

JOURNAL

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
New Members and Associates.. .. .	281
Meeting of Council	281
Announcement of General Meeting	282
Mr. Eglinton	282
Cases Received by the Literary Committee	334
Supplementary Library Catalogue	336

NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

MEMBERS.

- HEWITT, FREDERIC W., M.B., 23, Somerset Street, Portman Square, London, W.
- MOULTON, MRS. F. A. (of New York), 11, Ashley Place, London, S.W.
- SISLEY, RICHARD, M.B., Park Row, Knightsbridge, London, W.

ASSOCIATES.

- CAPPER, MISS, Francis Grove, Wimbledon, S.W.
- GROSVENOR, GEORGE FOX, M.D., 121, Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill, London, W.
- MARJORIBANKS, LADY, Tillmouth Park, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council, held on the 4th inst., Mr. Hensleigh Wedgwood in the chair, the following other Members were present :— Messrs. Walter H. Coffin, Edmund Gurney, Richard Hodgson, and Frank Podmore.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, and signed as correct.

Three new Members and three new Associates, whose names and addresses are given above, were elected.

Two volumes were on the table as presents to the Library from Mr. J. Herbert Stack. A present was also reported from Mr. J. W.

Hayes. The titles of these are given in the Supplementary Library Catalogue.

The cash account for the preceding month was presented in the usual form.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the day of the General Meeting, and will be one of the four special ones in accordance with a resolution of the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL MEETING.

The next General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Rooms of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., on Monday, the 5th of July, when Mr. C. C. Massey will read a paper on "The Possibilities of Mal-observation in relation to the Evidence for the Phenomena of Spiritualism." The chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.

MR. EGLINTON.

Before laying before the readers of the *Journal* a collection of evidence received from members of the Society about slate-writing experiences with Mr. Eglinton, it seems desirable to recall two incidents in his career which show that we must not assume any disinclination on his part to pass off conjuring performances as occult phenomena.

The following are extracts from a letter by Archdeacon Colley, headed *Sauce for the Gander*, which appeared in *The Medium and Daybreak* of November 1, 1878, p. 698, signed, "Member of Council, B.N.A.S." He wrote disapproving of the publicity given by *The Spiritualist* to the Williams-Rita exposure in Amsterdam, silence having been maintained as to one where Mr. Eglinton was concerned:—

. . . . When, over two years ago, it fell to my unhappy lot to take from the portmanteau of a certain medium drapery and false beard, that I had reason then to suspect were worn, and afterwards had *proof* that they were worn by the medium, conscious or unconscious, in "form manifestation" we kept our counsel, as I think, wisely, and I quietly, but with increased vigilance, pushed on my humble investigations, and have had the largest reward, larger than any other Spiritualist has had, from staying hasty judgment, and endeavouring with no slackness of observation, through much experience, to think charitably of what in the past looked dubious pertaining to matters which neither I nor any other mortal can comprehend. Moreover, had not my counsels prevailed with friends at the time, and on the unhappy occasion referred to, the Movement would have suffered disgrace in the imprisonment of the medium in question, whose services have been in such large demand by members of the B. N. A. S.

In a subsequent letter in *The Medium and Daybreak*, November 15, 1878, p. 730, he says :—

. . . . Having no purpose to serve in cloaking my individuality, you are at liberty to print the name COLLEY, one not altogether unknown, and which never yet has been disallowed as a guarantee for the truth of statements made and published.

. . . . My argument was that if Eglinton were innocent, I could not see how could so easily judge Williams and Rita guilty. For though, at the instance of the gentleman in whose house Eglinton was a guest, and to prevent their seizure by the police, I, in view of the family assembled, had taken the muslin and false beard from that medium's portmanteau, I yet held condemnation in suspense, not knowing how they came there. . . .

. . . . I have only affirmed well-known facts, and regret that others made any public notice of them, in the interest of justice and impartiality, imperative—facts which I cannot yet understand or form an opinion upon. For, suspicious as they appeared at the time of their occurrence, and do (from falsehoods since told by the medium regarding them) even still more appear, I cannot satisfactorily account for them, and would rather give Eglinton the benefit of the doubt than do as others have done in the Amsterdam matter, and pronounce him guilty.

. . . . Let me, though I would rather have withheld it, say that before it so unfortunately fell to me to take muslin and false beard from Eglinton's portmanteau, and take him also straightway into kindly custody from a friend's house to my own, there keeping him a close prisoner from the police till night drew on and he could quietly get off by train,—some few days before this, I had on two several occasions cut pieces from the drapery worn by, and clipped hair from the beard of the figure representing "Abdullah." I have the pieces so cut of beard and muslin still. But note that when I took these things into my possession I and a medical gentleman (five-and-twenty years a Spiritualist, and well-known to the older members of the Movement) found the pieces of muslin cut exactly fit into certain corresponding portions of the drapery thus taken. Moreover, under a Stanhope lens, we found the hair clipped most closely to match with that of the false beard.

Mr. Colley's letters also contained an attack on some members of the British National Association of Spiritualists, in consequence of which the matter was taken up by the Council of the B.N.A.S., at the instance of Mr. Desmond FitzGerald. Their meetings were reported by *The Spiritualist*, and the following are the passages in those reports bearing on the present question :—

[At a meeting of the Council of the B. N. A. S., on February 11th, 1879, Mr. FitzGerald said] that there seemed to be extraordinary discrepancies between Mr. Colley's published description of a bygone event, and the description of it given by the gentleman in whose house it took place. Mr. Colley had published in *The Medium* :—"I, in view of the family assembled, had taken the muslin and beard from that medium's portman-

teau," but Mr. Owen Harries, of 15, Russell Street, Landport, who was, he believed, a respectable man, had written to him (Mr. FitzGerald), under date of Jan. 19, 1879, that at his house the medium "had a small portmanteau with him; the following morning I felt justified in opening the portmanteau, and the first thing that rolled out was a piece of muslin (about four yards) and a beard. . . . I sent to the Rev. T. Colley, and told him about it; he advised me to say nothing about it at present." There seemed to be a discrepancy in these statements.—*The Spiritualist*, February 14th, 1879, p. 83.

[At a meeting of the Council of the B. N. A. S., on March 11th, 1879,] Mr. Colley read a passage from *The Spiritualist*, in which it was stated that Mr. FitzGerald had said there were certain discrepancies between his account of an occurrence and another account which had been given of it. In justification of his own account, he read a letter which he had received from Mr. Owen Harries. Mr. FitzGerald might have understood that he (Mr. Colley) was the first person to find the articles in the bag, but he (Mr. Colley) had certainly not stated so. What he had said was that in the presence of the assembled family he opened the portmanteau and took out the articles, being quite willing to take upon himself the responsibility of removing them without implicating Mr. Owen Harries, who was the host of the medium at that time. Mr. Harries had admitted to him that he (Mr. Colley) was correct in his statement as to the opening of the portmanteau, and he had made a note of the transaction in his diary.—*The Spiritualist*, March 21st, 1879, p. 135.

The next incident which I shall mention is the alleged occult conveyance of a letter from Mr. Eglinton on board the *Vega* to Mrs. Gordon at Howrah—an incident which appears to me to involve Mr. Eglinton inextricably in the manufacture of spurious Theosophical phenomena. Details will be found in *Hints on Esoteric Theosophy*, No. 1, second edition, pp. 108-125, and in *Proceedings of the Society for Psychological Research*, Vol. III., pp. 254-256. One additional piece of evidence furnished to me by Mr. Hodgson I give below. As I have no space to give the full details of the case here, I shall confine myself to a brief statement of what appear to me the important points.

Mr. Eglinton, who had been staying with Colonel and Mrs. Gordon, at Howrah, went on board the *Vega* in the Hooghly on his way to England, on March 14th, 1882. The next morning a telegram came for him (from Madame Blavatsky, I presume from the context), which Mrs. Gordon opened, saying that one of the Mahatmas wished him, while Colonel Olcott was at Howrah, to send letters in his handwriting from on board ship, and that he would be helped. Mrs. Gordon advised him,—should he consent, to get some fellow-passenger to endorse the letter before sending it off to her. He wrote from Fisherman's Point on the 15th, saying, "Personally I am very doubtful whether these letters can be managed, but I will do what I can in the matter." The *Vega* left Ceylon on the 22nd, and on the 23rd a telegram from Madame Blavatsky asked the party at Howrah to fix a time for a

sitting. They named 9 p.m., Madras time, on the 24th, and at that hour Colonel and Mrs. Gordon and Colonel Olcott sat in Mr. Eglinton's late bedroom. After a few minutes a packet fell among them, consisting of a letter in Mr. Eglinton's handwriting, dated March 24th, a message from Madame Blavatsky, dated at Bombay, the 24th, and written on the backs of three of her visiting cards; also a large card such as Mr. Eglinton had a packet of and used at his séances. The writing on this latter card purported to be by two of the Mahatmas. All these cards and the letter were threaded together with a piece of blue sewing silk. The flap of the envelope was marked with three Latin crosses in pencil. The letter expressed Mr. Eglinton's conversion to a "complete belief" in the "Brothers," an opinion which would henceforth be "firm and unalterable." He also said that he should read the letter "to Mrs. B. and ask her to mark the envelope," and made other remarks; but there seems to have been nothing in the letter which could not perfectly well have been written before he left India. In return for Mr. Eglinton's expressions of confidence in him "Koot Hoomi" wrote on the card about Mr. Eglinton's wonderful mediumship and general excellence of character.

In the meanwhile, at Bombay, about 8 p.m. (Bombay time), a party of Theosophists were sitting with Madame Blavatsky, when a letter was seen to fall. It contained a closed envelope addressed to Mrs. Gordon, on the reverse side of which were three crosses in pencil. This letter Madame Blavatsky strung with three of her visiting cards on a thread of blue silk, and placed it on a certain bookcase, no other member of the party having marked it in any way. The whole party then left the room, and when they returned some minutes later the packet had disappeared—"evaporated," as they expressed it. But as the bookcase stood immediately in front of a venetian door communicating with the room of Madame Blavatsky's servant, Babula, who was accustomed to help her in the production of marvels, and as the venetian spaces of this door are wide enough to allow a hand and part of the arm to pass through, it seems more probable that Babula removed the packet than that it disappeared in any more mysterious manner.

On the *Vega* a letter was duly shown to Mrs. B., who was asked to mark it, but there was a little difficulty about the mark. The letter which appeared at Calcutta was marked by three crosses in a horizontal line. Mr. Eglinton marked the one which he showed to Mrs. B. with one cross; she crossed that cross obliquely, twice, making an asterisk of it. But—to quote Mrs. Gordon's words:—

With the singular incapacity to understand the important element of test conditions which distinguishes nearly all mediums and persons long

familiarised with occult phenomena, Mr. Eglinton unfortunately opened the envelope which had been first marked, he having enclosed another letter and made it too heavy. He then used a new envelope, and being unable to find at the moment the lady who marked the former envelope, he, in the presence of three witnesses, made the crosses, differing, as you say, from those made before. But tiresome as this mistake on his part is, it leaves the substantial elements of the wonderful feat accomplished altogether untouched. The letter was read, before being sent, to several of the passengers on board the *Vega*, and that would alone establish its identity except on the hypothesis of fraudulent collusion between Mr. Eglinton and the founders of the Theosophical Society in India.

We see, therefore, that there is absolutely nothing to identify the letters seen on the *Vega*, at Bombay, and at Calcutta, and that both the change of mark on the *Vega* and the occurrences at Bombay are exceedingly suggestive of pre-arrangement and fictitious miracles.

But this is not all. A Mr. J. E. O'Connor, a Theosophist, on board the *Vega*, hearing of Mr. Eglinton's intention of sending by occult means a letter to Madame Blavatsky, asked to have one of his own sent too. Mr. Eglinton agreed to put this letter with his, and let it take its chance, and afterwards told Mr. O'Connor that it had gone. Nothing was heard of this letter in India at the time of the fall of Mr. Eglinton's. Neither did Mr. O'Connor hear anything of it. Later, however, Madame Blavatsky stated that it had arrived soon after the other, and it was said that she had made no public mention of it because it was a private letter. I have seen the letter, and cannot but regard this excuse for not mentioning it as frivolous, since the letter, though doubtless technically a private one (as Mr. Eglinton's was), contains nothing that might not be published anywhere, and was pretty obviously written with the sole object of obtaining a test phenomenon. The following is Mr. Hodgson's account of the result of his inquiries into the matter:—

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the fact that Mr. O'Connor had written under the circumstances described was first made known publicly in India by Mr. O'Connor himself. Mr. A. O. Hume, in the letter quoted on p. 125 of *Hints on Esoteric Theosophy No. 1 (Second Edition)* writes: "Mrs. Gordon was apparently not aware, as I am, that Mr. —'s letter duly reached Madame Blavatsky on the same day as Mr. Eglinton's letter." And in a footnote Mr. Hume adds that the letter in question was in his possession, "together with a letter of Madame Blavatsky's of the 28th of March, enclosing it and explaining why she wished the matter kept secret." Now, if Mr. Hume had received Mr. O'Connor's letter in the ordinary course of the post leaving Bombay on the 28th or 29th of March, it would, I conceive, be difficult to dispute that some "occult" power had been displayed. But I find on inquiry from Mr. Hume, that he saw neither Mr. O'Connor's letter nor Madame Blavatsky's till June 6th. It seems that after the appearance of the article in the *Englishman* on May 27th (vide *Hints, &c.*, p. 118) and the letter by Mrs. Gordon in the *Englishman* on June 5th (vide *Hints*,

&c., p. 122), Colonel Olcott wrote to Mr. Hume, enclosing (a) a letter purporting to have been written by Madame Blavatsky to him on March 28th or 29th (the second figure of the date being doubtful), (b) an envelope addressed to Colonel Olcott, post-marked Bombay, March 29th, registered, and (c) Mr. O'Connor's letter, torn into three pieces, contained in an envelope docketed thus: "Letter from O'Connor, of Simla, to H. P. B., received by her by Astral post, March 24th, 1882, and enclosed to me in her letter of 29th March, 1882.—H. S. O." In the letter accompanying these documents Colonel Olcott requested Mr. Hume to write to the *Englishman* and explain the matter; and hence Mr. Hume's letter of June 7th, which appeared in the *Englishman* of June 13th. The postmarked envelope described above seems to be the sole piece of evidence worth calling such that Madame Blavatsky sent a letter to Colonel Olcott on March 29th, while the evidence that this envelope contained either Mr. O'Connor's letter or Madame Blavatsky's letter in which she referred to the receipt of Mr. O'Connor's, rests solely on Colonel Olcott's memory, in which, as we have already seen, but little trust can be placed. Madame Blavatsky says in her letter, writing of Mr. O'Connor: "He is on board, it seems, and wrote by the 'same opportunity,' he says. I know where it would lead to were I to take any notice of his letter. New tests, new scandals, and new botherations. I tore it up, but upon second thought had Babula find the pieces, and after reading them to Damodar, who was alone with me when it came, I now send them to you." It may be worth mentioning that the phrase, "same opportunity," does not occur in Mr. O'Connor's letter, though he says in the middle of his letter, "I am taking advantage of the opportunity to write myself."

I now proceed to give accounts of slate-writing séances. The first is a report received from Mr. R. Hodgson and Mr. R. W. Hogg, of St. John's College, Cambridge.¹

Our sittings with Mr. Eglinton took place at 12 noon on *Friday, June 27th*, and *Saturday, June 28th*, 1884, and lasted nearly an hour each time.

FRIDAY'S SITTING.

Mr. Eglinton uncovered a deal table with two flaps, and placed three apparently new dusty slates (rather more than 7½ by 11½ inches), and various small fragments of pencil upon the table. He then brought a wet sponge, with which we washed the slates. One of these slates was then marked on the frame by both of us.

Mr. Eglinton told us where to sit, and himself sat with his back to the window, facing one of the table-flaps. Hodgson sat opposite Mr. Eglinton, and Hogg in the middle, on Mr. Eglinton's right hand.

Mr. Eglinton placed a thin piece of pencil about ½ inch long upon the marked slate. He then took the slate in one hand and placed it under the table, pressing it against the under surface of the table, a corner of the

¹ I have learnt from Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Hogg, since their account was in proof, that they discussed their sittings in detail on Saturday, June 28th, 1884, and on June 29th wrote the rough draft of their report, which was copied substantially as it stood and sent to Mr. Gurney in the course of the next few days.—E.M.S.

Both sittings were in Mr. Eglinton's room in Old Quebec Street.—R.H., June, 1886.

slate being visible, as was also Mr. Eglinton's thumb resting on the top of table. Mr. Eglinton's other hand was held by Hogg's left hand, Hogg's right hand being held by Hodgson's two hands.

Mr. Eglinton asked us whether we had ever been to a séance before. Hodgson stated that he had, but not to a slate-writing séance. Hogg stated he had not been to any. Mr. Eglinton suggested that conversation was a good thing, too great concentration not being desirable.

After about five minutes, Mr. Eglinton requested us to change places. We did so, and then at Mr. Eglinton's further request endeavoured to "stimulate them" by asking if (dead) friends of ours were present. There being no result, Mr. Eglinton requested us to ask that some words or some quotation might be written on the slate. Hodgson thereupon requested that the following passage might be written:—

"I cannot speak

So well, nothing so well, no, nor mean better."

After another short interval of conversation Mr. Eglinton requested us to "stimulate them" by repeating the quotation, which Hodgson accordingly did.

