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# JOURNAL

#### OF THE

# SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

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# NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

# CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

BERNHEIM, PROFESSOR, Hôpital Civil, Nancy. Féré, Dr., Hôpital de la Salpêtrière, Paris. Liébeault, Dr. A. A., Nancy.

### MEMBERS.

BUDDEN, EDWARD RUSSELL, Eversley Lodge, Ealing Common, W. COVENTON, CHARLES H., Morwenstow, Enfield, Middlesex. ELDER, FREDERICK, Campden House, Kensington, London, W. ELDER, MISS M. C., Campden House, Kensington, London, W. IRVING, DR. LEWIS A., Government House, Ganesh Khind, Bon:bay. ROGERS, GEORGE FREDERICK, Caius College, Cambridge.

## ASSOCIATES.

HEARTLEY, REV. C. T., M.A., Cheveley Rectory, Newmarket.
LINDSAY, MISS BEATRICE, Greenfield House, Onchan, Isle of Man.
NIXON, BRINSLEY, Westward Ho, North Devon.
PHEAR, REV. DR., Emmanuel College Lodge, Cambridge.
PHILLIPPS, ALFRED MARCH, Hitcham Hall, Ipswich.
SAWYER, R. D., 7, Avenue Gourgand, Paris.
SCHINDLER, MISS MARTINA, New Street, Breda, Holland.
SMITH, MRS. RICHARD, 174, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.
WILLIAMS, MISS S, 41, Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

# MEETING OF COUNCIL.

At a Meeting of the Council held on the 2nd inst., the following Members were present: Messrs. Alexander Calder, Walter H. Coffin, Edmund Gurney, F. W. H. Myers, Edward R. Pease, Frank Podmore, and Professor H. Sidgwick, who took the chair.

The minutes of the previous Meeting were read and signed as correct.

On the proposition of Mr. Gurney, Professor Bernheim, of the Hôpital Civil, Nancy, and on the proposition of Mr. Myers, Dr. Féré, of the Hôpital de la Salpêtrière, Paris, and Dr. Liébeault, of Nancy, were elected Corresponding Members.

Six new Members and nine new Associates were elected, whose names and addresses are given on the preceding page.

Dr. A. C. Page, of Nova Scotia, desired to continue as an Associate instead of as a Member, after the current year, which was agreed to.

The Council received with regret information of the death of three Members of the Society since its last Meeting: Lord Houghton. Mr. Alexander L. Elder, and Mr. Walter Weldon, F.R.S.

Several presents to the Library were on the table, which were directed to be duly acknowledged with thanks.

The usual cash account, for the two months of August and September, was presented, and the needful accounts passed for payment.

It was concluded that a General Meeting should be held on Thursday, the 29th inst., notices and cards for which will be sent round as soon as arrangements are completed.

The next regular Meeting of the Council was fixed for Friday, the 6th prox., but an intermediate one will be held for the election of new Members.

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL MEETING.

The next General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, October 29th, when Mr. Myers will read a paper on Human Personality in the light of recent Hypnotic Experiments.

# ON THE ACTION OF DRUGS AT A DISTANCE.

At the last meeting at Grenoble, this autumn, of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, a remarkable paper was presented by MM. Bourru and Burot, two doctors of the School of Naval Medicine at Rochefort, dealing with the action of drugs at a distance. It attracted considerable attention, and M. Burot has very kindly supplied us with some corrections and explanations of the reports of it which appeared in La Semaine Médicale, of August 19th, and Le Temps, of August 22nd. It relates some novel experiences, which may be found to touch several new points in the possibilities of thought-transference and nervous susceptibility; and, as it might not otherwise fall under the notice of our readers, a short résumé of the principal points will perhaps not be out of place here.

Careful observations have been made during the last six months in the Hospital at Rochefort on two patients. The first was a man, aged 22, who had led a somewhat anomalous and vagrant life. When he was 14 years old he had attacks that appeared to be hysterical, and were followed by paralysis of both legs that lasted for a year, and disappeared suddenly after a long hysterical crisis. During his paralysis he was in a hospital at Bonneval, and learnt the trade of a tailor, but on his sudden recovery there was some change in his personality; he did not recognise his surroundings, and did not remember his tailor's art. He passed through various hospitals, but finally enlisted in the Marines, and was taken in at the Rochefort Hospital in March, 1885. The other patient was a woman, aged 26, who had been among the hystero-epileptic cases in the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris, under M. Charcot, when she was 18, for about a year and a-half, and had shown many subsequent hysterical symptons before she came under observation at Rochefort in the spring of 1885. The man had lost sensation on the right side of his body, and in treating this the effects of various metals in contact with the skin were first tried. Zinc, copper, platinum, and iron had some slight effects ; gold and mercury acted much more violently; indeed, gold, when it was five or six inches from the skin, produced a feeling of burning through his clothes, even when it was completely shielded, so to speak, by being within the grasp of the hand of the operator; and mercury in the bull of a thermometer gave rise to the same feeling, and some convulsions and spasms. These unexpected results led to the trial on both patients of the action of various drugs at a distance. The attention of the patient was engaged during the experiment as far as possible by one of the operators on some object which had nothing to do with the experiment, and no attempt to hypnotise the patient was made. Meanwhile the other operator held a solid drug wrapped up in paper, or a liquid in a bottle, a few inches behind the back of the patient's head. After a minute or two, as a rule, the first group of phenomena followed, which were practically the same whatever drug was being used, and which were considered to depend more on the nervous temperament of the patient than on anything else. They were something like their hysterical symptoms when not under experiment; sometimes they became insensible, motionless, and apparently unconscious ; sometimes there were slow movements at first, leading to convulsions or excitement. To these

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vague initial symptoms succeeded gradually a second group, due presumably to the specific action of the drugs employed, which it was important but sometimes difficult to separate as accurately as could be wished from what had gone before. In this second stage the narcotics all produced sleep, but each had its characteristic features : opium produced a heavy sleep from which it was difficult to rouse them, and which left some headache and weariness; chloral produced a lighter sleep; morphia a sleep like that of opium, which could be made less deep by the use of atropine ; narceine a sleep of a peculiar type, accompanied by salivation, and ending in a sudden waking to a state of anxiety and distress. The sleep of codeia, thebaine, and narcotin was accompanied by more or less convulsive movement. In the same way the effect of each of the emetics was characteristic; apomorphia produced profuse sickness without straining, followed by headache and drowsiness; ipecacuanha led to less sickness but much salivation, and a peculiar taste in the mouth; tartar emetic to nausea and great depression. So, too, with the alcohols : wine was followed by jovial intoxication; amylic alcohol by intoxication with great violence; aldehyde by rapid and complete prostration, as of dead drunkenness; absinth by paralysis of the limbs. Orange flower water and camphor had a quieting action, producing natural sleep. The effects of laurel water were unexpected, and its action in consequence was often tested, but found to be always constant in each patient. In the man it produced convulsive movements of the thorax, spasmodic breathing, salivation and hiccough. In the woman, who was a Jewess, there was first a religious ecstasy in which she acted a drama of adoration, prayer, and repentance, which was followed by spasmodic breathing, as in the man, and ended in sleep. The laurel water contained both prussic acid and some essential oil : a weak solution of prussic acid, if held up behind her head, was followed by the ecstatic phenomena; the essential oil by the spasmodic breathing; this was considered to contribute to a physiological analysis of the effects of laurel water.

Valerian produced some *bizarre* phenomena of excitement as it does in cats; cantharides a feeling of burning in nuccus surfaces which was stopped by camphor; veratria the symptoms of a cold in the head, of a congestion of the back of the nose, and disturbances of sight; jaborandi and pilocarpin made the patients sweat, and salivated them. The anæsthetics were followed first by excitement and afterwards by sleep, as in their ordinary surgical use.

It was not easy to separate quite exactly the phenomena of the first stage of excitement from those of the specific action of the drug, but among those which were considered as due to the latter, and not permitting of deceit, the authors reckon the salivation, the sweating, the sickness, the sleep, the disturbances of sight, the

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symptoms of alcoholic intoxication, of cold in the head, and the specific action of valerian and cantharides.

MM. Bourru and Burot were anxious to submit their experiments to the judgment of other medical authorities, and requested Dr. Duplouy, the director of the School of Naval Medical Officers at Kochefort, to give them the benefit of his opinion. Dr. Duplouy was not inclined to accept their startling reports, but consented to investigate the matter under strict conditions. Experiments were made by him in complete silence, and all persons who could be suspected of having influence on the patients were excluded. The professors of the Naval School were present and many naval medical officers. Under the direction of Dr. Duplouy an assistant held some jaborandi in a bottle behind the patient's head; salivation and sweating followed as in the experiments of MM. Bourru and Burot. Another gentleman during Dr. Duplouy's investigation made an experiment which was rendered especially important by a He had two similar bottles in his pocket, both wrapped in mistake. paper; one contained cantharides, the other valerian; he chose the one which he thought contained cantharides and held it up to the patient ; to his surprise the results which accompany valerian followed, and then he found that he had made a mistake and was holding the bottle containing valerian. Dr. Duplouy admitted at the time that he was convinced of the accuracy of the observations of MM. Bourru and Burot, and when their paper was before the French Association, he made a speech to testify publicly to this conviction on the evidence of his own experiments, which had been very startling to him; he was unable, he admitted, to explain the facts, but he considered any assumption of fraud as quite inadmissible. The male patient was transferred to the Asylum Lafond at La Rochelle, where the director, Dr. Mabille, repeated the experiments with the same results, which were witnessed to by the Medical and Natural Science Societies of La Rochelle.

