

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL MEETING ON

Friday, November 16th, 1888.

The twenty-ninth General Meeting was held at the Westminster Town Hall, on November 16th, 1888.

THE PRESIDENT IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. F. W. H. Myers read a paper contributed by Professor Charles Richet describing some experiments in lucidity or clairvoyance, which it is proposed to publish, with an account of further experiments, in a future number of the *Proceedings*.

The following paper was then read:—

II.

THE CONNECTION OF HYPNOTISM WITH THE SUBJECTIVE PHENOMENA OF SPIRITUALISM.

[The following paper is contributed by a medical gentleman, well known to the Editor, who prefers for the present to remain anonymous.]

Of all the phenomena of Spiritualism, those which may be termed the subjective phenomena are perhaps—regarded as evidence of the truth of Spiritualism—the most important. It is upon them that the Spiritualist in most cases founds his belief. The physical manifestations, such as extraordinary appearances, slate-writing, the movements of inanimate objects, and allied phenomena, are always subject to suspicion. But in the subjective phenomena we have a class of manifestations which, in most cases at any rate, are quite above all suspicion of intentional fraud. The man who actually sees visions in crystals, writes automatically, or is perhaps himself a trance or inspirational medium, naturally feels his doubts as to the reality of Spiritualism at an end. He believes in it on the strength of manifestations occurring in himself, and having once become a believer, he will see nothing improbable in the more extraordinary phenomena presented by materialisation and the like.

The idea that the subjective phenomena are closely allied, or even identical with, some of the phenomena of hypnotism, is by no means a new one. It is the purpose of this paper to give a definite shape to this idea, and to point out the more obvious connections between the two sets of phenomena.

Before considering the subjective phenomena of Spiritualism, it will be necessary to give a brief account of the particular class of hypnotic phenomena which bear on them. I refer to the power possessed by many hypnotic subjects of giving suggestions to themselves, which act as powerfully, or in many cases more powerfully, than suggestions given them by the hypnotiser.

The facts of self-suggestion adduced in this paper were not, I would expressly state, the subject of a series of experiments. The cases occurred quite unexpectedly during a series of experiments on other points, but owing to the possible danger of such phenomena if carried too far, I did not feel justified in attempting to work out the subject. Hence the chain of experiments is necessarily very incomplete.

The first subject in whom I noticed self-suggestion was E. I had only hypnotised him once and then failed to send him to sleep. He was, however, completely amenable to command and suggestions in the waking state, but no delusions could be produced.

Among other things his hand and arm had been made rigid by passes. He discovered for himself when quite alone that he could make either hand or arm rigid by stroking it with the other hand. This is apparently one of the easiest effects to produce by self-suggestion. Since then many other subjects have proved capable of self-suggestion.

It must not be supposed, however, that all hypnotic subjects are susceptible to self-suggestion. The majority are perhaps more or less susceptible to it. Some certainly are not. Nor must we suppose that it is only the hypnotic subject who is susceptible to self-suggestion. In one instance which I met with the subject was susceptible to self-suggestion, but he had never been hypnotised, and I failed to hypnotise him when I afterwards tried.

The experiments adduced were all made on subjects in the waking state. Muscular rigidity, though the most general form of phenomenon produced by self-suggestion, was not by any means the only one met with. Inhibition of voluntary movements, local anæsthesia, even delusions were produced by it in some cases. No subject, however, in whom I could produce delusions was allowed to experiment on himself, as it was considered unsafe, so that the most interesting field of experiment in this direction had to be left untouched.

It would be beside the purpose of this paper to give a large number of experiments: a few merely will be given as samples of the rest. All the subjects referred to were men between the ages of 18 and 24, and all healthy. In no case, except when specially mentioned, had the hypnotic sleep ever been induced, but merely waking phenomena, *e.g.*, susceptibility to inhibitory and imperative suggestions; muscular rigidity; and, in some cases, local anæsthesia.

We will first take the case of muscular rigidity and anæsthesia.

N., by means of stroking his arm and looking at it, could render it rigid. He could not do so, however, if unable to see his arm.

Fl. could make his arm rigid by stroking only : this he could do whether he could see his arm or not.

F. could also make his arm rigid by merely looking at it.

E. could make his arm rigid by an effort of mind without seeing it or stroking it.

In all cases they were able at once to remove the rigidity by reverse strokes. These instances serve to show how the degree in which subjects possess this power varies.

F. when he rendered his arm rigid also made it anæsthetic : the anæsthesia was removed at the same time as the rigidity.

In N. (who had afterwards been sent to sleep), I succeeded eventually in producing anæsthesia. He could then do it himself.

The case of E. was very striking : his power of producing muscular rigidity was astonishing. He was able by an effort of mind to throw his whole body into a state of cataleptic rigidity, so that he could rest with his heels on one chair and head on another, and remain supported in that condition. When he made his hand rigid and attempted to relax it again by an effort of will, he was unable to do so as long as he attempted to bend his hand. If, however, he did not attempt to bend it, he was able gradually to relax the muscles. Those who could produce rigidity of the arm and who tried to produce rigidity of the leg were, at any rate in most instances, successful. Unfortunately, the notes which were made at the time of the experiments on this point were mislaid, so I cannot give the percentage of successes.

Other phenomena of the waking state were also produced by self-suggestion. T. and L. could both close their own eyes so that they were unable to open them. T. used to shut his eyes and stroke the lids downwards. He was then unable to open them. Several other subjects showed the same phenomenon. T. could fix his hand to the table by a few passes : this also was done by several others.

Other subjects could fix their hands together. The following experiment was tried : Five subjects were taken, two of whom had been previously hypnotised ; none had been sent to sleep. They were asked to put their hands together, and imagine that they could not part them. They closed their eyes, put their hands together, and tried. One could not part his hands, the others could. They were then told to shut their eyes and imagine the operator gazing at them, and saying, "You cannot part your hands." Not one was able to do so. They were able after this to produce the same phenomena in themselves, quite apart from the operator, in their own rooms. They found at first that they were obliged to imagine the operator giving

the suggestion, but afterwards were able to do it without imagining him at all.

T., who was one of the five, presents one interesting feature. He gave up experimenting with himself very soon after this. I did not see him again for nearly three months, and then asked him to close his eyes as he used to. He tried but could not. I then closed his eyes myself so that he could not open them. He then found that he could close them himself.

The case of G., who could fix his hands together, close his own eyes, &c., was also interesting as showing that suggestions given to the subject by himself may act more powerfully than those given him by the operator. I could only fix his hands together with some difficulty and then not for long. He could do so himself for a considerable time, and the muscular power exerted to keep them together, if an attempt was made by someone else to part them, was far greater if he fixed them together himself than if I did so for him, and certainly far greater than he could exert by his own will.

The case of P. will serve to show that it is not only the hypnotic subject who is susceptible to self-suggestion. P. had never been hypnotised, or even tried by anyone. He was able to fix his hand on his knee by simply stroking it, and it took him about half a minute or so to get it off again, if he simply tried to do so. If, however, he made upward strokes he was able at once to remove it. I afterwards tried to hypnotise him and failed. Doubtless had I gone on long enough I might have succeeded, but he was obviously not a good subject.

As regards delusions I can only give one instance. Doubtless many subjects could produce them in themselves if they tried, but I have never allowed them to do so. In the case of C., however, we have proof that they can be produced by self-suggestion. He could by a simple effort of mind make himself believe almost any delusion, *e.g.*, that he was riding on horseback, that he was a dog, or anything else, or that he saw snakes, &c. If left to himself the delusion vanished slowly. Anyone else could remove it at once by a counter-suggestion. He made these experiments without my consent, as I consider them unsafe.

It is not the purpose to multiply instances. I wish simply to show that self-suggestion is a real psychological factor, and also a very powerful one. Numbers of instances are recorded in the work of W. B. Fahnestock, M.D., entitled *Statuvolism*, and many readers of these *Proceedings* have doubtless witnessed similar phenomena. All my experiments on this point were limited to the phenomena of the waking state. So far as I have seen, a self-suggestive subject can do for himself exactly what I can do with him, *i.e.*, in the waking state. Almost all the phenomena of the light state which my self-suggestive

subjects have tried have been produced by one or another. Some can suggest to themselves certain things more easily than others, but apparently all the phenomena can be produced by self-suggestion.

It seems probable that the following holds good. All phenomena capable of being produced by the suggestion of the hypnotiser can also be produced by self-suggestion in a self-suggestive subject.

This is probably true of the phenomena of all the states. It is true that but few experiments have been made in the deeper states, so this hypothesis must be received with caution until such experiments are forthcoming.

If we assume the truth of the above hypothesis, the following proposition is also true. If by suggestion we can produce in a subject phenomena identical with the subjective phenomena of Spiritualism, then these phenomena can be produced by self-suggestion.

We will consider, then, how far we are able to produce these phenomena by suggestion.

First, as to automatic writing. What are its most obvious characteristics? We may, I believe, divide automatic writers into three main classes, each having different characteristics. In the first class we may place those who know what they write. In the second, those who do not know what they write, but who, if interrupted and compelled to join in conversation while writing, cease to write while they are speaking. In the third, those who do not know what they write and who can speak and join in conversation while actually writing.

Our object is to show that these phenomena can be produced by simple suggestion. The experiment is easily made. The simplest method is to give the subject pencil and paper, to gaze in his eyes and simply to give the suggestion "write."

In all cases where I have tried this experiment I have succeeded. All but one subject on whom I have tried it have been at one time or another sent to sleep. The effect was different in different subjects. Some in fact present the characteristics of class 1, some of class 2, and a few those of class 3. A few instances will suffice. I tried first with L., whom I had never sent to sleep. I simply gazed a couple of seconds or so at him and said "Write," and then removed my gaze. He wrote at once, and was unable to stop writing;—in fact, he covered two sheets of foolscap with close writing before he was allowed to stop. He had no notion what he had written about: the writing was in many languages, with all of which, however, he was acquainted. It referred mainly to incidents of his life, so he was asked to look it over before I read it. He did so, and found that some of it referred to private affairs; so I could not read all of it. The part I read consisted of short sections, complete in themselves, but perfectly disconnected from the other, referring to or mentioning different incidents.