Shortly afterwards, a sound was heard as of writing on the slate. Whilst the sound was audible, the corner of the slate was visible, Mr. Eglinton's thumb also visible above the table, both slate and thumb being motionless, and the slate apparently in close contact with the under surface of the table. The sound having ceased, Mr. Eglinton withdrew the slate horizontally, and the following words were found to be written on the upper surface of slate:— "I cannot speak so well," and the fragment of pencil was lying at the termination of the word *well*.

The words were on the side of the slate remote from Mr. Eglinton, between $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 inches from the edge of the slate nearest to him, and upside down from Mr. Eglinton's point of view.

Another trial was made with the other side of the same slate, and under similar circumstances the word "Ernest" was found written.

In another trial, with two slates placed one upon the other, the words, "Good-bye we can write no more," were under somewhat similar circumstances found written (also with ordinary pencil) on the upper surface of the under slate. In this last case, while the sound as of writing was audible, Mr. Eglinton was holding the slates at one end, Hodgson was holding the slates firmly together at the other end, and could see the greater part of the framework of two sides of the upper slate, and the edge of the framework of nearly the whole of one side of the under slate, which appeared to be in close contact with the slate above.

Before giving them consideration, these phenomena struck us with a slight sense of wonderment; but presently we perceived that the possibility of their being the effect of ordinary human agency was not precluded.

In the first place, although our attention was necessarily distracted by the conversation in which we engaged, so that not all Mr. Eglinton's movements after he had taken the slate in his hand could be satisfactorily observed,—we did observe that the slate and Mr. Eglinton's hand were at times quite out

of sight below the table. We consider this to be an important point, both of us having taken special notice of it at the time.

In the second place, Mr. Eglinton's left leg was almost entirely out of sight, so that Mr. Eglinton might at any time have placed the slate upon his left knee without our becoming aware of the fact.

In the third place, Mr. Eglinton's occasional convulsive movements, together with the change of hands which he sometimes found necessary in consequence of the fatigue produced by the holding of the slate against the table, afforded opportunities for altering the position of the slate.

We are of opinion that under such circumstances as the above, it would be easy for a skilled operator by ordinary methods to produce writing on the slate, the noise of conversation serving to obscure any slight sound made in the act of writing.

If the writing at our sitting was thus produced, what caused the sound so distinctly audible just before the slate was exposed to our view?

Having made experiments, we are of opinion that with care the sound as of a pencil writing on a slate can be imitated sufficiently well by a finger-nail on the under surface of the slate, without any visible motion of either the slate or that portion of the hand in sight.

No statement was made as to the nature of the three taps which were heard at the conclusion of the sound as of writing. We may remark, however, that they resembled the tapping of a finger-nail rather than the tapping of a pencil.

With reference to the third case, that of the two slates placed one above the other, there are some additional points which we must mention.

We first endeavoured to obtain writing between these slates while they were on the top of the table, two pieces of pencil, one red, and the other ordinary, having been placed on the lower slate. We asked that a question might be written with red, and answered with ordinary pencil.

Mr. Eglinton put his left arm on these slates, his right hand holding Hodgson's left hand.

After some time, Mr. Eglinton took up the third slate with his right hand and held it under the table, hand and slate being quite out of sight. His left elbow was then resting on the two slates on the table, his left hand holding Hodgson's left hand.

A short interval elapsed, when this third slate held under the table fell upon the floor. Mr. Eglinton immediately picked it up and placed it upon the table close to the other slates.

Before the pair of slates were taken below the table, Mr. Eglinton on more than one occasion lifted the upper slate, and as yet no writing was visible, nor had any sound of writing been heard.

Now the piece of red pencil was not between the slates at the conclusion of the experiment.

Whether on one of the occasions above mentioned Mr. Eglinton removed the red pencil, we do not remember; but if he did so, an opportunity would have been afforded him, as he thus laid aside the top slate, of substituting the third slate for the top slate of the pair.

Of course, the taking of the slates below the table and the subsequent

change of hands would, as we have already pointed out, have enabled Mr. Eglinton to alter the positions of the slates.

It was not till after these occurrences that Hodgson was requested by Mr. Eglinton to help him in holding the slates.

We should add that Hodgson had taken a double folding slate, which he had previously sealed, after placing a fragment of pencil between the slates. Mr. Eglinton expressed his belief that as the slate-cover was wooden, we would not be so likely to obtain any writing in this slate as in a pair of ordinary slates, and in fact our trials with this were unsuccessful.

Our conclusion is this :—

We certainly think that during the time the sound as of writing was audible, Mr. Eglinton was not writing the words that appeared on the slate ; but we think it was quite possible for him to have written them previously in each of the three cases.

From the above account it would appear that in one or two points we were somewhat inobservant. This we acknowledge. But it must be remembered that it was impossible for us to engage in conversation and at the same time to be sure that none of Mr. Eglinton's movements escaped our notice.

SATURDAY'S SITTING.

We had taken away the two slates upon which writing had appeared on the Friday, and having enclosed a fragment of pencil between them and sealed them together, endeavoured to obtain writing between them, but failed.

We failed also again with Hodgson's sealed folding slate, and failed also with another single slate of Mr. Eglinton's.

RICHARD HODGSON.
ROBERT WALLACE HOGG.

Professor O. J. Lodge and Mr. Gurney furnish the next two accounts.

[Messrs. Lodge and Gurney wish to state that they do not regard their experiences as conclusive, or even as affording any important support to the theory that the writing is not produced by ordinary human agency. The only success which was really difficult to explain occurred at their first visit. On subsequent occasions Professor Lodge always brought his own slate, which was tied to his finger continuously throughout the sitting. Professor Lodge desires further to express his feeling that on his first visit he was not a completely competent observer, if only because the phenomenon expected was then new to him ; and he agrees with Mr. Gurney in considering that conditions which do not exclude the necessity for continuous close observation can never be completely satisfactory.—June 21, 1886.]

June 30th, 1884. Twelve o'clock in the morning, 12, Old Quebec Street, Mr. Eglinton's room. Present: Professor O. J. Lodge and Mr. E. Gurney ; Mr. Eglinton. [The record was made within an hour of the conclusion of the sitting.—E. G., June 21, 1886.]

The table was first examined.

A slate of Mr. Eglinton's was then examined ;¹ and it was ascertained that the frame of the slate was of such thickness, and extended so far above

¹ It should have been stated that the slate was thoroughly cleaned.—O. J. L. and E. G., June 21, 1886.

the writing-surface, that when a piece of slate pencil was lying on this surface, no rubbing about of the slate against another flat surface would produce any marks ; that is to say, no other flat surface could touch the pencil.

Professor Lodge marked one surface of the slate with a penknife, both on the writing-surface and on the wooden rim ; the latter was marked with a tolerably deeply-cut L. The sitting then began, Professor Lodge being in the middle position. The slate was held under the table by Mr. Eglinton, who held it with his right hand by one corner—his thumb being in view throughout. His left hand was held by Professor Lodge.

The test mark was on the upper surface of the rim, next the table ; was for most of the time visible, but was occasionally covered by Mr. Eglinton's thumb. We are absolutely convinced that that surface remained uppermost throughout the experiment. A request was made by Professor Lodge that the word "Bob" should be written. (After some minutes the slate was withdrawn and looked at ; there was no writing.) After about a quarter-of-an-hour of waiting, Mr. Eglinton asked Professor Lodge to assist him in bearing the weight of the slate ; and Professor Lodge crooked his little finger (of the left hand which was holding Mr. Eglinton's hand) round the rim of the table and of the slate, in such a way as to press the slate upwards against the table. After a few more minutes the usual scratching sound was heard ; it stopped, and Mr. Eglinton said "Have you finished?" which was answered by three faint taps. The slate was immediately withdrawn by Professor Lodge. The word "Bob" was found very legibly written, at the end of the slate furthest from Mr. Eglinton, and upside down in relation to Mr. Eglinton ; and the piece of pencil was lying with one end in contiguity to the last stroke of the last letter.

Before the experiment began the pencil had been chosen and cut quite square, with sharp corners at each end, by Professor Lodge. One of these corners was found to be ground down into a small triangular facet ; and the writing was found to begin with finer, sharper lines, and to end with broader ones.

We then tried with two slates placed face to face on the table ; but nothing happened.

OLIVER J. LODGE.

EDMUND GURNEY.¹

[On July 1, 1884, the same persons had a sitting without obtaining any result whatever. On this occasion the slate employed was one which Professor Lodge had brought with him.—E. G., June 21, 1886.]

July 3rd., 1884. 12, Old Quebec Street, 11. a.m. Present : Professor B. Stewart, Professor Lodge, and Mr. E. Gurney ; Mr. Eglinton. [The record was made within an hour of the conclusion of the sitting.—E. G., June 21, 1886.]

¹ My experiments with Messrs. J. J. Thomson and H. J. Hood on June 20th, 1884, at the same place and with the same "medium," were precisely similar to the above, except that the *thickness of the frame* was not noticed (Mr. Eglinton assures me that the slate was of just the same pattern as the one used on June 30th), and the concluding detail as to the *thickness of the strokes* was not noticed. Two words were then produced—"Manchester" (in reply to the question what county is Manchester in), and "No," in reply to inquiry whether more phenomena were coming.—E. GURNEY, June 30, 1884.

Professor B. Stewart sat a little apart, in a position where he could watch the slate and hands. The slate was the same as Professor Lodge had used before ;¹ it had never been out of his care. The slate was attached by string to Professor Lodge's middle finger throughout. The marks were as before on the upper side. Professor Lodge sat between Mr. Eglinton and Mr. Gurney.

A piece of red pencil was broken in half by Professor Lodge, and put on the slate, which was held under the table as before by Mr. Eglinton's right hand. During the latter part of the time, which included the time when the sound as of writing was heard, Professor Lodge was pressing the slate up against the table with his knee.

The word *Pearl* was asked for. The result was a well and sharply formed P with an attempt, apparently, at an e. The writing was at the end of the slate nearest Mr. Eglinton and was turned towards him. One end of the piece of pencil was found in contiguity to the second letter ; and a small freshly formed facet was found at one of the corners of the end which had been broken (whether this end was the one in contiguity to the letter we cannot say).

Professor Lodge examined the slate and pencil, and is certain that there was a small clear space between the table and the top of the pencil as it lay.

By laying the pencil on its narrowest face, in some positions of the slate, it could be jammed against the top of the table, and by rubbing about it could be rolled over and made to make broad smudges. But nothing at all like the fine line of the P could be thus made, nor could loops be made at all.

It seems very clear that the P was written with the corner where the facet appeared, and it is very hard to conceive how the pencil could have stood so much on end while writing in the small space allowed it.

Professor Lodge by writing a similar letter with a similar piece of pencil produced an exactly similar facet.

BALFOUR STEWART.
OLIVER J. LODGE.
EDMUND GURNEY.

Professor Lodge is perfectly certain that Mr. Eglinton could not have at any time supported the slate on his knee ; and that his knee was a foot, or nearly a foot, from the slate throughout. He is also certain that the writing of P was not made by rubbing the slate against the table.

His own knee was always near the slate and usually in contact with it, and holding it still against the table.

O. J. L.

[On July 11, 1884, Professor Lodge and Mr. Gurney had two sittings, without obtaining any result. Since that date they have had a sixth sitting, together, and Professor Lodge has had another with another companion (the medium in both cases being Mr. Eglinton). On neither occasion was any result obtained.—E. G., June 21, 1886.]

¹ *I. c.*, at the sitting of July 1.—E. G., June 21, 1886.

I will next give some reports of séances by Mrs. Brietzcke, of 72, Sterndale Road, West Kensington Park, London, W.

On Friday, 13th June, I went with a friend, by appointment, to a séance with Mr. Eglinton, taking *my own folding slate*, which I have had for years in use. We "sat" at an ordinary flap-table in the following way: Mr. Eglinton held one end of the slate, and held my friend's left hand; I held with both my hands my friend's right hand. The slates having been cleaned and a chip of pencil put *between* two, they were held as described just under the flap of the table, quite in sight, but still *under* the table. Mr. Eglinton said "Is there anyone here?" *Instantly* we heard writing, then three little "ticks." The slates were exposed to view, and there was "Yes" writ *large*. Mr. Eglinton said, "Will you write on Mrs. Brietzcke's slate by-and-bye?" Again the writing and ticks, and again "Yes" in the same hand. Mr. Eglinton asked, "Is Mrs. Brietzcke a medium?" "Yes," was the reply. Mr. Eglinton asked me to write a question to some departed friend. This I did, placing the slate, writing downwards, on the table beside me. I asked my father, D. S., if he knew that A. and J. were in Jamaica? "Yes;" then a whole side of another slate *was filled* with a message, in a neat close hand, dictated by my father, who was unable to write himself as the conditions prevented; the message was a sort of general treatise on Spiritualism. I now changed places with my friend, and *on my own closed* slate was written a message from someone who knew me in New York, and signed with a name I cannot read. On the *other* side was afterwards written a message saying my father would try to write himself later on. The writing was quite different from the previous. N.B.—*I have never been in New York!* I now wrote on another slate, taking care to *hide* the writing, and placing the slate, with the writing *downwards*, at my side, "Have J. D. L." (names in full) "and H. B." (names in full) "met?" The reply was, "J. D. L. and H. B. have met: they are very happy." I had another message, and then one from my father in his handwriting, with his signature. The last writing said "Good-bye, the power is exhausted." This ended the séance, and gave me plenty to think about. After my change of position took place *all* the messages written took place in mid-air with the slates held between Mr. Eglinton and myself.

On Tuesday, 15th July, I went with Professor Barrett, *and had no writing at all!*

July 19th, 1884.

According to appointment with Mr. Eglinton, Miss L. and I went to-day at 3 p.m. We were late as I went to Hammond's in the Edgware Road and bought *three new slates*. We found Mr. Eglinton waiting for us, and we immediately "sat" (the slates having been cleaned) in the following positions: Mr. Eglinton held one end of a slate, *my own*, under the table; I held the other end of the slate with my left hand; Miss L. held my right hand in *both* of hers. I asked "if there was anyone?" We had no reply for some minutes. I repeated the question, and we heard writing. After the three little "ticks" had been given the slate was *exposed*, and there was the word "Yes" writ *large*. The pencil was just on the end of

the s in "Yes." . . . I then said "Will you write the word 'Cat' for me *between the slates*?" No reply. Mr. Eglinton said "Come, write 'Cat'; there is evidently plenty power." Still no reply. Miss L. then asked, and we heard writing. After the ticks the slate was uncovered, and there was the word "cat." I said "Please write the figure 4," and the same slate was placed as before. In a moment we heard writing, and on lifting the covering slate there was a *bold* "4." I said "Write 'Man.'" Miss L. added "So that it can be seen." Instantly we heard writing, and when the slate was exposed "Man" was found in *very* large letters. Mr. Eglinton said, "I shall ask for a word; Please write 'Woman.'" Instantly we heard and saw as before. I said "Why did you not write for Professor Barrett the other day?" The written reply, obtained in a few seconds, was: "Because he dictates his own conditions." I wrote the figure 2 without anyone seeing it, and asked for what I had written to be repeated on the other side. It was. Miss L. put H.K.B. privately and asked *that* to be reproduced on the other side. It was done. I said: "What kind of medium am I?" The reply was: "You are a writing and trance medium." "How am I to develop the power?" "As Mr. Eglinton has told you." I, hiding a slate, told Mr. Eglinton I had put a figure on it. Miss L. did the same on another slate and kept it. Mr. Eglinton now put a bit of slate and a bit of red pencil on the slate, and said: "Multiply Mrs. Brietzcke's and Miss L.'s figures by 4." We heard writing, and on uncovering saw "6 8" in slate, and "272" in red; 6 and 8 were Miss L.'s and my own figures respectively. I now asked Mr. Eglinton to try his *locked* slate, and I wrote a private question on another slate, letting no one see it, and turning it question down on the table at my side. On the locked slate we soon heard writing. My question was "Can you advise for the family of X. Y. Z?" (names in full). On opening the locked slate *myself* I saw written: "We cannot advise for the family of X. Y. Z." (names given in full). I thanked Mr. Eglinton and said "we would not trespass on his time." He said, "Oh, we will go on till they stop," and took another slate. It was hardly held under the table before writing began, and when disclosed the word "Good-bye" was on it. This ended the séance. I think we had these 13 writings in less than an hour, for when I arrived at the Marble Arch it was 4.15, and we were not at Mr. Eglinton's before 3.20, I think. It was 10 past 3 when we passed the clock at Marble Arch *before* I had bought the slates at Hammond's. Mr. Eglinton, before we left, held a sheet of note-paper in his fingers; this he did lightly between his forefinger and thumb. I asked for six taps *on the paper*, and they were instantly given.

H. K. BRIETZCKE.

This I certify to be an exact account of what took place with Mr. Eglinton, Mrs. B. and myself.

J. D. L.

September 22nd, 1884.—Went to Mr. Eglinton's and met Mr. Gurney, Mr. Gurney taking a sealed slate of Professor Lodge's on which we asked for writing. We had no result. We sat with the sealed slate on the table with Mr. Eglinton's hands and my left one on the top of the slate. Mr. Gurney held my right. We got no result at all. Mr. Gurney, Mr. Eglinton,

ton and I all asked that either a word or Professor Lodge's name should be put on the slate—still no result. Mr. Gurney then went into the other room, and Mr. Eglinton and I tried alone with the sealed slate, but with no result. Mr. Eglinton then took another slate, an ordinary slate—clean, put a bit of pencil on the table and placed this slate over the pencil chip. My hands were on the slate, Mr. Eglinton's touching mine on the back. I felt and heard the pencil moving under the slate. After about 10 minutes' waiting Mr. Eglinton said "Will you write on the sealed slate?" I heard writing, and in a short time the three little ticks; on lifting the slate was found written the word "No," the o being circular and not oval—no. Mr. Eglinton called Mr. Gurney, and showed him the writing, and we again tried with the slate, Mr. Gurney saying "Please write 'It is' or 'It is not'" the meaning of this being whether it would be any use to take the sealed slate again on Friday. We waited, but to no effect, and after about 10 minutes more we gave up.

