

Crandon

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THE "MARGERY" MEDIUMSHIP

*Compliments of The Psychic Observer
For the Skidmore Library*

- I. *Experiments which show the production in the presence of Margery, the Medium, of the Thumb-print of a living person (Sir Oliver Lodge) 3000 miles away.* BRACKETT K. THOROGOOD

- II. *Walter helps to perfect the control.
Phenomena in a Locked Sound-proof Box.
(With photographic Illustrations.)*

WILLIAM H. BUTTON

Reprint from the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research

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THE MARGERY MEDIUMSHIP

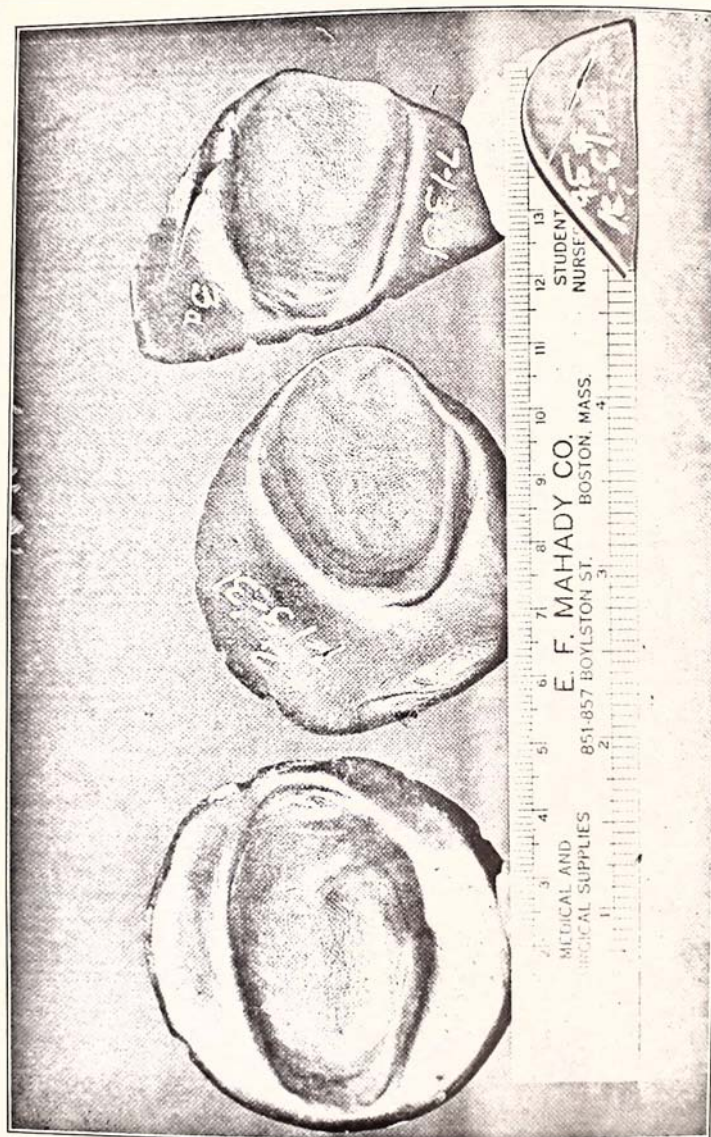


Fig. 1

First three impressions obtained of Sir Oliver Lodge's right thumb. Wax 3a was made with no one in room except "Margery" and the writer.

The Sir Oliver Lodge Finger Impressions

By Brackett K. Thorogood

The finger impressions with which this article deals are three-dimensional prints which were produced in wax (Kerr) at séances held in Boston, on July 13th, 14th and 15th, 1931, and which at the time were said by "Walter" (Margery's control) to be those of Sir Oliver Lodge. Finger print experts have since certified that they are, indeed, identical in characteristics with ordinary ink prints of Sir Oliver's thumbs.

The data presented here were collected by the writer from his personal observation and from notes and stenographic records of the meetings. That this record may be as complete as possible all data, photographs, and reports of the finger print experts, as well as the reports of the writer pertaining to the events of the above dates are included.

In addition, photographs and brief statements covering similar finger impressions, made after the above dates, are included here solely because they have the same characteristics as the others, viz: those of Sir Oliver Lodge's thumbs, although they have no bearing on any of the above mentioned reports or data previously made.

As far back as June 12, 1931, "Walter" began to make references to July 13th, which was to be a "big night". He made several intimations as to what might occur, varying somewhat each time, but, on July 10th he gave definite instructions with regard to preparations for the "big night" promised July 13th when, he said, he was going to carry out some of the experiments which the

writer had listed on a memorandum, and that one he purposed to execute was the making in wax (Kerr) of the finger print of someone still living, without the latter's presence or knowledge. Later he named Sir Oliver as the person. No one knew of this plan except the writer and his associate R. G. Adams, who were alone at the time with the two psychics, (Margery and Sary) who were in trance, all other persons having previously been ordered by "Walter" to leave the room; and at "Walter's" request the writer and Mr. Adams agreed to say nothing about the plan.

Details of this meeting may be found in the report made by the writer on "Salient Points Prior to July 13, 1931" (Exhibit 1, Part a). It should be noted that up to this time the finger impressions which "Walter" had produced were supposed to be those of persons not living, but he has since told us that one print of the three made on a piece of wax and sealed in a glass beaker on November 5, 1929, is that of a woman who is living. (An article on these prints will appear in a later number of this Journal.)

Following this meeting of July 10, 1931, a séance was held on Monday, July 13, 1931, (Exhibit 2) at which three different right thumb impressions, (Figs. 1 and 2) said by "Walter" to be those of Sir Oliver Lodge, were obtained, each on a separate piece of wax, the last one being made with only the writer and Margery in the locked séance room and with both her hands securely held by him.

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The following night, Tuesday, (Exhibit 3) three more pieces of wax (Figs. 3 and 4) were impressed, each with two prints which "Walter" stated were of the right and left thumbs of Sir Oliver Lodge.

On Wednesday afternoon (Exhibit 4) another right thumb impression (Fig. 5) similar to those previously secured was obtained, with Mr. Daniel D. Walton controlling Margery, and Mr. William H. Button controlling Sary in another part of the séance room, and with no one else present. (No one except these four knew of this séance until after the evening séance was over.)

On the evening of this same day, at another séance, (Exhibit 5) five pieces of wax (Fig. 6) were impressed, each with from one to four prints, some not clear enough to identify and others sufficiently distinct to show their similarity to the impressions obtained on Monday

and Tuesday. Also at this séance an impression was obtained on one of these waxes (Fig. 7) which looks very much like the under side of a wrist, as if it had lain against the wax while the finger impressions were being made.

All the wax impressions made during these last four séances were immediately taken away by the writer, photographed, and enlargements made for better study. They were then examined by Capt. Fife, finger print expert, and as may be seen from his report (Exhibit 6) he says they are probably right and left thumb impressions and that they are not the thumb or finger impressions of any person present at these sittings. All the rights have a whorl with the same characteristics, and the lefts a loop. (Incidentally, "Walter" had told the writer during the first séance while making the last impression that Sir Oliver Lodge's right thumb showed a whorl.)

REFERENCE TO SIR OLIVER LODGE AND TO INSPECTOR BELL OF SCOTLAND YARD

By July 30th the writer had prepared a brief report (Exhibit 1, Part c) on the photographs of these twenty impressions and had forwarded one copy to the Society for Psychical Research, and two to Dr. Crandon, one of which the latter sent with a letter to Sir Oliver Lodge in England. In this letter he briefly stated what they were supposed to represent and asked Sir Oliver to get Mr. Bell, a finger print expert, to determine whether the characteristics were identical with his (Sir Oliver's) and to make a report on his findings.

The report by the writer (Exhibit 1, Part b) as of August 19th, on "The Salient Points of the 13th, 14th and 15th", covers a few items which were

not mentioned in the signed records of these meetings to which we have already referred.

The report and photographs which had been sent by Dr. Crandon to Sir Oliver Lodge were not forwarded by the latter to Mr. Bell until about October 10, 1931. In the meantime "Walter" on numerous occasions specifically stated that these prints were of the right and left thumbs of Sir Oliver Lodge, and that he ("Walter") would either rise or fall on the decision.

After Mr. Bell had examined the photographs he wrote Sir Oliver Lodge asking for his thumb prints in order that he might make the comparison. These were made and sent to Mr. Bell by Sir

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Oliver about October 21, 1931.

The following excerpt from the report of the meeting of October 23, 1931, is of interest here. "Walter" said: "Here is a little advanced news. They have decided *It is Sir Oliver's*. They have

probably arrested Sir Oliver by now."

Again, "The decision on the thumb prints is in; Sir Oliver has it now." And upon being asked if Sir Oliver were pleased he replied, "Pleased as ! Figure that out for yourself!"

INSPECTOR BELL'S FIRST REPORT

After careful study Mr. Bell stated clearly and very definitely in his report, that the photographs of all the legible impressions showed them to be of either a right or left thumb and that they were identical in characteristics with those of Sir Oliver Lodge's right and left thumb ink impressions; and Mr. Bell went further and prepared an exhibit showing first the right thumb impression in wax beside the actual right thumb print of Sir Oliver Lodge, enlarged to the same scale (Bell Exhibit A) (Fig. 8) and marked fourteen points of similarity which he stated were sufficient to satisfy him, although there were still others; and in a similar manner he arranged the left thumb and its fourteen points (Bell Exhibit B) (Fig. 9).

Mr. Bell's report (undated) was received by Dr. Crandon on Nov. 25, 1931. In it Mr. Bell, having learned, presumably from Sir Oliver Lodge, how these impressions were supposed to have originated, offers a possible solution in the following statement:

"In view of the circumstances in which many of these impressions were alleged to have been obtained it is imperative for me to state that even with a comparative-

ly short association with a person it would be quite a simple matter to obtain thumb impressions and afterwards to reproduce these identical replicas by artificial means."

He also stipulated that if any part of his report should be published the parts which he had underlined must be included. (The complete report is given here as Exhibit 7).

Prior to this time Mr. Bell had called upon Sir Oliver to tell him about this examination, and had reported to him that the prints were identical.

Sir Oliver was very much surprised that his fingerprints should have been obtained in Boston; but Mr. Bell apparently made it quite clear to him that it would not have been at all difficult for them to have been made artificially;—that it was quite a simple matter to develop latent prints from a piece of paper that he (Sir Oliver) might have handled;—that such a print could easily be photographed and then by a process of which Bell apparently knows, that this could be further reproduced in metal or India rubber and an impress made on wax. This was not an accusation, but merely a statement of possibilities.

DR. CRANDON'S VISIT TO ENGLAND

Upon receiving Mr. Bell's report, Dr. Crandon decided to go to England to confer with Sir Oliver and Mr. Bell.

After he had gone, a letter was received from Mr. Bell, as of November

20th, (Exhibit 9) asking that a complete set of the finger prints of both Dr. and Mrs. Crandon (Margery) be sent him, in order that he might see if there were any similarity between these, and those

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alleged to be Sir Oliver Lodge's.

In view of Mr. Bell's report it seemed advisable to have Dr. Crandon ask Mr. Bell to produce or have produced artificially in wax some two and three-dimensional finger impressions from original ink prints and see if they could be detected as replicas. His success would of course substantiate his state-

ment and convictions, although it would not mean that the thumb impressions in question were thus reproduced.

Consequently, while Dr. Crandon was in England early in December he requested Mr. Bell, both verbally and by letter, (Exhibit 10) to take his (Crandon's) thumb prints and make such artificial reproductions as above mentioned.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. BELL

Shortly after his return Dr. Crandon received a letter from Mr. Bell, dated December 11th (Exhibit 11) in which the latter declined to comply with the above request for reasons which he set forth at length in an accompanying report. (Exhibit 12). He apparently based this refusal on his study of an article in one of the Journals of Psychical Research on the identity of the alleged supernatural "Walter" print on a cast made several years ago. The writer fails to see any connection between any "Walter" print whatsoever and the prints which Mr. Bell himself has agreed are identical with those of Sir Oliver Lodge. Neither does he see the remotest connection between the "Walter" prints and an artificial reproduction of Dr. Crandon's thumb-print in three dimensions by Mr. Bell. Since Mr. Bell in his own report states that it would be relatively easy for such a replica to be made, it would seem as if he should be willing to add proof to his already expressed conviction. Mr. Bell's refusal to make the reproductions surely reflects upon his ability to carry

out what he claims is a simple procedure, and the reasons he advanced for this refusal are not sufficient to account for it. The writer feels that he can understand Mr. Bell's unwillingness to become further involved in a line of investigation quite foreign to his own line of work as a finger-print expert, but could only wish that he might have been induced to make or have made the reproductions requested of him, for as yet we have had no proof that replicas can be made which would not be subject to immediate detection under the scrutiny of an expert.