Interspersed among these were short quotations from various books which had no reference to anything else which he had written. If compelled to speak, he ceased writing until he had finished speaking. Hence he belongs to class 2.

A. is also a member of class 2. I told him to write a message from the spirits, and he instantly wrote down a message respecting a sick relation in India about whom he had been anxious, saying that recovery had begun. He did not know what he had written. He afterwards told me that he had been thinking of his sick cousin, and he believed that she was getting better as he had had no letter about her. It so happened that she was recovering. This experiment shows how a suggestion can influence the kind of matter which a subject writes. Just before this I had tried the effect of simply saying to him "Write." He wrote his name and address, and then a few sentences of which I could make very little. When, however, the idea of a spirit message was suggested to him, the nature of the writing was moulded accordingly. He ceased writing if compelled to speak, and is therefore a member of class 2.

J. was the only case I met with which belonged to class 3. Probably many others if tried would be found to belong to this class, but I have made the experiment with only a few subjects. J. could write and talk at the same time. His writing was of a very varied description; sometimes original; sometimes quotations from books which he had read. For instance, on one occasion he wrote the well-known nursery rhyme about the little man who had the little gun. Belonging to class 1 there were various subjects, but it would not be worth while to give particulars of experiments with this class.

It is noticeable that the suggestion "write" gives a different result from the suggestion to write a particular message in one other way also. If we suggest simply "write" the subject writes for an indefinite period, and does not stop until told to. If we suggest writing a message, he writes the message and then ceases to write of his own accord.

So far, then, automatic writing can be produced by the suggestion of the hypnotiser, and therefore probably can be produced by self-suggestion.

The next class of phenomena we will take are those of trance-speaking and inspirational mediumship. In these cases we have obviously states very nearly and probably quite identical with the hypnotic sleep. But the medium goes into trance first, and then speaks afterwards whilst in the trance. If this be really due to self-suggestion, the suggestion of speaking would probably be made before the medium is actually in the trance. That is to say, the medium would suggest to himself that he is going to sleep, and is going to speak

when he is asleep. Hence to produce identical phenomena by suggestion, I must suggest to the subject what he is to do when asleep before he is sent to sleep. I tried it as follows: I told M. that I should send him to sleep, and that when he was asleep he would get up and write his name and address on a piece of paper. I then sent him to sleep. I may mention that I usually send my subjects to sleep by a simple command to "sleep," and the effect is generally practically instantaneous. I did nothing else. Twelve or fifteen seconds after he went to sleep he got up, wrote his name and address on the paper, and then sat down again. I repeated this form of experiment several times, making him perform various actions; for instance, I have several times made him give me spoken messages from my spirit-brother.

These messages were very similar to those which I have heard from trance mediums. I may mention that I do not possess a spirit-brother. Hence by suggestions given in the waking state a subject may be sent to sleep and made to speak on a given subject while actually asleep. This, therefore, can probably be done by self-suggestion. There are also certain other facts which point to self-suggestion as the explanation of trance-speaking mediumship. I have met many trance-speaking mediums, only one of them being a professional. The most striking fact about them was that they seemed to have different ways of going into a trance. Some seem to go off always with violent convulsions, others quite quietly. The explanation seems to have been this. Six who went off in convulsions had, I found, seen others go off in a similar way before they became mediums themselves. The others who went off quietly had seen mediums go off quietly before. I did not see all of these persons in the trance myself; I only saw eight of them; and from the rest I had only what they told me to depend on. Here self-suggestion seems to have been a powerful factor. In fact, they imitated the mediums whom they had seen.

One case was a curious one. He was a lad of about 18; he could be sent into convulsions or into the quiet state before going into the speaking state. If he wished to go into the convulsive state he asked some one to hold his hand. In a few seconds he would be seized with violent epileptiform convulsions, which gradually passed off, and then he would speak, and eventually slowly recover himself. If he wished to go off quietly he simply shut his eyes and sat still and quietly went to sleep; then he would speak and gradually come round again.

It is instructive to notice how he first went into a trance. Some friends of his had seen a medium go off in convulsions and were telling him about it and describing it, when he was suddenly seized himself with a similar attack. He afterwards saw a medium who went

off in convulsions when his hands were held by another person, and he also saw another who sent himself to sleep quietly in the way I have described. These facts lend additional support to the theory of self-suggestion.

Next as regards crystal-gazing. In itself it strongly resembles the ordinary method of producing hypnotism by means of gazing fixedly at a point. Almost all public mesmerists use this method on the stage. It seems probable that what really occurs may be this. The gaze is fixed on the crystal or mirror in the expectation of seeing visions in it. It is only after gazing until the stage of hypnosis in which hallucinations can be produced is reached that visions occur. This explains why subjects have to gaze for such a long time before the visions appear.

This phenomenon can easily be produced by suggestion. I told M. to look at the back of my watch and asked him what visions he saw. He saw a lady walking along a road singing. A man came up and walked past her and was soon joined by another. Here I stopped him. I made him look again. He then saw a man acting on a stage. If, however, we use this simple method we shall find that the muscular state is altered, which is not the case with the true crystal-gazer. I tried the following experiment with M. I told him that when he looked into a glass of water which I showed him, he would see visions, but that he could not go to sleep. He looked into the glass and saw a wedding, which he described minutely. I have repeated the experiment successfully about half-a-dozen times. By this method the subject remained in a perfectly normal condition, as far as one can see, the muscular state remaining quite unaltered, nor could any abnormality be detected excepting that when he looked into the glass he saw visions.

Certain other phenomena not generally regarded as subjective are apparently often really produced by self-suggestion. I have seen cases where table-rapping has been produced by unconscious movement on the part of the medium. In fact, until I drew the mediums' attention to the movement they were perfectly unaware of it.

It will be seen that in ordinary mediumship self-suggestion takes the form of expectancy. Probably such a form of self-suggestion can do more than any suggestion given by the mesmerist, since the mesmerist is obliged to put his suggestions into words, which is not the case with this form of self-suggestion. It is impossible in this paper to enter into the details of the various cases. The readers of these *Proceedings* can doubtless recollect many such cases themselves. To those who try experiments on self-suggestion it will be well to give one word of warning. As a general rule the more self-suggestive a subject becomes the less power can the mesmerist exert over him. In the

case of E., for instance, we have a subject completely under the control of the mesmerist. He became afterwards very self-suggestive, and was completely beyond the control of the operator. These facts have probably an interesting bearing on many forms of hysteria and insanity; but this would be beyond the purposes of this paper.

If those who have opportunities of observing the various states produced by the subjective phenomena of Spiritualism could record their experiences collectively, we should have valuable data on which to base conclusions as to the nature of these states. The Psychical Society appears to offer the best possible opportunities for such collective investigation, which, if carried out, would add very materially to an accurate knowledge of the subject.

III.

ON THE EVIDENCE FOR PREMONITIONS.

BY MRS. HENRY SIDGWICK.

INTRODUCTION.

My object in this paper is to give the result of a careful study of the evidence for premonitions collected by the Society, and to set before the reader, for his own judgment, what appear to me to be the strongest cases, and some which, though perhaps not evidentially the strongest, are otherwise interesting.

The word Premonition would perhaps naturally suggest supernatural communication of knowledge of the future, with a view to influence action. Few of our cases, however, can be conceived as having this character, and we have found it convenient to use the word in a more extended sense to include all cases of apparent knowledge of future events. In many of these cases the event foreknown is so trivial that it would be ridiculous to apply to it the idea of a supernatural monition or warning. Such trivial instances are, of course, not less interesting from our point of view, since we are studying them as natural phenomena—not supernatural interferences. Only it requires a perhaps somewhat unusual extension of the term to include them.

By Premonition, then, I mean predictions or foreshadowings or warnings of coming events which afford, if believed, a knowledge of the future greater than that which human beings could obtain by exercising their normal faculties on the facts before them. Of course pure accident will bring about some coincidences which would have the appearance of premonitions. The question we have to consider is whether the improbability that the cases before us are purely fortuitous is sufficient to warrant us in assuming a supernormal explanation.

I ought to say at once that the evidence at present collected by the Society, and of which I am about to give what appears to me to be the cream, does not seem to me sufficient to warrant a conclusion in favour of the reality of premonitions. Some of the cases are certainly very striking, but on the whole, both in quantity and in quality, the evidence

falls far short of that for telepathy.¹ There are comparatively few cases which attain an evidential standard which would have entitled them to a place in *Phantasms of the Living*, and of these cases the larger number are dreams—a branch of evidence which, in discussing telepathy, was considered to be in itself inconclusive. And while less evidence is apparently forthcoming for premonitions than for telepathy, decidedly more is, I think, required owing to the still greater remoteness from the analogy of our established sciences which the intuitive knowledge of detailed future events involves. This will be seen at once, if we consider that the acceptance of the possibility of clairvoyance,—i.e., knowledge of present or past facts not obtained through sense or by inference from other knowledge or transferred from some other mind in relation with the knower's—would carry us considerably beyond the admission of telepathy; while, again, a clairvoyant knowledge of the future involves all the difficulties attaching to clairvoyant knowledge of the present and past, together with new and vast difficulties peculiar to itself.

This leads me to observe that not a few cases which are commonly spoken of as premonitions or presentiments may be explained without assuming more than clairvoyance of the present. This is true of more than a fifth of the cases which have been provisionally classed as premonitions and printed or type-written by the Literary Committee. There can, for instance, be no question of future knowledge in such a case as that of a lady being saved from stepping into an unseen canal in the dark by an imaginary hand on her shoulder. In other cases, though a future element is undoubtedly included, it is such as might naturally be inferred from the present, if known. Thus we have a not inconsiderable class—some of them striking—of dreams and impressions of letters which at the moment of the experience are actually travelling through the post. A dream of this kind is not a premonition, as I have defined the word, even when it includes the arrival of the letter in the usual way. But something marked and unusual—not in the appearance of the letter but in the mode of its receipt—occurring both in the dream and in reality would give the dream a premonitory character. Similarly dreams of the whereabouts of lost articles—however we explain them, and no doubt latent memory

¹ The following figures make this evident. In *Phantasms of the Living*, excluding the Supplement, there are 359 cases of spontaneous telepathy, of which about 18 per cent. are dreams. These 359 cases are all at first-hand, and are selected from a much larger number as the best of their various classes. I have selected for this paper some 38 first-hand cases of premonitions, of which 24 are dreams. But as I do not wish to lay stress on my own selection, let us take the whole of the first-hand cases, good, bad, and indifferent. These amount to some 240, or about two-thirds only of the number of selected cases of spontaneous telepathy, and of these 240 about 66 per cent. are dreams.

often plays a part here—do not exhibit a premonitory knowledge of the future even if they include the finding of the lost article ; for finding it is the natural result of knowing where it is. There are of course some cases in which it is not easy to decide whether the future element is a natural inference from the present or not, but I think that on the whole there would be no substantial disagreement as to the non-premonitory character of the great majority of the cases which I am leaving out of the discussion on this ground. Some of these seem to involve clairvoyance of the present, and others may perhaps be explained as cases of telepathy.