H. K. BRIETZCKE.

We were with Mr. Eglinton in all an hour.

July 11th, 1885.

DEAR MR. GURNEY,—I was at an exceedingly interesting séance on Thursday, the 9th, at Mr. Eglinton's. I went with Mr. Heaton, and after a few messages where we sought identity we were told in writing to "ask other questions." We consulted and decided that we would have a test given. Mr. Heaton was to choose with his eyes shut a book at random out of the bookcase, the page wanted I was to decide by taking a chance number of the pencil chips on the table. The line down on the page was to be decided by Mr. Heaton's chance number of chips. Accordingly the book was chosen by Mr. Heaton with shut eyes, and all we wanted written on a slate, viz., "Page 29, line 11, we want first three words on that line." The book was placed on the slate and held by me (it was a heavy one), as well as Mr. Eglinton, in position under the table. Mr. Eglinton was much disturbed, and in a little time we heard writing, and on the slate being withdrawn, our words were found quoted, *c'est-à-dire*, "Line, page so and so," &c. Then below,

"Verses
Lay a gaunt."

We opened the book at page and counted the line down where there were verses, and the words we had asked were

"Lay a gaunt."

We repeated the experiments, with this alteration, that we wanted the fifth word in the page and line chosen by the number of pencil-chips we drew from the pile on the table. We had in due course "one-horse" given, and on looking found it quite correct. The first book was one on "Dogs"; the second, "Guide to Central Italy." I think Mr. Heaton made notes as we went on, so if you wish the actual pages and lines in both cases I can send them to you.

This, to my mind, quite does away with the idea of thought-transference. Supposing Eglinton had read the books he could not know which line and word we chose, as the chips drawn decided that, and I can most truly say

he *certainly* never opened the book. I saw his right thumb all the time acting as a clamp to hold the slate; his left hand was on my left, which helped to hold the slate in position, and the book was at my end of the slate; the writing came on the surface of the slate on which the book lay, and therefore the surface near the table.

H. K. BRIETZCKE.

The following account of a séance at 11, Langham-street, January 31st, 1885, at 4 p.m., is by Mr. Harold Murray, of 8, Downshire Hill, Hampstead, N. W., and of the Dental Hospital.

Sitters : Mrs. Murray (widow), Harold Murray (son of above).

Mr. Eglinton sat with his back to the windows, at one side, and near corner of small square four-legged table. Mrs. M. sat at side of table nearest fire-place. I sat facing Mr. Eglinton. Mr. Eglinton held the slate with his right hand and with his left across corner of table he held Mrs. M.'s left. I held Mrs. M.'s right hand with both of mine. Small square pieces of composite slate-pencil were used, about this size [about $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{8}$ inch] or very slightly shorter.

During the first four experiments I marked the pieces of pencil used, and carefully noticed the ends, before and after each experiment. Before, they were rough and unworn; after, they were found with one end lying at the extremity of the finishing stroke of the writing, and that end had a smooth worn facet which corresponded in size with the thickness of the thicker strokes of the writing produced.

Except in answer to question 4, all writing took place in a position upside down to Mr. Eglinton; and when the writing was short, at the end of the slate furthest away from him. All writing except answer 8 was in one style, i.e., the same hand. No. 8 was different.

I took with me two slates which I had screwed together (after inclosing a small piece of pencil), and then tied, sealing the cord to the wooden frame so as to conceal the screws. I asked Mr. Eglinton, at the beginning of the séance, to use these if possible. He said he would try to do so, but he did not.

All questions not verbal were written in such positions as to be visible to the writer only, and not to the other two present. The slate was then turned over and handed to Mr. Eglinton with the question on the undersurface, so that though he could not see it, the question would be fully exposed from below when the slate was placed in position under the ledge or wing of the table.

All slates used were cleaned to our satisfaction, before us, with a damp sponge and a dry cloth. The answers were pertinent, though we took every precaution against the chance of Mr. Eglinton seeing the written messages.

Q. 1. Mrs. M. Verbal. "Is anyone here who can communicate with us?"—A. in three to five minutes, "Yes."

Q. 2. Verbal, by myself. "Is there any truth in the rumours that a dynamite explosion is to take place at the General Post Office this afternoon?"—A., in two to three minutes, "No."

Q. 3. Written, by myself. "Can my father communicate with us?"—

A., one and a-half minutes, "Your father is present, and will try to communicate with you both."

Q. 4. Written, by Mrs. M. "Are O.'s present plans likely to lead to his future welfare, and will they bring him happiness?"—We had to wait some time for an answer to this question. Mr. Eglinton asked aloud, after 2 to 3 minutes, "Will you kindly give us an answer to this question?" Directly afterwards he dropped the slate on to the floor; he picked it up and replaced it under flap of table. I watched him narrowly but could not see him look at the message. However, after complaining of the weight of the slate, he repeated his request for an answer, but modified his words. "Will you kindly give us an answer to *these questions*?"—A., after waiting five to six minutes, "As far as I can see. Yes. They certainly should."

Q. 5. Written by Mrs. M. inside Mr. Eglinton's lock frame book-slate. "What do you think of Aggie's state of health, and where had she better live?" Mrs. M. closed the slate and passed to me to lock. No answer during six to eight minutes. It was then placed on surface of table in front of us, while we proceeded with other experiments, as Mr. Eglinton said he could hold it no longer, on account of its weight.

Q. 6. Written by myself. "Do you, my father, approve of my course of action during the past few years?"—A., in three to four minutes, "He says emphatically, yes. But you are thinking too hard."

Experiment 7. Q. 5. Locked slate, still unopened, I having retained key all the time, was held on upper surface of table.—A., in two to three minutes, "He says you must take great care of her health. Your husband cannot say to you what place to choose for her."

Experiment 8. Two slates held on upper surface of table. Mr. Eglinton asked for some communication of interest. The slate was filled with writing in less than one and a-half minutes. The slate is in my possession.

Experiment 9. Two slates held away from the table but below its level, by Mr. Eglinton and Mrs. M. Verbal question by myself. "Can my father himself give us some message?"—A., almost at once, "Good-bye. He can write no more. He sends you both his dear love."

The next two accounts are by Mr. G. A. Smith and Mr. J. Murray Templeton, Associate of the Society. An account by Mr. Smith of an earlier séance was printed in the *Journal* for May, 1885.

May 22nd, 1885.

Since sending you my last report of a séance with Mr. Eglinton for slate-writing I have been to him again (May 23rd, 1885), accompanied by Mr. Templeton, an Associate of the Society for Psychical Research. On this latter occasion the results were not so strikingly profuse—indeed from one point of view the séance was a failure, but to Mr. Templeton and me the meagre results obtained possess great interest from the fact that we feel so well able to testify to the perfection of the conditions. Mr. Eglinton stated beforehand that the day was an exceptionally unfavourable one; he considered the atmospheric conditions too disturbed to promise good phenomena.

As a matter of fact the day was dull and oppressive, with thunder and rain.

I took with me my own slates—ordinary school slates and two book-slates, and these were used throughout at Mr. Eglinton's own request. Mr. Eglinton and Mr. Templeton sat facing each other, on opposite sides of the table, whilst I sat at the third side holding the left hand of each, Mr. Eglinton's right being occupied with holding the slate beneath the table-flap. In this way we sat for three-quarters of an hour, Mr. Eglinton occasionally changing one slate for another, and sometimes placing a slate upon the table with a crumb of pencil or crayon beneath it. But no writing came, and we were on the point of giving up the trial. It was suggested, however, that as a last resource it might be advisable to alter our positions, and Mr. Templeton and I changed places accordingly. Mr. Eglinton then took one of my book-slates (a pair of ordinary slates fastened together with cord up one side so that they could be opened and shut but not separated entirely) and placed it firmly just beneath the table, holding it there with the fingers and thumb of his right hand. Whilst doing so he complained of his hand being fatigued in consequence of the time he had been holding slates in that position (this may be held to account for a slate being dropped on to the floor once during the séance); so Mr. Templeton slightly raised one of his knees and held it firmly against the lower slate, thus pressing the two close against the table, and keeping them unmistakably together. With this position Mr. Eglinton appeared pleased, and said it was a great relief to his tired hand. But nothing came, and Mr. Templeton got tired of it, so he removed his knee, and held the slates with his left hand instead. In this position I was well able to see that the slates were *close together* and jammed against the table, and Mr. Templeton was also able to feel and see the exact state of affairs.

In a few seconds Mr. Eglinton became disturbed: he breathed heavily and seemed oppressed: and then we all heard the sound of writing. The sounds seemed to come from between the two slates, which Mr. Templeton and Mr. Eglinton were still holding together, and which I could see were not separated in the least. The writing seemed produced with difficulty; it had the sound of being done slowly and laboriously, and the scratching came decidedly from the slates, as well as one is able to speak of a sound the cause of which is unseen; but Mr. Templeton should have more exact impressions on this point, his hand being in contact with the slates. At any rate when the three taps came indicating conclusion, and Mr. Eglinton carefully withdrew the slates, without a muscle of his hand having apparently moved the whole time, I opened them and we found the words, "The power is against us," written at the extreme edge farthest from him, on the lower one of the two slates, and upside down to him—that is, the writing faced me. The crumb of pencil was resting near the last word, and was worn down as if it had been used to write with. It is noticeable that the sentence written on the slate corresponded with an observation that Mr. Eglinton had previously made, to the effect that he felt the presence of plenty of "power," but that for some reason, probably atmospheric, it was not able to be utilised.

Another slate was then put in position, but as no more writing came Mr. Templeton suggested that it might be easier, perhaps, to rap out a message

by taps with a pencil. We listened for a few moments, and then heard some curious throbbing on the floor beneath our feet. Addressing Mr. Eglinton I asked if that was rapping, and he replied that he believed it was; but, as we spoke, the raps became distinct, and three somewhat loud thumps were given. It seemed impossible to localise the exact position of these sounds with certainty; but they seemed to be just beneath our feet, and rather in the floor than upon it. All our feet were in full view at this time, and the room is a well lighted one—so I cannot suggest any means by which Mr. Eglinton could have produced them himself; for I did not perceive, and I do not think Mr. Templeton noticed, that he made the slightest move whilst they were occurring. In reply to questions addressed to them by Mr. Templeton the thumps indicated, by three for *Yes* and one for *No*, that the lack of better phenomena was due to the weather, and not to any inharmonious element existing in the sitters. They then ceased altogether; and the séance concluded after we had made some unsuccessful attempts all round to imitate with the heels of our boots the sounds we had just heard.

G. A. SMITH.

May 27th, 1885.

DEAR MR. GURNEY,—Mr. Smith's statement seems to require little more than corroboration, which I now give. While comparatively a failure, the words obtained at the end of the sitting were given under what appear to me quite special test conditions—unless, after three-quarters of an hour's waiting, both Mr. Smith's and my own attention failed us. . . . The folded (and bound) slates were Mr. Smith's, and from the time Mr. Eglinton lifted them from the table till the writing came they were also either held by my knee firmly against the under side of the table-flap or by my hand. I cannot say that I distinctly felt vibration within the slates at the moment I could certainly hear the sound as if within.

Concerning the raps, I could not at all localize them, and they were too easily obtained by ordinary means to be, as they came under my notice, of service.

Mr. Smith asks me if I noticed Mr. Eglinton's exhaustion. This I did, and have always done, and conceive it to be too real in his appearance to be acting—and this the more from observation of a friend of mine, a non-Spiritualist, who is quite similarly affected and exhausted.¹

I shall be glad to give any further information on any special point if desired, and remain,—Sincerely yours,

J. MURRAY TEMPLETON.

June 12th, 1885.

On Thursday evening, June 11th, at 9 o'clock, Mr. Templeton and I had another séance with Mr. Eglinton for experiments and observations in slate-writing. Mr. Eglinton had remarked at a previous séance that as a general rule the success of the manifestations depended in a great measure upon the sitters, and had observed that persons sensitive to the action of mesmerism were decided acquisitions to the circle. We accordingly agreed that it would be

¹ In the presence of Mr. Eglinton.—G. A. S.

as well to avail ourselves of the advantages supposed to be attached to the presence of a sensitive, and I invited a young lady in whom I had occasionally induced light hypnotic trances, and whom I also knew to be an intelligent and careful observer, to make one of the party.

We sat at Mr. Eglinton's table, in the best light a three-jet chandelier could afford; Miss P— at his suggestion occupied the side on the right of the medium, Mr. Templeton sat on his left, and I seated myself facing him. I had provided myself with four school-slates, two book-slates, and one small transparent drawing-slate—all bearing my signature. One of the school-slates was then held beneath the table by Mr. Eglinton in the usual way; that is, closely pressed against the under surface, and barely out of sight—in fact, the edge being held is more often than not in full view; and of course the whole of the hand with the exception of the first two joints of the fingers, which support the slate in position, is exposed to everyone's observation. The writing material was a small crumb of slate-pencil or coloured crayon, as we chose to determine.

The first question asked, with a view of ascertaining whether a good séance might be expected, was, "Are the conditions good?" In a few minutes we heard a grating sound, as of writing being executed, and on the slate being slowly and carefully withdrawn, the word "Yes" was found on the extreme end of it farthest from the medium; the crumb of pencil resting on the final curl of the s, and with one of its edges worn down. It should be said that all the writing which subsequently appeared was always found at the extreme end of the slate; was *always* upside down to Eglinton, and it was always undoubtedly produced on the side of the slate which faced the table.

Mr. Templeton and I then discussed two or three test experiments which we considered it would be well to try; and as Mr. Eglinton expressed his willingness to embark in any of them, I suggested that the safest plan would be to ask the "intelligences" which of the proposed experiments would best fall within the scope of their ability. The reply, written in the usual way, was "Leave us to do what we can." Mr. Eglinton then told us of an interesting manifestation which he sometimes obtained with coloured crayons; and we all agreed that we should like to try it forthwith. Three small pieces of crayon—green, yellow, and red—were placed upon a slate together; Miss P— asked that the figure 9 might be written in green, Mr. Templeton proposed that 99 should be produced in yellow, and I voted for the figures 12 in red. The slate was then placed beneath the table-flap, and writing was soon to be heard; on it being withdrawn, there was written 12999—the first two figures in red, the second two in yellow, and the last one in green. It was, moreover, noticeable that the pieces of coloured crayon which had presumably been used in the writing were found lying in a line just beneath the figures, each beneath their corresponding colours.

I then produced my transparent slate, and proposed that we should endeavour to get one of the pictures traced. Mr. Eglinton embraced the idea with pleasure, and asked which of the four pictures on it (two heads, a leg, and an arm) we should request to be traced. We decided on the leg—and brown crayon, as being the most difficult to see against the background to be traced; the slate was then placed in position, with two pencils upon it to

separate its surface from the table, so as to leave the necessary space for the crayon to move in. Soon we heard a soft scraping sound, as of lines being drawn, and on Mr. Eglinton removing the slate we found that a portion of the leg had been roughly but correctly traced—viz., on the underneath side, from the bend of the knee to the ankle, the heel, and the sole of the foot.

We now expressed our desire to get something written which could be regarded as outside the knowledge of any of us—such as a certain word on a given line of a chosen page of a book; and we proposed that the “controls” should be asked if such an experiment would be likely to succeed. The reply, obtained in the usual way, was, “If you like to try it we will be happy to do our best for you, for you know we see you do not dictate your own conditions.” The last word of this sentence appeared to have been very hastily and carelessly written, and we were uncertain what it was intended for; so the slate was held beneath the table again, with the request that this word should be re-written more legibly. *Immediately* we heard writing, and the word “conditions” was found occupying nearly the whole width of the slate.

I then went to the bookshelf, took a book at haphazard, without of course looking at the title, returned to my seat, placed the book upon the chair, and sat upon it whilst we were arranging the page, line, and word to be asked for. This point Mr. Templeton and I decided by each taking a few crayons and pencils from the table by chance, and counting them; Mr. Templeton had possessed himself of 18 pieces of crayon, and I had seized 9 pieces of pencil, we found on counting them; we therefore decided that the “controls” should be asked to write the *last word* of line 18 on page 9 of the book. This article I now produced, and laid it upon one of my slates, and Mr. Eglinton held the two close beneath the underneath of the table—the book of course being held firmly closed between the table and the slate. We then commenced conversing; in the midst of Mr. Eglinton’s own remarks the writing was heard to commence. For about 25 seconds he was talking and the writing was going on simultaneously; he then ceased, and the writing continued a few more seconds before the three taps came indicating its conclusion. The message we found was as follows:—“This is a Hungarian book of poems. The last word of page 18 (page 9, line 18) is bunhoseded.”

After we had observed that a mistake in the figures had been corrected in parenthesis, I opened the book at page 9, and we found that the last word on line 18 of that page was “bunhodesed.” Remarking upon the fact that the last two syllables of the word had been transposed, we asked the “controls” if it was a mistake, and how it had arisen; we received the written reply: “Yes. We have not power to properly read the last word.”

