Mine. She says she is a Spiritualist and that the Spirits told her the Gold Mine was a sure thing. It failed to materialize however. A few months ago a local newspaper carried an advertisement of a Spiritualistic oil well. It appears the spirit Leota had located this well and it was a rich find indeed. Several spiritualistic suckers bit but the oil well was a dry hole, we understand. It does seem a pity for people to be thus hoodwinked and yet it appears that if they can not bite at one thing they will take the bait, hook and sinker in another. And we suppose there is about as little harm done by spirits selling bogus gold mines and imaginary oil wells as in any other manner. The fools who buy haven't sense enough to keep their money anyway and we suppose the spirits had just as well get it as for some other kind of shark to steal it from them. Personally we have no money in gold mines recommended by ghosts or in oil wells discovered by the spirit Leota, but those who have are welcome to make their investment and collect their dividends.

"In June, 1924, a Minister who was President of the Minister's Alliance (at that time) in Long Beach, Cal-

ifornia, reported to an investigator (Deputy Sheriff) of the Sheriff's Office, of Los Angeles, County, California, that there were many complaints made to ministers, as well as himself, from people who had lost their money through the advice of Spirit Mediums. The minister said that there would have to be some action taken to drive these fakers from their nefarious practices.

"The investigator told him, that it would require the aid of an authority on Psychic Phenomena, and he said that he knew of a man who was an investigator, magician and an authority on Psychic Phenomena, who was living in Long Beach at the present time, and was a friend of his, and he said I will call on him, as I know that he will be more than glad to help us, as he has exposed these fakers many times, in his work.

"The investigator called on Mr. I. (Red) Prendergast and explained the situation, and he consented to help at once. So both called on the Minister, and after the Minister explained the nature of the complaints, he asked Mr. Prendergast if he would come to the Ministerial Alliance meeting, in July, and give a talk on the solution of the Spirit problem. Mr. Prendergast consented.

"At the July meeting of the Ministerial Alliance, held in the Baptist Church, Long Beach, California, Mr. Prendergast gave a talk on Spook Mystery and its Solution, (his talk is in this book), and he told of the old method of abolishing these fakers, which had proved unsuccessful, and outlined a plan of procedure which would secure the desired results.

"After this meeting Mr. Prendergast was told by prominent Ministers and laymen, that an organization was needed to drive these fakers from their nefarious work, and that if he would head such organization, they would all give him their support.

"Mr. Prendergast started to make investigations in Los Angeles County, and in November, 1924, he had concluded his investigation. And he turned the evidence over to the proper authorities.

"November 19th, 1924, a charter was issued, by the Secretary of State, of California, for the National Psychic Research League. (Its purpose is outlined in this book).

"The League consists of three departments; Investigating, Lecturing and Literature, and is a non-profitable organization."

One of the crying demands of Christianity today is to rid the country of these fakers who under the guise of religion break into the sacredness of the home life and bring distress to their dupes.

Faith in God; trust founded on the word of Jesus of Nazareth; belief in a true religion, and confidence between man and wife are disturbed and destroyed by these FAKERS, and in the end their victims lose their money, their friends, their loved ones, and their own self-respect.

NOW is the time to help in this great work of exposing and driving these FAKERS from their nefarious business of preying upon the people.



Hindo Fakery