In reply to Mr. Bell's letter of December 11th, as well as the one of November 20th which had arrived during his absence, Dr. Crandon on December 24th (Exhibit 13) wrote to him answering the points raised and calling his attention to the fact that the only matter submitted for his consideration in the first place had been whether or not the photographs of thumb impressions sent to him bore the characteristic markings of those of Sir Oliver Lodge.

* * * * *

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS

We have now given a brief synopsis of all the documents and in conclusion would like to call attention to the following points.

- 1—That the writer had definitely asked "Walter" to make an identifiable impression in a plastic of the finger of some living person.

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- 2—That such impressions were obtained and were said by "Walter" to be those of Sir Oliver Lodge.
- 3—That the impressions in these waxes have been declared by Mr. Bell, finger print expert, as identical with the two-dimensional ink prints of Sir Oliver Lodge.
- 4—That the writer certifies that, with one exception, these impressions were made on pieces of wax which he himself controlled and which were not out of his possession except while being impressed.
- *5—That it is a fundamental fact, in the science of finger print identification, that no two people have exactly the same finger print patterns, although it is true that some types of pattern shew similarity in general appearance; and that undoubtedly some fingers show family relationships. This is said to be especially true in the case of identical twins.
- 6—That if the foregoing statement be true these impressions of the right and left thumbs of Sir Oliver Lodge could not have been produced by him because he was not present at the time; and no one who was present at any of these séances has designs identical with his as shown by their two-dimensional finger prints.
- 7—That while it may be possible to produce apparent replicas (as Mr. Bell suggests) it seems unlikely that they could escape detection by an expert when critically examined by magnification or enlargement. This would seem sufficient to eliminate any serious consideration of the possibility of these impressions having been artificially produced.
- 8—If, on the other hand, it should finally be shown that replicas which defy detection can be produced artificially, it will then be necessary, in order to prove scientifically and definitely that these phenomena are supernormal, to have them produced under still more complete control, such, for instance, as in a closed, sealed box containing nothing but the marked, hot wax.†
- 9—To summarize, therefore, it appears that the evidence presented by these experiments (in which three-dimensional finger impressions with a definite pattern were produced in a plastic medium), when viewed in conjunction with the experience gained from conducting many experiments, with the precautions taken, and the technical care observed, seems to support the contention that the phenomenon of producing these impressions, through or by the aid of the medium "Margery" is supernormal.

* Galton Francis. (1892) 'Finger-Prints'. London.

Wilder, H. H. (1904). 'Duplicate Twins and Double Monsters'. (Amer. Journal, Anat: III).

Bonnevie Kristine. (1924) 'Study on the Papillary Patterns of Human Fingers' (Journ. Gen: XV).

Cummins, H. and Midlo C. (1927). 'Dermatoglyphics in Jews' (Journ. Phys. Anthropol: X).

Newman, H. H. (1930). 'Fingerprints of Twins'. (Journ. Gen: XXIII).

† This has since been accomplished and will be described in a later article.

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Obviously this assumption does not of itself describe a method, or even offer an hypothesis as to the mechanism or mechanics of the procedure.

However, we believe that this phenomenon is in no way beyond explanation, that, indeed, it must be governed by very definite laws even though at present they are unknown—or if known, unrecognized—in this relationship.

LATER LODGE IMPRESSIONS

As indicated at the beginning of this article several "Sir Oliver" right thumb impressions were obtained at séances after July 15, 1931.

The first of these was a right thumb obtained on November 23, 1931 (Fig. 10). It was a fair print but rather near the edge of the wax and therefore only the central portion shows. Later, on November 26, 1931 four impressions were made, one after the other, the first being

an unusually fine "Walter" print (Fig. 11); the second a typical Lodge right thumb not particularly clear in the photograph although covering more area than the one of the 23d (Fig. 12). At this point Capt. Fife, who was present, (the writer was not) asked for an irregular or imperfect print and the third, as may be seen in Fig. 13 is another Lodge right thumb but the wax is quite irregular, as asked for by Capt. Fife. The fourth and last of this series is rather poor but still is a Lodge right thumb. (Fig. 14).

The detailed report of these experiments of July 13, 14, and 15, 1931 states that the waxes were all carefully marked for identification in different ways.

All these photographs are direct prints or enlargements finished without retouching from negatives made by the writer. The exhibits mentioned in the text follow.

EXHIBIT 1 (Part a)

REPORT ON FINGERPRINTS

SALIENT POINTS PRIOR TO JULY 13, 1931

On Friday, July 10, 1931, a brief test was held at 7:45 P.M. (E.S.T.) at 10 Lime Street, Boston. The usual members were present, but as indicated later, who they were is irrelevant to the following:

It had been arranged to carry out some special experiments, and after a few minutes "Walter" came through but stated that he was not going to do much on this night as he was getting ready for the "big night"—July 13th or thereabouts.

"Walter" said that he was going to carry out some of the experiments which I had on a memorandum in my inside pocket—not those first on the list but some not very far down. (It was true that there was such a list in my pocket.) Moreover, on the memorandum of January 21, 1931, which I had sent to Mr. W. H. Button of New York under *Psychic Phenomena*, p 3, sec. III, item 2 (b), I had suggested that we try to obtain a supernormal print of someone still living; and on a memorandum sent to Dr. L. R. G. Crandon of Boston on November 21, 1930, a similar suggestion had been made, viz:—supernormal print of one of the investigating group. "Walter" himself has suggested on one or two occasions that he would make Sir Oliver Lodge's fingerprints while he was still alive, this in answer to a question by the writer as to whether he could make a fingerprint of a person still living. He said that after that series of sittings all other mediums would jump on us, but excitement would do us good.

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After further conversation, not directly connected, "Walter" ordered everyone out of the room and downstairs except Margery, Sary, R. G. Adams and B. K. Thorogood. Margery and Sary were both in trance at this time and during conversation which followed, so far as the writer could determine.

When the above-mentioned four were alone, and the door closed and locked, Adams controlling Sary by holding her hands and Thorogood controlling Margery in the same manner, all lights were out and room was dark except for a 5 x 7 inch electric photographic dark-room lamp which had a Wratten filter which gave a soft, low-intensity green light outside and to the side of the cabinet.

"Walter" started by saying that on Monday, July 13th, he would make for us Sir Oliver Lodge's thumb prints. He wished us to say absolutely nothing about it to anyone, but to be prepared with wax, water, etc., on that date; and as a blind for those who had been sent out of the room, to have half a dozen other things prepared in addition to the above and simply to say that almost anything might happen. "Walter" said he had not intended to get these prints now but he had to or might not get another chance.

He said that from now on all fooling and spectacular stunts would be eliminated; that we would work together and produce some real results from the physicists' point of view.

He then again warned us to say nothing; said that he was going; and told us to be prepared on Monday. The psychics shortly awoke and after we were all downstairs Sary was asked to write automatically what "Walter" had told Adams and the writer upstairs, and she wrote that there was nothing to say at this time. (I believe Dr. Crandon has this paper.)

EXHIBIT 1 (Part b)

SALIENT POINTS OF JULY 13, 14 AND 15

On Monday, July 13th, after the first two fingerprints had been made, and Walter had sent everyone from the room except Margery, Adams, and the writer, he stated to us that the prints were not very good; that he would make more on Tuesday, and also make the left thumb at that time. At this point I asked Adams to do something for me out of the room, and while I was alone "Walter" discussed with me the method of approaching Sir Oliver Lodge. He said I was to send a letter and photographs to Sir Oliver Lodge and put it right up to him to identify them.

IMPORTANT NOTE—He then said, "Thorogood, I'll tell you what I'll do. I will make the fingerprints of six living scientists for you, and you shall pick your own men"; and when I suggested some be made in an enclosed space he said he would do that

The séance beyond this point was irrelevant to this subject and was shortly ended.

Following is a brief description of the production of the fingerprints, method of marking, control, etc.

The details of conversation and other points of importance were written up quite completely for all three tests by Mr. Wm. H. Button. The writer was constantly occupied in taking care of and preparing the wax both before and after the impressions were made, and could not pay much attention to this part of the proceedings.

On July 13th and 14th R. G. Adams took brief notes (in the dark) for the writer, and a copy of these is on file.

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On July 15th Miss Barry, one of Dr. Richardson's stenographers, took down a limited amount of the conversation.

The dental wax (Kerr) used was previously marked for identification by Wm. H. Button, President of the A. S. P. R., and by Daniel D. Walton, counsel for the same organization, or by the writer. From the time of marking until they were placed in position either in the hot water dish which was on the table, or directly on the table in front of the medium, in a plastic condition, they were handled by the writer only. He also removed them as soon as it was indicated that the impressions had been made; the one exception being in the case of No. 1, made on July 15, 1931, at 3.30 P.M. (E.S.T.), which was marked and handled, I understand, by Mr. Walton.

In order to be certain afterwards of the order in which they were made, each wax was numbered (usually on the back) immediately upon removal from the séance table after having received its impression as above mentioned.

After each séance each piece of wax used was carefully examined for the identification marks and also checked as to the number of pieces used with the number of pieces prepared for use at that particular time, and the date and sequence number carved on its surface and filled in with white ink as shown by the photographs.

What control was used in each of the four tests is indicated I believe for that series in Mr. Button's notes but, briefly, in all cases it consists of marked wax as previously stated, the holding of the psychic's hands and those of others present, and some protection afforded by a wire screen of 1/4-inch mesh over the ends, front and top of séance table (open on psychic's side). It was planned that Adams and the writer should control the psychic by Adams holding her right hand and Dr. Richardson's left with one hand and her ankle with the other; the writer holding Dr. Crandon's left and psychic's right hand with one of his and her ankle with the other, a baseball catcher's mask which had, securely fastened to it, a fine-mesh wire, having previously been placed over her head. This method of holding the medium and use of the head mask, however, were abandoned because of conditions which arose that made this course seem inadvisable.

If these prints prove to be those of a person now living who was not present in flesh at the time of their making, and, further, if it be true that there is no known normal way of producing one's *bona fide* fingerprints except by the actual contact of one's own flesh fingers with the wax, then these prints obviously were made by super-normal means and, therefore, control is of secondary consequence.

In all, 20 impressions or partial impressions were made, 16 of which have been identified by the fingerprint expert as being probably a right and left thumb print, the others being too scant to determine, yet in no case are the impressions exactly alike, though having common characteristics.

Finally, in the opinion of the fingerprint expert, Capt. J. W. Fife, the official prints of those present at each and all these tests do not correspond with any of the wax impressions made on these three days. The only records not on file are the stenographer's; but she was not present on July 13th and 14th when we got the first groups; and those of Miss Brooke Sherburne, who was present part of the time only on July 13th, and whose prints have not yet been classified. Further, on the 13th the last print, No. 3, was made, with only the writer and Margery in séance room, and on the afternoon of July 15th I understand Mr. Walton controlled Margery and obtained print No. 1, Mr. Button controlling Sary, they being the only other persons present.

Respectfully submitted,

B. K. THOROGOOD.

August 19, 1931.
Boston, Mass.

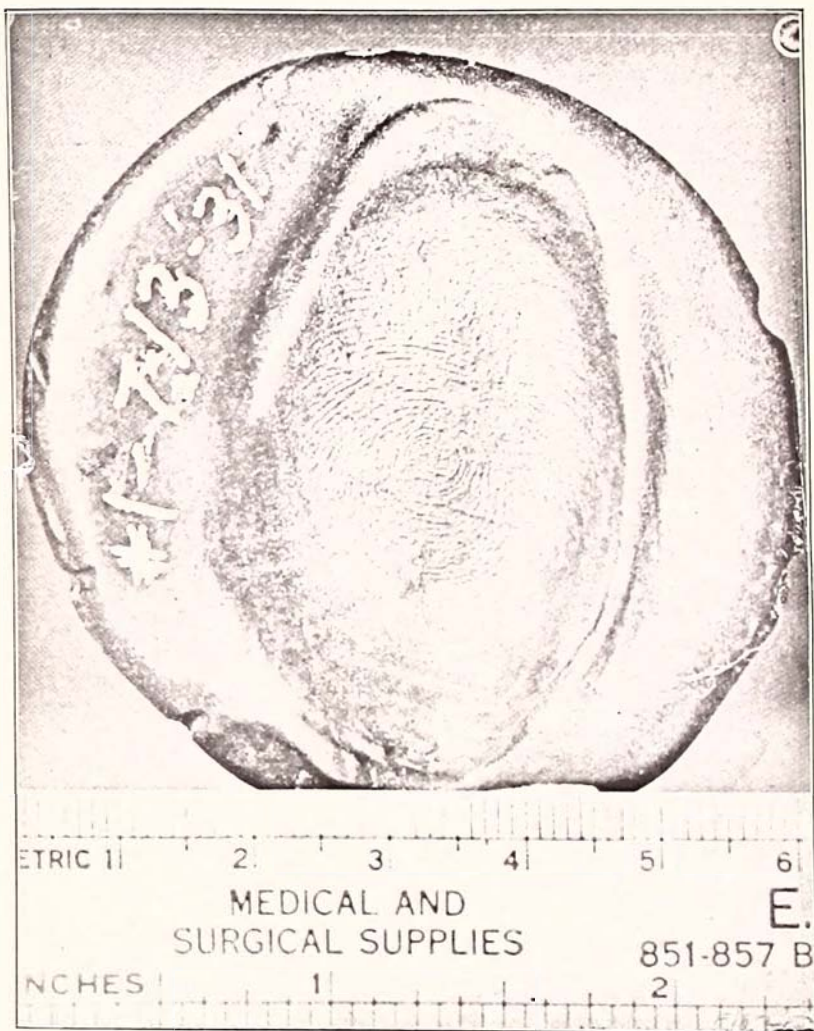


Fig. 2
Enlargement of first impression made, showing clearly whorl type of pattern.