As a test experiment I think this may be regarded as a very successful and crucial one; for it is difficult to believe that Mr. Eglinton can have committed to memory the exact position of every word in every book on his bookshelves—containing some 200 books, or more. And it is easy for us to say with confidence that all his movements were so carefully watched that the slightest attempt on his part to open the book, or even to touch it, would have been detected almost before the attempt was made; and it is a fact that the book was never once touched by him, and could not possibly have had one of its leaves exposed to his view for an instant, let alone page 9 long

enough to enable him to count down to the 18th line. Of course the test would have greater value as such had we been able to use a book which we could be certain he had never read ; but if this point tells against the result, the fact that by a happy chance my selection caused a Hungarian book of poems to be used should surely counterbalance this evidential flaw to a great extent, and reduce the chances of his having memorised the position of every word in it to a minimum. That I was not forced to take this special book from its being in a particularly handy and prominent position, and that page 9 and line 18 were not "led up to" by Mr. Eglinton is obvious—from the fact that I made my selection without looking at the books ; and that the page and line were determined by chance, then and there, as I have described.

Presumably with the object of taking advantage of the "power" apparently present, this successful experiment was quickly followed by another. Eglinton took one of my book-slates, dropped a crumb of pencil between the leaves, and closing it, placed it in the usual position. It was then partly in sight, whilst we were chatting (and watching) and waiting for something to come. In the midst of the talking I thought I heard writing being done, and said so ; but the others thought I was mistaken, and we continued to wait. Presently Mr. Eglinton dropped the slate upon the floor, and on his picking it up we found "Good-night" written at the foot of one of the leaves.

In conclusion I must add that Miss P—, who sat next to Mr. Eglinton and held his left hand, assures me that she did not observe anything in his behaviour to indicate that he took any active part in the production of the writing ; and a young lady with doubts and a large hat can constitute a very critical observer. Though I did not sit next to Mr. Eglinton I had in every case a good view of the hand which held the slate, and in most cases sufficient view of the slate itself to know that from the time it was placed in position, to the time of its withdrawal with the writing on its upper surface, it was firmly pressed against the lower surface of the table.

G. A. SMITH.

(Mr. Templeton and I have each written independent accounts of this séance ; his report is attached, and I think corresponds with mine in the important points.)

June 14th, 1885.

As Mr. Smith will probably provide a detailed account of this our last sitting with Mr. Eglinton, I shall do no more than record what I consider to be the main factors in the conditions and succeeding results. A friend of Mr. Smith's, Miss P—, who from a former experience was supposed to give "power," was also present, and sat next to Mr. Eglinton.

First a few questions as to position, what tests could be obtained, &c., were put, and all answered satisfactorily on a slate held against the under side of the table. Then three differently coloured morsels of crayon having been placed on the slate, and the slate pressed against the table, Mr. Eglinton asked Miss P—, which crayon she would choose to have used in the writing of any number she might name. She fixed on the number 9 to be

written in green, I desired 99 in yellow, and Mr. Smith 12 in red. The numbers and colours were arranged while Mr. Eglinton held the slate against the table; and no change in the position of the slate or his hand took place till the writing was heard, and we found the numbers in their respective colours correctly written out.

Mr. Smith now brought out a child's outline drawing slate for copying on glass the underlying figures drawn on white paper, and desired some part of the drawing to be reproduced. The wooden edge of the slate only allowing a space of some one-tenth part of an inch between the glass surface and the underside of the table-flap, two crayon pencils were placed parallel to one another against the wooden slate edges—thus giving, when pressed against the table, a space of about one-quarter of an inch in which a broken pencil point could move. We waited some time, probably 10 minutes, and then heard the soft scratching of the pencil. Part of a leg had been accurately copied, we found.

Next the final and most crucial test was proposed by Mr. Eglinton. It had been suggested to his own mind by a former test of my own, in which I had wished to preclude all possibility of any explanation such as thought transference (this former test is subjoined). We arranged that Mr. Smith should turn to the bookshelves behind him, choose a book at random, in which we could fix upon a certain word in a certain line of a given page—which word was to be written for us. On taking a book Mr. Smith asked Mr. Eglinton if he knew what it was. Mr. Eglinton answered "Yes," and that as it was a rather trashy novel it might be better to choose another. Mr. Smith then took a small red-covered book from the opposite shelf, and this Mr. Eglinton said he did not recognise. As the theory of the medium's mesmeric influence over the sitters had been more than once put before me as a not impossible explanation I suggested we should fix the line by the number of crayons in a box before us, which gave us the 18th line; and in a similar way, from a separate heap of slate pencils, we obtained the number 9 for page. The last word in the line was chosen. We all remained in ignorance of the book's name or contents; nor at any time could it have been possible for Mr. Eglinton to open it without exposing himself to immediate observation. It was now placed on the slate, and pressed by Mr. Eglinton firmly against the table. After some slight waiting came the sound of writing, and having brought the slate and book on the table we found a short message saying that the book was Hungarian, naming in some confusion the order of our question, and finally finished by the word "bunhoseded." Hardly realising this at first to be Hungarian we puzzled over it, and pronounced it as best we could; then turning to the line and page found the word as we had spelt it on the slate previously with but the reversion, the *s* and *d*. It should have been "bunhodesed."

* * * * *

To a former sitting with Mr. Eglinton, I took six questions in an envelope. They were simple, such as a child could answer, but required the most direct of replies—were somewhat as this: "Name the first three months of the year," &c., and were each on the one side of six identical slips of paper. Mr. Eglinton was quite unaware of my proposed test, and I suddenly took the envelope from my pocket, chose a slip at random, and

placed it question downwards on a slate in the middle of the table. I withdrew my fingers as another slate closed it (the slip) down. The three present then rested their hands on the two slates, and presently came the sound of writing, on this occasion more like drawing than the usual quick short letter-formation. Mr. Eglinton knew I could draw, and very naturally asked me if I had asked "them" to draw something. I said "No," but wondered inwardly, forgetting that one only of my questions could be answered by figures. Uncovering the lower slate I found my slip as I had left it, and the question: "How many days and months has the year?" answered in numbers thus: 365

12 large size

377

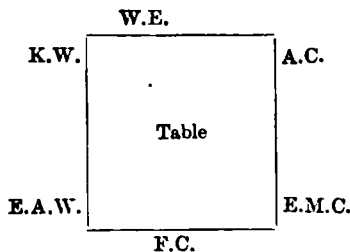
I cannot believe my powers of observation failed me, and that the question became known to Mr. Eglinton. Since, I have been told that "Telepathy" or "Thought-transference" might cover this case, inasmuch as the whole six questions were lying in my brain; but the late book-test, just recorded, proves this explanation to me to be quite insufficient.

(Signed),

J. M. TEMPLETON.

The following account has been received from Mr. E. M. C., an Associate of the Society.

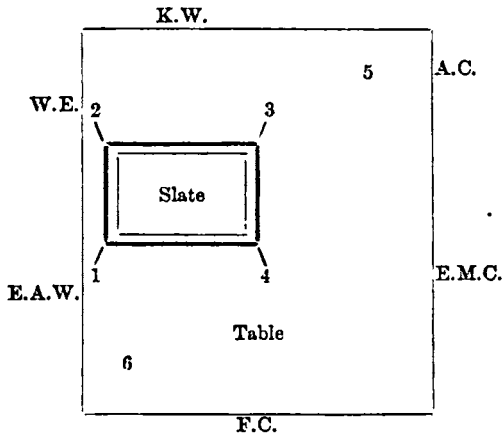
Séance with Mr. Eglinton at his house, 6, Nottingham Place, November 12th, 1885, 3 p.m. to 4.30; daylight, and also two gas burners. Present: E.M.C., F.C., A.C., E.A.W., K.W.



E.M.C. had not brought a slate with him. Mr. Eglinton produced four, and the locked slate; three of these slates were laid aside on the table at the back; one was thoroughly wetted with a piece of sponge, and dried with a duster by Mr. Eglinton, and given to E.M.C., who then wrote his initials on the frame. (I would remark that in every case, when an answer had been given, Mr. Eglinton wiped it out, and cleaned the slate in the same manner.) I also answer for it that the slate was not changed, as I watched it all the time, having been requested to do so. E.M.C. wrote a question on the initialed slate, and did not show it to any of us. Mr. Eglinton took the slate, held it under the table with his right hand, and after

some time the question was answered lucidly. Other verbal questions were put and answered by yes or no, the slate being cleaned each time as before stated. Mr. Eglinton then asked E.M.C. if he had a bank note or cheque with him ; he had not, but he said he had in his purse a paper which had been there some time, and that he had entirely forgotten what it was. F.C. and A.C. did not know what it was either. The paper, folded in four as it was taken out of his purse, was placed by E.M.C. unopened in the folding slate, and locked by him ; the key he put in his pocket. Mr. Eglinton for stronger proof tore a piece of the edge paper off some postage stamps, and without removing the slate from the table he stuck it on not far from the lock, and some way round on either side of the slate. That slate, Mr. Eglinton then placed on his left hand side, and his elbow touched it. Then Mr. Eglinton took the initialed slate, cleaned it, and placed on it three pieces of chalk, white, green, and pink. (E.M.C. had, previously to the chalks being put on, written a question.) Mr. Eglinton asked E.M.C. to choose what colour he would have his answer written in ; E. M. C. chose white, and received an answer to his question consisting of some 10 or 12 words in white chalk ; the locked slate remained during this on the table where it was placed after having been locked, &c. Mr. Eglinton now took the locked slate and held it under the table with his right hand ; nothing came ; he held it several times on the table and under the table ; nothing came. He then held the initialed slate under the table with his right hand, placed the locked slate immediately above it on the table, and on that slate he placed K. W.'s hand and his own. Writing was heard, but it was on the slate under the table—a few words. Mr. Eglinton then placed both his hands over K. W.'s hand on the locked slate ; he was strongly controlled ; writing was heard, the slate was given to E. M. C., who partially unlocked it (taking the key from his pocket), but the lock did not open very easily, and Mr. Eglinton turned the key, having first cut the paper that held the slate together. (While Mr. Eglinton did this the slate remained on the table before E. M. C.) The paper was in the slate, folded as when put in, and an answer was written to the effect that it was a receipt of the Grosvenor Gallery Library No. 21380, in large figures, which was perfectly correct. Mr. Eglinton then said he would try another experiment. He took the initialed slate, cleaned it, took from the table at the back one of the other slates (which had all the time been lying there), he also cleaned that ; he put the initialed slate over the other, and placed them before him on the table. He held K.W.'s hand on the slates ; both his hands were on. He said he felt another influence. From the commencement of the sitting to this time, A. C. had her hands together joining E. M. C.'s, all the other members of the circle touching each other, and either Mr. Eglinton's right or left hand holding K. W., according to the slate being in his right hand under the table, or his left hand when it was on the table. Mr. Eglinton now changed places with K. W. K. W. took A. O.'s right hand with her left, Mr. Eglinton took E. A. W.'s left hand with his right, and K. W.'s right hand with his left. (I should mention that after he moved he lifted the top slate from the bottom, and nothing was written ; and that E. A. W. can vouch for it, as well as the others, that the slates were left on the table while Mr. Eglinton moved from one chair to the other.) The circle of hands

was now unbroken ; the slates were on the table ; K. W.'s hand (right) was in E. A. W.'s ; Mr. Eglinton's hands holding the two together on the slates ; nothing came. Mr. Eglinton said, "We must hold the slates." The slates were held (part of the hand being between the slates and the table) as marked on the diagram. E. A. W. held the slates with her left hand at



No. 1 ; Mr. Eglinton held the slates with his right hand at 2 ; K. W. held the slates with her left hand at 3 ; and Mr. Eglinton placed his left hand partly on K. W.'s hand at 3 and partly holding the slates towards 4. At 5, K. W.'s left hand was in A. C.'s right, and at 6, F. C.'s left hand was in E. A. W.'s right. Mr. Eglinton was most strongly controlled, and we all heard writing, and I distinctly felt the vibration in the slates, our hands being between the slates and the table ; Mr. Eglinton remarked that if the circle were broken the writing would cease ; and to prove this he lifted his left hand from contact with the slates three times, and each time we heard the writing cease, and commence when he put his hand again on K. W.'s and the slates. It is difficult to measure time accurately, and I forgot to look at the clock, but in about (I should think) three minutes, the writing ceased, and Mr. Eglinton took off his hands and sat back quite exhausted. We took off our hands. I took the top slate from the other slate, and we found that other covered with close writing ; 32 lines, 195 words. The message is from Ernest and is not like Mr. Eglinton's handwriting. Mr. Eglinton then went back to his original place, and K. W. to hers. The slate with the message on was left on the table ; Mr. Eglinton rubbed his finger twice down it, to show it was written with slate pencil. (I have the slate, this can be seen.) Mr. Eglinton then took the initialed slate, which had been on the top and held it under the table—on it was quickly written that someone was there—that someone being mentioned by his Christian name ; he had died some 15 years ago, was E. M. C.'s son, and his Christian name could not possibly have been known to Mr. Eglinton. The slate was cleaned as before, two more questions were put and answered. A farewell message was given saying that the power was exhausted. I think

there is nothing to add, except that in *all cases* where the slate was held under the table, it was done by Mr. Eglinton's right hand, the thumb being visible above the table, and enough of the hand being visible to K. W., (who sat close) to see that it did not move. Mr. Eglinton's left hand was, during these times, always holding K. W.'s left (reaching across). A. C. had both her hands near E. M. C.'s; Mr. Eglinton never left his chair during the sitting except to change with K. W. twice; and during that change the slates were on the table.

(Signed,)

E. M. C.

F. C.

A. C.

E. A. W.

(K.). W.

The reports of the next six séances were drawn up by Miss J. H. Symons, Associate of the Society.

September 22nd, 1885.

On Monday, September 21st, at 2.30, Mrs. L. and I had a sitting with Mr. Eglinton at his rooms in 6, Nottingham Place. On our way to him, we bought two ordinary slates, and a box of slate-pencils. These slates were washed and dried by Mr. Eglinton before the séance began. He first broke off a small bit from one of our pencils, and placed it on the slate under the table. The pencil however being round rolled about at the slightest movement of the medium, he therefore asked me to mark one of his own bits of pencil—which were flat—so that I could recognise it again, and this was placed on the slate. Eglinton sat on one side of the table, Mrs. L. next him, and I opposite. We joined hands, and first asked aloud, “Will you write for us to-day?” but as after a few minutes' interval no reply had been given, Mr. Eglinton handed me the slate, and asked me to write some question. I did so, carefully shading what I wrote with my left hand, so that I am sure no one, not even Mrs. L. who was sitting next me, could have seen what I was writing. I then showed my question to Mrs. L., and passed the slate to Mr. Eglinton with the clean side upwards, who without glancing at it placed the slate under the table. About half an hour after the commencement of the séance we first heard the sound of writing, followed by three raps, the signal that the question had been answered. Mr. Eglinton withdrew the slate very slowly from under the table, so that by no possible means could the message have been written whilst the slate was being withdrawn, for we saw the upper half of the letters before the whole became visible. In answer to my question “Could I ever develop as a medium?” was written on the other side of the slate, “Yes, for you are a medium.” I then asked aloud if the “intelligence” would allow us to try some test, and “Yes” was immediately written. I said I should like proof of some intelligence exterior to either of the three persons present in the room, and asked if I might take a book from the bookcase behind me, and request the “intelligence” to write a certain word of a certain page. Mr. Eglinton consented, only asking that the book might be a small one to prevent the slate being unnecessarily heavy. I chose one without looking at it, put it on one of our slates, and handed it to Mr. Eglinton, who at once

placed it under the table without looking at it. At Mr. Eglinton's own request to make the test more conclusive, Mrs. L. took up a handful of pencils, the number of which was to determine the page, and I a handful which should determine the line. By this means we got page 17, line 6 (from the top) and we further chose word three from the beginning of the line. These numbers Mr. Eglinton jotted down on another slate, that we might afterwards compare them with what should be written. After about a quarter of an hour, during which time Mr. Eglinton appeared to be somewhat convulsed, he asked Mrs. L. to support the slate with him, as he found it rather heavy. At the moment that Mrs. L. touched it, we heard writing, and at the same time she felt a vibration coming apparently from the very spot where we afterwards saw the writing to be. The three taps were given, Mr. Eglinton handed us the slate, on which was written the word "fruit," and which—on referring to the book, "*Songs of Passion and Pain*," by Ernest Willing—we found to be correct. Mr. Eglinton appeared exhausted after this, but offered to continue the séance. To our question "Who is the intelligence who has just communicated with us?" we received a quick reply, "I am a guide of the medium." We next asked, "What is your name?" and "Joey" was immediately written. (Mr. Eglinton had previously told us that he had a guide called "Joey.") Mr. Eglinton again put the slate under the table, asking what test we would like to try now; before we had time to answer writing was again heard, and on withdrawing the slate the message proved to be "Good-bye," with which the séance concluded.

JESSIE H. SYMONS.

A— M. L—.

I should add that the pencil used appeared to be the same as the one I had marked. Mr. Eglinton returned it to me on the slate; and I noticed that the facets on one side were slightly rubbed down.

J. H. S.

September 25th, 1885.

On Thursday, September 24th, 1885, Mrs. L. and I had a second sitting with Mr. W. Eglinton for slate-writing. We again took our own slates, and the conditions throughout were identical with those of our previous sitting, except that in one instance writing was obtained on a locked slate, resting on, not under the table.

After taking our places, Mrs. L. next Mr. Eglinton, and I opposite him, I wrote on one of the slates we had brought with us, unseen by Mr. Eglinton. *Sabe v. contestarme en Espanol?* ("Can you answer me in Spanish?") In about a quarter of an hour I received the following rather amusing reply: "There is no French scholar present. JOEY."

Mrs. L. then asked on a locked slate of Mr. Eglinton's, and always unseen by him, "Can you communicate a message from my mother?" We locked this slate ourselves, it was never removed from the table, or out of our sight for one single instant. Mr. Eglinton merely rested one hand upon it. Very shortly after, we heard writing, the three taps were given, Mr. Eglinton handed us the slate, which we ourselves unlocked and on the opposite side

to that on which Mrs. L. had written the question, was the reply, "We are not in communication with your mother." An answer which, though not so satisfactory as we could have wished, was at least to the point.