After the experiments on their two first and most sensitive subjects MM. Bourru and Burot made trials of many others and found some less distinct results of the same kind in a large proportion of them.

They declined at Grenoble to pledge themselves to any theory in explanation of these observations, but briefly noticed three hypotheses. First, the theory of suggestion. This they were inclined to think insufficient to cover the facts; for sometimes the results corresponding to the drug had been obtained when those making the experiment did not know what drug was being used; sometimes when the drug was known the results had been very different from what was expected, as in the case of laurel water. In the second place, the theory of vibrations which M. Vigouroux had put forward to explain the action of the magnet, did not seem to them to *explain* (strictly speaking) anything, but only, at best, to put it in other language. There remained a third theory, of a radiant nervous force, which M. Baréty had advocated at Nice, in 1881. It was an attempt at a conception in analogy with radiant heat, or, more strictly, with the action of a magnet at a distance within its magnetic field. In exceptional cases the nervous system was supposed to be influenced by substances within a limited impressionable nervous field extending to a short distance from the body. In normal conditions there was certainly no evidence of such extension of a nervous field; it could not be directly proved, but might be useful as a provisional hypothesis.

We are glad to learn from subsequent correspondence with M. Burot that these experiments are still being actively carried on, and a detailed account and discussion of them is likely to be soon published. On the possibility of suggestion by the help of an abnormally acute sense of smell, such as belongs sometimes to hysterical patients, M. Burot remarks that when he made the first experiments he could not imagine that the patient could have known what physiological effects attach to some of the drugs, even if they knew what they were by their smell, and, further, that some -e.g., morphia-had no perceptible smell. He is inclining to the conclusion that the drugs have no effect when contained in absolutely sealed tubes, though they act when in bottles with ground-glass stoppers; and that, we should suppose, must tend to the belief that the results depend in some way on the presence and diffusion of the drug, and not entirely on any thought-transference or mental condition of the operator. We have ventured to suggest some further experiments, designed to exclude all the possibilities of suggestion, but have not yet heard of their having been carried out.

A. T. MYERS, M.D.

# REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE OF MISS VAUGHAN.

[The following case has already been printed among the slips at the Society's rooms as L. No. 43, but as it has probably not been read by many persons outside the Literary Committee, and as it is, as Mr. Wedgwood says, an interesting parallel to a case printed in our last number, we think that our readers will be glad to have an opportunity of reading it here.—ED.

The remarkable experience of A. Z. related at p. 39 of No. XX. of the *Journal* of the Society for Psychical Research, has the closest resemblance to an incident related to me by my old friend, Miss Vaughan, now many years dead, which I wrote down immediately after hearing it on January 2nd] 1876, and subsequently submitted for her approval.

In the autumn of 1856, an intimate friend of Miss Vaughan's was dying about 20 miles from London, when one Friday she received a letter from one of her daughters, saying that as their mother was rather better they should be glad to come to London for a special occasion on the following Tuesday, if Miss Vaughan could receive them.

Miss Vaughan then proceeds: "On the Saturday night I went to bed

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at my usual hour of 12, but did not go to sleep for some time, when I was suddenly startled by\* three sets of three extraordinary loud knocks, like strokes of a hammer on an empty box at my bed head (which stood against the party wall of the house), followed immediately by a long loud cry of a woman's voice, which seemed to die away in the distance. I called my maid instantly and begged her to look out of the window and see if there was any one in the street. She opened the shutters, threw up the sash, and said there was no one; that I must have been dreaming; that it was quite late. I said no, it had not yet struck one, and sent her to look at the clock. She returned and said it wanted 10 minutes to one. I said the noise (doubtless the knocks) must have come from the next house. She said it was empty, but this I could not believe, so I sent her early on Sunday morn. ing to see. She came back, saying that the windows were all shut, and she had knocked for some time in vain. On the following morning I sent her to the person who had charge of the house, thinking that somebody must have slept in it on Saturday night. She said this could not be the case, as she had the key, but she went to look and told me that no one could possibly have got in.

"A very few hoursafterwards I received a letter to tell me that my friend became suddenly worse on Saturday morning and died in the course of the night. I knew I had been much in her thoughts, and a few days before her death she had said now she was a little better she hoped she might soon be well enough to see me.

"Some time subsequently I had an opportunity of seeing the nurse, and she told me that my friend had died exactly at quarter before one on Sunday morning, *uttering a loud cry at the moment of death*. She had just been giving her a cup of beef ten and had replaced it on the mantel-piece, where there was a clock, on which she observed the hour."

In November, 1876, I read the foregoing narrative to a common friend of mine and Miss Vaughan's. She was staying with a sister at Hastings when she received a letter from Miss Vaughan, telling of her friend's death, and of her having appeared to her. She was greatly interested at this intelligence, and hurried up to London, when she heard from Miss Vaughan the story exactly as I have related it down to the news of the death; but as Miss Vaughan had not then seen the nurse and was consequently ignorant of the precise agreement in the time of her friend's death, and of the fact of her outcry at the moment of death, she was a little disappointed at the story. Two or three months afterwards when Miss Vaughan told her what she had heard from the nurse, she was much more impressed.

H. WEDGWOOD.

<sup>\*</sup> Compare the following from Wesley's account of the rappings at Epsworth, quoted in the Spiritual Magazine, I. 235. "That night I was awaked a little before one by nine distinct very loud knocks, which seemed to be in the next room to ours, with a sort of pause at every third stroke."

# CASES RECEIVED BY THE LITERARY COMMITTEE. (Continued)

L.---816.---Ad Pn

The three documents which compose this case are (1), account of Mrs. de Fréville's death by the Rev. C. T. Forster; (2) deposition made to me and Mr. Hodgson, by Mr. Bard, at Cambridge, July 21st, 1885; (3) deposition made to me by Mrs. Bard, at Hinxton, on July 8th, 1885.

Mr. Forster conducted me over Hinxton churchyard on July 8th, 1885, and I can attest the accuracy of Mr. Bard's description of the relative position of the church, the tomb, and the exits.

F. W. H. M.

DOCUMENT I.

Hinxton Vicarage, Saffron Walden,

August 6th, 1885.

My late parishioner, Mrs. de Fréville, was a somewhat eccentric lady, who was specially morbid on the subject of tombs, &c.

About two days after her death, which took place in London, May 8th, in the afternoon,\* I heard that she had been seen that very night by Alfred Bard. I sent for him, and he gave me a very clear and circumstantial account of what he had seen.

He is a man of great observation, being a self-taught naturalist, and I am quite satisfied that he desires to speak the truth without any exaggeration.

I must add that I am absolutely certain that the news of Mrs. de Fréville's death did not reach Hinxton till the next morning, May 9th.

C. T. FORSTER,

Vicar of Hinxton, Cambs.

#### DOCUMENT II.

I am a gardener in employment at Sawston. I always go through Hinxton churchyard on my return home from work. On Friday, May 8th, 1885, I was walking back as usual. On entering the churchyard I looked rather carefully at the ground, in order to see a cow and donkey which used to lie just inside the gate. In so doing I looked straight at the square stone vault in which the late Mr. de Fréville was at one time buried. I then saw Mrs. de Fréville leaning on the rails, dressed much as I had usually seen her, in a coal-scuttle bonnet, black jacket with deep crape, and black dress. She was looking full at me. Her face was very white, much whiter than I knew her well, having at one time been in her employ. I at usual. once supposed that she had come, as she sometimes did, to the mausoleum in her own park, in order to have it opened and go in. I supposed that Mr. Wiles. the mason from Cambridge, was in the tomb doing something. I walked round the tomb looking carefully at it, in order to see if the gate was open, keeping my eye on her and never more than five or six yards from her. Her face turned and followed me. I passed between the church and the tomb (there are about four yards between the two), and peered forward to see whether the tomb was open, as she hid the part of the tomb which I slightly stumbled on a hassock of grass, and looked at my feet opened. for a moment only. When I looked up she was gone. She could not

\* She was found dead at 7.30 p.m. She had been left alone in her room, being poorly, but not considered seriously or dangerously ill.

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possibly have got out of the churchyard, as in order to reach any of the exits she must have passed me. So I took for granted that she had quickly gone into the tomb. I went up to the door, which I expected to find open, but to my surprise it was shut and had not been opened, as there was no key in the lock. I rather hoped to have a look into the tomb myself, so I went back again and shook the gate to make sure, but there was no sign of any one's having been there. I was then much startled and locked at the clock, which marked 9.20. When I got home I half thought it must have been my fancy, but I told my wife that I had seen Mrs. de Fréville.

Next day when my little boy told me that she was dead I gave a start, which my companion noticed, I was so much taken aback.

I have never had any other hallucination whatever.

ALFRED BARD, Sawston.

#### DOCUMENT 111.

When Mr. Bard came home he said "I have seen Mrs. de Fréville to-night leaning with her elbow on the palisade looking at me. I turned again to look at her and she was gone. She had cloak and bonnet on." He got home as usual between 9 and 10; it was on the 8th of May, 1885.

SARAH BARD.

L.-817-Ad Pn

Church Farm, Gorleston.

September, 17th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—Seeing your advertisement in the *Times* it occurred to me to send you the particulars of an event which took place 5 years ago.