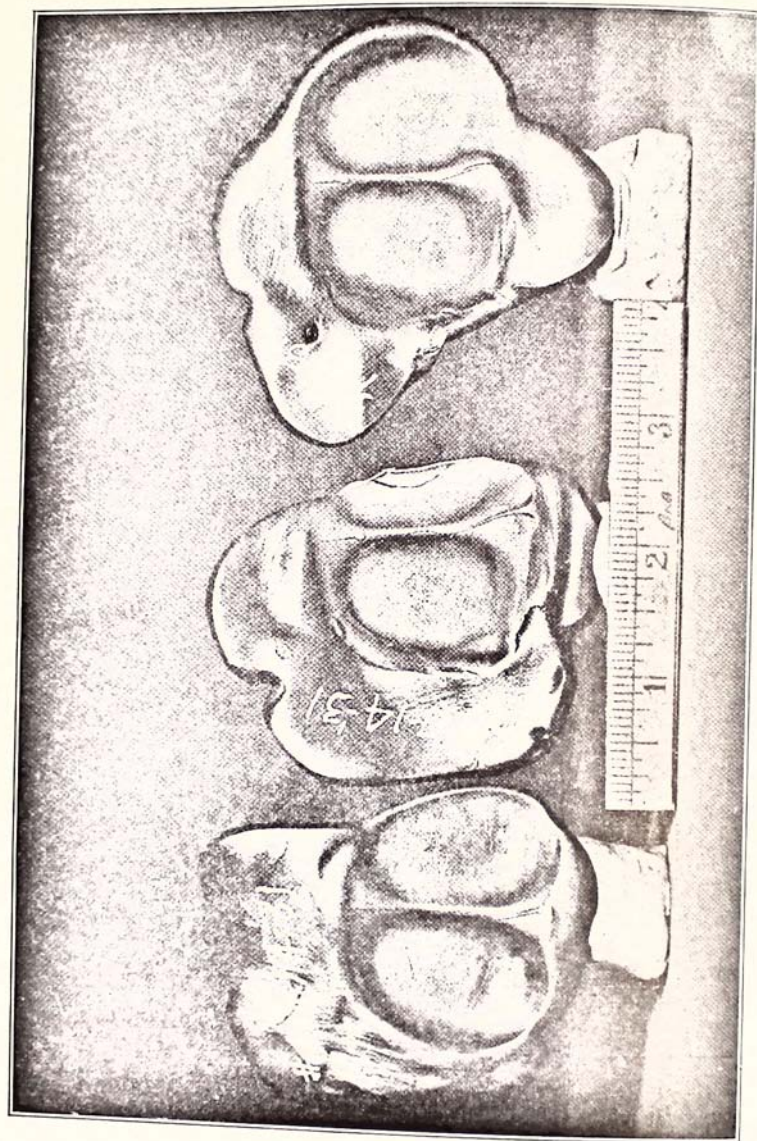


Fig. 3

Showing three pairs of right and left thumb prints made during second séance of this series

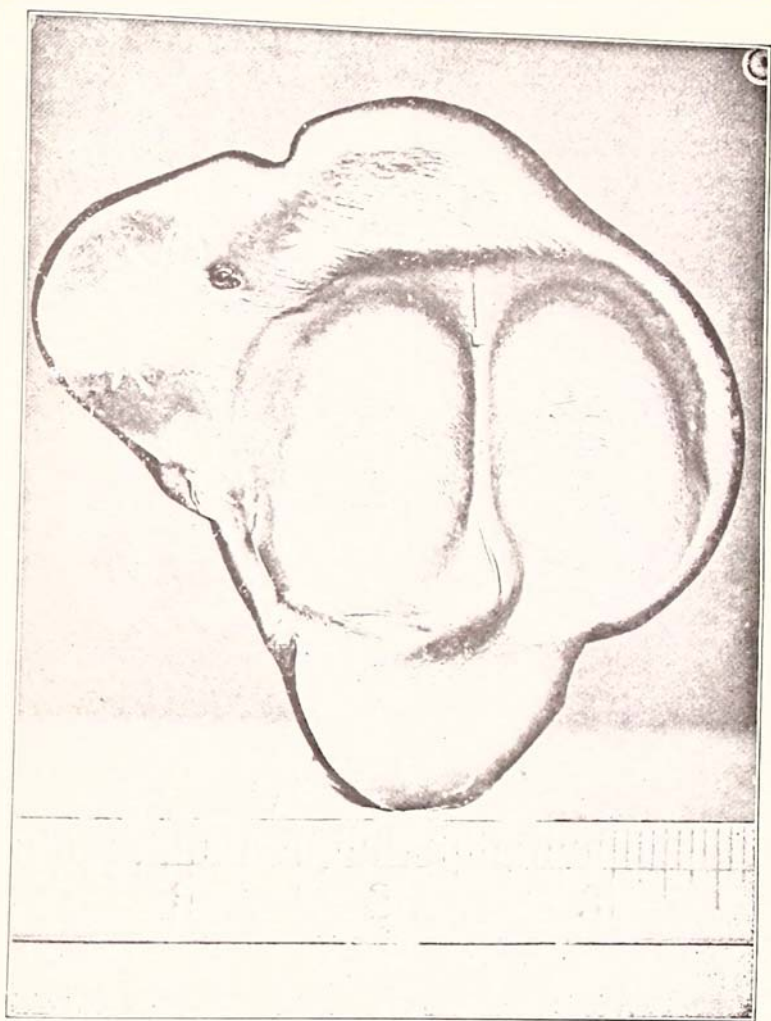


Fig. 4
Enlargement of one of pairs shown in Fig. 3, showing whorl in right thumb
and loop in left.

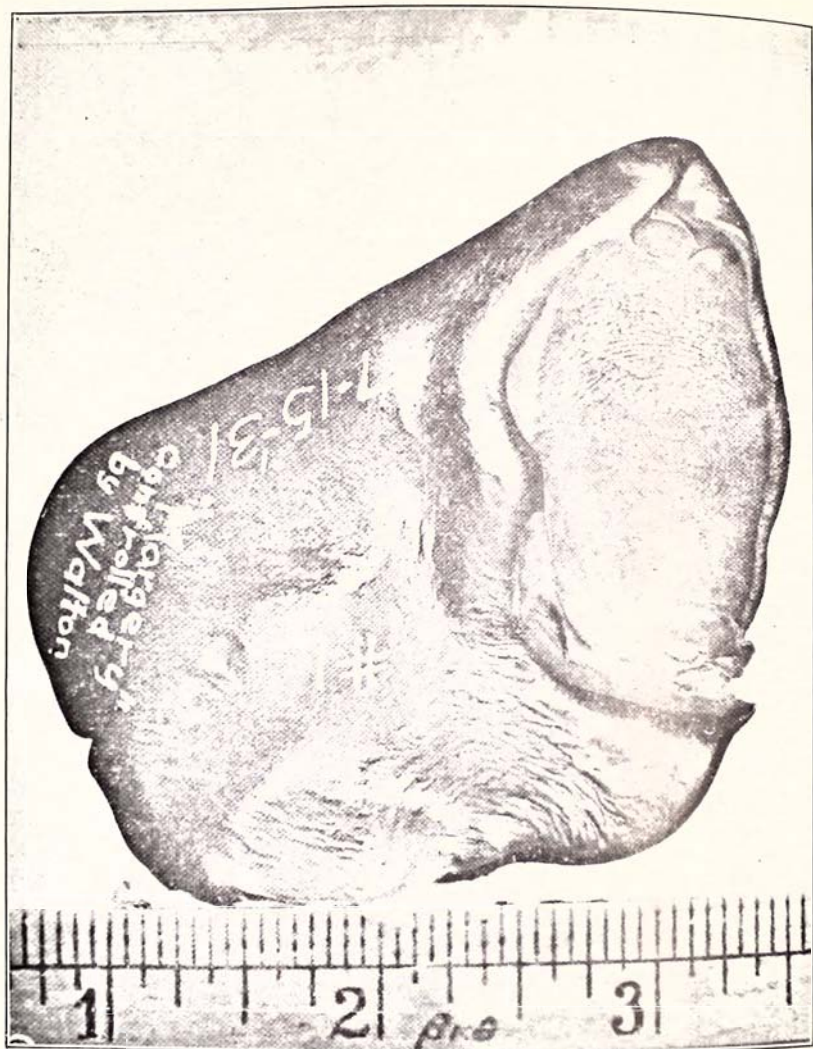


Fig. 5

Right thumb impression obtained in afternoon with Mr. Walton controlling "Margery" and Mr. Button controlling "Sary"; no one else present.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

EXHIBIT 1 (Part c) PHOTOGRAPHS OF FINGER PRINTS Made July 13, 14, and 15, 1931 Boston, Massachusetts

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The following photographs, with the exception of print No. 1, Series III, are of impressions made in dental wax (Kerr) during tests on July 13, 14 and 15, 1931, between 7:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. (E.S.T.), at 10 Lime Street, Boston, Massachusetts. No. 1, Series III, I understand was made on July 15th at 3:30 P.M. (E.S.T.) at the same place.

The photographs are direct contact prints from the original photographic negatives, made without retouching, and include enlargements for better study. The size of each impression is indicated by the scale shown in each print.

Some of these photographs, because of the method of lighting, may give an impression that the prints are raised rather than depressed, which is merely an illusion.

Each wax is marked with the date and number in the order in which the impressions were made in each series.

SERIES I (Figs. 1 and 2)

This series was made on July 15th and consists of three single impressions which appear to be of a thumb. (The size of the impressions indicates a thumb rather than a finger).

The small piece of wax 3b was cut from piece 3a for identification before 3a was used. Fig. 2 is another view of No. 1 in Fig. 1.

SERIES II (Figs. 3 and 4)

This was made on July 14th and consists of three double impressions—side by side—apparently of right and left thumbs, the right impression being of the same design as those made on the 13th. There is no way of telling whether they are of the same person without having for comparison the finger prints which they are supposed to represent.

Fig. 4, is another view of No. 3, Fig. 3.

SERIES III (Figs. 5, 6, and 7)

This series was made on July 15th and consists of single and multiple impressions, some partly crossed (i.e. as of crossed fingers). Several of these are of the same design as those made on July 14th, but because some of the characteristics in the design are lacking on account of the small area of contacts, it is not wholly clear whether they are all thumb impressions or whether some are of fingers. Here again this might be determined if we had for comparison a set of the finger prints which they are supposed to represent.

Fig. 6—No. 2 wax—contains no design whatsoever, and No. 3 contains only a few lines

Fig. 7 also shows the impression of what appears to be part of a wrist, indicating quite clearly pores in the skin and impressions made by hairs, as well as a depression which might be caused by bones of the wrist.

The data pertaining to the characteristics of the finger prints were furnished by a finger print expert, Captain John W. Fife, of Boston. He states, after comparison with their recorded finger prints, that these are not the prints of anyone present on the dates mentioned.

The photographs were made by the writer who, in the capacity of special investigator for the American Society of Psychical Research, was present with his associate, Mr. Ralph G. Adams, at all the tests except on the afternoon of July 15th.

Respectfully submitted,

B. K. THOROGOOD.

Boston, Massachusetts.
July 30, 1931.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

EXHIBIT 2

RECORD OF SITTING AT 10 LIME STREET, JULY 13, 1931

8:30 P.M. Daylight saving time.

Present to left: Dr. Richardson, Mr. Button, Mr. Sherburne, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Walton Mr. Litzelmann, Sary, Dr. Crandon and Psyche. Mr. Adams and Mr. Thorogood were free in the room.

Thorogood brought in a large wire-mesh screen, like a fire screen, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh. Lower edge was tacked to the edges of the table and enclosed it on three sides—curved towards the cabinet, and opened on that side, the top of the screen towards the cabinet being 18 inches from the table-top. The result was that no one could reach the table top except from the side towards the cabinet.

The two mediums went into trance in a few moments and then Walter came through full of business. His voice was particularly strong and his directions were clear and concise.