In the remaining cases it is, I think, in the main desirable to consider only those which are at first-hand, of which we have about 240. Of these about two-thirds are dreams, and the remaining third (omitting two or three miscellaneous cases) may be divided into (1) visual hallucinations—persons or objects seen when nothing was really there ; (2) auditory hallucinations—voices or other sounds heard when, according to the belief of the percipient, there was no real natural sound ; (3) verbal predictions, as by fortune tellers ; (4) non-externalised impressions of various kinds, namely, ideas of more or less definiteness, mental visions, mental voices, and motor impulses—impulses, that is, which at the time seem unaccountable, to do or abstain from doing certain actions, but which appear to be explained by subsequent events. I have included with the visual and auditory hallucinations what are called in *Phantasms of the Living* “Borderland” cases—cases between dreams and hallucinations—which occur under circumstances which suggest that they may have been dreams, but from which the percipient has at any rate no recollection of waking.

GENERAL REMARKS ON EVIDENCE FOR PREMONITIONS.

Before discussing any cases in detail, I have a few general remarks to make on evidence for premonitions. We have here, as in evidence for spontaneous telepathy, to show reason for believing in a causal connection between two apparently independent facts ; and one of the most obvious things in the evidence before us is the general resemblance both between what I may call the *future facts* of the premonitions and the agents' experiences in spontaneous telepathy, and also between the percipients' experiences in the two cases. In consequence of this, a great deal of the general criticism of the evidence for spontaneous telepathy in Chapter IV. of *Phantasms of the Living* applies to the evidence for premonitions, and therefore, though exceedingly important in estimating that evidence, need not be repeated here. But there are certain dangers and sources of weakness peculiar to premonitory evidence. One of these lies in the possibility that, in certain cases, prophecies may bring their own fulfilment. This is

obviously possible when the result may be brought about by voluntary action on the part of anyone who knows the prophecy. But I think it must also be assumed to be possible when the result may follow from an involuntary action of the nerves; as, for instance, death on a date foretold and known to the person who dies. The following (P. 344)¹ is a remarkable case of this kind. The first account is taken from the *Sun*, Baltimore, of December 8th, 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher C. Brooks, of this city, lost their youngest son, Christopher C. Brooks, aged 17 years and five months, by death from paralysis of the heart, in Brooklyn, N. Y., on Wednesday afternoon, under peculiar circumstances.

The following account was obtained from the parents of the deceased: Mrs. Brooks was travelling in Europe and had written her son, who was employed in New York and lived in Brooklyn, to join her. He responded, naming the time of his starting. In the interim he was taken ill, and on the day Mrs. Brooks received his letter, she received a cablegram summoning her home on account of his sickness. On her arrival she found him able to go about, and his physician had no fears as to his perfect recovery. The youth stated, however, that a former teacher and friend of his, a Mr. Hall, who died about five months ago, had appeared to him in a vision and told him he would die of heart trouble on Wednesday, December 5th, at 3 o'clock p. m. Young Brooks had never had any trouble with his heart, and his friends to whom he made the statement were in no way concerned about it. Dr. Mann, his physician, laughed at it, and said he was certain, on the contrary, he would get well. The young man was, however, thoroughly impressed with the belief that he would die at the time indicated. A few days before that time he sent flowers to some friends, with a note saying: "I shall never again be able to express my appreciation of your kindness." He accompanied a lady friend to an entertainment the afternoon of December 4th, spent the evening in her company, and received a promise that if he wrote for her the next afternoon she would come to say good-bye. His physician told the brother and mother of the youth that he would divert his mind from the subject by physical means, and on Tuesday night put a fly blister on his neck.

Wednesday morning young Brooks rose as usual, ate an unusually hearty breakfast, and to all appearances was good for a long life. The physician left him without a trace of uneasiness as to his condition. The young man insisted that his mother should not stay with him, telling her "It would kill you to see me die." That he might not take the matter too much to heart she did not oppose him, but consented to leave him, intending to return to him in the latter part of the afternoon.

While taking lunch with the family as usual at two o'clock he complained of feeling faint, and asked to be assisted to his room. After resting in the bed a few moments he wrote to the young lady, and in about 20 minutes she arrived. He died in the presence of the family at 3.10 o'clock. His

¹ The numbers given in brackets are those attached to the cases by the Literary Committee for identification, P. standing for premonition. They are given here for convenience of reference.

physician and his mother arrived but two or three moments later, and were shocked to find his prediction fulfilled. His father had returned to Baltimore from visiting him some weeks ago. On Wednesday, at breakfast, his father remarked it was the day which his son had appointed to die, but with no thought that the prophecy would be fulfilled, and was astounded when intelligence of the death arrived. He was a young man of strong character, exceptionally good mind, and splendid physique.

Mr. Gurney wrote to Professor Brooks, and received the following reply :—

Baltimore Female College, Baltimore.

April 5th, 1884.

The article from the Baltimore *Sun* gives a quite correct account of the affair.

To give him (i.e., young Christopher) the best possible treatment, his mother prevailed on Dr. Mann to take him into his family as a boarder. Dr. Marian Simms, the eminent gynecologist, had recommended Dr. Mann to her. He said to his mother, on placing him with the doctor, "I will aid the doctor all I can, and take all he gives me, should it be God's will that I shall recover; but I feel sure that I will die on December 5th." When she told him that she had paid the doctor for a month in advance, he told her that she would lose her money, for he would die on December 5th. This was so firmly impressed on his mind that neither reasoning nor ridicule could remove the impression. As the time approached he asked for some money that he might make some parting gifts to friends. His mother gave him 10dol., and afterwards, at his request for more, 5dol. additional. He expended in flowers and little presents to friends all with the exception of 50 cents.

His father, in coming to Baltimore a few days before Christopher's death, first called on Dr. Mann to learn the exact condition of his son's health, when the doctor used the following strong language of assurance, "I will pledge my diploma that at the end of a few weeks he will be perfectly well." He had been at Dr. Mann's about two weeks when he died.

Christopher Covington Brooks, who was thus early called away, and in so peculiar a way, was a youth of earnest piety, knew nothing of Spiritualism, and neither desired nor feared death, but with Christian philosophy submitted everything to the will of God.

N. C. BROOKS.

Even accidents may be brought about by nervousness—a person is more likely, for instance, to lose his footing in a dangerous place if he thinks he is going to do so—; and practically most cases of death, or of accidents in causing which the sufferer's own state of mind may have been an important factor, occurring within a predicted time to a person aware of the prophecy, must, I think, be excluded from the evidence in favour of premonitions. In many of these cases we have also to consider the strong probability that similar presentiments very frequently occur without being fulfilled. Of course, again, prophecies of calamity may bring their own fulfilment through the action—or inaction—of persons other than the sufferer. We have

one very pathetic case (P. 915) in which this explanation is suggested, where a father's dream is interpreted to mean that a favourite child would die. The gentleman who sent us the case says of the father:—"The tears always stand in his eyes when he speaks of it. He has always, since the death of his little boy, felt that his dream made his wife and him more anxious and flurried than they should have been, and in consequence unfitted them for properly attending him during his illness. He thinks the mere idea that death was inevitable prevented them from doing all they might have done." In this case, however, I hardly think the parents would have felt the self-reproach had they deserved it, and scarlet fever in the family so easily accounts for both dream and death that we need not go further for an explanation.

There is another weakness in premonitory evidence as compared with telepathic, which is of a more general kind. A telepathic phantasm carries with it implicitly the date of fulfilment—because if this does not coincide with that of the phantasm there is no telepathy. A premonitory phantasm, on the other hand, does not necessarily imply any date, and it must, therefore, be more complex than a telepathic one in order to have the same cogency. For example, a premonitory apparition of A. accompanied by a statement of a future date which afterwards proved to be the date of A.'s death, will only be evidentially equivalent to a simple telepathic apparition of A. at the time of A.'s death. One consequence of this need for greater complexity is that the evidence generally depends more on accurate recollection of the details of the dream or hallucination than telepathic evidence does;—and abundant evidence exists to show how little the memory can be trusted as regards details. It is, therefore, even more important here than in the telepathic evidence that the experience should be fully described and, if possible, written down before the fulfilment; and among the cases before us where the correspondence between the phantasm and the event is sufficiently marked to be regarded in my view as evidential, there is only one in which any record written before the event seems to have been preserved.

Turning now from general considerations to particular cases, I will give those which appear to me to tell most strongly in favour of the reality of premonitions, with some criticisms on them.

RECOGNISED APPARITIONS.

I will begin with recognised apparitions, and give first a case such as I have just described, where a date is named. (P. 392.) It is from Mrs. Alger, who at the time she wrote, in January, 1883, lived at Hedsor Lodge, Belmont, Twickenham, S.W. She writes:—

Some years ago in March, my husband, who is an army tutor, asked

me to call at the Civil Service offices for some papers. I had come from Victoria Station, walking towards the Abbey, when, just before crossing over to Canon Row, I felt some one touch me on the shoulder. I turned round and saw my husband's mother, looking very death-like. I said, "Oh, mother, what a start you gave me!" but she had gone. A feeling of great depression came over me, and I was quite unable to go on my husband's errand, but went home. All the way home I thought of what had happened, and as I got indoors I made up my mind to tell my husband and then at once go to Brixton, where his mother lived. However, I fainted before I saw Mr. Alger, and after recovering, I felt unwell, so that I had to go to bed. After thinking the matter over I said nothing of what I had seen, but early in the evening, when my husband came into my room, I asked him to go and see his mother. We were talking it over as to whether it would be right to leave the boys by themselves, when I heard a voice say, "Come both of you on the 22nd" (the 22nd of March is my birthday). I at once told my husband my day's experience, and added, "My birthday will be your mother's death-day." Mr. Alger went at once to Brixton, and on his return told me his mother had a cold, but was, on the whole, as well as ever; but on the 22nd of March, that is, four days after, we stood at her death bed.