In the June of 1880, I went to a situation as governess. On the first day of my going there, after retiring for the night I heard a noise which was like the ticking of a watch. I took no particular notice of it, but I noticed that every time I was alone I heard it, more especially at night. I even went so far as to search, thinking there must be a watch concended somewhere in the room. This continued until I grew quite accustomed to it. It was on the 12th of July that I was coming from the dining-room with a tray of glasses that I saw what appeared to me to be a dark figure standing just outside the door, with outstretched arms. It startled me, and when I turned to look again it was gone.

On the 23rd of September I received news that my brother was drowned on the 12th of July. I heard the ticking up to the time I had the letter, but never once afterwards.

There is nothing very startling in this narrative, but it is very vivid in my memory. Hoping it will be of some use to you.—I am sir, yours faithfully,

F. A. BALE,

#### Church Farm, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston.

September 22nd, 1885

DEAR SIR,-I enclose the leter informing us of my brother's death, also one from the captain of the ship, for your perusal.

I made no entry in my diary of the apparition I saw on the 12th of July,

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but I distinctly remember the time. I sat down a little while to recover my fright, and then I looked at the time; it was 20 minutes past 6. I enclose the address of a friend who I am sure remembers it as well as I do.

You will see by enclosed where my brother was when he met with his death. The apparition did remind me of my brother, as I last saw him in a long dark ulster, and it was about his height, but that was all I could discover, for when I looked the second time it was gone. What made me mention the ticking was the peculiarity of its following me *everywhere*, providing I was *alone*.—Yours faithfully,

FLORENCE BALE.

# Extract from the letter written by the Rev. W. A. Purey-Cust on board the ship "Melbourne."

#### August 16th.

MY DEAR SIR,-I have to write to you to tell you some very painful and distressing news concerning your nephew, William Bale, that on July 12th last, whilst bravely doing his duty as an English seaman, he fell from the foretop-sail yard arm into the sea, and was never again seen. On the afternoon of that day, the ship was about 150 miles to the south of Tristan d'Acunha, in lat. 28 deg. 40" S.,\* and long. 12 deg. 30" W., and in a heavy confused sea, causing her to roll heavily. At 2 p.m. the main royal stay came away, and in consequence at 2.30 p.m. the main top-mast fell. All hands were at once set to work to clear away the wreckage, and this was barely finished at 5.30 p.m., when the wind, which had been rising rapidly, blew a gale. At 6 p.m. the hands were ordered to furl the fore-top sail, and your nephew was one of those who went aloft. He was at the yard arm when the ship gave a tremendous lurch, and the movement of the yard jerked him and a man named "Chilton" off the yard. The cry of "Man overboard" was raised, and everything was done that could posssibly have been done under the circumstances. It seems certain that your nephew never rose again after striking the water.

Extract from the Captain's letter.

Melbourne, August 25th, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—It is with great sorrow I have the painful duty of informing you of the death of Mr. W. Bale ; he fell overboard on the night of the 12th July at the commencement of a gale of wind, when it was beyond our power to save him.—Yours truly,

N. HARRISON, Commander of ship "Melbourne."

Baker<sup>®</sup>Street, Gorleston.

September 28th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—On the night of the 12th of July, 1880, Miss Bale came to my house to supper, and she told me that she was coming from the drawingroom and she saw a dark figure standing just outside the door; she appeared very nervous. She said it reminded her of her brother, and remarked to me then that she knew something must have happened to him. I asked her if she noticed the time she saw it, and she told me that the apparition had startled her very much, and she had sat down a little time to recover the

\* The latitude of Tristan d'Acunha is about 37 deg. S.

fright it gave her, and then she looked at the time; it was 6.20. She had previously told me of a ticking she heard everywhere she went, so long as she was alone, but directly anyone joined her it ceased; and she told me she heard it up to the day she received the news of her brother's death, but not afterwards.—I am, sir, yours sincerely,

(MRS.) H. HART.

# Church Farm, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston.

September 24th, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—There was one incident I did not tell you, thinking it too trivial, as I did not notice the date or hour, but I know it was shortly before I heard the news of my brother's death. I had been in bed a short tine, and I heard a tremendous crash like the smashing of a lot of china. I felt too nervous to go and see what it was, but nothing was broken or disturbed in the morning, and for three nights in succession I heard the same. I am not inclined to think that it was in any way corresponding with my brother's death. I certainly have never heard imaginary voices nor seen imaginary figures except the apparition I saw the day my brother was drowned.—I am, sir, yours sincerely,

#### FLORENCE C. BALE.

[There seems to be no reason to connect the sound like a watch ticking with Mr. Bale's death, any more than the crash of china; and it seems most likely that it was caused by a merely physical affection, to which the shock of receiving the news put an end. We have, however, thought it right to mention it, since if it was a hallucination it would tend to show that Miss Bale was for some time in a condition favourable to purely subjective hallucinations, and therefore would, to some extent, weaken the force of the coincidence of the visual hallucination with her brother's death. It will be noticed that, allowing for longitude, the death occurred,—according to the statements in the letters,—about half-an-hour after the apparition. But as, the difference is so small, it seems to us more probable that it is due to errors in the records of the time than that the apparition was purely accidental.—ED.]

L.-2333.-Ad Pn

From Dr. Liébeault, 4, Rue Bellevue, Nancy.

4 Septembre 1885.

Je m'empresse de vous écrire au sujet du fait de communication de pensée dont je vous ai parlé lorsque vous m'avez fait l'honneur d'assister à mes séances hypnotiques à Nancy. Ce fait se passa dans une famille française de la Nouvelle-Orléans, et qui était venue habiter quelque temps Nancy, pour y liquider une affaire d'intérêt. J'avais fait connaissance de cette famille parceque son chef, M. G., m'avait amené sa nièce, MIle. B., pour que je la traitasse par les procedés hypnotiques. Elle était atteinte d'une anémie légère et d'une toux nerveuse contractées à Coblentz, dans une maison d'éducation où elle était professeur. Je parvins facilement à la mettre en somnambulisme, et elle fut guérie en deux séances. La production de cet.

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état de sommeil ayant démontré à la famille G. et à Mile. B. qu'elle pourrait facilement devenir médium (Mme. G. était médium spirite), cette demoiselle s'exerça à evoquer, à l'aide de la plume, les esprits, auxquels elle croyait sincèrement, et au bout de deux mois elle fut un remarquable médium écrivante. C'est elle que j'ai vue de mes yeux tracer rapidement des pages d'écriture qu'elle appelait des messages, et cela en des termes choisis et sans aucune rature, en même temps qu'elle tenait conversations avec les personnes qui l'entouraient. Chose curieuse, elle n'avait nullement conscience de ce qu'elle écrivait ; "aussi," disait-elle, "ce ne peut être qu'un osprit qui dirige ma main, ce n'est pas moi."

Un jour-c'était, je crois, le 7 Février, 1868-vers 8 heures du matin, au moment de se mettre à table pour déjeûner, elle sentit un besoin, un quelquechose qui la poussait à écrire (c'était ce qu'elle appelait une trance)-et elle courut immédiatement vers son grand cahier, où elle traça fébrilement, au crayon, des caractères indéchiffrables. Elle retraça les mêmes caractères sur les pages suivantes, et enfin l'excitation de son esprit se calmant, on put lire qu' une personne nommée Marguérite lui annonçait sa mort. On supposa aussitôt qu'une demoiselle de ce nom qui était son amic, et habitait, comme professeur, le même pensionnat de Coblentz ou elle avait exercé les même fonctions, venait d'y mourir. Toute la famille G., compris Mlle. B., vinrent immédiatement chez moi, et nous decidames de vérifier, le jour même, si ce fait de mort avait réellement eu lieu. Mlle. B. ccrivit à une demoiselle anglaise de ses amis, qui exerçait aussi les mêmes fonctions en question; elle d'institutrice dans le pensionnat prétexta un pas revéler le motif vrai. motif, ayant bien soin de ne Poste pour poste, nous reçumes une réponse en anglais, dont on me copia la partie essentielle-réponse que j'ai retrouvée dans une portefeuille il y a à peine quinze jours, et égarée de nouveau. Elle exprimait l'étonnement de cette demoiselle anglaise au sujet de la lettre de Mlle. B., lettre qu' elle n'attendait pas sitôt, vu que le but ne lui en paraissait pas assez motivé. Mais en même temps, l'amie anglaise se hâtait d'annoncer à notre médium que leur amie commune, Marguérite, était morte le 7 Février vers les 8 heures du En outre, un petit carré de papier imprimé était interré dans la matin. Jettre ; c'était un billet de mort et de faire part. Inutile de vous dire que je vérifiai l'enveloppe de la lettre, et que la lettre me parut venir réellement de Coblentz.

Seulement j'ai eu depuis des regrets. C'est de n'avoir pas, dans l'intérêt de la science, demandé à la famille G. d'aller avec eux vérifier au bureau télégraphique si, réellement, ils n'auraientpas reçu une dépêche télégraphique dans la matinée du 7 Février. La science ne doit pas avoir de pudeur ; da vérité ne craint pas d'être vue. Je n'ai comme preuve de la véracité du fait qu'une preuve morale : c'est l'honorabilité de la famille G., qui m'a paru toujours audessus de tout soupçon.