Sherburne had brought his daughter Brooke with him but she had been left in the bookroom. Walter immediately asked why that girl had been left downstairs. He directed that she be brought up and seated in the far corner. He said that she was young and would see something she had never seen before. Sherburne brought her up and seated her as directed. Walter then gave a dissertation substantially as follows:

"There are to be no more repetitions of the old physical experiments. They are all done. We are now to proceed to show you that there is no death; that each of you is living one life now and hereafter, each made up of steps. This life may assume another form which we call 'after-death'. These experiments will disrupt many ideas, and particularly the theories of the S. P. R. Those in the S. P. R. opposed to physical phenomena will 'pass out' because here are facts that do not fit such theories. *I am going to make a print of Sir Oliver Lodge's right thumb.* After this series send Sir Oliver Lodge photographs of the prints. He will coöperate. I shall get his thumbprint from him while he is asleep. (10 P.M. Boston; 3 A.M. Salisbury, England.) Tell him that if his right print is not enough I will get his left print. He will be glad to help."

After the first prints were taken as below Walter was asked many questions as to what he actually brought from England. He would only reply, "I have brought this thumbprint." Also, "It has a bearing on all apports. It has a tremendous bearing on so-called spiritualism. Think that over."

At 9:30 Walter called for hot water which was put on table and Thorogood, in red light, put in a piece of marked wax. Light then turned off. Walter said this one was only an experiment. He continued to state that this would upset the spiritualists. He would start a new science. "Here's one living, one dead." He called for more hot water which was furnished. Presently Thorogood retrieved the wax from cold water dish at Walter's direction.

At 9:45 Walter called for second piece of wax. Thorogood furnished it exactly as before and shortly this piece was likewise secured by Thorogood. Walter said, "They will have to say either that Sir Oliver is a liar or that this is genuine."

Walter then directed that Sary, Walton, Litzelmann, Sherburne, Brooke, and Mrs. Richardson leave the room, which they did. This left Crandon, Richardson, Button, the two investigators and Psyche in room. Circle formed with Adams and Thorogood outside it. Walter said he would make a fine print,—but after a couple of minutes directed Crandon, Richardson, and Button to leave, which they did. He then directed Adams to leave and call Button upstairs to mark a piece of wax. Button returned and Thorogood handed him a blank piece of wax through the séance room door. There were no prints or markings on it except the trade name "Kerr." Button marked it and handed it back to Thorogood who went back into the séance room alone with Psyche. He arranged the hot water, put in wax and shortly secured the

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

third print which was immediately returned to Button as soon as sitting was over. Button identified his marks and observed a good thumbprint on it.

Thorogood identified the markings he had put on the first two pieces.

Walter remarked several times that this was Thorogood's experiment and would make him either notorious or famous "both of which are the same."

Sitting closed at 10:20 P.M. and downstairs it was found that there had been produced three prints of a right thumb alleged to be that of Sir Oliver Lodge. During the séance Walter had said the prints were unusual and each had a central circular core, which proved to be the case. During the sitting Walter announced several times that he was going away and each time silence would ensue for two or three minutes.

Each signer certifies only to what occurred in his or her presence as indicated.

WILLIAM H. BUTTON
L. R. G. CRANDON
SARAH B. LITZELMANN
C. H. LITZELMANN
MARK W. RICHARDSON

BROOKE SHERBURNE
EDWARD H. SHERBURNE
JOSEPHINE L. RICHARDSON
DANIEL D. WALTON
B. K. THOROGOOD

RALPH G. ADAMS

EXHIBIT 3

SITTING AT 10 LIME STREET, JULY 14, 1931

9 P.M. Daylight saving time.

Séance room very warm with much humidity. Electric fan on. Victrola playing.

Order of sitters to left: Dr. Richardson, Mr. Button, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Walton, Mr. Litzelmann, Sary, Dr. Crandon and Psyche. Mr. Adams and Mr. Thorogood outside circle.

Walter came through in about two minutes. Both mediums in trance.

Walter ordered the Victrola stopped. It was done. Thorogood stopped fan. Walter ordered it on.

Walter's voice was very strong. Said he would doubly amaze us tonight. Would do something never done before. Would complicate all our wires with Sir Oliver's fingers and toes. Also that the arguments and discussions caused by last night's phenomena were good for us, we were too complaisant, that he would puzzle us more to night. He then ordered Button and Mrs. Richardson to change places; then Sary and Carl Litzelmann. Walter continued his comments to the effect that it was good to know we were worried, it would keep us going.

Walter then ordered us to form two circles. *First*, to left, Margery, Richardson, Mrs. Richardson, Button and Crandon; *second*, to left, Litzelmann, Sary, Adams, Walton. (Walter ordered Adams into this circle.)

The first circle surrounded the table, the screen being in place as on previous evening. Later Walter said the object of the two circles was to increase the power.

After arranging the circles Walter asked Thorogood if he had marked the wax. Thorogood said he had. Walter asked if the pieces were large. Thorogood said "not particularly." Walter wanted large pieces and directed Thorogood to go downstairs and get them and Walton and Button to accompany him to mark the wax. The three went to the back room and opened a new box of wax containing eight pieces. Walton and Button marked five. Thorogood took these and one not marked. Button took the other two unmarked pieces and the three returned to the séance room where the two circles were formed as before.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

Walter then ordered hot water on table. Thorogood placed it there in red light. Cold water already there. Thorogood placed one piece of wax on cloth in hot water. Those in first circle could plainly see these operations. Red light turned out. Walter was asked how Sir Oliver slept last night. He said, "Restlessly." Was asked how he brought Sir Oliver's thumb prints over. He said he looked around and decided on the American Express. Crandon said it was out of business. Walter said, "Nothing ever dies."

Both mediums in deep trance, Walter ordered Sary out of trance peremptorily. Said, "Sary, come out immediately." She did. Sounds heard as of wax being dropped in cold water dish on table. Margery in trance complained of discomfort. Walter ordered Thorogood to take out wax. Said there were two prints on it, he would name them Walton and Button—they were so different. Thorogood secured the wax.

After a few moments Walter ordered another piece of wax in hot water. After a few seconds Walter ordered Sary into trance. She obliged as far as her controls could judge. After about 2½ minutes flopping sounds in water were heard. Wax ordered out. Thorogood secured it. Walter said it was a poor print and shortly ordered another piece of wax in more hot water quickly. Thorogood did this exactly as before. After a moment Walter ordered Sary out of trance. She obeyed so far as appearances could indicate. A minute later he ordered her back into trance and she evidently obeyed. In the next two minutes Walter ordered her in and out again and she evidently obeyed. This made four times in all during the séance.

Some flopping sounds were heard, and Thorogood on direction secured the wax. Walter said it had two thumb prints,—Sir Oliver's right and left; that they were the best prints he had ever made. Left one something like Walter's own. Right entirely different. Walter then said he was through. Everyone said "goodnight". After a few moments Walter said "Good night."

In the book room Thorogood produced three pieces of wax with prints on them. Walton and Button identified them as pieces marked by them. Thorogood dated them. Thorogood produced the two unused pieces marked by Walton and Button and one unmarked piece; Button produced the two other unmarked pieces. The prints proved to be as follows:

First: A left and a right thumb. The right one was much more unusual than the left.

Second: A left thumb print—not so good as preceding. Also part of a right.

Third: A right and left thumb print which were very plain. The right thumb-prints were of the same pattern as those of previous evening. Towards the end of the sitting Walter requested Thorogood to weld several pieces of wax together to make larger pieces for tomorrow night. He said Sir Oliver slept with his hands clasped and his thumbs crossed. He would reproduce the crossed thumbs.

The signers certify to the occurrences indicated to have happened in their respective presences.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. BUTTON
L. R. G. CRANDON
SARAH B. LITZELMANN
C. H. LITZELMANN

MARK W. RICHARDSON
JOSEPHINE L. RICHARDSON
DANIEL DAY WALTON
B. K. THOROGOOD

RALPH G. ADAMS

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

EXHIBIT 4

The following was written by Margery at 10 Lime Street, 3:30 P.M. (D.S.T.), July 15, 1931.

W^HB: W^E WILL SIT AT 4:30. HAVE HOT WATER AND WAX. ALL O.K. W. S. S.

July 15, 1931, at 3:30 P.M. Walton, Button, Sara and Margery were sitting in library at 10 Lime Street, discussing things in general. Suddenly Margery went into trance, went across the room, shut off fan, got pad and pencil and wrote the above.

Walton and Button marked five pieces of Kerr, got hot water, and went to séance room at 4:30. Red light and victrola. Red light off. In about two minutes Walter came through and asked what we wanted. Button told him we were there at his invitation. He said "put in wax." Red light turned on. Walton put hot water in dish and placed it on table. Cold water already there. Walton put wax on cloth in hot water. Red light off. Walter ordered Sary and Button to go to back of room near widow, which they did, and Walton to sit squarely in front of medium. Walton leaned over wire screen and held both of medium's hands. In about two minutes flopping sounds were heard in dish. Walter said wax was stuck to cloth and he couldn't get it off. Walton would have to do it. Walter said it was a da— good print of Sir Oliver Lodge. Walton retrieved it and took it off cloth. Walton told Walter it was fine. Walter said it was a wonderful print. He then said good-bye until 9 o'clock. Button and Walton identified wax which had a thumbprint on it. Time 4:30 to 4:50 P.M.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. BUTTON
DANIEL DAY WALTON
SARAH B. LITZELMANN

At the request of Walter the above sitting was not divulged to any one until after the 9 o'clock sitting of the same evening.

EXHIBIT 5

NOTES OF SITTING AT 10 LIME STREET, JULY 15, 1931

9:05 p.m. Daylight saving time.

Sitters to left: Dr. Richardson, Mr. Button, Mr. Sherburne, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Walton, Mr. Litzelmann, Sary, Dr. Crandon and Psyche. Mr. Thorogood and Mr. Adams were free outside the circle.

Double trance at 9:07. In about two minutes Walter came through. Dr Crandon said, "Before starting I want to ask you, Walter, at beginning of trance last sitting, Psyche held Dr. Richardson's and my hand very tight as if she were falling." Walter replied, "Maybe she was, how do I know? I never was a psychic."

Mr. Thorogood told Walter he had a heater there for him to heat the wax on and would like to have him try it out. Walter whistled.

Miss Barry, stenographer, was outside circle prepared to take notes. She took her notes by a red light which was on throughout the sitting. Before the sitting Mr. Walton gave Miss Barry some instructions as to what notes were to be taken down. In the seance room Walter told her to take down what he (Walter) told her to for those were the most important facts.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

Walter said to Miss Barry, "Take this down. I am telling you that on this I will rise or fall, THEY ARE THE RIGHT AND LEFT THUMBPRINTS OF SIR OLIVER LODGE."

There was a knocking sound from the fan in the room, and Walter said it sounded like Adams's head. Mr. Thorogood smiled and Walter passed a remark about his smiling and said, "Some one (Thorogood?) will get his turn. Well, you had yours, Walton." Dr. Crandon said, "That's a cryptic remark."

Walter then said, "I am going away now." In a few minutes Walter requested that Sary be put outside the circle in a corner with Mr. Adams and Mr. Walton. Walter then said, "Come out of it, Sarah." Sary out of trance 9:15.

At 9:16 Walter asked for small piece of wax.* Also light. Wax in. Sary in trance; out at 9:20. In about three-quarters of a minute Walter said, "The wax is too soft to make a good print. I don't like your flatiron method. It takes ten times the energy to cool it." Thorogood said he could heat it in hot water and put it on a card. This he did. In a minute or two Mr. Button said, "What is this I have? It hit me." Walter threw cardboard with wax on it into Button's lap. Walter said, "There is your thumbprint. A rather imperfect right thumb of Sir Oliver Lodge." Mr. Thorogood took it from Mr. Button.

Dr. Crandon said, "Walter, why did you leave out the cold water stage?" Walter said, "How do you know I did?"

Thorogood, "Let me know when you are ready for the next one."

Walter: "Right away." "Relax, Sarah."

Walter: "Get ready a large piece of wax." "I give you the phenomena but God gives you the weather."

Thorogood put in large piece of wax at 9:27. Walter: "Come out of it, Sarah." 9:27½ Thorogood took it away. Walter: "That is not so pretty. Soften wax a little more next time. This is a right and left thumb. He had crossed his left thumb over his right one. He changes his position now and puts the right one over the left."

At 9:30 Thorogood put in a softer piece of wax. Walter: "A very good thumbprint, rather larger, just opposite to the other one."

Walter now called for a small piece of wax. He then changed it to a large piece. Walter: "Hurry up." Thorogood: "Just a second, Walter, and I will have it for you." Thorogood places the wax. 9:35. Respiration of Margery much increased in speed. Walter: "This shows two thumbprints, tips of fingers and palm of hand. Not very good."