I have no doubt my husband will remember the above and confirm what I have written, any time you wish him to do so.

L. ALGER.

Mr. Alger corroborated as follows:—

Hedsor Lodge, Belmont, Twickenham, S.W.

January 18th, 1883.

DEAR SIR,—I have seen your letter of yesterday's date, written to my wife, and with regard to the subject of the correspondence, I remember very well her telling me of what she supposed she had seen, and also her urging me to go and see my mother, who, as far as I knew at the time, was in very good health. I also remember that very soon following upon this, my poor mother was taken ill, and that the day of her death was not long after the circumstances alluded to, and took place on the birthday of my wife, the 22nd March. It is that coincidence which has stamped the facts indelibly on my memory.—I am, dear sir, yours very truly,—T. L. ALGER.

It seems from the general form of this corroboration that Mr. Alger has no independent recollection of the most important point in the narrative, namely, that his wife foretold the day of his mother's death, but I think that even without this it will be admitted that the case is a remarkable one.

It is worth noting, *appropos* to this case and others, that marked dates like birthdays, Christmas Day, &c., have, if they occur in dreams or waking phantasms, the advantage of being easily remembered, but they have a compensating disadvantage in being more likely to occur spontaneously to the mind and thus making it more probable that the coincidence is due to accident.

We have only one other apparition with date, if we exclude one (P. 326), as I think we must, where the percipient was a child of

eight and can produce no corroboration. It is from Mrs. Barclay O'Gorman, who, when she wrote in October, 1885, resided at 39, Wilbury-road, Brighton (P. $\frac{332}{8}$):—

On the night of Tuesday, October 24th, 1882, a few moments before the stroke of midnight, I saw my uncle Carleton Crawford standing by my bedside. He looked as usual, and said to me, "Margaret, I am come to bid you good-bye, for I shall die this day week." I then heard the clock of the Town Hall strike 12, and first realised the strangeness of what had taken place. I was awake at the time of seeing my uncle, though his appearing so suddenly, and in so unusual a manner, seemed at the time to me to be quite natural. The next morning I told my husband and my sister (Mrs. E. Raymond Barker) of this apparition, and then forgot all about it. On the Saturday following, I heard accidentally that my uncle had been taken suddenly very ill, and was become almost unconscious. (He was 80 years of age.) He remained in a state of unconsciousness until the afternoon of Tuesday, October 31st, when he expired. This is the only time in my life that anything of the kind happened to me, being awake.

MARGARET E. BARCLAY O'GORMAN.

Mr. O'Gorman's confirmation cannot be obtained to this account, as he has a dislike to the subject, and Mrs. E. Raymond Barker has recently been applied to for hers, but no reply has been received from her.

This case is less striking than the former one—not only because no corroboration is obtainable, but because whether it was a waking experience as Mrs. O'Gorman believes, or only a dream, it at any rate does not seem to have made the strong impression on the mind which so rare an experience as a waking hallucination usually does. She tells us that, after telling her husband and sister of her experience, "she forgot all about it," and we must allow for the possibility that when her uncle's death recalled it to her mind, the exact date may have been read back into it in the way that details certainly do sometimes get read back into dreams. It must also be admitted that the advanced age of Mr. Crawford somewhat diminishes the force of the coincidence by making his speedy death more likely.

In the next case—a borderland one (P. 379)—the phantasm, though giving no date, is nevertheless something more than a mere apparition, because, as will be seen, the upward motion of the figure as in the conventional idea of a departing spirit distinctly conveyed the idea of death. The narrator is Mr. W. T. Catleugh, who wrote from 15, Lincoln-street, Chelsea, S.W. :—

December 19th, 1883.

SIR,—Having seen your letter in the *Standard*, it brings to my memory an event that took place six weeks before my elder daughter died (five years ago come next March). The child had never been strong, and to make sure

she was well looked after when she went to rest, she used to sleep in a little bed by my side so that I could attend to her easily if she wanted looking to.

My wife at that time, being an invalid, kept a lamp constantly alight. I was sleeping with my back to the child when I was suddenly roused by a touch on the shoulder. I turned at once, thinking that the child required something, when I distinctly saw the spirit-form of the child with her hands clasped and in a kneeling attitude rise from the bed. This made me feel that the child was dead, and I at once put my hand on her forehead, but found it warm and her breathing regular. I also noticed that her arms were not outside the counterpane, but that the child was well covered up.

These, sir, are stubborn facts: I made a memo. in my pocket-book the following morning of being touched in this mysterious manner, and seeing the apparition of the child. It was to me a warning of the approaching departure of my little one, although, as far as we could see, nothing ailed the child for five following weeks, yet on the sixth week my little darling died of meningitis tuberculosis.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

W. T. CATLEUGH.

Mr. Catleugh subsequently wrote:—

December 26th, 1883.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of yesterday.

Neither before nor since the time that I saw my little girl's spirit-form have I seen any apparition, or been unaccountably touched.

I have a slight correction to make with regard to the time that intervened between the incident that I wrote to you about and the child's death. I looked in my pocket-book for 1879, and saw under date 1st February that it was just 1.30 in the morning when this unaccountable touching and vision occurred. This would make six weeks before the child took to her bed instead of five.

Had this incident been a dream I should not have troubled you with the narration of it. But I emphatically declare that I was roused from sleep by a mysterious touch; that the room was light from the lamp, and that when I turned round I saw the spirit-form of the child rise from the bed and disappear out of sight as distinctly as if it had been the child herself.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

W. T. CATLEUGH.

P.S.—At that time I had no anxiety preying on my mind with regard to the child's health. She had always been nervous and delicate, but had never had a serious illness, or any of the ailments common to children, and she seemed as well in health as she had ever been.

Mrs. Catleugh writes:—

December 28th, 1883.

SIR,—My husband has just shown me your letter. I well recollect the night, or rather early morning, when my husband woke me by starting up in bed. He was greatly disturbed in manner, but would not tell me what he had seen until three days had passed, as I was at that time an invalid, and he was afraid of alarming me; but he told my cousin, Miss Archer, the next morning, and it has been a subject of conversation whenever she afterwards came from the country on a visit to us. She would, I know, willingly have

verified my husband's statement had she been alive, but I grieve to say she died of rapid consumption early this year.—Yours truly,

HENRIETTA A. CATLEUGH.

The known delicacy of the child, although not enough to cause painful anxiety, and the length of time—over six weeks—allowed for fulfilment, have to be noted, in considering the evidential force of the coincidence in this case; but the experience is certainly an impressive one.

It is sometimes thought that the mere apparition of a living person is a warning of his death. I mean, it is thought not only that there is a considerable probability of the appearance coinciding with the death, but that if it does not do this it is an omen or warning showing that his death is likely to follow shortly. But so far as I know, facts do not support this idea. I have abstracts, mostly furnished to me by Mr. Gurney, of 92 recognised hallucinations of living persons not apparently coinciding with any marked crisis in their lives, or with any known attempt to communicate with the percipient (I do not include in the 92 those just quoted, as they contain what may be called a prophetic element apart from the apparition itself). Among these 92 only 14 are stated to have been followed by the death—the interval varying from a few hours to a year; and such a proportion seems to me quite insufficient to form a basis for any conclusions favourable to the premonitory character of apparitions. But further, two of these 14 cases must be excluded because the percipient was in grave anxiety about the person whose apparition was seen—in one case, moreover, suffering from loss of sleep owing to the anxiety, and in the other case fatigued with nursing. And in another of the 14 cases the percipient was expecting to see her husband in the direction in which she saw the apparition of him. There is a further argument against there being any premonitory significance in the apparition of living persons. Among the 14 which are stated to have preceded death 10 represented people living in the same house as the percipient, and an 11th represented a person in the place and attitude he had been seen in a few hours before. Now there seems to be no reason why a genuine premonitory hallucination—if there be such—should specially occur as regards persons living in the same house as the percipient; while there is reason to think that when a casual hallucination takes the form of a recognised person at all, it has a tendency to take that of a person under the same roof and, therefore presumably, frequently and recently seen. For among the 92 cases, this is true of 48 at least, or over half, and in two others, at least, the original of the apparition had been seen during the day; while in three more cases the apparition was of the percipient's self.

One more case of a visual hallucination representing a man who

died soon after must be mentioned. He appeared as dead, so that the idea of death was distinctly conveyed ; but the hallucination was of a different kind from those hitherto discussed. It was a vision in a crystal. Gazing into a glass or crystal ball, or a mirror, or a few drops of ink in the palm of the hand, is a method of seeking for occult information which has been practised for many ages, and it undoubtedly is, with some people, a way of producing hallucinations more or less at will. These visions—like other hallucinations and like automatic writing—doubtless reproduce only what is already in the percipient's mind, and probably in most cases only what has come into his mind in a perfectly normal way, though the idea or memory may be latent. But it is quite possible that sometimes—as appears to be the case in automatic writing¹—these voluntarily sought hallucinations may be a mode in which supernormally acquired ideas rise into consciousness. The following case is from Mrs. Bickford-Smith (P. 396):—

My visit to the woman who owned a crystal is nearly 18 years ago, and I have almost forgotten it.

A relative of mine, rather a believer in witchcraft, had been to see a woman who professed to tell fortunes by cards, and after one visit, told me that the woman had come into possession of a strange crystal, in which *some* people could see things that would happen to them or to others with whom they were connected, and asked me to go and see it.