#### A. A. LIÉBBAULT.

[Apart from the improbability that the whole family would join in a conspiracy to deceive their friend, the nature of the answer received from Coblentz shows that the writer of it cannot have been aware that any telegraphic announcement had been sent. And it is in itself unlikely that the authorities of the school would have felt it necessary instantly to communiacte the news to Mdlle. B.] L.-2334.-A• P

Obtained through the kindness of Mr. J. B. Johnston, M.A., of 17, Pilrig Street, Edinburgh, from Herr Heinrich von Struve (son of the late-Russian Minister at Carlsruhe).

> 25, Pilrig Street, Edinburgh. July 10th, 1885.

## [TRANSLATION.]

It was in the night between the 9th and 10th of November, 1835, that I felt a sudden and peculiar yearning, which laid hold of me with great intensity, for my dear mother, who lived in Carlsruhe, in the Grand-Duchy of Baden. I myself was living with my elder brother in the kingdom of Poland, in the neighbourhood of the town of Kolo, in the province of Kalisch, and intended to pass the winter with him. This yearning affected me so strongly that I resolved to move to Carlsruhe without delay, which I explained to my brother at breakfast, after I had informed him of my sudden feeling. It was no small and insignificant journey in those days and at that advanced season of the year. Carlsruhe was over 130 German. miles from where I was living. As from childhood I had been specially fond of riding, and was possessed of a very valuable and excellent horse of the best breed, I determined to make the journey on horseback, and mounting my horse at mid-day on the 10th of November, began my adventurous crusade. I passed through the province of Posen, through Silesis, Saxony, and, after crossing the Erz Mountains and Thuringia in deep snow, through Bavaria. At Jena, where an aunt lived who had always been in the most intinate relations with my mother, I intended to rest for a few days. But as she told me that she had received very sad news from Carlsruhe, according to which her dear friend had been attacked by nervous fever and given up by the doctors, I could not rest, and in the greatest consternation and anxiety recommenced my journey, and reached Carlsruhe on the 4th of December. With sinking heart I betook myself first to my brother, who was attached to the Russian Embassy at the Court of Baden, rushed up the steps, where my brother received me in great astonishment, and on my eager inquiry after my mother's health, told me that the danger had passed off (had been turned off), and that she was recovering. Then I hurried swiftly to my mother's house, where my sisters lived with her, and they confirmed the happy news. As I then learnt from my eldest sister, the chief crisis of the illness occurred on the night between the 9th and 10th of November, when my beloved mother, in her delirium, continually spoke with intense love and care for her youngest son, called me and longed for me. No further assurance is needed that a spiritual rapport was here shown.

In answer to inquiries, Herr von Struve says :---

"I have never on any other occasion experienced an affection of the same sort, and naturally therefore have never had occasion to take action on one."

#### L.-2335.-Ad Pn

#### 18, Batoum Gardens, West Kensington Park.

I have not the least objection to giving an account of the apparition I had of my mother which appeared to me at the time of her death, although

it is a subject I have very rarely mentioned, partly that it is an occurrence I hold very sacred and partly that I do not care to have my story doubted or laughed at.

I went to school in Alsace in October, 1852, when I was 17, leaving my mother in England in delicate health. About Christmas, 1853, 14 months after I left home, I heard that my mother's health was worse, but I had no idea that she was in any danger. It was the last Sunday in February, 1854, between 1 and 2 o'clock, I was seated in a large school-room reading, when suddenly the figure of my mother appeared to me at the far end of the room. She was reclining as if in bed in her nightdress. Her face was turned towards me with a sweet smile and one hand was raised and pointing upwards.

Gently the figure moved across the room, ascending as it went until it disappeared. Both the face and figure were wasted as if by sickness, as I never had seen her in life, and deadly pale.

From the moment I saw the apparition I felt convinced my mother was dead. So impressed was I that I was unable to attend to my studies, and it was positive pain to me to see my younger sister playing and amusing herself with her companions.

Two or three days after, my governess, after prayers, called me to her private room. As soon as we entered I said "You need not tell me. I know my mother is dead !" She asked me how I could possibly know. I gave no explanation, but told her I had known it for three days. I afterwards heard my mother died on that Sunday at the time I had seen her, and that she had passed away in an unconscious state, having been unconscious for some day or two before her death.

I am by no means an imaginative, sensitive woman, and never before or since have I experienced anything similar.

It has always been a comfort to me to feel that my mother did appear to me.

#### ISABEL ALLOM.

June 28th, 1885.

[Mrs. Allom has never had a hallucination on any any other occasion. She once, however, had a rather marked *illusion*, when a Christmas-tree assumed momentarily, to her eyes, the aspect of her mother's form. She is a practical person, and assures me that she has all her life been free from fancies and superstitions. Her sister was delicate and nervous, and on that account Mrs. Allom did not tell her of the vision above described. Her mother was Mrs. Carrick, wife of the well-known miniature-painter; and at the time of her death she was residing at 10, Montagu Street, Portman Square, W.—E.G.]

L.-2336.-Ad Pn

From Miss Porter, who says :--

This you perceive is only uneducated testimony (to a certain extent).

Mrs. Ellis is daughter to Mrs. Banister, with whom I lodged at Eversley. The Banisters were formerly well-to-do farmers, but have come down in the world. Mrs. Banister now lets her land and takes lodgers into her house. She told me the story of her daughter's experience, which I wrote down and sent to Mrs. Ellis for corroboration. She did not know the date, but remembers that the day after her experience she heard that J. Stephenson died the day before. It seems that the man that died had been executor to Mr. Banister (Mrs. Banister is a widow), and that Mrs. Ellis had always disliked him, considering that he had not done his best with regard to the property. This he knew, and before his death desired to see Mrs. Banister, but when she went to him he was unable to speak, and died almost directly. I believe these good people to be speaking the truth to the best of their powers, but the story, I fancy, has been *frequently* related.

B. P.

# Portesbery Road, Camberley,

August 5th.

DEAR MISS PORTER. --- What mother has told you is quite correct. In September, 1878, I, then residing in York Town. Surrey, three times during the day distinctly saw the face of an old friend, Mr. James Stephenson, who I afterwards heard died that day in Eversley, five miles off. I saw it at first about half-past 10 in the morning; the last time it was nearly 6 o'clock. I knew him to be ill.

MARY ELLIS.

JAMES STEPHENSON, of Eversley, Who Died September 19th, 1878, In his 59th Year.

Copied from a memorial card.

L.-2337.-(Borderland.)

Mrs. Elizabeth Duthie, residing at Pilrig Manse, Edinburgh, having informed us, by filling up and signing one of the census forms, that in August, 1883, at 9 p.m., she had had a hallucination representing "an intimate friend, who died exactly at that hour," E. G. wrote for particulars.

The following answer was received :--

Fronfield, Crinan, Argyleshire,

Angust, 22nd 1885.

DEAR SIR,—Our old servant, Mrs. Duthie, asked me some time ago to reply to your letter to her, requesting more information about a vision she saw at the time of the death of a friend, which she inserted in one of your forms. I regret I have been unable to do so until now.

In August, 1883, we had all gone to the country, leaving Mrs. Duthie alone in the house. An intimate friend of hers, a Miss Grant, who lived in Aberdeen, had been for some time seriously ill, and Mrs. Duthie was anxious about her, though she did not know that death was near. On Sunday night, the 23rd August, about 8 o'clock, Mrs. Duthie retired to her room, which is separated from the rest of the house, with a flight of stairs leading up to the door. She got into bed, and was lying, half asleep, with her face to tho wall, when she felt that some one was bending over her, looking into her face. She opened her eyes, and looked up into the face of her friend, Miss Grant. She started up in bed, and looking round, saw Miss Grant's figure leaving the room. She then got out of bed, and going to the door, looked downstairs, but no one was to be seen. She went down the stairs into the kitchen, but no one was there, nor was there a trace of any one. She looked at the clock, and saw it was a few minutes past 9, and then went back to bed, feeling very uncomfortable and certain that something had happened to her friend.

All next day (Monday), she felt unhappy about it, and waited anxiously to hear of her friend, but, as there was no one else in the house, she did not mention her experience of the previous night to anyone. That night she received information from Aberdeen that her friend had died at 9 o'clock on the previous night,—at the very time Mrs. Duthie had seen her form in Edinburgh.

Such are the facts of the case, as Mrs. Duthie has told me herself, and this, I believe, is her sole experience of any such hallucination.

Believe me, yours very truly, G. W. MACPHAIL

L.-2338.-Ad Pn

From Rev. J. Hotham (Congregational minister), of Port Elliot, South Australia. [He is now dead and his son says that no more information can be obtained.]

#### 1884.

I was spending an evening with a family (friends of mine), consisting of an elderly widow lady and two or three of her daughters. The conversation happened to turn upon the "supernatural," when they gave me the following account. Though Mrs. Leaworthy (for that was her name) was the principal speaker, yet the daughters corroborated her statements. I wrote out the account the same evening, a little more condensed, but in nearly the same language in which it was given.