Dr. Crandon: "We would like to ask you a few questions. Has Feda made any communication with Sir Oliver concerning these experiments?"

Walter: "I wouldn't tell you if I knew."

Dr. Crandon: "The Chief had a brain-storm today, Walter. What if we were to ask you to make a thumbprint of one of your regular group of sitters who nevertheless couldn't put his own thumb on the table?"

Walter: "Just think of that! It might be done. You may go now and God bless you and keep you."

Dr. Crandon: "When do we sit again?"

Walter: "God knows, I might melt away. Come out of it, Sarah."

Mr. Button: "Is Sir Oliver going to coöperate?"

Walter: "Sure. What I have told you is the truth. I did what I did because I had to do it now or never. Goodnight!"

Sitting closed at 9:40 P.M.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

Downstairs in the Book Room, after the séance, Sary wrote as follows: (mirror writing).

"Charles

"Walter says that in this world and the other he has met all kinds of people but he has never yet had the extreme privilege of meeting so many d. . . fools at one time. He would like to tell a few of you what he thinks. You wouldn't like it but it might be good for you. He asks this, *simply*. What do you think he is trying to prove? Is he proving to you that he does not exist? I ask you! Are you prepared to go and show him that he is worthy the faith he is trying to prove? He really is about ready to say you are all *hopeless*. What do you say?"

(Signed)

WILLIAM H. BUTTON
L. R. G. CRANDON
SARAH BURLEIGH LITZELMANN
C. H. LITZELMANN
MARK W. RICHARDSON

EDWARD H. SHERBURNE
JOSEPHINE L. RICHARDSON
DANIEL DAY WALTON
B. K. THOROGOOD
RALPH G. ADAMS

EXHIBIT 6

PRINTS OF SIR OLIVER LODGE

CAPT. FIFE'S REPORT

August 3, 1931.

- Fig. 1. The three impressions are alike and in my opinion were made from a right thumb.
- Fig. 2. An enlargement made from Fig. 1, all patterns being identically alike.
- Fig. 3. The two pairs of impressions in my opinion are right and left thumbs. The single impression is the same pattern and identically like the first pattern in both pairs. The second prints of both pairs are identical with those in Fig. 1.
- Fig. 4. An enlargement of one of the pairs of prints in Fig. 3, and identical with them.
- Fig. 5. An enlargement of print identical in design with Fig. 2.
- Fig. 6. No. 2. Not clear enough to identify.
- No. 3. The right thumb and the same pattern as found in the three double pairs, and identical with Fig. 1.
- No. 4. Two impressions are right and left thumb prints crossed.
- No. 5. Right and left thumbs crossed and the same pattern as found in No. 4; and identical with those in Fig. 7.
- No. 6. Right and left thumbs crossed and same pattern as the others contained in Fig. 7. The two single prints not clear enough to identify.
- Fig. 7. In my opinion the two impressions in the centre are a right and left thumb crossed, and are identically the same pattern as contained in Fig. 3. The two other impressions have not enough detail by which a comparison can be made.

None of the above prints I have examined correspond in any way with the prints of any person present during the sittings at Lime Street.

Respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN W. FIFE.

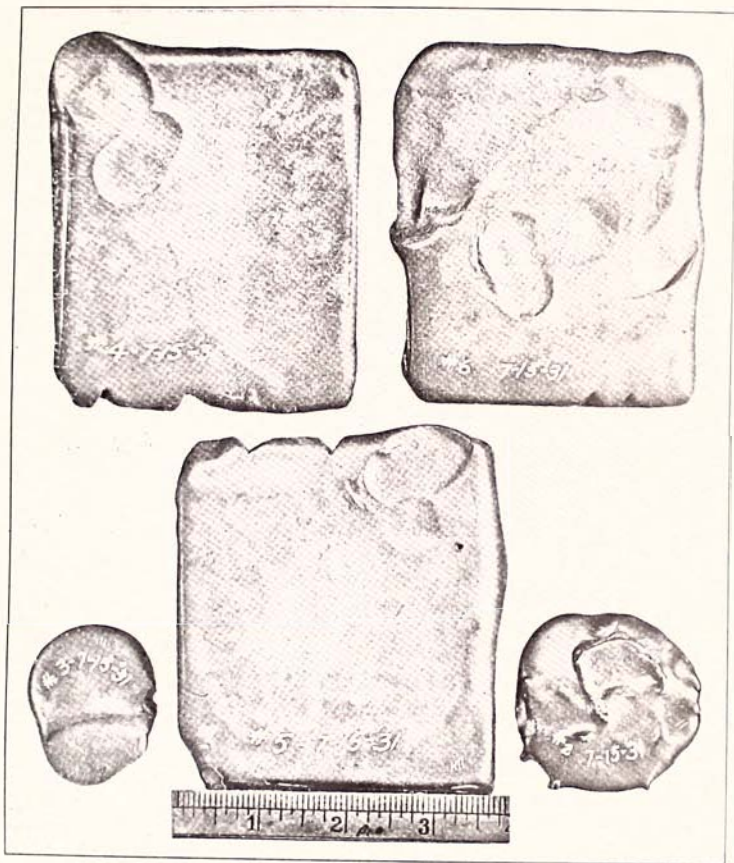


Fig. 6

Group of five waxes, each bearing from one to four impressions, some too faint for identification.



Fig. 7

An enlarged view of wax No. 6 shown in Fig. 6, showing quite clearly skin impression which might be from a wrist.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

EXHIBIT 7

REPORT (UNDATED) BY W. T. BELL

On the 10th October 1931 I received from Sir Oliver Lodge a series of photographs of digital impressions for examination and report.

These impressions were *alleged to have been* made on dental wax at the home of Dr. L. R. G. Crandon, M.D., 10 Lime Street, Boston, Mass., U. S. A., on the 13th, 14th and 15th July, 1931.

I have carefully scrutinized the photographs referred to and am in a position to say that all the legible prints are thumb impressions, *or manufactured replicas of thumb impressions.*

In making this report I feel that it is necessary to stipulate that if publication is made in which my name is used, it must be published verbatim, or, if any extract is published regarding any particular photograph, then the sentences and paragraphs underlined by me in this report must also at the same time be quoted.

*In view of the circumstances in which many of these impressions were alleged to have been obtained it is imperative for me to state that even with a comparatively short association with a person it would be quite a simple matter to obtain thumb impressions and afterwards to reproduce these identical replicas by artificial means.**

I. The imprints shown in Series I are all of the whorl type, are identical with each other and represent a right thumb impression.

II. In Series II the impressions on the right of each pair of prints are identical with those in Series I.

The incomplete print on wax No. 2 discloses little characteristic data, but it is probable that this print is also identical with those of Series I. A definite opinion cannot be given regarding this partial imprint. The imprints on the left of each pair are of the loop type and prove to be impressions of a left thumb.

III. In Series III the impressions on wax marked No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5 are lacking in characteristic data and therefore useless for purposes of fixing identity.

The impressions on wax marked No. 1 and No. 6 are repeat imprints of the thumb prints recorded in Series I and II. The large impression shown on wax No. 6, print G, certainly appears to be a skin mark and may conceivably be that of a wrist showing a depression on the wax the wrist bone would make.

I am not in a position to make any further observation as to this mark as the question of identity cannot arise.

With regard to the identity of these prints this is not affected in any way by the appearance in some cases of ridges as furrows.

Such reversal of ridges and furrows can be satisfactorily accounted for by the manner of lighting the object whilst being photographed.

In such cases as these the lighting problem is oft times difficult.

An example of reversal of ridges and furrows is to be seen in the loop print, No. 6, dated 7-15-31.

On the 21st October, 1931, I received from Sir Oliver Lodge normal imprints of his thumb taken with ink in the ordinary way.

I have prepared an exhibit showing an enlargement of a normal impression of the right thumb of Sir Oliver Lodge, together with an enlargement of imprint on wax marked No. 2, dated 7-13-31, Series 1, made at Boston, Mass. See Exhibit "A". (Fig. 8, *infra*).

In this case I have marked on each photograph 14 skin ridge characteristics which are to be found in agreement.

The characteristics indicated do not exhaust the supply of data available for comparison but is sufficient to convince me that these impressions are identical with each other.

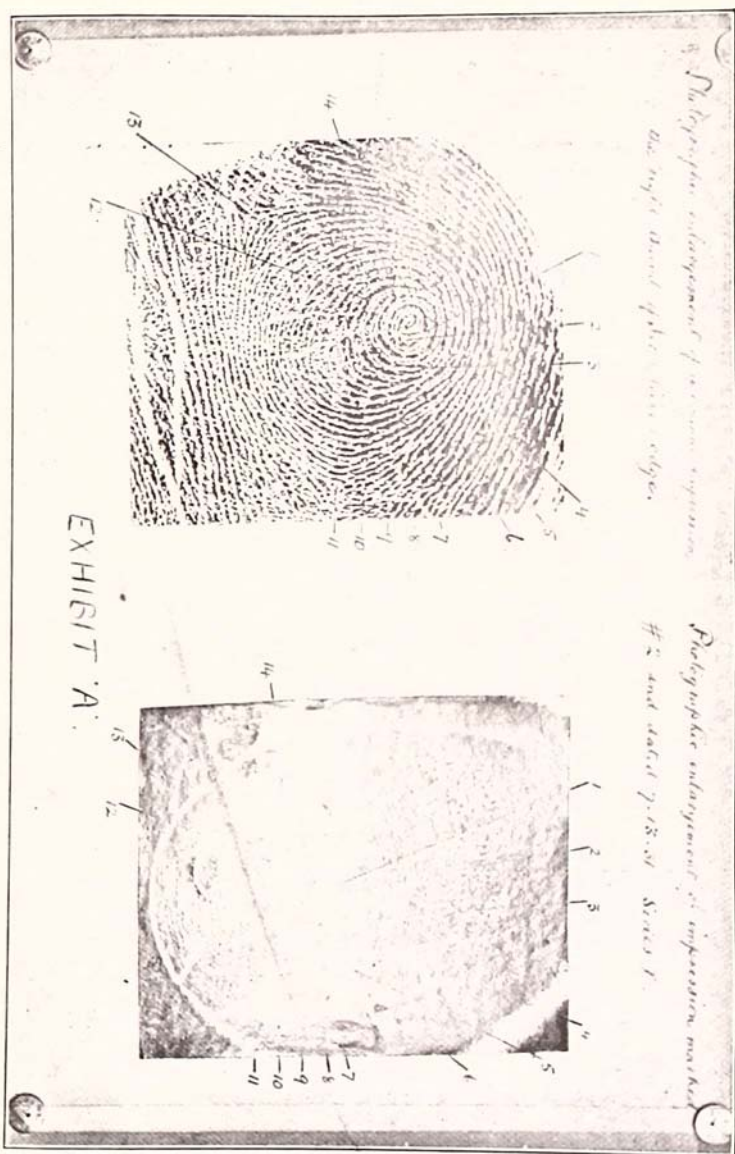


Fig. 8

Mr. Bell's Exhibit A with the fourteen identical characteristics marked. Sir Oliver Lodge's right thumb ink print. At right a poor reproduction of a copy of a photograph by the writer of wax No. 2 of Fig. 1.

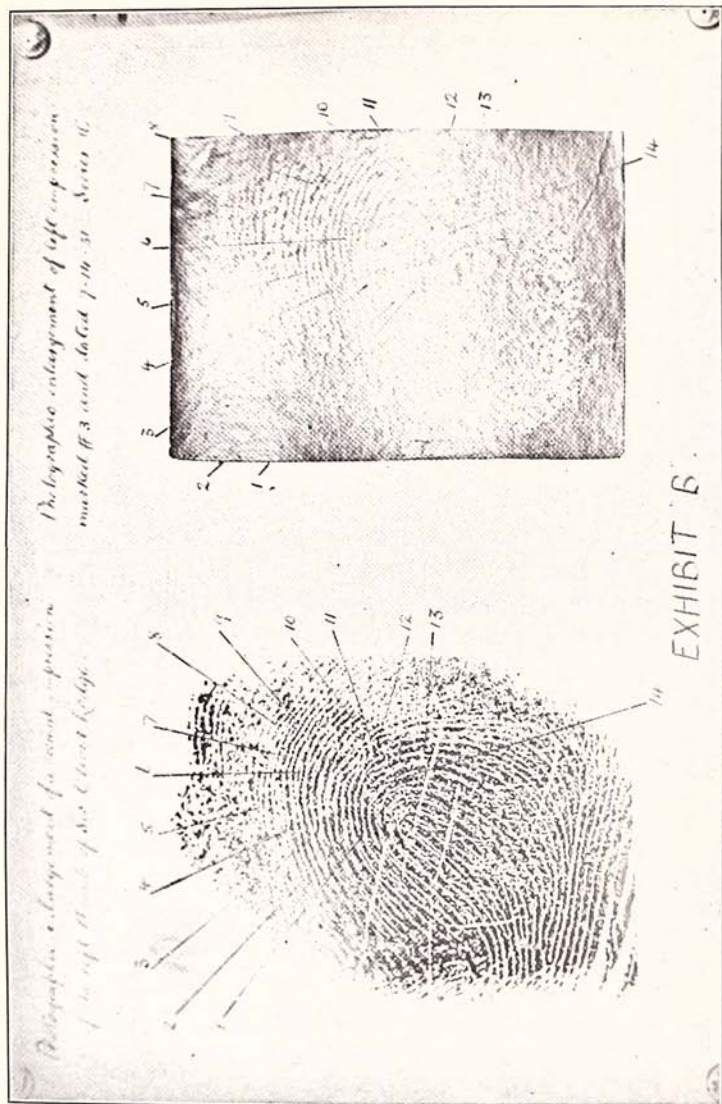


Fig. 9

Mr. Bell's Exhibit B with fourteen characteristics of Sir Oliver's left thumb compared with a copy of a photograph by the writer of wax No. 3 of Fig. 3.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

Exhibit "B" (Fig. 9, *infra*) is a photographic enlargement of a normal impression of the left thumb of Sir Oliver Lodge, together with an enlargement of photo of impression on wax marked No. 3, dated 7-14-31, Series II, made at Boston.