Mr. Eglinton then held one of our slates under the table, and I asked verbally: "Since you say I am a medium will you tell me how I can best develop?" "By sitting frequently at your own house," was the prompt reply. Whilst we were looking at the writing and the pencil, with which apparently it had been written, Mr. Eglinton again held a slate under the table, and before we had time to put a question, writing was heard. On Mr. Eglinton's withdrawing the slate we read in the same handwriting: "I do like you." We asked, verbally again: "Which of us do you like?" "Both," in large letters, and three times underlined, was the immediate reply. "Why do you like us both?" we asked. "Because you are so kind and sympathetic." We thanked "Joey" for the compliment he paid us, and asked whether, as a further mark of favour, he would be good enough to write for us on a slate that should have no contact with the medium. To this "Joey" replied, "I will do so some time, but not to-day. Good-bye."

Whether "Joey" will be true to his word we have yet to prove. Mr. Eglinton tells us that he seldom fails to fulfil any promise once given.

JESSIE H. SYMONS.

A— M. L—.

October 20th, 1885.

On Thursday, October 15th, 1885, Mrs. L. and I again sat with Mr. Eglinton for slate-writing. We first requested that the coins might if possible be removed from my sealed box, but as after more than half an hour this request had not been complied with, we thought it advisable to propose another test. For this purpose Mrs. L. took a visiting card out of her card-case, which she marked, unseen by Mr. Eglinton. This we placed between the pages of a book, taken from the bookcase behind us, adding a small bit of chalk, which we had brought with us, and which was likewise marked. Mr. Eglinton held the book under the table, and I asked that the word "watch" might be written on the card. I wrote this request on a slate which I showed to Mrs. L., but not to Mr. Eglinton; this slate remained at first on the table, but was afterwards held by Mr. Eglinton under the table with the book. After about a quarter of an hour, during which time the medium appeared to be in great pain, he lifted the book, and we proposed inspecting it; on doing so we found that one stroke had been made nearly halfway across the card,—a broad steady stroke, not in the least as though the chalk had rolled—and there was an indistinct scribble in one corner, which on close inspection looks something like a man seated on a mound! The nib of chalk was however gone. It is possible that it dropped out of the book during Mr. Eglinton's writhings; it certainly did not do so when the book was carefully opened on the table, neither were we able to find it anywhere on the floor. During this time Mr. Eglinton's thumb, and the corner of the book had been always visible. We cut off and marked another small bit of chalk, which with the card was again placed by us between the leaves of the book, and the book was held again by Mr. Eglinton under the table. After another quarter of an hour Mr. Eglinton again gave us the

book; he said he could bear the strain no longer, that the power that morning had been very strong, but that for some reason unknown to him, he feared our test had not succeeded, as the usual three raps had not been given. We opened the book, and found besides several scribbles the letter "w," and a little apart from it, what looked like a badly formed "w." A little further on was apparently a second attempt at a "w." The chalk was crushed to atoms; this was probably caused by Mr. Eglinton himself, who during his writhings had supported the book with his whole hand, his wrist only being visible, and who had appeared to press the book very violently against the table.

JESSIE H. SYMONS.

A— M. L—.

From notes taken immediately after the sitting.

October 9th, 1885.

On Thursday, October 8th, 1885, Mr. Hensleigh Wedgwood and I sat with Mr. Eglinton at his rooms for slate-writing. Mr. Wedgwood had taken with him 20 playing cards, selected out of an ordinary pack, from the ace up to the five of the four suits. Out of this pack Mr. Wedgwood selected three at random, and without looking at them, or showing them either to Mr. Eglinton or to me, placed them face downwards on Mr. Eglinton's locked slate, asking that both suit and number of the cards chosen might be written, a black card to be written with blue chalk, and a red one with yellow. Mr. Eglinton then placed in the slate two coloured nibs of chalk, snapped it to, and left it on the table, whilst, holding another smaller slate under the table, he commenced the séance by asking whether our wishes with respect to the cards could be complied with. For some 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour there was no reply whatever, and the day being a dull, murky one, Mr. Eglinton told us he feared that we should probably get no result at all. However, it was not long after this that we heard the sound of writing, and on the slate being slowly withdrawn from under the table, we read the message "we will try" written as usual in reverse to Mr. Eglinton, and on the end of the slate furthest from him. This being so far satisfactory, Mr. Eglinton next held the locked slate under the table, but being, I suppose, heavy, he let it drop from his hand to the floor. On picking it up he opened it, but no writing had come. He then held one of the smaller slates again under the table, and asked whether there was any chance of the test succeeding. "Patience" was the almost immediate reply. At this point Mr. Eglinton again opened the locked slate, and I satisfied myself by slightly moving the cards (though, I need hardly say, without turning them up) that there was then no writing on either side of the slate. From this time up to the moment when we next heard writing, the slate was never out of our sight for an instant, nor was it once removed from the table; in fact, Mr. Eglinton's hand and mine rested on it throughout. We had sat thus perhaps 10 minutes, when we heard the sound of writing, succeeded by the usual three raps. Mr. Eglinton pushed the slate slightly towards me, he turned the key, and I opened the slate myself; the writing was found *under* the cards, which were still lying with their backs towards us. The numbers and suits written

were in all three cases correct, and our wishes as to blue chalk for a black card, and yellow for a red, had been equally complied with. I then asked whether another test I wished to try, namely of removing some coins from a sealed box without opening it, would be likely to succeed. I do not remember the exact words of the reply, but I know that it was expressive of goodwill for the test at some future séance. With this, our sitting for that day ended.

JESSIE H. SYMONS,
H. WEDGWOOD.

31, Queen Ann Street.

October 8th, 1885.

DEAR MRS. SIDGWICK,—I am this moment returned from Mr. Eglinton's, and though one piece of evidence is pretty nearly as good as another yet in this case there were a pair of very sharp eyes in addition to mine. I had taken the 20 lowest cards with me, and after shuffling them with their backs to me, dealt out three which were of course absolutely unknown to Mr. Eglinton, Miss Symons or me. These were put into the locked slates with their face down, together with a piece of light red or yellow and of blue chalk, requesting that the names of the cards might be written in appropriate colours, taking blue for black. After a good while, Mr. Eglinton put down an open slate asking if it was any use going on. The answer came up, "Patience," so we went on and presently heard the sound of writing. Mr. Eglinton then put the slates before Miss Symons, who sat next him, and putting in the key, which had been all the time on the table before me, he unlocked the box, not opening it at all. Miss Symons opened the slates, when we saw written, "Ace of Hearts" in yellow chalk, and "Ace of Spades" and "Two of Spades" in blue chalk, which were the cards really there. There was no possible room for sleight of hand, as the frame was locked all the while that it was in Mr. Eglinton's hands; nor could it have been got from our unconscious selves (if there is any sense in such an expression), because we never knew what the cards were until the frame was opened at the conclusion. It seems to me a conclusive test of the presence of an extraneous intelligence with the power of writing in a closed receptacle.—Yours very truly,

H. WEDGWOOD.

P.S.—I should have mentioned that twice in the course of waiting for the writing, Mr. Eglinton brought up the frame and opened it before us, looking for writing; but in neither case was any of the cards turned face upwards, and the key in each case laid on the table before us.

31, Queen Ann Street.

October 15th.

DEAR MRS. SIDGWICK,—In my account of the experiment with cards which I sent to you, I said that Mr. Eglinton opened the frame twice in the course of the sitting to see whether anything was written, but on seeing Miss Symons' account and talking the matter over with Mr. Eglinton, I am satisfied that it was only once, and also that the slates were lying before us on the table when we heard the writing done.—Yours very truly,

H. WEDGWOOD.

October 28th, 1885.

This sitting was again with Mr. Wedgwood and myself. The object of our visit was a desire on Mr. Wedgwood's part to obtain writing on the inner side of two of his own slates, which he had most securely fastened together with adhesive paper and sealing-wax; or, failing this test, a request that a sixpenny-piece or a visiting card might be passed between the slates without any visible removal of paper or sealing-wax.

Mr. Wedgwood began the séance by writing a question on an ordinary slate, to which he very speedily received a satisfactory reply. I did not know the question asked; neither, to the best of my belief, could it have been seen by Mr. Eglinton, who at once put the slate under the table, where it remained until the answer was received.

After this we turned our attention to the test for which we had really come. The double slate was placed on the table, with the coin and card underneath. Mr. Eglinton's hand and mine rested on the slate. We waited quite three-quarters-of-an-hour, hoping this wonderful feat might be performed! but no sound of writing was heard, and no coin dropped through the slate. As time was rapidly passing, Mr. Eglinton took up one of his own slates—an ordinary single one—from the table, held it underneath, and asked whether there was any possibility of the test being complied with. Again we waited, and still there was no sound of writing; upon which I remarked that I feared my influence to-day was not a good one, or that "Joey" no longer liked me. This remark was made *whilst* Mr. Eglinton was holding the slate under the table, and it had not once been removed from this position when the first sound of writing was heard. I was sitting next Mr. Eglinton; I had the whole time been able to see the two corners of the slate, one on each side of the table. I noticed, too, that he supported the slate with his fingers only; I could see his wrist, thumb, and the palm of his hand *throughout*. The message was in reply to my previous remark, "I do like you, Joey." The writing was indistinct, and there was some discussion as to whether the second word was "do" or "did." Mr. Eglinton said it could be easily settled by asking to have the message re-written. Almost as soon as the slate was put under the table came the answer, "Of course I like you; why should you think that I do not?" Mr. Wedgwood said he had another question to ask. Mr. Eglinton again placed the slate under the table, and Mr. Wedgwood asked whether the power would ever be strong enough to write on his closed slates. In reply he was told "Yes, but not to-day." We asked "Why not to-day?" to which we received only the laconic reply, "I cannot," and then a little lower down on the slate, "Good-bye, dear Miss S."

JESSIE H. SYMONS.

H. WEDGWOOD.

Mr. Wedgwood adds:—

I am quite certain that Mr. Eglinton did not see the question which I wrote on the slate at the commencement, and never turned up the side on which it was written. The pertinent answer came on the upper side.

H. W.

November 15th, 1885.

On Saturday, November 14th, 1885, Mr. Wedgwood and I again sat with Mr. Eglinton for slate-writing.

Mr. Wedgwood commenced the sitting by asking whether the "controls" would be able to-day to give us some striking proof of their presence, and of their power. The question was written on a slate of Mr. Eglinton's—we had not brought any; it was not seen until after the answer had been received, by either Mr. Eglinton or by me. It was handed to the former with the clean side uppermost, was at once held under the table, and was removed once, before the answer came, for a few seconds only, and placed on the table with the clean side towards us, when Mr. Eglinton complained of his hand having become very cramped. I am certain that by no possible means could he have obtained so much as a glance at the written question. It was rather more than 20 minutes before we heard the sound of writing; the answer was to the following effect, "Ask what you will, and we will do our best." Mr. Wedgwood had brought with him his sealed slates, and he next asked whether they would be able to write on, or transmit an object through these same slates. Although the answer was sufficiently satisfactory, "We will try," Mr. Wedgwood was unwilling to risk another séance on a test which has so often failed; he therefore chose instead to take off his watch, the number of which he asked to have written on a piece of paper, which Mr. Eglinton gummed to a slate, and on which the watch was also lying. At this time, and until the writing came, Mr. Eglinton's thumb, a part of the palm of his hand, and his wrist were visible to us both; he kept very still, being anxious, he said, not to jerk the watch. Under these conditions writing was produced on the paper. We looked at it, hoping to see the figures we had asked for, but found instead, "We cannot do it," written with a nib of blue chalk which we had placed on the paper.

Mr. Eglinton then produced a box from a cupboard, made of dark red glass, which he told us had been brought him by some one who had hoped by this means to see the writing come. The bottom of this box is a slate; there are four wooden supports at the four corners, into which the glass sides slip; there is a glass top, and a wooden frame which keeps the whole securely together, and which must be removed, together with the glass lid, before it would be possible, apparently, to write on the inner surface of the slate. The box is, I should say, about 8 or 9 inches long, and half-a-foot deep. Into this we dropped a bit of pencil, then putting the box together, we left it on the table, whilst we turned to the locked slate; into this I placed a sixpenny piece, a visiting card—both marked—and a bit of pencil. I pressed the slate to, Mr. Wedgwood took the key, and Mr. Eglinton got us a bit of adhesive paper, which I initialed, and he fastened across the opening of the double slate. Mr. Wedgwood and I examined it closely, and we satisfied ourselves that it was entirely secure, even supposing that Mr. Eglinton had a second key, and was able to use it without detection. This slate was left on the table, Mr. Eglinton's and my hand resting on it, whilst Mr. Eglinton held the glass box under the table, and we asked that the coin or card might be transmitted from the slate to the box; or, failing this, that we might simply have writing on either. Slate and box remained in this position for some time; we heard no sound of writing, nor any movement of objects. It was proposed, however, by one of us, that we should just see whether anything had occurred; the box was opened, and we found nothing had taken place, beyond the nib of pencil having slipped, probably,

from the slate to the framework round the bottom. I put in my hand, and replaced it on the centre of the slate. I merely mention this to show how sure I am that there was nothing else in the box at that moment. I *could* not have looked in, attended to, and moved the pencil, without seeing a sixpenny piece, or a visiting card had either been there. We had been with Mr. Eglinton a full hour; it was then 3.20 and he told us he had to catch a train at Waterloo at 4.30; he therefore appeared naturally anxious that we should go; however, at Mr. Wedgwood's request he said he would give us 10 minutes longer, should we be told that there was any use in continuing the séance. To ascertain this he took up an ordinary single slate from the table, and asked if they could do anything more to-day. "Yes," was written at once. Mr. Eglinton looked at the clock, threw the slate down on the table, and looked more than ever anxious to get rid of us. However, he put the glass box again under the table, and asked me to help him hold it. I did so, pressing it firmly against the table, so that I am absolutely certain the top could not have been removed. The closed slate had not been touched at all; Mr. Eglinton's arm was resting on it merely. A few minutes after I had been holding the box, I heard some faint taps, to which I called Mr. Eglinton's attention; he fancied he heard them too, and asked if there was anything to communicate. Three raps in reply. "Have you transferred the coin from the slate to the box?" One rap in reply. "Have you written on either slate or box?" A single rap again in answer. "Have you done *anything*?" Three decisive raps. So we placed the box on the table—about the centre of the table—within *reach* of Mr. Eglinton, certainly, but so that he must have stretched out his hand to touch it. We first opened the locked slates; the initialed paper remained, of course, intact, for the slates had not once been moved. We cut through the adhesive paper, Mr. Eglinton turned the key, and I opened the slate, exposing to view the sixpenny piece, and the bit of pencil; but the card had altogether disappeared! Next we opened the glass box; there was the pencil—and—the marked card; I could only gaze in speechless wonder! I had heard not a sound. I had, but a couple of minutes before, seen the glass box empty, save for the crumb of pencil; had seen card, coin and pencil placed in the locked slate; had fastened it myself, *whilst Mr. Eglinton was away from us*—having turned to the writing table to look for adhesive paper.

Whilst I sat wondering, Mr. Eglinton said, "We will just ask if they have anything more to say before you go," and held a slate under the table. The sound of writing was very quickly heard, and continued for some seconds. I was prepared for a longer message than usual, but totally unprepared for seeing the slate entirely *covered* with writing. The message was in "Earnest's" handwriting, commencing: "My dear Madam," and was to the effect that having witnessed such a "striking manifestation" of their power, one could not doubt but that Spiritualism must before very long be universally received as true, &c. I wish to say that I did not, in this case, take the slate in my hand, and absolutely convince myself that there was no writing on either side of it before it was held under the table, but I certainly *saw* none as Mr. Eglinton took it up. It was, I must say also, to the best of my belief, one of the two slates which we had used throughout the séance, on which questions had several times been asked, and which I had *precisely* assured

myself were clean, though I did not *especially* observe at this particular moment. I am sorry, too, that I did not note in how many seconds the message of 83 words was written; I can only say that it took place in a much shorter space than could possibly have been done by any ordinary means. I should think in from half to three-quarters of a minute at the outside.

Another slate was now held under the table—the same on which we had previously put the watch, and which I am absolutely certain was clean on both sides—in case there should be anything further to communicate. In this case, as before, the writing came almost immediately, “Good-bye, dear Miss Symonds, I will try your box some day.” This was no doubt in reference to a previous remark of mine, that after having witnessed their power to transmit a card from a slate into a closed box, I did not despair of their being ultimately able to remove one, or all, of my coins from the sealed box in which I have placed them.

JESSIE H. SYMONS.
H. WEDGWOOD.

Descriptions by Mr. Wedgwood of the following séances have already appeared in print, but on account of the importance he attaches to the evidence contained in them we reprint them.

31, Queen Ann Street.

September 27th, 1885.

DEAR MR. GURNEY,—As mention has been made in our papers of sittings held by several members of the Society for Psychical Research with Mr. Eglinton, I think it may not be out of place to make known to the Society, as concisely as possible, a few instances in which I have had the most signal success with him, while in other cases I have failed four or five times in succession to obtain a repetition of the phenomena under precisely the same conditions. Mr. Eglinton offers as good a subject for psychical experiment as it is possible to conceive. He operates in full light, sitting at the same table with you, while you hold one of his hands, and never entirely lose sight of the other. If you distrust your own acuteness you may bring any witness you please to sit by and watch the game. Under these circumstances things are done apparently beyond the limits of physical possibility, and inexplicable by anything short of a temporary hallucination of the spectators.