"We were," said she, "at that time, 1841, living on the coast of Devon and the night was very stormy; it was raining heavily and the wind blowing a perfect gale. Mr. L's men (he was in the Preventive service) came to tell him that rockets were seen being sent up out at soa, and signal lights burning. He went out with the men and put off in his beat to render assistance. They succeeded in reaching the vessel, which was drifting helplessly towards that terrible coast. They managed to catch a rope thrown from her, and holding on, sheltered on the lea-side, the whole of the sailors were taken into the boat, not excepting a poor boy who was ill in his berth. But the captain refused to leave the ship. He said he would go down with her. Mr. L. had got on board and saw that she could not float many minutes; so he told the captain that if he would not leave her he would wait no longer, and with that jumped into the sea and made for the

boat. But the instinctive love of life proved too strong, and the captain leaped from the ship at the same time and also got safely in. They then counted over what they had got, and finding the number complete they pulled for the shore. The vessel went down almost before they left her. She turned out to be a French ship, called L'Orient, with French captain and crew. The captain, during his stay in the neighbourhood, was a constant visitor at our house, and became quite a favourite. (Mr. L. could speak French, for he was 10 years a prisoner in France.) The captain, after hehad recovered from his cold and wetting, told us that he was sure something; serious had happened at; home. When asked why he thought so, he said that just before the storm came on he had seen his wife standing closebeside him, and that she had said : 'Do not grieve for me.' Well, we all' tried to put this melancholy idea out of his head. We told him he was lowspirited at the loss of his ship, and that nothing but imagination had made him fancy this thing.

"Of course the captain wrote directly home, giving an account of the loss of his ship and cargo, and anxiously awaited a reply. He was detained someweeks among us, and during that time we became very intimate. In due time he received a letter informing him that his wife had been confined, and mother and child were both doing well. We then joked him about his fears, and congratulated him upon the good news he had received. During the weeks he further remained with us we set to and made up a box of presents small things, &c., for the baby. After completing all his arrangements, he bid us good bye and started for home. A letter from him, however, informed us that the presentiment was too truly fulfilled. His wife died on that night; but when his friends received his letter mournfully detailing the loss of his vessel, they were afraid to send him word about the loss of his wife, and so replied as we have said."

South Australia, Port Elliot.

October 17th, 1884.

**DEAR** SIR, --- I acknowledge the desirableness of having all the particulars of the case I sent you, and especially given by one or more of the parties actually concerned in it.

Mrs. Leaworthy, senior, has recently died. Her daughters are still living —one (Mrs. Lindsay) only a short distance from me; and the other, who married Mr. John Hindmarsh, only son of our first Colonial Governor, has removed to New Zealand.

In answer to your questions—(1) The account was given me at the house of Mr. Jno. Hindmarsh, near Port Elliot, South Australia. (2) Yes. By "died on that night" I mean on the night he saw the apparition—the night the storm began.

JNO. HOTHAM.

P.S.—I do not know whether I told you, but ought to have done if I did not, that my MS. was submitted to Mrs. Leaworthy, and corrected by her before I sent it you. L.-2339.-(Collective. Borderland.)

From Mr. John Done, Stockley Cottage, Stretton.

(See M.-317-Cl.)

My sister-in-law, Sarah Eustance, of Stretton, was lying sick unto death, and my wife was gone over to there from Lowton Chapel (12 or 13 miles off) to see her and tend her in her last moments. And on the night before her death (some 12 or 14 hours before) I was sleeping at home alone, and awaking heard a voice distinctly call me. Thinking it was my niece, Rosanna, the only other occupant of the house, who might be sick or in trouble, I went to hor room and found her awake and nervous. I asked her whether she had called me. She answered "No; but something awoke me, when I heard someone calling !"

On my wife returning home after her sister's death, she told me how anxious her sister had been to see me, "craving for me to be sent for," and saying "Oh, how I want to see Done once more !" and soon after became speechless. But the curious part was that about the same time she was "craving," I and my niece heard the call.

JOHN DONE.

#### Stockley Cottage, Stretton, Warrington.

August 1st, 1885.

In answer to your queries respecting the voice or call that I heard on the night of July 2nd, 1866, I must explain that there was a strong sympathy and affection between myself and my sister-in-law of pure brotherly and sisterly love; and that she was in the habit of calling me by the title of "Uncle Done," in the manner of a husband calling his wife "mother" when there are children as in this case. Hence the call being "Uncle, uncle, uncle !" leading me to think that it was my niece (the only other occupant of the house that Sunday night) calling to me.

Copy of funeral card: "In remembrance of the late Sarah Eustance, who died July 3rd, 1866, aged 45 years, and was this day interred at Stretton Church, July 6th, 1866."

My wife, who went from Lowton that particular Sunday to see her sister, will testify that as she attended upon her (after the departure of the minister), during the night she was wishing and craving to see me, repeatedly saying, "Oh, I wish I could see Uncle Done and Rosie once more before I go!" and soon after then she became unconscious, or at least ceased speaking, and died the next day, of which fact I was not aware until my wife returned on the evening of the 4th of July.

I hope my niece will answer for me, however I may state that she reminds me that she thought I was calling her and was coming to me, when she met me in the passage or landing, and asked her if she called me.

I do not remember ever hearing a voice or call besides this the above case.

JOHN DONE.

On August 7th, Mr. Done writes :--

My wife being sick and weak of body, dictates the following statement to me :---

I, Elizabeth Done, wife of John Done, and niece [clearly a slip for aunt] to Rosanna Done (now Sewill), testify that, on the 2nd of July, 1866, I

was attending upon my dying sister, Sarah Eustance, at Stretton, 12 miles from my home at Lowton Chapel, Newton le Willows; when during the night previous to her death she craved for me to send for my husband and niece as she wished to see them once more before she departed hence, asying often "Oh, I wish Done and Rosie were here. Oh, I do long to see Uncle Done." Soon after she became speechless and scemingly unconscious, and died some time during the day following.

(Signed)

Elizabeth Done.

Stockley Cottage, Stretton, Warrington.

August 11th, 1885.

In thinking, conversing, and writing about the strange occurrence, several incidents have come to my mind, one of which is that, feeling unsettled in my mind during the day after having heard the voice calling me, and feeling a presentiment that my dear sister-in-law was dead. I, towards evening, set off to meet a train at Newton Bridge, which I believed she would come by returning home, if her sister was dead as I expected. N.B. There was an understanding that she was to stay at Stretton to attend upon Mrs. Eustance until her demise or convalescence.

I met my wife some few hundred yards from the station and could see by her countenance that my surmises were correct. She then told me the particulars of her sister's death, how she *longed* to see me and Rosanna. I then told her of our being called by a voice resembling hers some time in the night previous, when she (my wife) said she (Mrs. Eustance) often repeated our names during the night before becoming unconscious.

JOHN DONE.

### 11, Smithdown Lane, Paddington, Liverpool.

August 21st, 1885.

SIR,—At my uncle's and your request I write to confirm the statement of uncle respecting the voice I heard, as follows: I was awakened suddenly without apparent cause, and heard a voice call me distinctly, thus: Rosy, Rosy, Rosy! Thinking it was my uncle calling, I rose and went out of my room and met my uncle coming to see if I was calling him. We were the only occupants of the house that night, aunt being away attending upon her sister. The night I was called was between 2nd and 3rd of July, 1866. I could not say the time I was called, but I know it was the break of day. I never was called before nor since.

ROSANNA SEWILL.

L.-1307.-Ad Pn (Amended Version)

The following is the account at first hand of the incident narrated in slip 1307. It will be seen that the difference is considerable :---

From Mr. W. T. Bray, of Schekoldin's Paper Mill, Vimishma, Government of Viostroma, Russia.

June 14th, (O. S.) 1885.

I was employed as assistant engineer on the Moscow ———— Railway, and one day was standing in the erecting shop. There were 14 engines under repair, and four tenders, and amidst all the attendant noise of such work of fitters and boilermakers, I heard a voice quite close to me call twice, "Will, Will!" The voice resembled my father's (he was the only person who called me "Will"), and in a tone he used when he wished to particularly draw my attention to anything. (I had parted bad friends with him in Russia through my step-mother.) When I went home I remarked to my wife I was afraid if ever 1 heard from poor father again or from any one about him, it would be bad news, for I distinctly heard him call me twice. About three weeks afterwards I had a letter from a sister, stating he had died, and when, and his last words were, "Good-bye, Will ! good-bye, Will !" Upon comparing the date and time he died about the time I heard the voice.

Mr. Bray, adds in a later letter dated August 21st, (O.S.), 1885 :-

I am sorry I cannot get a few lines likely to confirm my statement to you the circumstance occurred so long ago. I remember mentioning it to my wife at the time, but she cannot distinctly remember it, and I mentioned it to no one but her, and then only at the time. I remembered the work I was looking after at the time, and upon hearing of my father's death I traced the time by the factory books, and as no one either here or in England ever called me "Will," but he, I always feel quite satisfied in my own mind that I heard his voice, especially as I was told in the letter announcing his death his last words were "Good-bye, Will ! good-bye, Will !"

In answer to the question whether he had ever had any other auditory hallucination, Mr. Bray replies :—Such a thing never occurred to me before, neither has anything occurred since.

L.-2340.-A• Pn

The writer of the following narrative is Editor of a well-known northern newspaper, and was formerly special foreign correspondent of a London paper. He had a curious impression corresponding with the death of a friend a few weeks earlier. (See L. 86.)