I have marked 14 skin ridge characteristics in agreement in these impressions.

Other unmarked data are to be found in this case and I do not hesitate to say that these impressions are also identical.

Regarding the exhibits it will be seen that the subsidiary ridges (these are perhaps best described as an attempt of additional ridges to develop between the main ridges) are more pronounced in the prints produced at Boston.

This may be due to varying degrees of pressure. The bold appearance of these subsidiary ridges in one print in contrast to the fine lines disclosed in the other might lead to confusion in the mind of the inexperienced when checking the all important sequence of detail.

Another noticeable point is the absence of pore marks in the ridge lines of the impressions obtained in Boston. These are reproduced in the normal impressions of Sir Oliver Lodge.

My experience has been that imprints in wax reproduce these minute pore marks with extraordinary clearness. It should be stated, however, that the appearance of pore marks normally produced, depends to a certain extent upon the temperature of the digit at the time the imprint is made.

I have been engaged continuously on the work and study of identification by means of finger prints for thirty years. Judging, as I do, by my experience I have no doubt that the legible impressions of the whorl type referred to in this report are identical with the right thumb impression, and those of the loop type with the left thumb impression of Sir Oliver Lodge.

The foregoing report deals with the question of comparisons of identity only.*

(Signed) W. T. BELL,

(Ex) Chief Inspector in charge of the Finger Print Bureau,
New Scotland Yard, London.

*It is in this sense, therefore, that Inspector Bell will have made his claim "that it is quite a simple matter to obtain thumb impressions and afterwards to reproduce these identical replicas by artificial means. This is the routine identification. But the question here involved is not the identification of the prints as being those of a particular person, but the very different one of the verification of originals *versus* copies or replicas. (See also Dr. Crandon's letter—Exhibit 13 *infra*).—Ed.

EXHIBIT 8

CHIEF INSPECTOR W. T. BELL

LETTERS AND REPORT

Wembley, Middlesex.
20th November, 1931.

Dear Doctor Crandon,

Sir Oliver Lodge has, I believe, written you regarding the extraordinary duplicates of his thumb impressions which were obtained in Boston during a recent series of sittings.

As an expert I was compelled to vouch for their identity, but for my own satisfaction I should be personally indebted if you would be kind enough to let me have a complete set of the thumb and finger prints of both hands of your wife "Margery" and also both hands of yourself, in order that I may see whether there are, by any chance, any points of similarity between these and the "Lodge" imprints which were obtained.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) W. T. BELL.



Fig. 10
Another Sir Oliver Lodge right thumb impression.



Fig. 11

An unusually fine detailed impression of a "Walter" print obtained at same time with three right thumb prints of Sir Oliver on Nov. 26, 1931.



Fig. 12
One of the Sir Oliver Lodge prints of Nov. 26, 1931.



Fig. 13

A very good Sir Oliver right thumb print, the photograph showing clearly the irregular surface of the wax for which Capt. Fife had asked during séance.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

EXHIBIT 9

DR. L. R. G. CRANDON TO MR. W. T. BELL

London
6th December, 1931.

My dear Mr. Bell,

This note is merely to recall to your mind the comparisons and experiments which I would like to have you carry out.

1. I have given you two enlarged thumb print photographs on one sheet. Make comparisons. Are they of the same thumb? (Exhibits C and D.)

2. I have left with you ink-on-paper prints of my two thumbs made by you today (two dimensional). I have also given you a box of dental wax (Kerr). You said in your recent report to Sir Oliver Lodge (Page 1, Para. 5), "That even with a comparatively short association with a person it would be quite a simple matter to obtain thumb impressions and afterwards to reproduce these identical replicas by artificial means."

I take it from the above that you believe it would be "quite a simple matter" to reproduce a flat (on paper) print a large number of times on another flat surface by photography.

I take it from the above that you *do not mean* that you believe it to be "quite a simple matter" to reproduce this flat surface print on a three-dimensional piece of dental wax (Kerr).

I have left with you my paper thumb prints and a box full of Kerr begging you forthwith to experiment, trying to make from my two-dimensional flat paper print a three-dimensional identical print in Kerr of such clearness and quality that an expert would not know at once what has been attempted.

Please send me your results in the experiments above together with your comments and expert opinion.

I am putting the same problem up to Mr. Fife (U. S. N.), and to Mr. Taylor at the Fingerprint Bureau, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

Please report on Problem No. 1 as early as possible; on Problem 2 entirely at your convenience.

With my thanks for your kindly interest,

Very truly yours.
L. R. G. CRANDON.

EXHIBIT 10

W. T. BELL TO DR. CRANDON

Wembley, Middlesex.
December 11th, 1931.

Dear Dr. Crandon,

I received your letter dated 6th December, 1931, sent from the Carlton Hotel, London.

I had no idea you were leaving London so soon as I understood you would be staying here till the 14th December. It was only when an endeavour was made to secure an interview with you that I learned you had left.

In view of the request made to me to report as to the identity in regard to certain seance imprints obtained in Boston, and which were sent to me by Sir Oliver Lodge on October 10th, 1931, after making my report upon these imprints I thought it advisable to refer back to some previous published thumb prints alleged to have been obtained in a similar manner. The result is disclosed in the report and exhibit which I have prepared and, I think, calls for some explanation before it is published.



Fig. 14
Last of this series, showing a Sir Oliver Lodge right thumb, although not very clearly.

THE SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

I would point out here that on Page 11, of the book reprinted from the Journal of the American Society, Jan.-Dec., 1927-1928, it is quoted that "it is impossible to mistake a toe print for a finger print." I have experimented with big toe prints of persons aged about fifty and find it impossible to determine whether the prints obtained are of a toe or a thumb.

With regard to the statement on Page 87 of the same book, that "in a certain family relationship a correspondence of special characteristics amounting to 75 per cent is usually noted," I must point out that about four months ago I wrote to Mr. Fife, asking to be supplied with examples of this. I have not yet had a reply to this letter. My experience does not agree with this claim, which, if generally accepted as a fact, would, I am afraid, severely shake judicial faith in finger print science and cause infinite harm to the system.

Seeing the position at the moment I consider it unnecessary to proceed with the report and marking of the thumb print enlargements you left with me or to experiment with the dental wax.

In these circumstances I feel bound to return herewith the cheque value £6. 6s. 0d. dated 7th December, 1931.

I shall be glad to receive a reply relative to this matter by return with any observations you care to make, as you will realize the matter is one of such importance that publication cannot be delayed.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. T. BELL.

EXHIBIT 11

REPORT BY W. T. BELL

ON THE IDENTITY OF THE ALLEGED SUPERNORMAL "WALTER" PRINT ON PLASTER CAST OF MAY 17TH, 1924.

In view of the request made to me to report as to the identity in regard to certain séance imprints obtained in Boston, which were sent to me by Sir Oliver Lodge on October 10, 1931, after making my report upon these imprints I thought it advisable to refer back to some previous published thumb prints, alleged to have been obtained in a similar manner.

In 1929 a book "The Thumbprint and Cross-Correspondence Experiments Made with the Medium "Margery" During 1927 and 1928" was sent to me by Dr. L. R. G. Crandon.

This book is reprinted from the Journal of the American Society of Psychical Research. At the séance sittings under Margery's Mediumship during 1927-1928 many alleged supernormal digital impressions were produced.

These imprints are in most cases identical and are referred to as the "well known Walter print." A photographic copy of a supernormal "Walter print" shown on Page 91, and marked 2.3.27. appears in exhibit and is marked 1.

On Page 96, a photograph of a digital impression appears, which is described as "Thumb of the paraffin glove of May 1924, showing the Walter print; photographed direct from the plaster cast of the glove made at the time." This print is reported on by Mr. John W. Fife, who is described as a civilian finger print expert and Chief of Police of Charlestown (Boston) Navy Yard. Mr. Fife's report appears on Page 87, and reads:

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

CAPT. J. W. FIFE'S REPORT

(Quoted in Mr. Bell's Report [Exhibit 11])

"I then examined the plaster cast of a hand, marked May 17, 1924, and find that the ridges and depressions are clearly marked over most of the area of the thumb, but that the thumb, like the rest of the hand, is distorted. The ball of the thumb seems to have been pinched up into a ridge above the core and this gives a different appearance to the pattern in that region as compared to the wax prints. In spite of the distortion, the pattern is in general identical with that of the wax prints in the corresponding area. The ridge count from the core to the delta is the same and the relationship of numerous bifurcations is consistent with those of the wax prints. In spite of the peculiar distortion of this thumb I am convinced that it is the same finger print pattern as the other prints and that it proves that the convex prints above referred to are actually models of a normal thumb.

"I have compared Margery's thumb print with the ones produced by 'Walter', and found her thumb prints to be of the ulnar type, and that they revealed some characteristics in the vicinity of the core that are almost identical with the ones found in the 'Walter' prints. Although their prints resemble each other so far as characteristics are concerned, they are not the same identical prints. The resemblance is sufficiently close to show blood relationship.

"In comparing both Margery's and Walter's prints with those of their mother, Mrs. Stinson, I found that the patterns and characteristics contained in the prints of all three resemble each other closely enough to indicate blood relationship. In families there is usually noted a correspondence of special characteristics amounting, in the case of a mother and son, to as much as seventy-five percent, and between brother and sister to fifty percent."

"It is my opinion, based on a most careful examination of the wax prints originally submitted to me by Dr. Crandon and the prints obtained at the séance of March 21, 1927, that these prints have been made by a living thumb, that the patterns are the same in all the prints except that some are reversed from the others, that the convex prints were not made from any of the concave prints which I have seen, that the prints of March 21st were not made by the thumb of any person in the room, and that the thumb of the plaster cast carries the same pattern as the thumb which made the normal wax impressions."

(Signed) JOHN W. FIFE.
19 Chestnut St., Somerville, Mass.

MR. BELL'S REPORT (Continued)

On page 95 it is quoted "An examination of the photograph in question (i.e. 'Walter print') and of the original plaster reveals much of interest."

It does, for after careful scrutiny of these photographs, I declare emphatically that these impressions apart from similarity of type or pattern, do not disclose any ridge characteristic data in agreement, are not identical with each other, and therefore must be imprints or replicas of different digits. See reversed photographs of digital mark on plaster Cast 11.

It should be pointed out that the reason for reversing the photographs of the cast is that the cast must show a reversal of the print in the paraffin. A photographic reversal of the plaster print produces a copy of the original print in the paraffin.

Having satisfied myself beyond doubt that the claim regarding the identity of the alleged supernormal "Walter" and plaster-cast prints must fail, I realized the im-

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

portance of tracing, if possible, a normally made duplicate impression of one or the other of these impressions. Knowing that imprints of the fingers and thumbs of Margery were on record in London I proceeded to examine them.

On examination I was at once struck with the similarity between the plaster cast imprint and the right thumb impression of Margery.

A photographic enlargement of Margery's right thumb print appears on exhibit as number III.

I have carefully scrutinized the photograph of the plaster cast impression together with the photograph of the normal imprint of Margery's right thumb, and have marked 18 skin ridge characteristics on each photograph which are in agreement. I have no hesitation in saying that the coincident sequence of ridge characteristic data found in agreement in the plaster cast and Margery's right thumb print definitely the identity of these imprints.

Mr. Fife in his report draws attention to the very distorted appearance of the plaster print. This is true, but finger print experts are not easily deceived by the distorted appearance of finger impressions.

Identity of finger prints is fixed by the type of ridge characteristics disclosed and their appearance in correct sequence.

So far as I am concerned the origin of the so-called "well known Walter print" remains a mystery for the present.