The "crystal" was about the size of a billiard ball, and looked like a ball of well-used glass, not cut or very brilliant. After looking into it for a few minutes it seemed to expand, and I saw the interior of a church I knew well. A coffin stood in the aisle, having no lid on it. I distinctly saw the face of the corpse. It was that of an old friend of my father's, who was then in good health. As the church faded from my view, I seemed to see many things passing by, but cannot recall them distinctly, for I felt rather glad to get rid of the crystal. In a few days I stood by the death-bed of the gentleman, Mrs. J. and I being the only two people in the room when he died. His death was the cause of a great change in our lives.

ANNIE W. BICKFORD-SMITH.

P.S.—Perhaps a better description of the appearance of the crystal would be "glass that had been breathed on."

The amount of weight as evidence for premonition to be attached to the coincidence in this case, would depend on the number and accuracy of the other and now forgotten images which presented themselves ; but still more on whether it was known at the time of the vision that the gentleman's death, whenever it occurred, would be the cause of a great change in the percipient's life ; because if so, an attempt to look into the future might naturally carry with it

¹ Compare, e.g., Mr. Newnham's experiments recorded in *Phantasms of the Living*, Vol. I., pp. 63-70, and a case (87), Vol. I., p. 293.

an idea of his death, and start this particular hallucination. Mrs. Bickford-Smith does not remember that she had means of knowing that the death of the gentleman would affect her affairs, but she cannot at this distance of time feel certain on this point.

In the recognised apparitions I have so far spoken of, the future information, such as it is, has been in the form of an idea. But it is possible also to have a pictorial representation of the future,—to see a phantom person or group of persons in the attitudes or dress, &c., in which they afterwards are really seen. But for such a vision to have any value as evidence for premonition the attitude, or whatever it may be that is foreseen, must of course be unusual and unlikely, and it seems at least doubtful whether this is the case in the one or two narratives of the kind sent to us.

We may even have action added to the picture. I will give as an illustration the only case of the sort which we have (P. 10), but it happened 40 years ago, and admits, I think, of a plausible explanation. We received it from the percipient, Mrs. Stone, of Bridport, in 1884.

In January, 1842, I was living in Dorchester, Dorset, and I was at that time anxious about a dear little boy (the son of my brother-in-law, the Rev. George Stone, Vicar of Long Burton), who was lying dangerously ill in fever.

Long Burton is about 16 miles from Dorchester, but I heard from his father almost every day how the child was. The 31st of January I had a much better account; the child had rallied, the medical man hoped the crisis had passed and he would recover. I went to bed quite relieved and hopeful; but in the early morning of February 1st I seemed to be awakened by loud knocking and ringing at the street door. I heard the servant open it, run quickly up the stairs, knock at the bedroom door, and then saw her open it and place a letter on the counterpane, saying "I fear, ma'am, this is bad news." On the fold of the letter I seemed to see that the child was dead. I immediately sat up in the bed, and put out my hand for the letter, could find none, and saw no maid standing by the bedside. I was much startled, but had hardly time to think it over when the vision was realised to the most minute particulars, the ringing, knocking, running upstairs, the words the servant used, and those which I read on the fold of the letter.

In conversation with Mr. Sidgwick, in 1884, Mrs. Stone stated that:—

The premonition was not in sleep, so far as she knew; she had no consciousness of waking after it.

But though no doubt we are usually conscious of waking from dreams, I think that in this particular case the sudden sitting up, begun in sleep, may have obscured the transition; and I am the more inclined to suspect that the experience was a dream, since I cannot recall any other instance of so complicated a hallucination. It is not

unlikely that the messenger knocked twice before he was attended to, and his first knock may have started what under the circumstances would be a very natural dream.

UNRECOGNISED APPARITIONS.

There are a few cases where a distinct, but *unrecognised* apparition is seen, and subsequently identified with some person seen for the first time. A resemblance of this kind such as would lead to a *real* recognition would perhaps be as extraordinary a coincidence as we could possibly have, owing to the amount of detail involved. But I doubt whether we ought ever to feel complete confidence in such recognitions. I have made some remarks on recognitions in former papers, but I feel bound to say that my estimate of their evidential value has even diminished since I wrote my paper on Phantasms of the Dead. What I think is liable to happen in such cases is a sudden memory-illusion, altering or giving fallacious definiteness to the recollection of an apparition.¹

This hypothesis is, I think, supported by the two following cases, in each of which there is a semi-identification of the phantasm before its counterpart is finally fixed upon, which would hardly have been the case, I think, had the resemblance ultimately discovered been real and complete. (P. $\frac{325}{6}$.) A gentleman tells us that he woke suddenly in the middle of the night "and saw the form of a man, apparently dressed in a black frock coat of clerical cut, tightly buttoned up, standing motionless and silent at the foot of the bed, when after a short pause he moved slowly and silently towards the door and disappeared. Could not next day remember who the figure was like but have thought since that it was more like that of Mr. Holt, (sometime curate of the parish) than of anyone else." After this was written, on a second visit some two months after, he tells us, "As I was strolling in the garden I met and instantly recognised as an old acquaintance my spiritual visitor at Easter. I shook hands with him and was on the point of saying, 'When did we meet last?' but checked myself in time, as it instantly flashed across my mind that it was my spiritual visitor at Easter who now stood before me in the flesh. In course of conversation I soon ascertained that he was coming to dine at the Rectory, and from my sister I learnt his name and the position he held with reference to my father, viz., his being at present

¹The case is of course evidentially entirely different if an apparition, *at the time it is seen*, produces the impression of being that of a definite person unknown by sight. I know at first hand of an instance of this, where the apparition coincided with the death of the person seen, and was connected with that person by the percipient before hearing of the death. She had doubtless seen her, as they had attended the same church, but she did not know her. Subsequently she picked out her photograph among a number of other unknown ones, thus confirming the recognition. I am not allowed to give this case in more detail.

his curate, but with the right of presentation to the Rectory on the next vacancy. . . . I never saw him before or since."¹

My second case (P. $\frac{611}{6}$) was regarded by the percipient as a premonition. It perhaps supports my hypothesis more strongly than the last because the unrecognised phantasm was ultimately identified as an acquaintance, and might, therefore, have been recognised from the beginning.

A lady writes :—

One evening, about 10 years ago, I lay on the sofa dozing. My husband, and a friend who was staying with us, were sitting in two armchairs, on either side of the fire. Suddenly I wakened and opened my eyes, saw opposite me, behind my friend's chair, the figure of a dead man, the eyes closed, head drooping, grey hair straight down the forehead, nose prominent, mouth fallen in, face drawn. The figure is plainly before my eyes even now. I stared at it mute and motionless, for fully a moment or more. I faintly remember thinking it was an optical delusion. I was perfectly composed, I withdrew my eyes, and when I looked back the figure had gone. I told my friend in a day or two about what I had seen, and mentioned a person whom I fancied the face resembled, but I vainly tried to make sure of any real likeness. About five weeks afterwards, my husband was one evening called out of the room, when he returned he told us Mr. De Gernon had never returned home since he had dined with a friend, after the day's hunt, two days previously. That week, his body was found in the river; he had been drowned crossing a swollen ford.

I then recognised the face and figure I had seen, it was a perfect portrait of De Gernon, fixed, and drawn in death.

I must admit that it requires some straining of this hypothesis—that the recollection of unrecognised apparitions is not a very definite one—to extend it to the rare cases where the apparition is gazed at for minutes instead of seconds, and it is therefore with some hesitation that I apply it to a curious case, (P. $\frac{206}{6}$), where a lady sits opposite to a phantom gentleman, for—as she believes—several minutes, in a Metropolitan Railway carriage, and that evening identifies him at the theatre as one of the actors. But the case is so isolated that, provisionally at any rate, we are, I think, justified in viewing the recognition with some scepticism. In any case this experience hardly comes under the head of premonitions as I have defined them.

It may be worth remarking that a description written beforehand of an unrecognised phantasm can hardly ever prove the reality of a subsequent recognition; for it is practically impossible to describe any one so that they should be unmistakably recognised, unless they have some peculiar deformity or scar. The best possible description of a

¹ It is interesting, though not belonging to the subject of the present paper, to note that this apparition occurred in a room which, unknown to the percipient, had the reputation of being haunted, but it did not resemble the traditional ghost of the room.

person must be equally like many others, whereas that person's appearance in reality is probably unique.

SYMBOLIC VISUAL HALLUCINATIONS.

We have next to consider a class of symbolic hallucinations. The following case, which is the best visual case of the kind we have, will explain what I mean. It is from Mrs. Welman, now dead, and was written in 1884. (P. 478.)

There is a tradition in my mother's family that before a death a large black dog often appears to some of the relations. I was going down stairs, about dinner time, one winter's evening in 1877. The lamps were lighted, and as I turned into one of the passages leading to the staircase, I saw a large black dog walking noiselessly before me. I thought, in the dim light, it might be one of our collie dogs, and called "Laddie," but it did not turn or make any sign. I followed it, feeling uncomfortable, and was still more startled when, on getting downstairs, every trace of the dog had disappeared, and yet every door was shut.

I said nothing about it to any one, but often thought of it. Two or three days later I heard from Ireland of the unexpected death of an aunt, my mother's sister, in consequence of an accident.

Mrs. Welman's sister who sent us this case says it may be depended upon as "Mrs. Welman is not at all a fanciful person about such things, and also anyone who knew the gallery, stairs and hall at Norton Manor, with heavy swing doors shutting off the other part of the house, would see how quite impossible it would be for a real dog to disappear in the way this one did."

A single case of this kind can have little evidential weight, from the absence of any manifest relation between the hallucination and the event which it is supposed to prefigure. But it would be quite possible that such cases might become evidentially important through frequency of recurrence. For this they should be recorded with their date before fulfilment: if they really recur in the experience of particular individuals and families, the keeping of such records ought to be easy, and were they kept it would soon be settled beyond a doubt how far the time-relation between the phantasm and the death is definite and invariable. What has to be proved is (1) that the particular phantasm is not met with in the family except in connection with a death; (2) that the interval allowed between it and the death is sufficiently short in relation to the number of people whose deaths may be foreshadowed to make it decidedly unlikely that one of these would die in that interval; (3) that it is not experienced only when there is expectation of death. It is important to record the experience before fulfilment to avoid all unconscious bias in deciding after the event whether the previous experience was the real symbol or not. For instance, if the symbol is a black dog, it is important to decide before the event symbolised

has had time to occur whether what is seen is the black dog or only a shadow.