#### December 11th, 1884.

On the 3rd of May in the same spring [1882] in which Barnes left us, my wife, while taking tea with my daughter, was suddenly seized with an epileptic fit, fell heavily to the floor and striking her forehead on the fender; she was never conscious again, but died the next day. This accident happened between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. For nearly 5 years my wife had intermittently suffered from epilepsy, but for some 3 months before her death seemed to have completely recovered, which apparent fact had caused much joy in our little family circle, as the poor dear had been a great sufferer. I set this down to show that her death or serious illness was not at all expected at the time it happened. On the morning of the 3rd of May I left for the City, and as my wife kissed her hand to me at the window I thought how remarkably well and "like her old self" she appeared. I went to business in "high spirits," and left her in the same ; but somewhere about the time she fell-neither my daughter nor I have been able to fix the time within an hour-I suddenly fell into such a fit of gloom that I was powerless to go on with my work and could only sit with my face between my hands, scarcely

able to speak to my colleagues in the same office, who became alarmed as they had never seen me in any but a cheerful mood. I was at the time editing England, and as friend after friend dropped into my room, and wanted to know what ailed me, I could only explain my sensation in a phrase (which they and I well remember) which I kept repeating, namely, "I have a horrible sense of some impending calamity." So far as I am aware, my thoughts never once turned to my home. If they had, I think 1 should not have accepted, as I did, an invitation to dine with a friend at a restaurant in the Strand, pressed on me for the express purpose of "cheering me up." I was telegraphed for to our office in the Strand, but by an accident it was not forwarded to me to Whitefriars Street at my editorial room ; so that I never saw my wife until after 12 at night, when my 8 or 9 hours fearful depression of spirits (as it instantly struck me) were accounted for. I may add that I am naturally of a buoyant temperament, in fact I may say far above the average of people in that respect, and I was never to my knowledge ever so suddenly or similarly depressed before. My wife, in this case you will observe, was not dead but simply unconscious when my fit of low spirits set in. There are several witnesses who can testify to these facts, for when it becameknown at the office that my wife was dead the strange coincidence of my suddenly "turning so queer" was a topic of conversation there. I have nothing to add but that we (my wife and I) had been married for 25 years, and were extremely fond of each other, and we were both, I should say, of a sympathetic temperament, perhaps more than ordinarily so.

September 1st, 1885.

I called to-day at Mr. ——'s house. He was out of town, but his son and daughter were at home.

As regards Mr.——'s depression on the day of his wife's fatal attack they both assured me that he spoke of this immediately after his return home on the evening of that day, and has frequently mentioned it since. The son has also heard one of his father's colleagues, Mr. Green, describe the circumstance as something quite remarkable. Mr. Green told him that both himself and others present in the office did all they could to rally Mr.— but failed.

F.P.

I had a long interview with Mr. —— in February of this year. He gave to mea *vivâ voce* account of the experience here detailed in writing, and I should judge that his testimony is of a high degree of trustworthiness and his power of observation of a high order.

The statement Mr. —— made to me was vivid and circumstantial, and not, in my opinion, coloured by his imagination.

A. G. LEONARD.

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#### Netherworton House, Steeple Aston, Oxon. September 16th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—My friend Mr. ——, of England, has asked me to corroborate the fact that he suffered from a singular depression all the day of his wife's fatal seizure. I was in his company most of theday, and can fully corroborate his statement.—Yours truly, C. E. GREEN.

#### L.-2341.-A• Pn

[The following, from a lady who desires her name not to be published, is perhaps an instance of the same kind as the last, though both the depression and the time-coincidence are less definite. Ten o'clock a.m. here would be about 3.30 p.m. at Colombo.]

#### August 6th, 1885.

My experience is a very simple one, and can be stated in a few words. A dear brother was in Singapore, and I knew he was anxious about his wife's health, but still, beyond feeling eager for letters, had no great anxiety on his or her account. I must state that he and I in all our relations and celings have been, all our lives, most singularly in unison and sympathy with one another.

The morning of this strange experience I was in my studio; it was the 25th of October, 1884, and I was at work as usual. About 10 o'clock I felt very uneasy and restless, and found my efforts to work did not send away the unusual feeling of disinclination and unquietness. I did not attribute these feelings to any anxiety about my brother's domestic troubles, but I told my companion in the studio, as I put my work away, that I knew something was happening, and that it was impossible for me to work that day.

I may add that this was a most unusual occurrence, and had never before happened during my life as an artist. I find as a rule that I have only to begin work to wish to continue it.

About half-past two a telegram arrived to me from Colombo, telling us of the death of his wife the previous night, and I have heard since of the terrible mental pain my brother suffered, and I know that in any such pain I should have been the one person he would have appealed to and wished to commune with. He had travelled with his wife to Colombo, bringing her home, and that we did not know of until the telegram arrived. He died within a month after his loss, and during the interval I was the only one he wrote to of his great grief.

L.-2342.-Ad P.

Letter to the Rev. J. A. Macdonald, from Mrs. Harrison, of Park View, Queen's Park, Manchester,

September 2nd, 1885.

I had a dear uncle, John Moore, St. John's, Isle of Man. I knew he had failed in health and strength during the winter of 1883 and 1884, but was not aware that he was really ill, or worse, so had not been thinking of him more than usual, nor anticipating a change; on the contrary, I was rather sanguine that, with the return of spring, his strength would revive, knowing that he had only two years before recovered from a severe illness, his constitution being so excellent, though he was 85 years old when he was taken away. But on the night of the 1st of March, or very early on the morning 2nd, 1884 (I did not ascertain the time, but I had retired to rest very late and seemed to have slept two or three hours) I awoke crying, and with the agitating scene of my dream clear before me. It was that I stood in the bedroom of my uncle, that he lay there dying, his remaining family near him, I just a short distance from the bed looking on. When I joined my husband and daughter at the fireside on coming downstairs in the morning I told them my dream, and then thought no more about it till two days later, 4th March, when a letter arrived, saying that my uncle had passed away at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 2nd. May our end be as calm and peaceful as was his.

R. J. HABBISON.

[Mrs. Harrison can recall no other dream of death.]

September 2nd, 1885.

#### Mr. Harrison corroborates as follows :--

I distinctly remember my wife telling me the above dream on the Sunday morning, 2nd March. 1884, and it has often been spoken of in the family since. The letter acquainting us of Mr. Moore's death arrived at Manchester, from the Isle of Man, two days after, viz., Tuesday, 4th March, 1884. J. P. HABBISON.

L.--2343.-A\* P

 Edwardes Square, Kensington, W. March 20th, 1885.

I do not know whether the following experience is of any practical interest, but will relate it as being at least curious.

I cannot be certain of the precise year, but know that it was winterand I believe that of 1870-71. My sister and I were constant companions, and slept in the same room, but in separate beds. We burnt no light at night. I was then 20 years old, and my sister 18. She was of a very calm, placid temperament, and not in the least given to having exciting dreams. One night I was roused out of my sleep by her calling me by name with a sort of scream, and on immediately starting up in bed I saw the room filled with a bright red light, which extended to the passage outside our door (which we always left half open at night), so that I could distinctly see an arch that was in it, and also a blaze of red in the sky outside the window. The time was 2 a.m. Hearing my sister crying and in great distress, I sprang out of bed to go to her, and in that moment the impression faded, and the room became as dark as usual. My sister then told me that she had had a frightful dream of the devil coming to fetch her in a blaze of red fire-that her only hope had been to call to me to save her, but that as usual in nightmares, she seemed to have been ages calling before she could make me hear.

Must she not in some way, through her intense desire to communicate with me, have succeeded in impressing upon my brain what she saw in her dream, and thus produced the curious impression I received ?

If required, I shall be happy to answer any further questions that may be necessary to authenticate this.

EDITH N. WILSON.

#### Mrs. Alleyne, of Ranskeheen, Nenagh, Ireland, writes :---

July 25th.

My sister, Mrs. Wilson, asked me, some little time ago, to send you my account of the dream I had many years ago, in which she also bore a part. I now enclose my recollection of the dream, which I hope may be of use to you.

E. A. K. ALLEYNE.

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About 16 years ago, the sister next to me in age and myself occupied the same bedroom, but slept in separate beds, about three feet apart. The approach to our room was by a long, narrow passage, and the only window in the room overlooked the high, slated roof of our large schoolroom, which shut out any view of the surrounding country. It was our rule to sleep with the door shut and bolted. One morning, between 1 and 2 a.m., I dreamt that I was lying in my bed wide awake, when, to my great surprise, I perceived that the door was fully open. I was wondering how this could be, when I saw, approaching down the passage, a vivid red light, which gradually (as it came nearer) became redder and redder. In my horror I gave a loud scream, which awakened me, and before I had time to say one word, my sister started up, and called out, "Oh! Emmy, what is that red light on the roof opposite ?" A moment afterwards, when fully awake, we saw that the room was in darkness, and on striking a light, that the door was shut and locked, as when we went to bed. This dream made a powerful impression upon us both. Since my birth this sister and myself had been daily companions, and being next in age to me, I had shared almost every thought with her. It must, therefore, I think, have been a case of "unconscious cerebration."

E. A. K. Alleyne.

In reply to inquiries, Mrs. Alleyne says :---

#### August 10th.

My sister has made a mistake in thinking my dream was mixed up, in any way, with his Satanic Majesty; and she is wrong also about the door; it was always shut and bolted at night. I could not go to sleep with it open. My sister, at that time, was in very poor health, and my memory has at all times been a very clear one. You ask me if I was given to horrifying dreams; I was not, beyond an occasional nightmare now and then, common to all. I was, at the time, about 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, and my sister just 18 years old.