Of this I am certain, that the alleged supernormal imprint on the paraffin glove of May, 1924, is not identical with the frequently produced and alleged supernormal Walter print, as it is claimed to be, but is identical with a normal impression of the right thumb of the medium Margery.

W. T. BELL.

EXHIBIT 12

DR. CRANDON TO MR. BELL

Dec. 24, 1931.

My dear Bell:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 11th and the enclosures. I have also found upon my return to Boston your letter of November 20, 1931, which is surprising, as none of us can understand any possible relationship between the prints of Margery and myself and those already identified by you as being prints of Sir Oliver Lodge. In that letter you state that the evidence of identity between the prints sent you and those of Sir Oliver Lodge were such that you were "compelled to vouch for their identity." This was the only matter that was submitted at that time for your consideration, and your opinion would seem to be sufficient to settle that question.

You state further in your report that it is a simple matter to obtain thumbprints and then reproduce identical replicas of them by artificial means. We are informed and still believe that this cannot be done. At least, that a three dimensional print cannot be successfully made from an ink print without immediate detection. To test whether we are correct was my motive in requesting you to perform the operation, a request which I confirmed in writing while in London. I now find that for some strange reason you are unwilling to discuss that matter further and refuse to make any attempt to demonstrate the correctness of the statement you so positively made in your report. Under the circumstances, I am forced to the conclusion, which is shared by the experts who have cooperated with me in this country, that you have found it impossible to make such reproduction and preferred to discuss something else. If I am mistaken in this conclusion the way for you to demonstrate it is obvious.

SIR OLIVER LODGE FINGER IMPRESSIONS

I am not surprised at your evident amazement at the situation raised by Walter's production of the Sir Oliver Lodge prints, nor that you searched for some normal explanation thereof. As a matter of fact, the circumstances surrounding the production of the Sir Oliver Lodge prints in Boston were such as to leave no possible doubt of their supernatural character, and, therefore, I do not expect you either now or hereafter to explain the exact way in which they were produced.

In regard to the report which you enclosed in reference to the seven-year-old plaster cast, the tone of your letter as well as that of the report indicates that you have made a discovery. As a matter of fact, the resemblance between the prints that appear on that cast and the prints of Margery, as well as the later thumbprints so well known as those of Walter, have been well recognized and fully discussed. The latter also will be more fully discussed and competently disposed of in the forthcoming volume of the "Proceeding" of the American S. P. R. Your sole contention seems to be that a certain print on that cast is a print of Margery's thumb. This is contrary to the well-considered opinion of several experts in this country who have examined the original cast and raises nothing but a question of opinion between experts which it will not be profitable to pursue in this letter.

I feel that it is a matter of regret that you are inclined to do so much work which you were not requested to do, and have refused to do that which you agreed to do.

Very truly yours,

L. R. G. CRANDON, M.D.

WALTER HELPS TO PERFECT THE CONTROL

BY WILLIAM H. BUTTON

Attached hereto is the report of a sitting at 10 Lime Street on February 16th, 1932, and several other reports which tell their own story. A few comments, however, on the phenomena and their implications may be in order.

In the February number of the Journal there appeared an article by Dr. Richardson in regard to the production of the post-mortem thumbprints of the late Judge Hill. In it the conditions of control under which such prints were produced were described in detail. In the present issue Mr. Thorogood, Research Consultant of this Society, describes in detail several sittings at which there were likewise produced the thumbprints of Sir Oliver Lodge, who at the time was in England. Mr. Thorogood's article also describes minutely the conditions under which those prints were obtained.

The implications from these phenomena are as important as from anything that has ever been published in regard to psychical research.

It will be observed that the control that existed on these occasions was very strict but the phenomena are so remarkable that they emphasize the fact that too much cannot be done to perfect the control.

The Lodge article shows the reaction of Mr. Bell, the ex-Scotland Yard fingerprint expert, and it is characteristic. Bell knew that some years ago the Crandons had spent a day or so with Sir Oliver Lodge at his home in England. He undoubtedly knew of Crandon's correspondence with Sir Oliver. Therefore Bell was not to be

caught. He immediately advanced the theory that any person who had associated with Sir Oliver for even a short time could easily get his fingerprints (two dimensional) and manufacture therefrom a die from which three dimensional impressions could be made. When called upon to demonstrate this proposition, however, Mr. Bell drew a red herring across the trail. It is extremely doubtful that such reproductions could be made and not be immediately recognized as such.

The circumstances attending the Hill and Lodge print sittings were such that no die could have been used and none was used. Nevertheless, it is desirable that any additional control that ingenuity can devise should be applied to the production of such phenomena.

For a long time various researchers in this field have been impressed with the desirability of producing phenomena under circumstances that do not depend upon personal control. Sir William Crookes realized the desirability of this. Mr. Dudley was impressed with it. From the beginning of his association with the subject Mr. Thorogood has felt strongly that such control was the most important thing to be developed, and has exercised much ingenuity in perfecting such control with a success that will be apparent from the situation herein described. It is evident herefrom that Walter himself is fully aware of the importance of these ideas.

On February 16th, 1932, the writer was in Boston to attend a sitting at Lime

Feb 16, 1932

had got all the
new book up to
the new man
Lunch for 1 day
and night at
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1

Fig. 1

Last page of Mrs. Litzelmann's writing. (to read, hold up to a mirror).

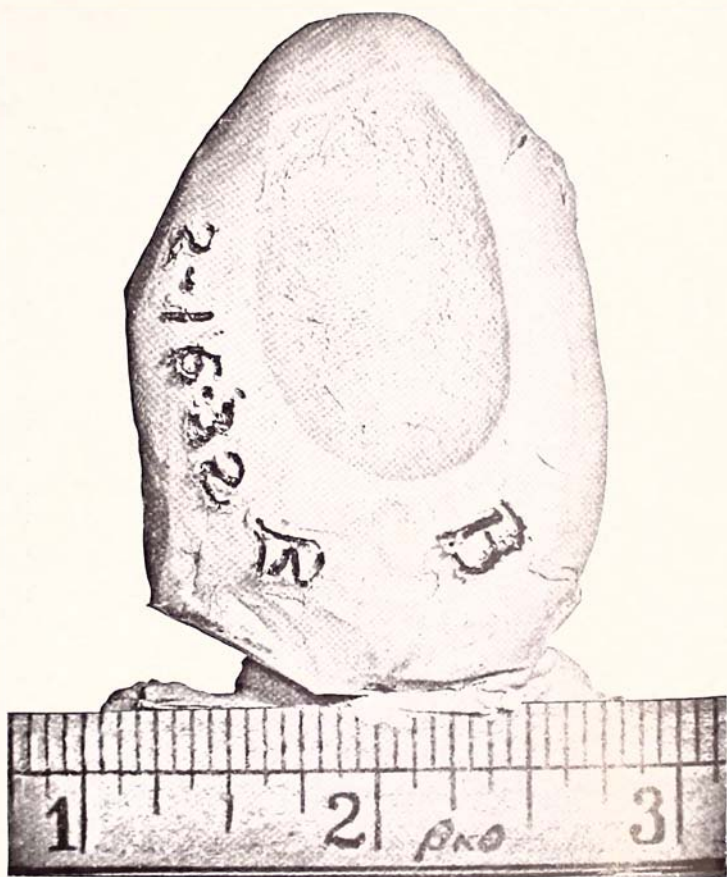


Fig. 2
'Walter' thumbprint produced in locked box, Feb. 16th, 1932.

Street that evening. He unexpectedly received a telephone message from Mrs. Litzelmann from her home in Cambridge stating that by automatic writing she had received a message from Walter for the writer which ran thus:

"Walter has a message he would like given to Mr. Button.

"I want you to ask Thorogood if he will take his lock off the box and let you put one of your own on it just for experiment tonight. This is confidential, tell him."

Mrs. Litzelmann has kindly furnished the original writing, a portion of which is reproduced in the accompanying illustration, figure 1.

Mrs. Litzelmann herself is a remarkable medium. She was an important factor in the cross-correspondence that took place in connection with Margery and Hardwicke. Her writing comes with rapidity and is of the mirror type, that is, to be read it must be held against a light and read from the back or from its reflection in a mirror. She produces this writing spontaneously, very rapidly and regardless of all distractions.

It is startling enough to have received an intelligent message purporting to come from another plane when the event proves that message to have an important bearing on subsequent experiments.

The writer carried out the instructions thus given by Walter, called up Thorogood, explained the situation to him and Thorogood agreed to take his lock off the box in the séance room at Lime Street. The writer went to a hardware store and bought a heavy Yale lock with two keys. This lock and the keys thereto he kept in his own pocket continuously until fifteen minutes before the sitting when he

procured the key to the séance room, which is always locked. He went to that room, found that Thorogood had removed his lock from the box and had removed all the articles he had in it with the exception of a small wooden duck. The writer thereupon placed in the box a small china coffee cup and a piece of Kerr with two notches on it, his idea being to provide something that Walter could break if so inclined. He also put in the box a calendar sheet, the number on which nobody in the world knew, as detailed in the report herewith.

He also placed in the box a mass of plasticine for the purpose of receiving a fingerprint impression. He locked the box with the padlock he had procured and kept the keys in his pocket until the box was opened. He also searched the séance room and kept the key in his possession until the beginning of the sitting. He then checked the sitters as they entered and locked the door behind them. Walter after a short time gave a correct description of the coffee cup, duck and the piece of Kerr in the box, correctly read the calendar number and made a distinct Walter thumbprint in the middle of the mass of plasticine, all as discovered upon the opening of the box in the light of a red electric torch as described in the report.

Captain Fife's report herewith shows that the print obtained is one of the well known Walter thumbprints. (Fig. 2). The illustration (Fig. 3) shows the other articles contained in the box.

The box itself is no flimsy affair. There are illustrations herewith of the box both open and locked. (Fig. 4) Mr. Thorogood's description is as follows:

"Voice Box No. 3 was designed for experimental purposes in connection with the study of the "Walter" voice phenomena and is to be superseded by an improved type No. 4. It has been used in studying other phenomena including the making of

WALTER HELPS TO PERFECT THE CONTROL

thumb prints in a sealed closed space.

The box itself is approximately cubical in shape, dimensions being about 20 inches on a side and weighing about 40 pounds, and the inner space where a plastic may be placed for the reception of an impression is about 8 inches on a side, making the walls about 6 inches thick and from the inside outward it is constructed of the following material; pine, spun glass, mazewood board, felted hair, corrugated cardboard and weatherwood. The only opening in the box is by a hinged door which outside is the size of a side of the box and when closed makes the box on all six sides practically continuous and alike in construction and material.

For other purposes there is an electrical connection which may be seen in the cut.

The box is practically tight, though not fluid tight.

When the door is closed and properly locked there is no way by which one could pass any solid or plastic article from the outside in or the inside out without damage to the box which would be very evident upon examination.

Practically each layer of different material of the box is sealed to its neighbor by rubber latex in the form of a thin film."

Here then is much food for reflection. Following the directions given early in the afternoon through Mrs. Litzelmann and purporting to come from himself, Walter succeeds in an enclosed space, inaccessible to everyone except the writer, in cognizing three articles, reading a number known to nobody and leaving his thumbprint.

These phenomena involve a great variety of the classes of phenomena familiar to psychical research. In a remarkable degree the production of the fingerprint under these circumstances of automatic control supplements the force of the evidence connected with the Hill and Lodge prints and all other prints obtained.

That the importance and value of this contribution to the subject is fully recognized by Walter is evident from the directions given by him. He realized that the box had been in the séance room for some time and that it might be claimed that duplicate keys existed. He therefore insisted on a new lock. He insisted that the locking of the box be verified by all the sitters before and again after the phenomena occurred. The writer has had occasion before to point out that Walter

himself is one of the best investigators.

In this connection it may be of interest to consider Walter's statements about the box and his relationship to it. During the sitting of February 12th, 1932, Walter asked, referring to the box involved herein, "What do you think they are going to say if I should work in this box?"

Thorogood: "I think they are going to believe it."

Walter: "Well, strange to say, I think they are."

Later in the same sitting the following conversation occurred.

Thorogood: "Are you going to try your own thumbprint first?"

Walter: "Certainly. Did you put plasticine in the box?"

Thorogood: "Yes".

Walter: "Monday night put a small piece on the table".

Thorogood: "I can put it in now".

Walter: "No, I am half in the box and half out. Do not put it in too soft or it will spoil the impression."

Later Walter said "In the next eight or ten sittings, prepare your box and have your cameras set, not a lot of light, do not fuss with the box, just open the door,

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put the stuff in and leave it alone". Walter also requested Thorogood to put the box behind the cabinet when he was taking a flashlight picture.