These remarks apply not only to visual symbols—black dogs, phantom carriages, &c.—but to auditory ones, shrieks, knocks, &c., of which two or three cases will be found further on, and to recurrent symbolic dreams.

Death is not the only event that may be symbolically foreshadowed, but among the visual and auditory hallucinations we have collected, the only other event thus indicated is almost the same as death, namely, funerals—and as a transition from one to the other I may quote a case which at least seems to have been a curious coincidence. (P. 55.) It was sent to us by the Rev. P. A. L. Wood, Rector of Newent, Gloucestershire, an Associate of the Society. The writer, Miss H., does not wish her name to be mentioned.

My mother and I were once driving in Somersetshire with an old lady of nearly 80 years of age. She suddenly called to the servants to stop the carriage and draw up to the side of the road, which was done, though we wondered at such an unaccountable order. "Now you can go on," she said presently, and added, turning to my mother, "I always like to stop while a funeral passes." The road was a long, straight one, and quite empty of even a foot-passenger, so we laughed at the old lady and told her so; and she repeated, "Well, it is very odd, I certainly thought I saw one. How foolish the servants must have thought me." The next day occurred the *perfectly* sudden death of her most intimate friend and nearest neighbour—an old gentleman who used to read to her every day.

In answer to questions, Miss H. writes:—

The drive took place about four o'clock in the afternoon on a fine bright day. We were staying at Weston-super-Mare, where the old lady and gentleman lived, so I heard of his death myself from the old lady's daughter, the day after it happened. She reminded me and my mother then of the old lady's idea of two days before.

The foreshadowing of funerals belongs mainly to a curious set of Welsh stories, collected by Miss Mary Curtis, an Associate of the Society, and which seem to me to form an interesting contribution to folk-lore. In Wales, as is well known, funerals excite more interest in neighbours and mere acquaintances than they do here, and are often accompanied by more uncontrolled signs of emotion, and we must account thus, I suppose, for the premonitory interest centering in the funeral rather than in the death. It appears to be a common belief—at any rate in the neighbourhood of Laugharne where these stories were collected—that phantasmal lights are often seen passing along the path to be afterwards taken by a coffin; that sounds of the funeral—weeping, singing, trampling—are phantasmally rehearsed beforehand, and that sometimes—but we have no first-hand accounts of this—an apparition of the person about to die is seen pacing his coffin's future

course. We have even one first-hand account of how five-and-twenty years ago a phantom funeral was seen with the same mourners, &c., as afterwards took part in the real one; but as the seers were two little boys of eight and nine, we can hardly rely on the identification. In second and third-hand accounts these phantom funerals sometimes knock down and bruise the unfortunate and involuntary witnesses. Extravagances like this last find no place in first-hand stories, but it is curious that we have five first-hand accounts of the lights, four of which are Welsh, and I am not aware that moving lights are a common form of hallucination elsewhere.

Regarded as evidence for the reality of premonitions these narratives do not seem to me to come to much. Funerals are likely to pass along most roads sooner or later, especially when, as seems to be the case in Wales, people are frequently not buried in the nearest burial ground, but taken to considerable distances. Indefinite time seems to be allowed for the fulfilment, and, as the French proverb says: *Tout vient à qui sait attendre*. The individual who is to die is not indicated, and only in one case his residence; and in that one case, where the seer one evening observes lights coming out of two houses in which deaths occur at different intervals of some weeks afterwards, we have no reason to think that the deaths were at all unlikely.

I should hardly have discussed these unsatisfactory premonitions here were it not for the curious prevalence of this particular kind in one locality, and for the fact that there is one case—not, however, from Wales—where there does seem to have been a striking coincidence. (P. 484.) It is from Mr. Archibald Maclachlan, Wemyss Bay Steamboat Company:—

When living in a farmhouse above Glendaruel, Argyleshire, one night, about 11 p.m., I went out of doors just before going to bed. The house stood on a hillside, the road going straight down. I saw a bluish kind of light coming up the road. I wondered who could be there. The light came straight up and I saw there was nobody there. A little alarmed, I entered a gate leading from the road to the house; the light followed. I entered the porch; it passed along the front of the house before me, and was hidden by the side of the porch. I had tapped at the window for those inside to come out, but none were quick enough to see it distinctly.

Next day a coffin containing the body of an uncle who had died suddenly and of whose death we were not aware, came up the road, through the gate, past the porch, and was taken into the house through the window on the other side of the porch. I have seen fire-balls, but never a light like this.

(Signed)

ARCHIBALD MACLACHLAN.

I think we ought to allow here for a certain probability that if a coffin did enter or leave the house it would be taken that way, so that if the connection between lights and coffins occurred to Mr. Maclachlan when he saw the light his imagination might be influenced accordingly.

If this were so, the premonitory element of the vision may be explained away; but the coincidence of a death-suggesting appearance with an unexpected death would remain.

AUDITORY HALLUCINATIONS WHERE DISTINCT IDEAS ARE CONVEYED
IN WORDS.

These are all the visual cases, which appear to me noteworthy in the way of evidence. The purely auditory hallucinations fall into very similar classes; namely (1) cases where distinct ideas are conveyed in words; (2) cases where sounds to be afterwards heard in reality are phantasmally heard; (3) symbolic sounds.

Of the first and best class we have, I think, only four specimens, and these not very strong ones. The following is perhaps the strongest. It is from Mrs. Morrison, of 131, Cornwall-road, Westbourne Park, W., with whom Mr. Gurney thoroughly discussed the case. She has besides had some dreams which may have been veridical, but hardly, I think, premonitory. The following incident occurred in Province Wellesley, Straits Settlements, in the East Indies, in May, 1878 (P. 377), and the account was sent to us in 1882. After mentioning several bereavements, Mrs. Morrison continues:—

And last of all a sweet little girl, the pride of its parents' hearts, was taken. Some days prior to the child's illness, I was lying awake one morning when I distinctly heard a voice say, "If there is darkness at the 11th hour there will be death." In alarm I started up in bed and the same words were slowly and deliberately repeated.

Naturally enough, when, about a week after, the child was taken seriously ill, I watched with perturbed feelings and grave anxiety the aspect of the sky day and night, the moon being at the full just then. Two or three days passed; the little one hovered between life and death; above, the sun blazed with unmitigated fervour, relentless heat, no sign of cloud or disturbance of the atmosphere in any way. Twice in the course of every 24 hours was 11 o'clock looked for with trembling apprehension. At last, after more than a week of this cloudless weather, a few minutes before 11 in the morning a squall arose with extraordinary suddenness; servants flew to close the Venetian shutters, making the inside of the house extremely dark. The sky became black with clouds, and my heart sank. That day, soon after one o'clock, the child's spirit quitted its little mortal frame to enter a life of never-ending joy. I cannot be mistaken as to the time when the darkness came, as I had to consult my watch a little time before in order to give the child medicine.

The fact that "the 11th hour" is a quasi-proverbial phrase, and likely perhaps to occur casually to the mind, detracts somewhat from the evidential value of this story, but it remains a striking one, and perhaps not the less so from the somewhat bizarre character of the prophecy.

SOUNDS, AFTERWARDS HEARD IN REALITY, PHANTASMALLY HEARD.

I pass on to a specimen of class (2)—a rehearsal of future sounds.

It was sent to us by Mrs. Bettany, of 2 Eckington-villas, Ashbourne-grove, Dulwich, who has had several experiences apparently exhibiting spontaneous telepathy, of which one or two are given in *Phantasms of the Living*. It is conceivable that this case may also have been telepathic, the traveller being the agent. (P. 489.)

October, 1885.

On the night of October 26th, 1876, I was aroused from sleep by a sound like stones thrown at my bedroom window. I got up, opened my window, and thought I heard the voice of a friend who was many miles away; *no one was there*. The next night the same sound occurred at the same hour. I did not go to the window till the sound was twice repeated. Then I opened the window, and found that very friend had arrived late and quite unexpected from abroad. He used the exact words I had thought I heard the night before, at which time he had not reached England.

JEANIE GWYNN BETTANY.

In answer to inquiries, Mrs. Bettany says:—

The house where the circumstance occurred stands in its own grounds at a considerable distance from the high road, in the country, of course.

The words spoken were three in number: they were spoken in French, and merely explained who the person was.

I mentioned it to the housemaid, whose room was next to mine, and asked her if she had heard it; she said "No," and was much surprised when the thing repeated itself in reality next night.

In few, if any, of the remaining auditory cases are the sounds and the description of them of such a character as to warrant us in assuming that they were not real sounds misinterpreted. [See on this subject, *Phantasms*, Vol. II., pp. 125-127.] Knocks, sounds of sawing of timber, cries and screams, rustlings, sounds of carriage wheels, even funeral sounds such as I mentioned above, lamentations, and cries for help! help! help! if sufficiently distant, may all possibly be misinterpretations of real sounds, whether they be regarded by the percipients as a rehearsal of a sound subsequently heard, or as symbolic of an approaching death.

SYMBOLIC SOUNDS.

There are, however, two striking cases of a shriek recurring before several deaths. The first (P. 416) was sent in 1883 by Mrs. Levey, 7, Castle Terrace, Haverfordwest.

On the night of 27th November, 1836, my mother lay dying, at 9 o'clock, on a night of great rain. There came a fearful wail of a woman's voice, as if swaying to and fro past the windows. I ran to the window, but no human being could be there, as the room was two-pair stairs up, and no houses near. She died at half-past 10.

On the evening of the 9th August, 1844, my two sisters and self were sitting together, when a fearful cry came from the street. We ran to the window—no one to be seen—no house near—a moonlight night. Our eldest brother, a doctor, died very suddenly on the 10th.

My father and family sat at dinner on the evening of the 4th February, 1848. The same fearful cry or wail filled our house. I mentally said, "If that happened in the country, they would say someone at the table would die." My youngest brother, 23, died quite suddenly at 8 o'clock, on the morning of the 5th. Same occurrence upon my father's death in 1867. Same at the death of sister in 1869. Same at death of next brother, a doctor of medicine, in 1870.