In another letter, she adds :---

#### September 21st, 1885.

In reply to your note, I beg to say that my sister and I never drew the curtains at night, neither did we draw down the blind; we always slept with it up. The only other window at that side of the house was that of my father's dressing-room, and was quite at the end of the long passage before referred to. My father was away in Scotland at the time, and his dressing-room was unoccupied.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

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

SIR, — As the secretary of the cld Physical Phenomena Committee, you will, perhaps, allow me to offer some explanation in defence of the prolonged silence of that Committee, commented on by Mr. Myers in his letter to the August number of the *Journal*.

Mr. Myers was, I believe, aware of the course of our inquiries, and the

impossibility of attaining anything like unanimity in our estimate of the meagre results we obtained.

Our investigations were at the outset limited by the general principle, which we understood to have been laid down, that the funds of the Society should not be spent in the employment of paid mediums, so that we were compelled to have recourse to the assistance of friends of a member of the Committee, who were supposed to possess mediumistic powers. Results table-tilting, raps, &c.—were obtained, which, if they could have been obtained under satisfactory tests, would have been conclusive; but as such tests could not be applied, I myself and other members of the Committee were not convinced that these phenomena were not the result of fraud, conscious or unconscious.

This view could, of course, not be put forward without wounding the feelings of other members of the Committee, and, therefore, I personally deemed it undesirable to present any report on these inquiries.

Those members of the Committee who were not convinced of the genuine character of these phenomena wished to continue the investigations, but this we were unable to do.

As we could not procure the assistance of other private mediums, it was decided that seven members of the Physical Phenomena Committee, together with other members of the Society, should sit—informally--with Mr. Eglinton. A series of six séances was held, but the result was negative, the phenomena obtained not being of such a nature as to eliminate the possibility, or even probability of fraud.

These scances appear to be those referred to by Mr. Haughton, and if so, he has been singularly misinformed. So far from our not giving Mr. Eglinton a fair chance, we requested him to continue our sittings, which he willingly consented to do, and several more scances were held. As, however, Mr. Eglinton declined to accept any fee for this series we did not feel ourselves justified in prolonging it indefinitely, as practically no result was obtained, and Mr. Eglinton himself appeared to have lost heart, and to be anxious to discontinue sitting.

I, as a representative of the Physical Phenomena Committee, assisted Mr. Podmore in his inquiry into the Morell Theobald case, and fully shared the conclusions he arrived at.

Mr. Theobald, at the time of our visit, said that he hoped soon to admit a delegate of the Society to his circle, but, as Mr. Myers states, the conditions necessary have not yet been fulfilled.

I think, in conclusion, I may venture to add that the Physical Phenomena Committee subsequently ceased from its labours, not from want of zeal, but from the impossibility of finding work within its field of inquiry.—I am. sir, &c.,

## FRANK S. HUGHES.

There is one sentence in Mr. Hughes' letter which seems to require a few words of explanation from me, as Chairman of the Council during the time when the investigations of the Physical Phenomena Committee were being carried on. Mr. Hughes speaks of the "general principle, that the funds of the Society should not be spent in the employment of paid mediums" as having been "laid down." So far as I can remember, no express resolution to this effect was ever passed by the Council: the question was never formally brought before that body. But in the address which I delivered at the first General Meeting of the Society, I had expressed the opinion that our investigation ought to be "as much as possible directed to phenomena where, at any rate, no pecuniary motives to fraud could come in;" that is, to phenomena occurring in "private families or circles of friends." I said, indeed, that "it would be a mistake to lay down a hard and fast rule that we may not avail ourselves of the services of paid performers or paid mediums;" but I implied that I had a strong preference for the other kind of investigation. When the matter was afterwards informally discussed in the Council, I expressed a similar opinion, and I believe that my view was shared by one or two other members present; but—so far as I recollect—no formal resolution was passed.

I have written this, not by way of criticism on Mr. Hughes' statement, which appears to me very fairly to represent the facts of the case, but merely to take upon myself the share of responsibility that properly belongs to me for the course taken by his Committee. H. SIDGWICK.

The following letter from Mr. Morell Theobald also relates to the discussion between Mr. Haughton, and Mr. Myers which appeared in the August number of this journal. It will, perhaps, convince Mr. Haughton, and any other members of the Society who share his dissatisfaction at the slow progress of our inquiries, that nothing further can at present be done in this matter by persons outside the circle of Mr. Theobal I's family and intimate friends; since, as Mr. Theobald says, an extraneous "investigation such as would satisfy the Society" as to the extra-human origin of the phenomena reported "is inadmissible under the present conditions." Therefore—to quote Mr. Haughton's words—"if there be fraud or lying in the case" it must be left to Mr. Theobald, or others who have opportunities of closely and continuously observing the phenomena, to "track it home." H. S.

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

SIR,—In the August number of your *Journal*, Mr. Myers, in replying to Mr. Haughton, and referring to the marvellous phenomena which are constantly occurring in my home circle, says (the italics are mine) :—

"I quite agree with Mr. Haughton that some *further* investigation of this case is to be desired. Mr. Theobald kindly offered to allow some delegate of our Society to join his circle 'if the spirits would allow it': but this condition does not yet seem to have been fulfilled. We can, therefore, do nothing more in the matter at present."

1 am not aware of any former reference to these phenomena by your

Society, nor am I aware that the Society has done *anything* to which the "nothing more" can be a sequence; but I am glad to take this opportunity, if you will allow me a little space, of stating exactly what is my attitude with reference to the Society for Psychical Research of which, though not now on the Council, I am still a member.

My own position as regards the phenomena has been, so far as the public is concerned, primarily that of a recorder of facts, and I have endeavoured further to afford every facility in my power for their examination and elucidation.

I did not publish such remarkable phenomena until all in our family circle were absolutely certain of their occurrence and of their abnormal quality; nor have I ever refused any investigation by outsiders into them, but at considerable personal inconvenience often accepted and facilitated it.

Mr. Myers says I "kindly offered to allow some delegate of the Society for Psychical Research to join our circle 'if the spirits would allow it'": I do not remember having made any such promise, although it expresses very much what was my wish some time ago. Experience has proved to me, however, that such an investigation as would satisfy the Society is inadmissable under present conditions, and no one can regret this more than myself.

Permit me briefly to explain. In "Spiritualism at Home," and in *Light*, I have recorded phenomena which occur in our house daily, not when sitting *en séance*, which is comparatively rare, but at all hours of the day. Can any one tell me how the Society could investigate them without having a representative billeted in the house, which would be utterly distasteful tous, and (I speak from experience) destructive of the phenomena?

Let me refer to a few of the phenomena in illustration of this. The firelighting (by agency to anyone invisible but our medium, who is clairvoyante) has now gone on continuously under our own closest observation for over two years, not in the early morning only, but at all hours of the day, in many rooms, and under many conditions. Sceptical at first as to its origin, and exercising, as we did, the closest scrutiny, our spirit friends were often unable, even when they wanted to render us this help, to do so. If we ourselves assume the detective attitude, and try to catch the fire-lighters in the act, our watching spoils the conditions, and we are obliged to become passive before the phenomena can be resumed. Even under conditions of their own suggestion they have failed, while under conditions as absolutely testing, taken at the spur of the moment, they have succeeded : and now we have recorded what we have ourselves seen. I am quite aware how a. scientific mind, devoid of faith in the origin which we are now assured of, can so manipulate these statements of mine as to prove that we are, or may be, or must be, all under a delusion : but if testimony is to be taken, and to gather force by accumulation, we can recount cases which only have to be multiplied by what would be deemed to be a sufficient number for the facts to be established. Your space forbids the necessary detail. But how could the Society (as such) test the truth of our assertions ? Suppose you sent a delegate : would he see more than I did myself in the initiation of these fire-lightings, when I watched, shivering in an overcoat, night and morning? I can hardly think so; but, though his failure could not prove a negative, it would nourish scepticism and complicate our position. Since I had the

temerity to publish these facts, I have heard that phenomena of this class are not confined to Granville Park, but many people who know of similar phenomena have not the courage to face the attacks which inevitably follow their publication. Fire-lighting, then, by occult power must, it seems, for the present be accepted on testimony or not at all, and it seems to me one of the lessons investigators have to learn is how to revise the laws of scientific evidence so as to meet the subtle and delicate conditions of psychical phenomena when personal scrutiny is impossible. The same holds good-perhaps even in a greater measure-as regards the complete making of tea by occult power, from kettles previously, by the same power, filled and brought to the boiling point, and the frequent transportation of material objects from one place to another, notably of boiling water from one kettle to another at a distance. You must first develop clairvoyance among your delegates before they can see in our house either the actors or the phenomena, and then you must settle among yourselves how evidence of this kind is to be dealt with. These things cannot be done at our bidding or I would gladly ask the Society in a body to come and see for themselves; but any delegate set to watch would be as inadmissable as a private detective—and the results would be merely negative. And yet the phenomena occur: they not only exist-they abound; and we have staked our reputation for truth and accuracy on what we have recorded. We have sacrificed a great deal to obtain such a happy facility of exposition in our midst, but we are not prepared for perpetual detective supervision. The theories created under such conditions, even if the phenomena occurred, would only lead to the requirement of further tests, and probably put an end to their recurrence. But there is one class of our phenomena which has been often investigated by men as capable as any your Society could name, and accepted by them as proven. I refer to direct spirit-writings, of which we now have many hundreds, some of them done while members of your Society have been present. These writings -- notwithstanding some very hasty and foolish criticisms-bear on the surface of them primâ facie evidence of abnormal origin, even if the one of which we are convinced cannot be accepted. Some writings were placed, at my request, on the ceilings (I will refer to one presently), and I am convinced that no other than an occult theory can be sustained for one moment after a proper examination of the writings themsolves and of the circumstances surrounding them. I regret that ceilings in Granville Park share the fate of others, and are not impervious to smoke and dust, so that most of the original writings have caught the white-washer's "distemper," and vanished. But we have recently had some additions which cannot possibly square with the theories occasionally suggested by those who have not seen the originals. I regret I cannot send you fac similes. I have tried but failed as yet to obtain photographs of them. Will you try ? But while contending for the spirit origin of these writings, as I who know all about them and my household have a right to do, I do not regard them of such scientific value (in fact, they are of very little scientific value until human testimony is accepted as evidence of facts which are not capable of being submitted to experiment) as others I could show to any approved delegates from your Society.