The first case I will mention was when Mr. Eglinton was staying with Dr. Nichols in Road. I had tied two new slates firmly together, sealing them on the six points where the string crossed the edges of the slates. I then took them to Mr. Eglinton's and failed to get any writing upon them. Some months afterwards I took the slates as they were and fastened gummed paper round the edges, so as to close the inside hermetically. Mr. Eglinton and I sat alone under the gaslight with a low flame, holding our four hands on the slates lying flat on the table before us. I observed to the Medium the strange amount of effort the experiment seemed to cost him, testified by groans and convulsive movements of the arms. After a while I began to hear the unmistakable sound of slate-writing, proceeding without

doubt from the slates beneath our hands, as was easy to perceive on bending down the car to them and removing it again. The writing continued for a long time, and when the slates were opened it was found that they were covered with writing in three or four different hands, one of the messages seeming to answer my observation on the painful exertion of the Medium. "We have managed to do what you wished," the passage ran, "but with great stress on the Medium."

I next sat with Mr. Eglinton, when first he came to Quebec Street, with a party of seven or eight. We had a good light from a single burner overhead. I sat next the Medium, holding his left hand. He gave me a blank card, from which I tore off a corner, and put it in my pocket. The card, together with a fragment of black lead, was then put inside a book, which was placed under the hand of Mr. Eglinton's next neighbour on the right, but as no signs of action were given after a while he took the book away and gave it to me. I laid it on the table and he and I held our hands upon it. By-and-by the little single taps were heard, and on opening the book I found a letter addressed to me in a hand well known to me, written upon the very card which I had placed blank in the book a few minutes before. There could be no deception about the card, as it exactly fitted the torn-off corner I had kept in my pocket, as can be seen by the original still in my possession. The only possible escape is to suppose that Eglinton could surreptitiously have taken the card out of the book under eight pair of eyes and written upon it a letter of two or three lines in a very marked hand as different from his own as possible, and have replaced it in the book under my hand, without being noticed by any of us. In the next experiment there was no room for the supposition even of such an incredible piece of sleight of hand as the above. The experiment was made with the aid of Mr. Eglinton's celebrated pair of locked slates, which were made under the care of an anxious investigator for the purpose of eliminating all possibility of fraud, and presented by him to Mr. Eglinton. As soon as we had sat down Mr. Eglinton handed me a blank card on which I put my initials and a small mark, when it was at once placed between the slates, which close with a spring Bramah lock. The slates were snapped together with the card inside, and the key given to me and put in my pocket. We then placed our hands upon the frame lying flat on the table, and as soon as we had the usual notice that the action was complete I unlocked the frame myself, and took out the card without Eglinton seeing it, and on the same face on which I had put my initials I found a drawing of a well-proportioned female figure in a floating attitude, shaded so as to show the fore-shortened limbs.

I shall only mention one more operation which took place last Thursday, September 24th. I had been having a sitting for materialisation with Mr. Eglinton on the Tuesday evening, when the figure of an Arab came out, and one of the ladies asking him for a bit of his drapery, I lent him an open penknife to cut it off. He retreated with this into the cabinet, from whence there came a voice familiar to me, blaming me for giving the Arab a dangerous implement, and saying that they had dematerialised the knife, which should however be restored to me on some future occasion. On Thursday morning I went to Mr. Eglinton for slate-writing, and when we sat down I explained that I wished for something interesting, and I sug-

gested either writing on a pair of closed slates which I brought with me, or a drawing such as I had had before, or the restoration of my knife. We got no answer at all for a long time, perhaps for half-an-hour or more, during which Mr. Eglinton was subjected to much exertion. At last someone knocked at the door of the room, and Mr. Eglinton said he should be at liberty in a few minutes, having evidently lost all hope of getting anything at that sitting.

He then put his slate under the table, asking them to say whether they could do anything or not. I fully expected a negative answer, but the slate was immediately returned with a decisive "Yes." Upon this, Mr. Eglinton gave me half a sheet of note paper on which I wrote my name. It was then locked up in the closed frame and held under the table, sometimes by Eglinton alone, sometimes with my assistance, I always having hold of his left hand. When we had notice of the action being finished Mr. Eglinton gave me the slates to unlock, and the lock being too stiff for me, he stretched his hand over and turned the key, but without opening the slates, which he left for me to do. On opening the slates I found my lost knife in the cavity, while the sheet of paper had disappeared. Mr. Eglinton then asked what had become of the lost paper, and was answered on the slate, "Under the other slate," and accordingly we found it under a slate which had been lying on the table at Mr. Eglinton's back without being touched during the whole of the sitting.

H. WEDGWOOD.

31, Queen Ann Street,

March 22nd, 1886.

DEAR MR. MYERS,—Your call for the communication of instances where information of a fact unknown to any of the sitters has been given by automatic writing may perhaps best be met by examples of the experiment, so often accomplished in the presence of Eglinton, where a book is taken at pleasure from the shelves by the investigating party, and the writing intelligence is requested to write upon the slate the word to be found in the book at a place defined by page, line, and order in the line—as for instance the word to be found at p. 51, line 17, fifth place in the line.

However familiar the Medium may be with the book selected, it is impossible to suppose that he can carry in his head the knowledge of the precise word occupying every definite position in the volume. And he cannot have made any preparations beforehand, because he does not know which of his books will be selected, or whether the investigator may not bring a book of his own for the purpose of the experiment. Thus it will always be easy for the investigator to make it morally certain that the word asked for is unknown to any of the sitters, and if it is correctly given on the slate, time after time, it would seem to afford as clear a proof as can be given of the intervention of an intelligence with faculties of apprehension reaching further than those of any one in bodily presence at the experiment.

Now this feat I have seen accomplished at three successive sittings with Mr. Eglinton in the course of the last week.

On Tuesday, March 16th, Captain James and I had our first sitting.

He took with him a folding pair of slates, having on one side a raised ledge all round the rim, locking into a slot in the opposite rim when the slates were closed, making the introduction of any tool between the slates, in that condition, impossible. We arranged the numbers of page, line, and word to be asked for by taking at a hazard three pinches of the pencil nibs that lay on the table, and counting these the numbers came out page 43, line 8, fourth word in the line. For the book Captain James went to the shelves and took down "Alice in Wonderland." Eglinton then put nibs of three different colours between Captain James' slates, requesting that the word occupying the above-mentioned position in the book might be written on the slates in red. We sat in the usual way at the corner of the table, Eglinton on one side holding the slates with the book on them under the flap of the table with his right hand, and with his left grasping the left hand of the sitter next him, across the corner of the table, while the latter held both the hands of his fellow-sitter with his right hand. At first I sat next to Eglinton, but as a considerable time elapsed without any signs of writing, Eglinton suggested that James and I should change places, and the table seemed to show its approval of the change by much violent jumping about. Soon afterwards Eglinton, finding his hand cramped by holding the slates so long under the table, asked James to join with him in holding them; and before putting them beneath again he opened them to see whether anything was written, when I saw that there was not. After this the slates were held by Eglinton and James under the flap, and were not brought up again until the writing was accomplished, so that it must have been done while James had hold of the slates, and he avers that he held the closed slates the whole time up against the flap in such a way as to make it impossible to write on them from without in any way. After a while the sound of writing was heard, and the signal of accomplishment being given the slates were opened, when we saw the word "ready," conspicuously written in red chalk, and found on examining the book that this was really the word occupying the position indicated by our figures.

When I came to think over this experiment I was afraid it might be said that the Unconscious Self keeps undefaced among its stores pictures of every scene which has passed before the eyes of the percipient in actual life, and might refer to these as to an index to make out the word occupying any definite position in the book, and prompt it to the writer.

So I endeavoured at our next sitting, on March 18th, to cut off any possible access to such an index by making use of a volume the contents of which should be quite unknown to any of us until after the writing was accomplished. With my eyes shut I took down a volume from my shelves and put it in my pocket, and only after it was opened to verify the word written on the slate was it found to be a little book on "Magic and Witchcraft," 1852. I had doubtless looked at it when first bought, but had quite forgotten it, and neither of the other two had ever heard of it. At the sitting we proceeded exactly as before¹ except that Eglinton held one of

¹ From a letter of Mr. Wedgwood, dated March 18th, 1886, it appears that this statement includes the placing of the book on the slate as in the first experiment.—E.M.S.

his own slates for the writing under the flap, instead of Captain James'. After a while we heard writing and found the word "such" written on the slate, which on examination proved to be the word occupying the place in the book indicated by our numbers.

I still thought I might improve the evidence a little, and at our next sitting on the 21st (the last day of Eglinton's stay in England), I chose a book that I was pretty sure (as proved to be the case) none of the party had read, viz., "Peter Plymley's Letters." I also took a large pair of folding slates of my own, eleven inches by seven and a-half, to receive the writing. Eglinton put nibs of three colours within the slates, and having requested the writing intelligence to write in yellow chalk the word to be found at page 24, line 8, word 5, I tied the slates firmly together with a double turn of strong twine. Eglinton then held the slates with the book on them under the flap, all parties holding hands as before. We were a long time without any signs of success. At last James asked if it would help matters if he were to take hold of the slates. The table assented with three loud bangs on the floor, and after a little while my aid was accepted in the same way. Shortly after we all three had hold of the slates we heard writing going on, and the signal of completion being given the slates were brought up tightly bound together with my twine, and on opening them we saw the word "wife" written in yellow in a large bold hand. This proved to be the word at page 24, line 8, and fifth place in the line.

Immediately afterwards I made a note of the sitting substantially the same as the above, which was signed by Mr. Eglinton and Captain James.

H. WEDGWOOD.

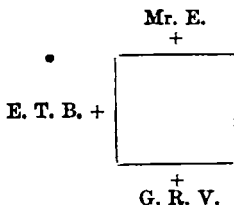
The accounts of the next two séances have been sent to us by Mr. E. T. Bennett, Member and Assistant Secretary of the Society.

Mr. George Rayleigh Vicars, and Mr. Edward T. Bennett at Mr. Eglinton's, November 21st, 1885. 3 p.m. Good daylight all through.

Sat at the ordinary table thus :—

E. T. B.'s right hand
 holding both Mr. V.'s
 E. T. B.'s left hand
 holding Mr. Eglinton's left

} above the table.



Mr. V. had brought his double locked slate, on one side of which the word "No" had been written.

Mr. Eglinton held this slate with his right hand under the flap of the table at the corner between himself and E.T.B. No result, after a few minutes' trial.

Mr. B. had brought two envelopes gummed and sealed. One given him by Dr. Myers, inscribed thus : "Two pieces of paper are here enclosed, on one of them are words which I do not know, on the other are words that I do know.—A. T. Myers, November 13th, 1885."

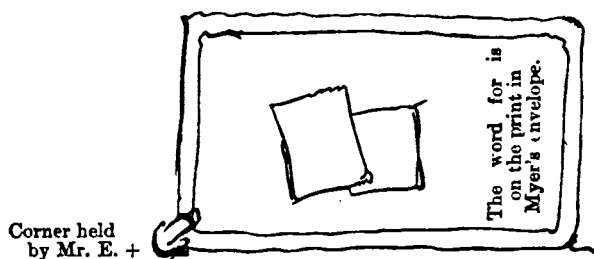
The other envelope, prepared, gummed, and sealed by E. T. B.

Mr. Eglinton examined the outsides of these envelopes.

E. T. B. cleaned two of Mr. Eglinton's slates with a damp sponge, and chose a fragment of pencil, which he marked, the edges being unworn.

The two envelopes and the bit of pencil were placed on one of these two slates, which Mr. Eglinton took and held underneath the corner of the table. The request was made that something that was inside the envelopes might be written on the slate.

In a few minutes a sound as of writing was heard. During this, hands were being held as above, and the thumb of Mr. Eglinton's right hand, which was holding the slate, was visible above the table. On the writing ceasing, and Mr. Eglinton withdrawing the slate, the result was seen thus: i.e., the writing was at the *further* end of the slate.



The bit of pencil was on the slate. It was the same bit of pencil, and one end was worn smooth as if with writing a few words.

[The envelope was not examined, being kept to be returned to Dr. Myers unopened.]

Mr. V. and Mr. B. now changed places at the table; hands being held in a precisely similar manner. It was agreed to ask a few questions relative to the word "No" on Mr. V.'s slate.

Mr. Eglinton held one of the two slates under the table as before.

Q. Was the word written at Mr. Eglinton's?—"No."

Q. Was the word written by means of Mr. V.'s own mediumship?—"Yes."

It was asked that these answers might be written inside a circle just then drawn on the slate. This was done.

The two slates, being seen to be quite clean, were then placed together, with a bit of pencil between them; and the question asked whether Mr. V. would get any more writing himself. No result following immediately, Mr. Eglinton drew the slates from under the table and held them at arm's length just at the back of Mr. V.'s neck. No result following immediately, and the position being rather tiring, Mr. V. said, "You can rest them on my head if you like." Almost immediately the sound of writing was heard between the slates. It is inconceivable to both Mr. V. and Mr. B. that there could be any doubt as to the place from which the sound of the writing came. On its ceasing and the slates being examined, at the end of the lower one farthest from Mr. Eglinton, were the words: "You will have other writing. Patience."

A single slate was then held underneath the table; on the slate was placed a bit of slate-pencil, a bit of blue chalk and bit of red chalk.

Q. Will you write in blue the name of Mr. V.'s spirit guide?

Almost immediately was written in blue :—

“W. A. Forbes”

The second initial was not very legible.

Mr. V. had previously said that he did not know who his “spirit guide” was, and no name, “Forbes” or any other, was in his mind.

Upon this sentence being written, Mr. V. remarked: “W. A. Forbes was the name of a student with whom I was intimate at St. John's, and who has since lost his life on the Congo.”

Q. (By Mr. V.) Did I know him?—“Yes,”

Q. “ ” Was he at St. John's, Cambridge?—“We don't know.”

Q. “ ” Where did he die?—“Don't know.”

Q. “ ” Is he now doing this writing?—“No.”

Q. “ ” Do you know anything about my late father? “We do not. Good bye. Continue to sit.”

Q. (By Mr. Eglinton.) Shall Mr. V. continue to sit at home, and will this sitting help in his development?—“Yes.”

The sitting then terminated.

While the writing was going on, part of Mr. Eglinton's thumb holding the slate was always visible, and generally the end of it was on the top of the table. This was specially noticed.

The above is written from notes made during the séance.

EDWARD T. BENNETT.

November 22nd, 1885.

To the best of my recollection, the above details are correct.

GEORGE R. VICARS.

9, Lower Berkeley Street, Portman Square, W.

June 2nd, 1886.

At Mr. Bennett's request I furnished him on November 13th, 1885, with a sealed envelope, in which were two small pieces of paper with printed words on them. They were wrapped in a sheet of blank writing paper. One, which was about an inch square, I had torn with shut eyes out of a second-hand book-catalogue and folded up and put into the cover without seeing it, and I knew none of the words printed on it. The other, which was much smaller and had printed on it two words and three figures, I cut out of another pamphlet. I took note of the words and figures, but took precaution, with Mr. Bennett's concurrence, that they should not come under his observation, and burnt the rest of the pamphlet. I learn from Mr. Bennett that when this sealed envelope was brought forward at a séance of Mr. Eglinton's, on November 22nd, with the inquiry what words were printed on the pieces of paper, a sentence was written as it appeared “psychographically,” viz. : “The word ‘for’ is on the print in Myers' envelope.” The sealed envelope was returned to me unopened, and I found its contents apparently unchanged; but the word “for” was neither on the piece of paper I had looked at previously, nor among the words (about 50 in number), on the piece of paper I had not seen.

A. T. MYERS.

At Mr. Eglinton's, December 12th, 1885.

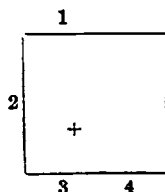
Mr. George Rayleigh Vicars, Mr. T., Mr. Edward T. Bennett. Four slates on the table:—Mr. Vicars' own double slate, with padlock; Mr. Eglinton's double locked slate; two ordinary single slates, belonging to Mr. Eglinton,—and which latter were privately marked.

A sealed envelope containing writing, brought by Mr. B., (the same one that he brought to the séance on the 21st of November), was placed on a slate and held under the table by Mr. Eglinton, and the request made to get its contents written on the slate. After waiting for 35 minutes, and changing the position of the sitters, no result being obtained, the attempt was abandoned.

Question asked: "Is there any power to-day?" After a short interval the word "Yes" was written on the slate.

The party were now sitting thus:—

1. Mr. Eglinton.
2. Mr. Vicars.
3. Mr. T.
4. Mr. Bennett.



Mr. T. was asked to choose a bit of coloured crayon to place on the slate. He selected a blue bit. He was asked to select a number to be written. He chose "47." Very shortly the sound of writing was heard on the slate held by Mr. Eglinton under the table, and on its ceasing and the slate being withdrawn, the figures "47" were seen to be written at the further end of the slate as held by Mr. Eglinton. Mr. Vicars was also holding a slate at the same time. It was requested that "forty-seven" (in words) be written on this.—No response. It was then suggested that a watch be placed on the slate, and that a request be made for its number to be written. There being some hesitation in trusting a watch, for fear of its being dropped or broken in the convulsive movements which frequently accompany the writing, Mr. Bennett proposed that the return half of his railway ticket should be experimented with. He took the ticket out of his pocket without looking at its number, and being entirely ignorant of it, and Mr. Vicars carefully placed it number downwards, inside Mr. Eglinton's double slate, care being taken that no one saw the number, and that the slate was clean; a bit of yellow crayon being placed in the slate, it was closed and locked. All this was done by the sitters, at the part of the table marked +. Everyone present was absolutely ignorant of the number of the ticket. The slate being then held in the usual way by Mr. Eglinton, it was requested that the number of the ticket might be written. In a very short time the sound of writing was heard. On its ceasing, the slate was handed to Mr. Turnbull for him to open. On his doing so, close by the ticket the number "1,921" was found written with the yellow crayon in a good, bold, strong hand. The ticket was then taken up, and its number, on the under side, was seen to be 1,921.