I had just awoke, about 4 o'clock in the morning, in month of June, 1877. I was horrified to hear my four young nieces on the stairs crying in the most fearful manner. I got up to light a candle, as the room was dark, but opened my door, and, to my surprise, no person was there, and it was broad daylight. All the inmates of the house were asleep. Soon after, on the 20th June, a letter came from the captain of the ship my young nephew was coming from Canada in, to say that three young men fell overboard in a storm; two were saved, but he was lost.

Upon this occasion the house dog howled in a most fearful manner. The house-mother went down and found him crouched down, hair all on end, in the coal-cellar. She took him in her arms and kept him at the fire, he shivering to death.

The matter did not occur to me as *supernatural* until the inquest upon my youngest brother, when a lady of the house said, "Oh, did you hear that most awful cry of a woman last evening?" I made no remark, but felt that, having so many times heard it, it must be what we call in Ireland "The Banshee." I had often in my young days heard people speak of it, but did not believe it.

I may remark that upon the deaths of the *three* who died suddenly, it was more fearful than any.

FRANCES LEVEY.

In the last instance given by Mrs. Levey, it might be suggested that the house dog was suddenly taken ill and himself made all the noise, but it is not easy to account for the series.

Another striking "Banshee" case (P. 634), though with longer intervals between the shrieks and the death than in the one just quoted, comes to us from Mrs. Treloar, of River, Dover, and her sister, Mrs. Gardiner. The following account was taken down by Mr. Myers, from a conversation with the two ladies in April, 1888, and afterwards revised and signed as correct by them. Parts of a previous letter of Mrs. Treloar's are introduced into the account.

In June, 1863, we both were awoke from sleep at home at Weeford Rectory, Staffordshire, by a wailing sound. We went all over the house, which stands quite alone in open country,¹ but could discover nothing. On this occasion neither our mother nor any servants were woke by the noise. But we found a favourite bulldog, a very courageous animal, trembling with terror, with his nose thrust into some billets of firewood which were kept under the stairs. On June 28th, 1863, our mother died.

¹ Mr. Myers was shown a photograph of the house with garden and fields round it, which accords with this description.

The next occasion was by far the most startling. About the end of August, 1879, we were at our father's rectory. He had been an invalid for some time, but was not worse than usual, and, in fact, performed service on Sunday, 31st August, though he died on September 9th. On a night, then, towards the end of August, we had all gone to bed, viz., our father, we two daughters in separate rooms, our brother F. H. Cowpland, since deceased, a groom, a cook, and a young housemaid, sleeping in different parts of the house, which was large for a country rectory. The night was calm; there were no trains anywhere near, no other houses, no screech-owls, no possibility of passers-by, and ordinarily, all was perfectly still. But on that night between 12 and 1 o'clock every person in the house, except our father, was awake by a terrible sound of shrieking or wailing, unlike anything which we have ever heard, except on the other occasions here mentioned, but louder than at any other time. It seemed to come from the passage leading past our father's door. My sister and I leapt out of bed—no one could have slept through such a sound—struck matches and lit candles, and rushed out without even waiting to put dressing-gowns on. We met in the passage, and there, too, met my brother and the three servants, all equally terrified with ourselves. The wail or shriek seemed borne on a wind (though the night was still); it seemed inside the house, among the rafters, and after a time, which might perhaps be a minute or more, it seemed to pass out at a window and died away. The bulldog ran under a bed. In great alarm, we went into our father's room, but he was sleeping peacefully—not heavily, but quite undisturbed by the noise. Next morning we cautiously alluded to it, but he had heard nothing. We think it absolutely impossible that anyone in ordinary sleep could have slept through that noise, and can only suppose that the noise in some way did not sound to him. He died about a fortnight afterwards, September 9th, 1879. With regard to the gloomy character of the noise heard, we may add that our father, though personally happy to depart, and full of faith, was for our sakes very reluctant to die just then, knowing that his death would leave us in much trouble of various kinds.¹

In 1885 I (Mrs. Treloar) was married and living in my husband's house, The Firs, Bromyard. Mrs. Gardiner was staying with us. My brother, F. H. Cowpland, was living five miles off at the Upper House, Bishop's Frome, Staffordshire. He was not ill in the middle of May. But we two sisters, Emily Corbett, and other servants (Mr. Treloar was away from home)

¹ In a letter written in March, 1888, Mrs. Treloar thus describes the incident: "At between 1 and 2 o'clock we were all asleep, when the most extraordinary sound awoke the household. I got up, lit my candle, went into my sister's room and found her up also. The sound as I went there seemed to rush past me and was like an awful howling followed by shriek upon shriek, accompanied by what seemed to be a strong wind, although everything out of doors was perfectly still. My sister and I ran to my brother's room and there found him up; the three servants also were coming down the stairs from the top of the house. The cook burst into tears and said, 'Oh, the master! the master! That is his warning.' The sound was still continuing. We went into my father's room and there found him sleeping most peacefully. . . .

A curious circumstance connected with it was, we had three dogs sleeping in my sister's and my bedrooms and they were all cowering down with affright, their bristles standing straight up; one—a bulldog—was under the bed and refused to come out, and when removed was found to be trembling all over."

again heard the wail at night, though not so loudly as before. We got up from bed and looked about, but could find nothing. On May 26th, 1885, our brother died.

Again, at the end of August, 1885, I (Mrs. Treloar), Emily Corbett, and other servants not now traceable, heard the same sound. The Firs, however, was not so solitary a house as Weeford Rectory, and the noise was not so overwhelming as before my father's death. I endeavoured to persuade myself that it might have been caused by men in the road; but I felt very uneasy about Mrs. Gardiner, who had gone to stay at Bettws-y-Coed, being rather out of health. Mrs. Gardiner is still alive and well, but another sister, Miss Annie Cowpland, who was perfectly well when the wailing was heard, died about a week later from diphtheria.

Emily Corbett, the servant above mentioned, cannot write, but the part containing particulars of what she heard was read over to her and she stated they were correct, and affixed her mark.

Mrs. Treloar saw an apparition of this same sister at the time, so far as can be ascertained, of her sickening with the virulent form of diphtheria, of which, in a very few days she died; and an apparition of her was seen, apparently simultaneously, or almost simultaneously, in another room, by a niece of hers. It is also interesting to note, as apparently showing a family tendency, that Mrs. Treloar's mother three times saw apparitions of people at the time of their death. Accounts of all these cases are printed in the *Journal* for December, 1888.

The following case deserves consideration in connection with the two just given. The narrator does not wish her name to be published, nor does her sister, who, however, confirms the account¹ (P. 63.)

The incident here narrated by one of the witnesses, occurred in a country house on the northern coast of Cornwall, where dwelt (and still dwells) one of those old Cornish families whose name bespeaks their Celtic origin. Though it happened long ago, many are now living who would not like to see their name in print in connection with so strange a story, therefore it cannot be made public.

At the time of the occurrence, one of the sons, a boy 11 years of age, was ill of scarlet fever, but his condition had so much improved that his father and sisters confidently expected his recovery; an opinion which was not shared by one at least of the doctors, nor by his mother and aunt, who were his devoted nurses. John himself had, from the first, looked Death in the face, and prepared to meet him.

On a bright afternoon in the end of March, the setting sun was lighting up the west room, in which three of John's sisters and his next brother, young people between the ages of 10 and 20, were indulging in an animated discussion. They had just come up from dinner, at which their father had spoken with some scorn of the unwillingness of the young doctor, who had been there that morning, to admit decided improvement in his patient; although he

¹ Another curious instance of a violent and unexplained noise disturbing a whole household is described in *Phantasms of the Living* (Case 302), Vol. II., p. 149, and is worth referring to.

allowed that both strength and appetite had increased. Their mother had made no reply to their father's sanguine expectations, but sat silent with tears in her eyes. The young people took their father's view, and were indignant that any one should doubt John's recovery. One of them made a satirical remark, at which they all laughed.

Before that laugh ceased, there rang through the room, as if uttered by a person standing on the landing at the open door, a loud and piercing shriek; then a pause, and another shriek; after another pause, a third, louder, deeper, and ending in a gurgling rattle, like the last effort of expiring nature. Horrified indeed they all were; time can never efface the remembrance of those awful sounds.

Their father, who was alone in the drawing-room on the other side of the hall, came hastily across to the foot of the staircase, and calling to one of his daughters, who he knew was in the west room, asked, "What was the matter; who was screaming in that dreadful manner?" Immediate inquiries were made by his orders, for he would not allow for a moment there could be any but a natural cause. The servants were at tea in a distant part of the house, and they all gave the same account. They had heard three shrieks, uttered by a woman's voice, which appeared to come from the hall or west room; certainly not from their part of the house.

The youngest child, two and a-half years old, was with her nurse in a room not far from the west room. She asked in great astonishment, "Who screams, Ellen? I didn't scream."

The strangest part remains to be told. The sick-room was so situated that sounds in the hall and staircase were audible there; and soon after, the short, single bark with which an old spaniel always announced the arrival of the doctors, was heard there. But the awful shrieks which ran through every other part of the house were not heard. John, and his mother and aunt who were with him, were quite unconscious that anything had happened. Three weeks after, John died, strong in faith and hope; for him, no warning was needed.

Every attempt to discover a natural cause was made, but in vain, by those most anxious to deprive the circumstance of significance. No other interpretation could be given but that it was a warning specially sent to those who needed it; and its immediate effect was to produce a state of mind in those who heard it, which prepared them for the event that was to follow.

Fifteen years after, when the beloved youngest daughter lay in the sleep from which she never awoke, sounds of hysterical wailing and sobbing went about the house, but she heard them not. Two of the sons died abroad, but no warning sound was heard; nor, when the aged father and mother departed.

Such are the facts; who shall interpret them?

It will be observed that most of these "Banshees" were heard by several people, so that, if not real natural sounds, they must have been collective hallucinations, on which see *Phantasms of the Living*, Chapter XVIII. This concludes the class of auditory hallucinations.

VERBAL PROPHECIES.