Permit me here to record one or two facts which have recently occurred,

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and which I apprehend you will agree with me are not easily reached by scientific tests.

After I, with my wife, had gone to our cottage at Haslemere in July last, and lef: my daughter, my sons, and Mary\* to follow us in a few days, I am told this occurred :---

My daughter and Mary had "packed up" their luggage on the upper floor, and amongst other luggage was a bath which when filled they could not move; they, therefore, left it on the top floor to be brought down by the cabman, and came down to breakfast. They were then left (Mary and my daughter) alone in the house. On these two going upstairs together they met the bath in transitu ! and so passed it on the stairs. A few minutes after, on coming down, the said bath had reached the landing on the first floor. Here Mary stayed to have a bath (I mention this fact as important) and my daughter went down to the ground floor. As soon as she heard Mary come out of the bath room she ran up to meet her, and found that during the time Mary had been in the bath-room the heavy package had been taken downstairs to the front door, and, moreover, all the other luggage had also been taken down from the top of the house and placed on the top of the bath. Here is a case of transportation the evidence for which is entirely supported by the word of my daughter and Mary jointly, but it is a thing that probably would not have happened if a watcher had been there! I have no reason whatever for disbelieving, but every reason for accepting their assertion.

Again, last Sunday evening at Haslemere, during our family séance, I had a long conversation with a spirit speaking through Mary, entranced. The conversation was entirely beyond her in her normal state, and went into the question of passing matter through matter: but it is to a promise then made—not only by this voice, but also by direct spirit-writing a few minutes later, that I wish now to refer, as it has since been carried out under perfect test conditions. The spirit promised to write somewhere on the ceiling before Mary left (on the following Wednesday). We, of course, told her nothing of it, but remained on the qui vive every hour of the day.

On Tuesday morning I carefully examined the ceiling where the writing now is and found that there was nothing written then. My wife was in the room all the morning, and Mary was in the kitchen busy. Just before midday dinner my wife again examined carefully the whole of the ceiling, after the cloth had been laid, and is positive no writing was there then, and I may add that she has good sight, and that the writing is easily seen from the floor, the ceiling being about nine feet high : and so they all sat down to dinner six of them ; Mary with them, as is always the case when we are rusticating at Haslemere. During dinner Mary saw the writing being done, and afterwards described to me the process. Tom first caught sight of the finished writing, immediately over the table, and called out : "Oh ! ma, look !"

On looking, she saw it and said : "That was not there five minutes ago !" "No," said Mary, "it has been just done."

Two visitors were present, and marvelled !

The two visitors had been out sketching, and were talking about the

<sup>\*</sup> It should perhaps be explained, for the benefit of those readers who have not previously seen accounts of the phenomena that occur in Mr. Theobald's house, that "Mary"—his servant—is the reputed medium.

lovely morning, and the change of the weather, for the night and early morning had been wet, and this was written *apropos* of the conversation:--

> "Many hours wet and dull Bring a morning beautifull. "T. T. LYNCH."

You will find the lines (slightly altered to suit the circumstances) in "Theophilus Trinal," p. 81, orig. ed. 1850.

Here you have collective testimony up to the morning, when I left for town, and my wife's solitary word of assurance since then up to the moment of writing. The writing is in the well-known hand of J. W. E., who spells all such words as the above with the double l, and the signature of Mr. Lynch would be recognised by anyone familiar with his handwriting, as we are.

Let me conclude by adding that I am anxious to afford every facility to your Society for investigation through members of your Council of whom we may approve, and whose report you will accept; and if you can suggest any mode by which you can satisfy yourselves of the genuineness of these phenomena, and we can aid you, we are ready to do so. As to joining our séances (few as they are), one of your number, Mr. Dawson Rogers, has already done so, and knows full well the delicate conditions necessary to so sensitive a medium as the one we now rely upon for results at these times, and also how impossible it would be for some, at least, of your number to see then, or at any other time, such phenomena as I have frequently recorded.

> Yours faithfully, MORELL THEOBALD.

#### September 12th, 1885.

We have received a letter from Mr. T. P. Barkas relating also to the discussion between Mr. Haughton and Mr. Myers. It arrived too late for insertion in the present number of the *Journal*, but we hope to print it in the next.—ED.

#### MR. SINNETT'S RESIGNATION.

DEAR SIE,—I do not wish to continue a member of the Society for Psychical Research, and shall be obliged if you will duly record my resignation.

For many reasons I regret to withdraw from a society in the general work of which I am so much interested, but it appears to me that in connection with its recent attempt to investigate certain occurrences in India, the leaders of the Society have hastily formed, on insufficient data, injurious conclusions affecting persons I respect, and have gone out of their way to promulgate these conclusions. I gratefully recognise that in so far as it was thought these conclusions would be painful to myself much courtesy has been shown to me personally during the proceedings that have taken place, but at the same time the course pursued in reference to the persons whose reputation is assailed in the reports recently submitted to the Society, and substantially adopted by its authorities, is open, in my opinion, to unequivocal disapproval. Under these circumstances it would be undesirable for me to remain a member of the Society.

This is not a convenient opportunity for me to go at length into a discussion of the grounds on which I conceive Mr. Hodgson's report to be misleading, and the methods of his inquiry unfair to the persons whose conduct he was investigating, but at the same time, for obvious reasons, I should be glad if you would kindly procure the insertion of this letter in the next number of the Society's *Journal*.

Yours very truly,

A. P. SINNETT.

 Ladbroke Gardens, W. September 18th, 1885.
 E. T. Bennett, Esq.

We may remind our readers that only comparatively small portions of the Report on Phenomena connected with the Theosophical Society, have already been laid before our Society at the General Meetings. The complete report will be published in the next number of the *Proceedings*. It will contain,—besides Mr. Hodgson's account of his investigations in India, which deals with most of the phenomena mentioned in the First Report of the Committee, as well as with those mentioned in *The Occult World*;—a careful discussion by him on the handwriting of the Koot Hoomi letters, the authorship of which can, he thinks, be placed almost beyond dispute by a consideration of the handwriting alone. In order to complete the subject, notes will be added on phenomena connected with the Theosophical Society that have occurred in Europe.



# SUPPLEMENTARY LIBRARY CATALOGUE.

# The following additions have been made since last month.

FAHNESTOCK (William Baker, M.D.) Statuvolism; or, Artificial Som- nambulism	1871
GLANVIL (Joseph) Saducismus Triumphatus. Second Edition.	
London, (Imperfect) Several other small works bound up in the same Volume	
BERNHEIM (Professor) De la Suggestion dans l'Etat Hypnotique : réponse à M. Paul JanetParis, 2	1884†
,, Contribution à l'Etude de l'Aphasie : de la Cécité Psychique des ChosesParis,	1885†
DEMARQUAY et Giraud-Teulon. Recherches sur l'hypnotisme Paris,	1860
ESPINAS (Dr. A.) Du Sommeil provoqué chez les Hystériques Bordeaux,	1884#
GARCIN (Dr. ) Le Magnétisme expliqué par lui-mêmeParis,	1855*
JOURNAL DE MAGNÉTISME, BOUS la direction de M. H. Durville Paris,	
LIÉBEAULT (Dr. A. A.) Du Sommeil et des états analogues Paris,	
,, ,, Ebauche de PsychologieParis,	
,, ,, Etude sur le ZoomagnétismeParis,	
PERRONNET (Claude, M.D.) Le Magnétisme AnimalLous-le-Saunier,	
PHILIPS (Dr. J. P.) Electrodynamisme VitalParis,	
,, ,, Cours Théorique et Pratique de Braidisme ou Hypnotisme NerveuxParis,	
,, ,, Influence Réciproque de la Pensée, de la Sensation, et des Mouvements VégétatifsParis,	1862*
PROCES VERBAL fait pour Délivrer une Fille Possédée par le Malin Esprit à Louviers ; Publié d'après le MS. original par ARMAND BENET	1883
RICHER (PAUL) Etudes cliniques sur la Grande HystérieParis,	1885
REVUE DE PSYCHOLOGIE EXPERIMENTALE, publié par T. PUEL. No. 1-6	
HARTMANN (EDUARD VON) Der SpiritismusLeipzig and Berlin,	1885
RIEGER (K.) und TIPPEL. Experimentelle untersuchungen über die Willensthätigkeit	

- † Presented by the Author.
- \* Presented by Mr. F. W. H. Myers.

‡ Presented by M. Puel.

§ Presented by Mrs. Richard Kay.