At a sitting on February 14th, 1932, Walter said that he must not be hurried, that the program was stupendous but would be constantly progressive. He said too that he was going to read the cards, break the telephone receivers and make a fingerprint in plasticine, all inside of the locked, sound-proof box. He then added "That will be the last of that box. Then I will do the big box that Thorogood is making and that will end all boxes." He made some complaint that the black cloth had not been kept on the box and said "That box is surrounded with energy like the ring around the moon or like a six inch covering of gelatine all over it. You will all have to be very strict about no light and not crossing the circle and keeping the black cloth on. Every letter of my instructions must be carried out."

At a sitting on February 15th, 1932, Walter said "Let me tell you some news. I have succeeded in getting into the box and thereby hangs a 'tail'. I have suc-

ceeded in getting in and out."

The above quotations from the séance records show Walter's attitude toward these phenomena and the control he exercises over them.

A study of the phenomena of February 16th, 1932, will make it clear that in a closed, isolated space, phenomena of materialization and telekinesis occurred as evidenced by the thumbprint. Intelligent cognitions occurred as evidenced by the naming of the duck, the coffee cup and the Kerr with the marks thereon. The telepathists may get some comfort for their theory in this regard but no one knew of these articles except the writer. Next there was the cognition of the calendar number, known to nobody in the world. Therein was clairvoyance or some similar phenomenon. Next there was some active intelligence producing and regulating all of these phenomena. The animists and spiritists can argue that out at their leisure.

There are few sittings that have been published which combine so many varieties of phenomena; and none, so far as we know, that occurred under such remarkable conditions of control.

SITTING AT 10 LIME STREET, FEBRUARY 16th, 1932 at 9 P.M.

Sitters to left: Psyche, Dr. Alfred W. Martin, Dr. Richardson, Mr. William H. Burton, Mrs. Roland Baker, Miss Herrika W. Burton, Mrs. Richardson and Dr. Crandon.

The medium was rather slow in going into trance but finally did go into a deep trance. On the table in front of the medium there was the Thorogood box made for the purpose of containing a microphone for voice tests, but of late used for various other experiments. It was covered by a large black cloth. The cloth was immediately removed from the box. By the sounds it was judged it had been given to Dr. Martin. Martin denied this, whereupon Walter said "Here is the coffin cloth" and put the cloth over Martin's arm. Martin and Crandon announced that their control of the medium was perfect during this episode. Walter then greeted Martin as "Parson". He greeted Mrs. Baker as an old sitter and Miss Burton as the "little lady" and said he was sorry that John was absent and thought John was afraid of him. He then said "You are all here, from the President down." Mr. Burton said "You mean from the President up." Walter said "Maybe you are right because at this sitting tonight you are going to be right up against it." Walter then said to Burton "Did you get

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my orders?" Button replied "I did". Walter asked "Did you carry them out?" Button answered "I tried to and think I did". Button suggested that Walter examine the box and see if it was satisfactory. Walter directed that the first thing to be done was for all present to examine the lock on the box by torch and verify the fact that the box was locked. This was done by the use of a red light electric torch and each person present verified the locking of the box by handling the padlock thereon. Walter then directed the sitters to relax and amuse themselves by telling stories, etc. A number of stories were told and Walter made pertinent comments in regard to many of them. Walter then said he was inside the box. Crandon inquired how it happened that his voice was outside the box. Walter said that he did not have to be all in.

He then said he could get into the box as he pleased. He would see what was in it. Walter then began to catalogue the contents of the box. He said "First, there is a piece of Kerr." Richardson asked if it was just an ordinary piece of Kerr. Walter said "No, it is notched." After a few moments he said "There is a small cup with a handle on it in the box." After another few moments he said "There is a damned little wooden thing in here, some kind of a bird." After a few more moments he asked if there was anything in the box to read. Button said he thought there was and Walter said "Oh, yes." After a number of moments, Walter said "The number in the box is 29". The intervals between Walter's naming the above articles in the box and reading the number 29 were somewhat protracted and seemed to the sitters to indicate that Walter was spending some time in an endeavor to learn its contents. Quite a few moments later Walter said "Oh, yes, there is another thing in this box. It is my thumbprint." Button then said to Walter that some arrangement should be made for opening the box in the proper way before proper witnesses and suggested that after the sitting a committee be appointed to do it. Walter said, no, it was unnecessary. That the scientific committee was already present. That the old guard was perfectly competent to attend to it and he directed that the "little lady" should open the box but before doing so everybody in the room should again verify the fact that the box was still locked. Everybody examined the lock with the same red electric flashlight and by feeling the lock and pulling it observed that the box was properly locked. Thereupon Mr. Button gave his daughter, Miss Herrika Button, the keys to the padlock. Miss Button then inserted the key, took off the padlock, opened the box and with the aid of the searchlight she took out and handed to Mrs. Baker a small coffee cup with a handle on it (demi-tasse), a little wooden duck, a piece of Kerr with two notches on it, a calendar number with 29 on it. It was observed that there was a lump of plasticine in the box with a thumbprint in the middle of it. Dr. Richardson carefully removed this and took charge of it until after the sitting. Mr. Button then asked Walter if he should tell them the story of what had happened. Walter said "Yes, it will help them to relax and will entertain them." Thereupon Mr. Button gave the following account of the afternoon's happenings which he stated was a true account thereof. He stated about 2:30 in the afternoon, Mrs. Litzelmann called him on the telephone from her home in Cambridge and stated that she had received a message from Walter for Mr. Button and that it was as follows:

That Walter wished Mr. Button to get hold of Thorogood and have Thorogood remove his lock from the box in the séance room and then to procure a lock of his own and put it on the box for the purpose of an experiment during the sitting that evening and to keep the matter confidential.

Thereupon Mr. Button called up Thorogood, explained the situation to him and Thorogood agreed to take off his lock. Mr. Button went out and bought a heavy Yale padlock with two keys. He kept this lock with the keys in his pocket until 8:45 p.m. at which time he procured the key to the séance room, went into that room and searched it to see that nobody was there, then with the red torchlight examined the box and found that Thorogood had removed his padlock and that there was nothing

in the box except a small wooden duck. Mr. Button thereupon placed in the box a small coffee cup, a piece of Kerr with two notches on it and a calendar number. The calendar number was selected as follows: Mr. Button, before going to the séance room, turned a day by day calendar on its back and tore out ten leaves at random. He dated and numbered them in sequence 1 to 10 on the back and did not at any time see any number among the ten. He put these in an envelope which he put in his pocket. In the séance room on the above occasion he turned out the flashlight, took the envelope out of his pocket, selected one of the numbers at random and put it in the box without knowing what it was. Mr. Button had earlier prepared a mass of plasticine on a small piece of tin. He had modeled it into an oval mass with the center quite high, something like half an egg. He then smoothed the surface off with the blade of his knife, examined the plasticine through a magnifying glass to see that there were no marks or thumbprints on it. This Mr. Button lastly put into the box. He then locked the box, put the two keys in his pocket and replaced the cloth over the box. Mr. Button retained the key to the séance room until 9 p.m. when he unlocked the door and checked the sitters as they entered and then locked the door. None of the sitters knew any of these facts.

After the above happenings something was heard to drop on the floor. Walter said it was the medium's cough drop. This referred to the fact that at the beginning of the sitting, both Margery and Mrs. Baker said that they were chewing cough drops. A cough drop was retrieved from the floor after the sitting. Crandon asked Walter if he was looking over Button's shoulder while Button was putting things in the box. Walter said it would make no difference whether he was or not. It would not account for the thumbprint. When asked if he knew what was in the box, Button said he did. Walter immediately corrected him and said that Button did not know what the number was. This Button admitted. Before the box was opened Button asked Walter if he would break the Kerr. Walter said "Do you want to paint the lily? I have done enough for one night."

Sitting ended at 10 p.m.

In the book room Dr. Richardson examined the thumbprint on the plasticine. It was a comparatively distinct print of some depth in the middle of the mass of plasticine. Dr. Richardson thought it was one of the Walter prints. It was given to Mr. Button who kept it in his possession until the next day when he sent for Captain Fife who said he thought it was a Walter print but would examine it further. Mr. Button then delivered it to Mr. Thorogood for photographing with the request that he deliver it to Captain Fife.

A copy of the writing received automatically by Mrs. Litzelmann is attached.

There was much conversation by Walter during the sitting not pertinent to the above phenomena which is not included in this report.

Each signer certifies only to the events indicated to have taken place in his or her presence.

WILLIAM H. BUTTON
MARK W. RICHARDSON
L. R. G. CRANDON

EDITH M. BAKER
JOSEPHINE L. RICHARDSON
ALFRED W. MARTIN

HERRIKA W. BUTTON

WALTER HELPS TO PERFECT THE CONTROL

Boston, Mass.
22 Feb. 1932.

William H. Button, Esq.
27 Cedar St., New York City.

Dear Sir:-

The print on plasticine dated 2/16/32 submitted to me for identification I find to be the right hand thumbprint of Walter Stinson deceased.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. FIFE, F.P.E.

ATTESTATION BY MRS. SARAH LITZELMANN

Cambridge, Mass.
Feb. 21st, 1932.

My dear Mr. Button,

Having passed through all the stages of emotion, amazement, doubt, keen interest, etc. during six or seven years of automatic writing, I have ceased to write simply to satisfy idle curiosity. Many times, however, through Charles, my friendly though somewhat pedantic control, I am able to be of great assistance to some one in trouble. Also, through Charles, Walter is often able to get a very important message delivered to the one whom it most concerns.

This is exactly what happened on the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 16th.

A friend had come to me for help, I had written some four or five pages; the mirror writing is some times very hard to decipher, and as I was struggling through it, I came upon this:

"Walter has a message he would like given to Mr. Button. I want you to ask Thorogood if he will take his lock off the box and let you put one of your own on it, just for experiment tonight.

"This is confidential, tell him."

This message I immediately telephoned to you, in Boston, reaching you about two thirty in the afternoon. Later I sent you the original writing, after your return to New York.

Most sincerely yours,

SARAH B. LITZELMANN
"Sary"

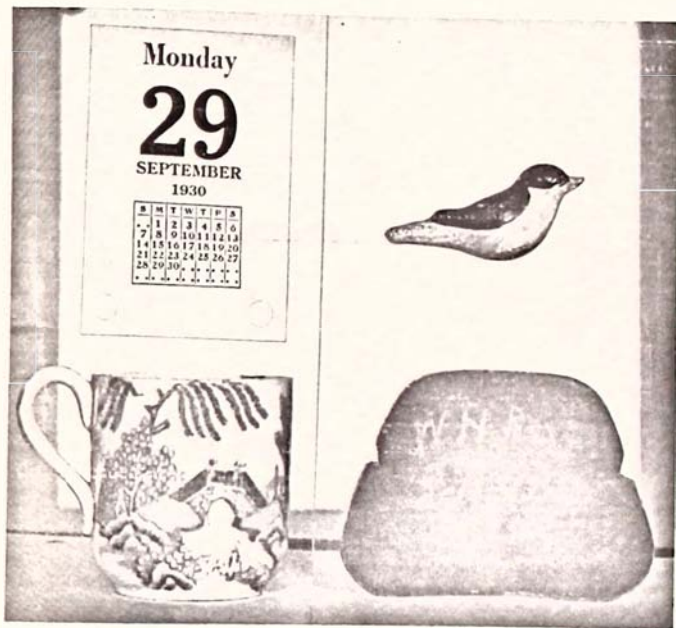


Fig. 3
Articles cognized by Walter on Feb. 16, 1932, inside locked box

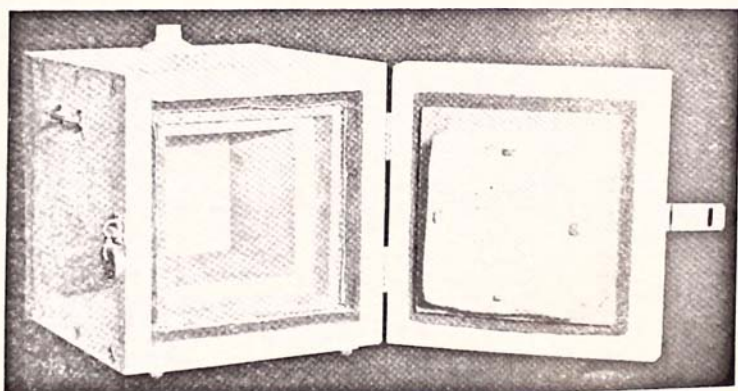
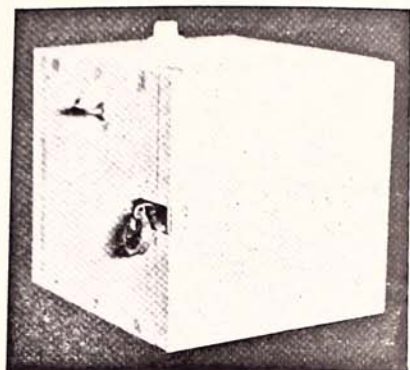


Fig. 4 (a) and (b).

Box locked and open. Inside this box, when locked, Walter brought about the phenomena of Feb. 16, 1932.