Mr. Vicars and Mr. T. then changed places. Mr. Vicars' double

slate was placed on the table, Mr. Eglinton also holding a slate underneath.

Q. Will you give us some writing on Mr. Vicars' slates ?

A. "If we can," written on the slate held by Mr. Eglinton.

Q. Did Mr. Vicars write the word "No" on his own slate ?

A. "NO," in large bold letters at the extreme end of the slate held by Mr. Eglinton.

Some further time was spent in waiting for writing on Mr. Vicars' slate, but without result ; and the sitting terminated.

The slates on which the writing appeared were identified by the private marks as the same as those which were on the table at the commencement.

MEM.—It will be noticed that the "47" experiment eliminates any theory of the writing being the result of chemical preparation on the slate.

It will also be observed that the ticket experiment eliminates thought-reading or telepathy, it being absolutely certain that the number was unknown to all present [as far as I know.—R. T.].

Mr. Bennett adds on June 14th, 1886, that the above was written from notes made during the séance.

EDWARD T. BENNETT.

R. T.

GEORGE RAYLEIGH VICARS.

We are indebted to Mr. F. W. Bentall, Member of the Society, for the next report.

PSYCHOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCES WITH MR. EGLINTON.

Having determined early in 1885 to investigate psychography in company with a friend, Mr. F. W. Frost (whom I shall hereafter call F.), I arranged for a series of six sittings with Mr. Eglinton (whom I shall hereafter call E.). As very imperfect notes were taken of these first experiments I am unable to say the date of their occurrence. At the appointed hours we went to E.'s address in Langham Place, taking with us two closed slates of peculiar construction in which we wished to obtain writing. Our sittings with E. have been in full daylight with two exceptions, when gas was used. On these occasions however no manifestations took place. We took our seats at a small unvarnished Pembroke table which we examined closely, but without noticing any unusual feature about it. F. sat next E. at his right hand, at right angles to him, and I next F. Four sittings with our closed slates being unsuccessful, we determined on the fifth occasion to abandon this experiment for a time and try for results in the ordinary way. Accordingly I marked one of E.'s clean slates on one side, and E., after placing a small piece of slate pencil on it, held it with the marked side uppermost under the flap of the table with his right hand, his thumb appearing above the table. He then placed his left hand on F.'s left hand, F.'s right hand being held in both mine. This is the ordinary mode of obtaining phenomena and will hereafter be referred to as "the usual way." In this particular instance F.'s left hand assisted to hold the slate up to the table. This however is not customary. When the slate was in position I requested that the word "Heybridge" should be written on the marked side of the slate. E. soon after became somewhat convulsed and breathed heavily. We then heard a scratching sound apparently on the slate.

This was succeeded by three taps, the usual signal to signify that the writing is accomplished, and on E. and F. withdrawing the slate from under the table the word "Haybridge" appeared written upon the marked surface, the pencil resting on the last stroke of the finale. The writing was upside down in relation to E.'s position at the table, and at the end of the slate farthest from him. It is worthy of note that this word, the correct spelling of which was well known to both F. and myself, was rendered phonetically on the slate. The next sitting, we obtained written in the usual way, in answer to a question as to the probability of getting writing in our closed slates, the following communication. "We much fear you do not sufficiently appreciate the difficulties under which we are labouring to produce the results wished by you. We have to practically conform to the conditions laid down by yourselves, instead of your allowing the phenomena to develop in the manner to which we are accustomed. Painful as our efforts to vanquish difficulties may be to our medium, we intend to persevere, and you will be pleased to know, are confident of success. But this method of approaching this great subject is all wrong; however much you may think you are right." "Ernest." "We think you had best not sit any longer to-day."

After sitting at various intervals with but little success, we made arrangements for a series of sittings which were held at 6, Nottingham Place, with the following results, which are recounted from notes made after each sitting.

Friday, May 8th, 1885. We took with us a slate securely covered with a sheet of glass, and containing between the two surfaces a small piece of chalk. Our object was to get writing on the slate which could be read through the glass. Besides this slate we also brought two ordinary slates. We invariably took away our slates at the close of each sitting, and we furthermore used our own chalks and pencils. After sitting some time with this closed slate with no result, we suggested that we might perhaps get writing between our other two slates. These I took out of their case and placed on the table. Between them I put a small square piece of slate-pencil newly fractured at each end, and then handed them to E., who took them by one corner in his right hand, F. holding the opposite corner in his left hand. E. then placed his left hand on F.'s left, and F.'s hand I held in both mine. I then asked why our closed slates could not be written in. A scratching, apparently between the slates, was soon heard, followed by three taps. E. at once removed his hands, and F. laid the slates on the table. On removing the top slate we found the words "There is no power" written on the upper surface of the bottom slate under where F.'s thumb had been. The slates were held above the table in full view all the time, and the pencil was abraded at one corner as if with writing.

Saturday, May 9th.—No results.

Monday, May 11th.—No results. After leaving the sitting we unfortunately lost the case containing all our slates.

Tuesday, May 12th.—Our slates being lost we determined to experiment with E.'s. We proposed to try the experiment of getting writing under a tumbler placed on a slate. E. accordingly procured a plain glass tumbler which we inverted over a piece of pencil on a clean slate. E. then held the slate under the table with his right hand, and we took up our usual posi-

tions, E.'s left hand being on F.'s. I then asked that a triangle might be drawn underneath the tumbler. We soon heard scratching, and both suddenly looked under the table thinking we might see the pencil in motion. F. saw it fall directly he looked at it, I saw nothing on account of the light shining on the surface of the glass. On raising our heads the scratching recommenced and finished with three taps. E. then lifted the slate on to the table, and underneath the tumbler we saw the figure of a triangle. In the centre of one side was a break in the line as if the stroke had been interrupted. The pencil, which was freshly broken at each end when the experiment commenced, was found abraded at one of the angles as if with writing. We then asked a question as to the reason of the difficulty in writing in our closed slate. To get an answer I put a piece of slate pencil and a piece of red chalk on a clean slate, and requested that the answer might be written in lines of alternate colour. The usual positions were then taken, and the following answer was obtained: "We find that" (in red) "the primary difficulty" (in slate pencil) "is the want of magnetism inside the closed space" (in red). On asking whether we should have our slate magnetised the answer was given in the usual way, "It will certainly lessen the difficulty." E. then suggested the following experiment: F. went to the bookcase and took out a book at random. This he placed without looking at it, together with a piece of slate pencil on a clean slate held by E. underneath the table. I then made a verbal request, at the same time writing it on a slate. "Please write the last word of the third line on the fifty-first page of the book under the table," and at E.'s suggestion also asked that the name of the book might be also written. The word, line, and page, I put down as I happened to think of them at the time, after the book was under the table. This second slate was placed above the book and we then took up our usual positions, F. holding the slates as well as E. as in our first experiment. We soon heard the scratching and the taps. E. and F. then lifted the slates and book on to the table, and round the book was written on the three sides of the lower slate farthest from E., "Queenies Whim, line 51, page 3 lip—we mean p. 51, line 3, last word lip." I took the book and verified the quotation.

Wednesday, May 13th. We brought with us a sealed envelope containing a paper on which certain words had been written by a third person, we not knowing what they were. This we put with a piece of pencil between two of E.'s clean slates on the table, and I then took E.'s Braham locked book slate and wrote in it the following question, taking care that E. should not see what was written: "Will you kindly copy the figure below" (I had drawn a cross on the slate under the question) "between the slates held by Mr. Eglinton" (those containing the envelope), "or better still write the words on the paper inside the envelope on one of these slates?" I then locked the slate and kept the key in my hand. We sat in our usual order, E. sometimes holding the locked slate above or below the table, sometimes the other two slates. His left hand was always in F.'s custody. Finally he put all the slates in a pile on the table, the locked slate being uppermost. We then asked in the usual way with another slate whether we should get what we were trying for. An answer came but in telegraphic cipher. We asked for a plainer reply, and got on the same slate the word "Wait." E. then placed

his right hand on the pile of slates and became strongly convulsed. The scratching sound and the taps were soon heard, apparently proceeding from the slates on the table. I then took up the book slate and waited before unlocking it to see if anything were written between the other two. On lifting the uppermost of these two slates, we saw that the envelope had disappeared, and that the cross was copied on the bottom slate. I then unlocked the book slate and found therein the envelope which had been put between the other two slates. We then inquired what might be the meaning of the telegraphic cipher and received an answer in the usual way: "It is of no consequence, you have now had the passage of matter through matter. Good-bye." We took away the slate with the cipher on it at the end of the sitting, and were afterwards informed by a telegraph clerk that it was written in the Morse cipher, and that though a sentence or two could be made out, much was indistinct.

Thursday, May 14th. No results. This day we had a new glass-covered slate which had been made to replace the one we lost. We had it magnetised by a professional mesmerist before this, and every subsequent sitting.

Friday, May 15th. In answer to a question as to the probability of getting writing in our closed slate there was written in the usual way: "We can not to-day."

Saturday, May 16th. In answer to an inquiry as to the effect of the magnetising, we received the following communication in the usual way: "Our position is now much improved. Good-bye."

Tuesday, May 19th. Query as to whether matters had improved was answered in the usual way, "Yes."

Wednesday, May 20th. No results.

Thursday, May 21st. We inquired whether we could assist the power in any way, and were answered in the usual manner: "You can only go on sitting, we do the best we can."

Friday, May 22nd. No results.

Saturday, May 23rd. No results.

Wednesday, May 27th. No results.

Thursday, May 28th. In answer to a query as to whether another sitter would be beneficial, a reply was given in the usual way: "She will do." And in reply to a request for information on the subject of our test, we got the following message, also in the usual manner:—

"We must beg you not to believe that it is not from want of inclination or desire to help accomplish the writing in your novel slate that we have hitherto failed. You do not understand, still less comprehend, the difficulties under which we labour in this respect, for assuredly you must believe that all our energy is concentrated upon the wished for result. It is a trifling matter to write in this manner compared to the task you have set us, for whereas we have no difficulty in directing the power to write upon this slate, it is not so with your own, for the reason that the vital fluid, call it what you may, cannot be retained sufficiently long in the enclosed space to enable us to move the pencil with force enough to make an intelligent mark. We are not desparing that sooner or later we shall produce the result, the help given us by the magnetising of the slate having at one or two sittings almost been the means of making the writing a fait accompli. Our anxiety

to succeed is perhaps even keener than your own, as we have previously convinced you of our power and identity.—Your friend ERNEST.”

Friday, May 29th. Although we had another sitter no results were obtained.

Saturday, May 30th. The same sitters were present, and various questions were asked and answered in the usual way.

Monday, June 1st. The same sitters being present, on asking whether we should get our test at this sitting we were answered “No” in the usual way. In answer to a further inquiry if some other test could be suggested that would be as convincing to us, and more easily accomplished, we were answered in the usual manner, “We will help you all we can, but will leave it to you.”

We have had a few sittings since with a slate covered with wire gauze instead of glass, but have been unsuccessful.

The sittings lasted from an hour to an hour and a-half, and we have noticed that after a sitting at which phenomena have been obtained, Eglinton appeared to suffer from exhaustion in proportion generally to the results, although unsuccessful efforts sometimes produced a similar effect. Wet weather appeared to exert a decidedly unfavourable effect upon the phenomena.

F. W. BENTALL,
Member of the Society for Psychical Research.

I testify that the foregoing account is substantially correct.

F. W. FROST.

3, Union Court, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Besides the above records we have received information from various people of perfectly blank séances with Mr. Eglinton. My own experience, in the three séances I have had with him, and that of several of my friends, is entirely of this kind.

The last report I shall give is that of a gentleman well known as an amateur conjurer under the name of Professor Hoffmann. At the request of one or two members of the Society who were interested in having the investigation conducted in what appeared to them a scientific manner, he kindly consented to hold with Mr. Eglinton a series of séances and to report on the result. The report would doubtless have been more instructive had Professor Hoffmann's positive experiences extended beyond a single inconclusive phenomenon in a bad light, but at the same time we think it is deserving of consideration by any one desiring to form an impartial judgment on the whole case.

Report of 10 sittings held with Mr. W. Eglinton at 6, Nottingham Place, by Angelo J. Lewis (“Professor Hoffmann”).

Ireton Lodge, Cromwell Avenue, Highgate, N.

November 23rd, 1885.

In each of the following cases (save at the two last sittings) Eglinton's own slates were used, and the spirits (?) were merely invited to write a single

word, suggested by myself, on the spur of the moment, this being, I was informed, the customary form of first manifestation. The slate was held under the table by Eglinton in his right hand, in what he stated to be his usual manner, the thumb being sometimes above and sometimes below the table; but the thumb and corner of the slate were always visible, at any rate to the person sitting next to Mr. Eglinton. No special test or condition was suggested (until the last two sittings), my primary object being to get *some* positive result which should serve as a starting point for more minute investigation. I may further say that I commenced the investigation with a perfectly open mind, equally prepared to do my best to detect imposture, or to certify to the genuineness of any phenomena, if the circumstances warranted my doing so. It cannot therefore be fairly asserted that any hostile or prejudiced attitude of mind on my own part was the cause of our repeated failures to obtain any result. The evening sittings were in full gaslight.

June 1st, 1885. Sat from 2.30 to 3.40 p.m., in conjunction with Mr. C. C. Massey. Spirits invited to write the word "indescribable." No result.

June 13th, 1885. Sat from 10.0 to 11.10 a.m., with Mr. G. A. Smith. Spirits invited to write name "Lewis" or "Smith." No result.

June 20th, 1885. Sat from 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. with Mr. Smith. No result.

June 26th, 1885. Sat from 9.15 to 10.30 p.m. with Mr. G. A. Smith and Miss P— (who, being a mesmeric sensitive, was considered likely by Eglinton to increase the power). No result.

June 29th, 1885. Sat from 9.10 to 10.15 with Mr. G. A. Smith and Miss P—. On arrival found that they had already been sitting for about five minutes. Was shown a slate (Eglinton's), on which had just been written, in answer to a question asking the cause of our repeated failures, "It is owing to Mr. Hoffmann's influence," and a second slate (double, belonging to Mr. Smith), on which had been written, in answer to the question, "Will the adverse influence be overcome to-night?" "We think so." On my appearance however all manifestations ceased. We tried various positions at the table, and finally I sat apart, but without result.

July 24th, 1885. Sat with Mr. Smith from 9.40 to 10.40 a.m. without result.

October 8th, 1885. Sat from 11.10 a.m. to 12.20 p.m., in company with my brother, Mr. Marcus H. Lewis, Solicitor, who some years ago took an active interest in Spiritualistic matters, and obtained some rather remarkable results. Eglinton expressed a conviction that my brother had considerable mediumistic power, and that, judging by his own sensations, we were nearer to success than we had yet been. There was however no result.

October 15th, 1885. Sat with Mr. Marcus H. Lewis, from 4.30 to nearly 6 p.m. I asked for the word "unpalatable" to be written, and after sitting for about 40 minutes, as it began to grow dusk, Eglinton was seized with the customary "shivering," a sound of writing was heard, and on the slate being drawn from under the table, and the gas lighted, the required word was found written upon it, in a faint scrawly handwriting, and one angle of the little piece of pencil which had been put upon the slate was found to be abraded. The position of the word (very close to the frame at the opposite

end of the slate, and with the tops of the letters to the medium) was precisely that which it would most probably have taken if the slate had been secretly turned round in its own plane, and the word written by the medium himself, but there was no evidence in support of such a supposition. My brother, who was seated next to Eglinton, and was able to command a view of the corner of the slate, did not observe any suspicious movement. On my remarking to Eglinton the possible inference from such a position of the writing, he said that this was the most frequent position, but that it would also appear in any other position, as might be called for. We sat for half-an-hour longer, but without result.

N.B.—My reason for selecting the word “unpalatable” was that the same word had appeared, but with a redundant *e* (unpalateable), in a long message procured at a sitting a few days before by Messrs. Herschell and Sachs. I was curious to see whether the misspelling was repeated, and found that it *was so*, in the word as written for us.

October 27th, 1885. Sat with Mr. Marcus H. Lewis from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. Asked for the figures 1885, but got no result.

N.B.—This and the following sitting were under *test* conditions, viz., I used my own slate, firmly screwed, by means of a couple of iron clamps, against the under-surface of the table.

November 17th, 1885. Sat with Mr. Marcus H. Lewis from 4 p.m. to nearly 6. Word asked “Parliaments.” No result.

ANGELO J. LEWIS.

The next account has just arrived from our Corresponding Members in St. Petersburg.

SEANCE FOR AUTOGRAPHIC¹ WRITING WITH MR. EGLINTON.

The séance took place on the 14th-26th May, 1886, at the residence of Professor Boutlerof. The room was brilliantly illuminated by the full light of an Argaard gas-burner. The party, numbering four in all, seated themselves round an ordinary card-table, upon which lay, prepared by Professor Boutlerof, one double folding slate sealed, and one common slate covered with a pasteboard, also sealed; in the first were placed two pieces of slate-pencil, and in the other pieces of slate and lead pencil. Three common school-slates and two *papier-maché* slates without frames and a little box containing small pieces of square slate-pencil, were also provided. It should be noted that the table, slates, and pencils were not seen by Mr. Eglinton until he entered the room immediately before the commencement of the séance. On one side of the table sat Mr. Eglinton, to his right Professor Boutlerof, on whose right sat Professors Wagner and Dobroslavin. Each of the sitters (excepting Mr. Eglinton) marked all the slates in a manner to identify them. The hands formed a chain: Professor Boutlerof took in his left hand the left hand of Mr. Eglinton, and in his right the left hand of Professor Wagner, who took with his other the left hand of Professor Dobroslavin, upon which the latter also placed his right hand. Then Mr. Eglinton took with his right hand

¹ This term, meaning self-writing, proposed by Mr. Aksakof, is preferred to the usual, but incorrect, one of “psychography.”

one of the common slates, and placed upon it a small piece of marked pencil, the facets of which were not worn, and pressed it closely against the under surface of the table, his thumb resting on the top of the table in sight. Professor Boutlerof put a question in English: "Can we obtain manifestation, to-night?" The sitters waited some time for an answer, and, none coming, another was proposed: "Shall we change our places?" Soon the sound as of writing was heard upon the slate, which was followed by three slight taps, signifying that the message was finished, and Mr. Eglinton slowly and quite horizontally withdrew the slate from under the table. On the upper surface of the slate, and along its extreme end (the slate being held by one of the narrow sides, which had previously been marked) were written four lines, the writing being upside down in relation to the position of the medium: "No. We do not think we shall be able to write upon the sealed slates to-day, but we will try." The "No" probably being an answer as to the change of places, and the latter portion of the communication having reference to a previous question. The piece of pencil lying on the slate was identified, and found to be worn at one of the ends. The right hand of the medium, or, to be more exact, his thumb, remained all the time stationary until he withdrew the slate, when the chain was broken. Mr. Eglinton then asked Professor Boutlerof for a small book in any language. Professor Dobroslavin remarked that he had brought with him a sealed envelope in which a word unknown to him had been written by another person, and he produced the same from a little English book which he had until then kept in his inner coat pocket. This book was "Chemistry" by Bernays, a small volume of 130 pages in a linen binding. Mr. Eglinton, on seeing the book, but without touching it, proposed to try an experiment which he had made elsewhere. Handing a slate to Professor Boutlerof, he requested him to write the number of a suppositious page, Professor Wagner the number of line, and Professor Dobroslavin the number of a word. This was done, and the slate was laid upon the table upside down without Mr. Eglinton having seen the figures. He next took another clean slate, and putting it under the table, asked if it were likely the proposed experiment would be successful. After some minutes, writing and the three raps were heard, and on the slate was found the word "Yes." The medium then laid upon this slate the English book and the sealed envelope, and placed it under the table as before, his right thumb remaining above the table. His left hand was clasped in that of Professor Boutlerof, as in the previous experiment. After a rather long interval of, say, five minutes, no writing was obtained. Mr. Eglinton withdrew the slate twice, but nothing was found upon it. He then put it upon the table with the book and the envelope, both resting in the same position, and took the *papier-maché* slates provided by Professor Boutlerof, placing between them a fresh piece of slate-pencil; at the diagonal corners he tightly screwed the slates with small brass thumb-screws, and held them with his right hand, fastened in the manner described, upon the left shoulder of Professor Boutlerof. With his left hand he took the slate upon which were the envelope and book, which was never once opened by him, and placed it in position under the table, and continued to hold it tightly pressed against it with the addition, on this occasion, of the help of Professor Boutlerof, who also held the opposite end with his left hand.

The other hands were again joined. After waiting for rather a long period, Professor Wagner proposed that Professor Dobroslavin should put his hand upon Mr. Eglinton's left shoulder, which he accordingly did, continuing however to hold his left hand in the right of Professor Wagner. Immediately a loud sound as of writing was heard between the screwed slates held on the shoulder of Professor Boutlerof, and it finished with the usual three raps. When the slates were unscrewed by this gentleman, on the upper surface of the lower slate was found written in a firm and legible writing: "The word is compound chimney-glass." On referring to the slate which had rested, as has been said, writing-downwards upon the table, the book was opened at page 46, and on line 12 the fifth word was found to be "glass," but as this was joined by a hyphen to the word "chimney," and could therefore be counted as the fourth in the line, it elicited the explanation: "The word is compound." The crumb of pencil on examination was found to be worn at one corner, and the lower surface of the upper slate, pressed as it was upon the pencil, was without a mark of any description. Not one of the four persons knew that the given word was in the chosen place. After this, in answer to the question as to whether writing could subsequently be produced between the sealed slates, the reply was "Yes," autographically written upon a common slate in the ordinary way; and instead of an answer being obtained to another question, the words "Good-bye" were written upon the slate in bold characters.

The séance commenced at 9.20 and terminated at 10.

After witnessing the experiments above described we have come to the conclusion: (1) That the mediumistic autographic-writing is genuine, and cannot be referred to the domain of prestidigitation, or explained by the only help of generally-recognised mechanical, physical, or chemical laws. (2) That it can manifest an intelligence of its own not depending to a certain degree upon that of those who assist at the séances; and (3) This phenomenon, by its objectivity, especially affords facility for observation, and deserves full attention and investigation from competent persons and institutions.

NICOLAS WAGNER, Professor of Zoology, and Honorary Member of the University of St. Petersburg, Corresponding Member of the Society for Psychical Research.

A. BOUTLEROF, Fellow of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, Professor of Chemistry to the University of St. Petersburg, Corresponding Member of the Society for Psychical Research.

A. DOBROSLAVIN, Professor of Hygiene to the Imperial Medical Academy of St. Petersburg, Corresponding Member of the London Society for Psychical Research.

The above collection of records is, I think, a very fair sample of the kind of evidence which induces many to believe that Mr. Eglinton's slate-writing is not done by the agency of his own muscles, and our readers must judge for themselves whether it is sufficient. Certainly

some of the phenomena *as described* seem to be inexplicable by the known laws of nature; but this proves nothing by itself, since the question still remains, Are they correctly described? The juggler's art consists largely in making things appear as they are not. Can we suppose that it has caused facts which did not occur to be imagined, and facts which did occur to be overlooked, to the extent required to make the cases before us explicable by ordinary human agency?

For myself I have now no hesitation in attributing the performances to clever conjuring. Personal experience has led me to form a very high estimate of the advantage which a conjurer, especially when acting as a medium, has over the observers, and a very low estimate of the power of exercising continuous observation possessed by myself and others. By continuous observation I mean observation which during a particular interval of time has been not only accurate, but absolutely uninterrupted. The length of the time during which the continuity of observation must be maintained varies, of course, with the circumstances. Sometimes it extends from the moment the observer enters the house till the writing is seen. At other times it may be comparatively short, but manifestly in no case can it be determined merely by reference to the time at which the writing *seems* to be done. Moreover, not only observation, but memory often fails;—we are liable not only to allow our attention to be distracted, but to forget immediately that it has been distracted, or that the event which distracted it ever occurred, the very intensity of our interest in the evidence we are seeking helping in this. It must further be remembered that a "medium," if a conjurer, is a conjurer who is not bound by the conditions of his profession to succeed in any particular case; he can therefore baffle any one whose observation he happens to dread, by simply doing nothing until an exceptionally favourable opportunity occurs. Mr. Eglinton, I may say, has exercised this privilege of failure very freely in the cases that have come within my private knowledge.

Now it will be remarked that the validity of all the evidence here presented (with one doubtful exception which I will discuss presently), depends on continuous observation; and the same is true, so far as I have been able to learn, of all the evidence published elsewhere.¹ And this is not because investigators have not realised the superior value of evidence of a different kind, such as we should have if writing were obtained on slates carefully sealed together so that the interior should be inaccessible and slates and seals without doubt identified, or still better in a hermetically-sealed glass tube of known form and weight. In these cases the evidence would depend not on continuous

¹ Mr. Tommy's locked box forms no exception, for, as I understand the account of the séance in *'Twixt Two Worlds*, the slate was placed in the box, the box locked and afterwards opened, during the séance.

observation, but on accuracy of observation before and after the séance. Attempts to obtain evidence of this kind have been constantly made. To take only the cases before us—Messrs. Hodgson and Hogg tried sealed slates; so did Mr. Gurney and Mrs. Brietzke; Mr. Murray tried to get writing in slates screwed and sealed; Miss Symons tried to get coins taken out of a sealed box; Mr. Bennett tried to get the contents of sealed envelopes read; Mr. Bentall tried to obtain writing on a slate covered with glass, and on one covered with wire gauze, and also tried a sealed envelope; the St. Petersburg professors tried to get writing in slates sealed together, and on one covered with paste-board, and to get the contents of a sealed envelope read; and finally Mr. Wedgwood has tried repeatedly to get writing in a sealed slate. All these attempts have failed, with the single apparent exception of one of Mr. Wedgwood's, and in this case there seems to me to be a serious flaw in the evidence. Mr. Eglinton saw the slates at the first séance, when nothing occurred; and even if it could be proved that they had not been tampered with in the interval between the two séances, I cannot perceive that we have any means of knowing that a pair was not prepared in imitation and substituted at the second séance. It is surely significant that there should be but a single instance of writing in securely closed slates, and that a dubious one.

There are two or three points which one can experiment on for oneself, to which I should like to draw attention. They relate to the hearing and feeling of the process of writing. It is worth noticing that writing may be done inaudibly, and that if audible, the sound is not easy to localise with great precision, especially when there is anything to suggest that it comes from a spot which is not the true one. Without some skill on the part of the operators, however, it is not quite easy to devise experiments in which a wrong locality shall be intentionally suggested. One of the worst positions for localising the sound is with the ear on the slate and the slate resting on the table. A sound made elsewhere in connection with the table is then very apt to sound as if it were on the slate, until it is realised how loud the sound of writing on the slate itself appears when the ear rests on it. It is not easy to distinguish with certainty between the sounds of writing on a slate, that of rubbing two slate-pencils together, and even that of scratching on the frame of the slate or on the table, unless these sounds are made immediately after one another. I do not think that writing on a slate produces any vibration perceptible to the touch of ordinary people. The only way of trying this that has occurred to me is to rest a slate partly on each of two tables of equal height, to place the hand on it, and get someone to write on the under side between the two tables. I have not succeeded

in feeling any vibration under these circumstances, nor have others who have tried with me. I think, therefore, that if any vibration seeming to follow the writing has really been felt, it must have been produced by something other than the writing.

In conclusion I will only say that, taking into consideration the difficulties of observation, the circumstances calculated to add to that difficulty under which Mr. Eglinton's writing is produced—such as the table conveniently acting as a screen, and the talking and other distractions—I can hardly imagine being myself convinced that it was genuine except by evidence of a different sort, to wit, the testimony of thoroughly competent and trustworthy witnesses that in several cases it had been produced under circumstances which dispensed with the necessity of continuous observation.

ELEANOR MILDRED SIDGWICK.

"PHANTASMS OF THE LIVING."

The price at which this book (2 vols. octavo) will be issued is one guinea. One copy will be supplied to every present Member of the Society who has paid his subscription for the current year, for 5s. 3d. and the cost of carriage or postage; and to every present Associate who has paid his subscription for the current year, for 10s. 6d. and the cost of carriage or postage. Members and Associates who desire copies of the work are requested to send their names to the Assistant-Secretary, at 14, Dean's Yard, S.W.

CASES RECEIVED BY THE LITERARY COMMITTEE.

(Continued.)

L.—2369.

Blyville P.O., Knox County, Nebraska, U.S.A.

December 5th, 1885.

DEAR MR. GURNEY,—I have just, or rather a month ago, had a very unpleasant accident which has fortunately turned out all right and has given me the pleasure of forwarding to you a very complete and unmistakable case of "second-sight." I think it better to enclose the two letters you will find herein, as I received them to-day. They are in answer to two of mine dated about the 2nd or 3rd, about a week after the accident. . . . The accident occurred at 7 o'clock in the morning of the 26th of October. I fainted from loss of blood, and was lying for a few moments on the ground. I was walking towards a pair of French windows, with my hands in my pockets, when I stumbled over a chair and fell right through the lowest pane of glass face foremost, cutting my nose off on one side, and nearly taking an eye out. So you will see my sister's dream was pretty accurate. I also

enclose a statement made by two residents here of this end of the case, which will, I hope, make it complete. I am glad to be able to send you a personal experience, which can be readily verified. I may say our time is six and a-half hours ahead of England.—Yours very truly,

JOHN T. M. PIERCE.

Mr. Pierce enclosed the following statement :—

On Monday, October 26th, about 7 o'clock a.m., Mr. J. T. M. Pierce fell through a French window, cutting his face badly, and lay on the floor insensible for several minutes.

J. WATSON.

C. J. HUNT.

Mr. Pierce enclosed a letter which he had received from his sister, dated November 16th, 1885. After condolences about his accident she writes :—

Do you know it is the oddest thing, but on the 26th of October I dreamt that I saw you lying on the ground quite unconscious, your face bleeding and looking so dreadful. I woke up calling to you. I told Kate directly I came down, and we both marked the date. I told mother, too, I had had a bad dream about you, but I did not describe it for fear of frightening her. Was it not strange? It was such a vivid dream, it struck me very much, but I did not mention it in my last letter to you, I thought you would laugh about it. But it is strange—on the very day too.

Mr. Pierce also enclosed a letter from his mother, Mrs. Pierce, of Frettons, Danbury, Chelmsford, dated November 17th, 1885, in which the following sentence occurs :—

Was not Mary's dream singular? She came down that morning you were hurt, and told Kate every particular of it, agreeing with the time you were hurt.

[The coincidence was not so precise as Mrs. Pierce imagines, as the dream was on the night following the accident. The time of the accident, at Chelmsford, would be about 1 p.m.]

In compliance with our request for an account of the dream, Miss Pierce sends the following :—

Frettons, Danbury, Chelmsford.

December 31st, 1885.

On the night of the 26th of October (i.e., 26-27), I dreamt I saw my brother lying on the ground, his face bleeding and dark; he was quite unconscious. I called to him, but he did not answer, and was stooping towards him, calling him by name, when I awoke. It was so vivid a dream that it produced a great impression upon me, and I felt as though some accident had befallen him. I cannot tell at all what time in the night it was. In the morning I told my sister and put down the date, also mentioning it to one or two others; but to my sister I described it in the same words that I have now used. I am not at all accustomed to having bad dreams about friends, indeed, I never remember having had one before.

M. PIERCE.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIBRARY CATALOGUE.

The following additions have been made during the last two months.

[R] indicates that the book is for reference only.

- GREGORY (Wm., M.D., F.R.S.E.) *Animal Magnetism ; or, Mesmerism and its Phenomena.* 3rd Edit. London, 1884§
- HELLENBACH (Baron) *Birth and Death as a Change of Form of Perception ; or, The Dual Nature of Man.* From the German, by " V." London, 1886§
- PILKINGTON (George) *The Unknown Tongues* London, 1837‡
-
- BARTH (Henri) *Du Sommeil non Naturel, ses diverses formes* Paris, 1886
- BERJON (Dr. A.) *La Grande Hystérie chez l'Homme*..... Paris, 1886*
- BIBLIOGRAPHIE des Ouvrages relatifs aux Pélerinages, aux Miracles, au Spiritisme, et à la Prestidigitation Turin, 1876
- BINET (Alfred) *La Psychologie du Raisonnement* Paris, 1886
- BOURRU et BUROT : *Action à distance des substances toxiques et médicamenteuses ; suivie d'une communication par M. Charles Richet* Paris, 1886*
- CHAMBAUD (Dr. Ernest) *Du Somnambulisme en général* Paris, 1881
- MAGNIN (Dr. Paul) *Etude clinique et expérimentale sur l'hypnotisme* Paris, 1884
- RAPPORT de l'un des Commissaires (M. de Jussieu) chargé par le Roi de l'examen du Magnétisme Animal..... Paris, 1784†
-
- [R] ECKHARTSHAUSEN (Hofrath von) *Verschiedenes zum Unterrichts und zur Unterhaltung für Liebhaber des Magnetismus, &c...* Munich, 1791
- EHRMANN (Dr.) *Onirus, als Schutzpatron der Träumer beehelkundet,* Frankfurt, 1805
- [R] GESCHICHTE eines Geistersehers: Aus den Papieren des Mannes m. d. eisernen Larve. 2 vol. (title wanting)..... Leipzig, 1797
- [R] GMELIN (Eberhard) *Ueber thierischen Magnetismus*..... Tübingen, 1787
- REICHENBACH (Dr. Freiherr von) *Aphorismen über Sensitivität und Od*..... Vienna, 1866
- ROHLING (Professor Dr. August) *Louise Lateau, Die Stigmatisirte von Bois d'Haine* Paderborn, 1874
- SCHWARZSCHILD (Heinrich, M.D.) *Magnetismus, Somnambulismus, Clairvoyance (2nd vol.)* Cassel, 1854
- [R] STOCKHAUSEN (J. F., Rev.) *Mira Presagia Mortis ; das ist: Wunderliche Todes Vorboten* Frankfurt, 1698
- WILLMANN (Carl) *Moderne Wunder* Leipzig, 1886
- [R] ZEITUNG (Neue), *Gründlicher und eigentlicher Bericht, einer wahrhaftigen wunderbaren Historien von einem Jungling der gestorben und wieder lebendig worden, und was er gesehen und geredt hat* Dresden, 1567
-
- [R] SONNTAG (Joh. Mich) *De Spectris et omnibus morientium* Altdorf, 1716

* Presented by the authors. † Presented by Dr. Puel.

‡ Presented by Mr. J. W. Hayes. § Presented by Mr. J. Herbert Stack.