From my third class of cases—that of verbal prophecies by persons

professing to see into the future—evidence of a definite and unambiguous kind might be expected; but we have only three cases at first-hand, of which the following (P. 7) appears to me to be the strongest. The lady who communicated it to us (in 1882), and who desired that her name should not be given, says that when in America she was taken by a Spiritualist friend to a medium's house. She then continues:—

Though I had only arrived in Boston the day before, her guides instantly recognised that I came over the water, and opened up, not only my past life, but a great deal of the future. They said I had a picture of my family with me, and on producing it, the medium told me (in trance) that two of my children were in the spirit world, and, pointing to one son in the group, she said, "You will soon have this one there; he will die suddenly,—but you must not weep for him; he will be taken from the evil to come. It is not often permitted to tell these things, but we see it is best for you, that you may know it is no accident."

I had not been home many weeks, before my son, a brave boy of 17, was killed at a game of football.

Mr. Podmore was shown a copy of the photograph in question, which represented a group of eight or ten children.

This case seems to me remarkable, but we find in it again the want of detail which lessens the value of so many of the cases I am quoting, and I fear it is impossible to obtain more information about it. It is very difficult to estimate the probability that this true statement was purely accidental without knowing whether it is picked out of many things said by the medium, of which the larger part were either easy to guess or false, and have very likely been forgotten. It is clear that if enough things are said some will in the long run be true, and my experience with a medium of this kind¹ is that a great many guesses are made and attempts to draw information from oneself. Still the prophecy is undeniably a bold one, nor is it the kind of prophecy which one would suppose likely to be good for the trade.

The fourth class—non-externalised impressions of various kinds—is not a large one in our collection, and as it happens contains no case which seems to me to be worth quoting at the present stage of the investigation.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF DREAM-EVIDENCE.

There remains to be considered the evidence from dreams. As already stated, about two-thirds of our first-hand cases are dreams, and it is on them that the argument for premonitions mainly rests, which in itself puts the premonitory evidence in a lower rank than the

¹ Probably the medium concerned in the narrative, but our informant is not certain about this.

telepathic. For there are special sources of weakness in dream-evidence, which have been so fully discussed in *Phantasms of the Living*, Chapter VIII. (see especially pp. 298-300), that I need not do more than briefly indicate them here. The first is one that occurs at once to every educated person who hears of premonitory dreams:—that there are so many dreams dreamt every night that some of them must come true. This objection does not apply—at least in any obvious way—to the waking hallucinations with which we have hitherto been chiefly concerned. Such a hallucination is for most persons who have one—including most of our informants—either a singular or a very rare experience; and it is an experience which is not likely to be forgotten. Hence, if any one has a waking hallucinatory vision, suggesting the idea of death, of a near relative then in good health, and the relative dies very soon after, the coincidence is at any rate a remarkable one; but, considering the immense number of dreams which we must suppose to have occurred within the period from which our records are taken, the mere fact that the dream of a relative's death has been soon followed by the event is hardly worth noting.

But this general objection to the evidential value of dreams is not insuperable; it can be overcome if the correspondence between the dream and the event is sufficiently definite and detailed: since the probability that such a correspondence could occur by accident diminishes very rapidly with each detail that is added. Here, however, we have to notice a special source of weakness in the *quality* of dream-evidence, which is independent of the frequency of dreams, viz.: that our memory for dreams being less vivid and less trustworthy than our memory for waking experiences, details are more apt to be unconsciously *read back* into dreams, so that the dreams assume a definiteness and precision and fulness of detail which do not really belong to them. This source of weakness is excluded, if the dream has been told to some one else before the fulfilment arrives,—as is the case in most of the instances which I am about to give—so far as we can rely on the memory of the person to whom it was told. But this confirmatory memory—especially if it has to recall events some years old—must be supposed to have not only the average liability to error which attaches to human memories generally, but also a further special liability to error due to (1) the tendency we all have to exaggerate the marvellous, (2) the tendency to yield unconsciously to the dreamer's strong conviction that he mentioned *before* the event what he has only mentioned afterwards, (3) the tendency to ante-date the impression produced by these subsequent repetitions. I dwell on this liability to error in the confirmatory memory—of the effect of which we had one undoubted and striking example in collecting the evidence for *Phantasms of the Living*—not because I wish to exaggerate it, but

in order to emphasise the great advantage, from an investigator's point of view, of a written record, in any case of this kind, where exactness in details is fundamentally important.

There are other ways, besides correspondence of definite details, in which the evidential weakness of dream-evidence due to the frequency of dreams may be at least diminished. Thus if the dream that appears premonitory was of a unique or peculiarly impressive kind, it immediately falls into a special class of dreams, much smaller than the whole genus: so that the probability of its coincidence with the event being due to accident is proportionately diminished. But it is important that this unique or impressive character should be noted before fulfilment; since we so frequently forget our dreams altogether that it is difficult to feel sure that any particular fulfilled dream is really unique because it seems so after fulfilment. To take an extreme case: If I dreamt once a week that the house would catch fire the next day, I should clearly not be justified in regarding it as even a curious coincidence if the fire actually occurred. But supposing I always forgot the dreams except on the particular occasion when the actual fire recalled it, it would have the false appearance of a striking premonition. And dreams may be remembered for a time after waking, but make no permanent impression when not fulfilled, such as an exactly similar dream would do if it were strikingly fulfilled.

The following case shows how quite impressive dreams may be forgotten if not recalled by their apparent fulfilment. It is curious that it is one of the very few dreams in our collection which have conveyed a useful warning. (P. 487.) It is from Mrs. Reay, 99, Holland-road, Kensington.

September 17th, 1884.

I was going to spend the day with my sister at Roehampton, and the night previous, just as I was going to sleep, I was startled by a vision before me of the carriage, which was to meet me at Mortlake Station, being upset in the road close by her house. This quite woke me up, and I tried to forget it, but on going off to sleep again the same vision returned, exactly as at the first, and I then began to feel very nervous about my visit of the next day; but eventually I went to sleep, and it did not come back to my mind. When I woke in the morning it was as a dream, quite gone.

I went by train to Mortlake, and had to wait at the station for a few minutes. Then the groom drove up quickly with a pony carriage, and apologised for the carriage not being there, but the order had not been given in time to get it ready.

Everything went on smoothly till we were driving up the lane to my sister's house, when the horse became very restive, the groom got down, but could find nothing wrong, so we went on; this happened a second and a third time, but when he was examining the horse for the third time my vision of the night before suddenly came back to me, and I told the groom I would get out and walk to the house; he tried to dissuade me, but I felt nervous

and insisted upon walking, so he drove off by himself, and had only got a very short distance from me when the horse became quite unmanageable. I hurried on some men in the road to help him, but before they reached him the carriage, horse and groom were all in a confused broken heap in the hedge, just as I had seen it the night before, though not exactly in the same spot. The groom managed to extricate himself, but when I got up to him he said he was so thankful I insisted upon getting out, for he could not possibly have saved me from a dreadful accident.

I had no fear of horses. I should certainly not have left the carriage but for the forewarning of the previous night.

EMILY REAY.

If my husband was awake I possibly should mention the circumstance to him before going to sleep, but it is some time since and I forget. I could not have mentioned it to him afterwards, as it had quite gone from my mind till the accident took place.

Mr. Reay writes :—

I also recollect about a dream my wife had, and the carriage accident. In the evening of the accident I well remember her, when recounting the incident to me, telling me it was the sudden recurrence to her mind of a dream she had had the previous night that induced her, contrary to the wish of the groom, who was driving, to insist upon quitting the carriage, after the third time the horse became so restive.

S. REAY.

Mr. Gurney adds a note that Mrs. Reay had told him this story in a personal interview, and that he feels sure that it is accurate.

RECOGNITION OF DREAM-SCENERY.

What has been said above of the unconscious reading back of details into dreams after the supposed fulfilment, will explain why I cannot regard the mere recognition of dream-scenery as satisfactory evidence of any supernatural character in a dream. But there is one class of cases in which such recognition has a special evidential value, that is, when, upon recognising the place, the percipient is able, owing to his dream, to make some assertion as regards present or future, which he would have been unable to make had he not dreamt it; if, for instance, he can say in a place quite unknown to him, "Round the next corner there is such and such a shop"; or, "In a few minutes I shall meet so and so." First to recognise the place and thence to predict the incident is evidently a very different thing from first recognising the incident and then the place, provided the incident is of a sufficiently definite and improbable kind. We have some cases of this kind, but not, I think, any quite conclusive ones. The following is, perhaps, the strongest. (P. 95.) It appeared in the *Spectator* in 1881 :—

I was staying with a friend, a clergyman, in South Carnarvonshire, in March, 1877, I think, and dreamt that I was one of a shooting party. One

of the party shot a woodcock. When I awoke I was impressed with a very vivid recollection of my dream, and its *locality*, which, as it appeared to me, I had never seen before.

I had no occasion to mention the dream until the afternoon, when the following circumstances occurred. Returning with my friend from a long walk in the neighbourhood of Madym Park, we chanced to fall in with the Squire's gamekeeper carrying his gun on his shoulder. My friend and the keeper walked on some 50 or 60 yards in advance of me.

They presently turned off the road at right angles, and disappeared from my view. When I came to the spot where they had left the road, I saw them following a path through a dingle. Though I had never been in the neighbourhood before, I felt the scene was familiar to me. I stopped to collect my thoughts and reconcile the inconsistency. In a moment it flashed upon me that this was the scene of my last night's dream. I had a strange feeling of expectation; the identity of the scene became every moment clearer and clearer; my eyes fell on the exact spot where the woodcock of my dream had risen; I was certain the event of my dream would be inevitably re-enacted. I felt I must speak, and that there was not a moment to lose. I shouted to my friend, "Look out! I dreamt I shot a woodcock here last night." My friend turned and replied, "Did you?"

The words were hardly out of his mouth and the gun off the keeper's shoulder (I was still intently gazing on the very foot of ground), when up gets a woodcock—the woodcock of my dream, and falls to the keeper's gun—a capital snap shot. We were all not a little astonished, the keeper, moreover, remarking that he thought all the woodcocks had left the country some weeks before.—I am, sir, &c.,

THOMAS WARREN TREVOR.

The Vicarage, Penmon, Beaumaris.
October 8th, 1881.

In reply to questions, Mr. Trevor wrote on June 9th, 1884:—

1. I have no recollection of having ever had a prevision or any other psychical experience at any other time.
2. Woodcocks are not rare in the district during the season, but none had been seen by the keeper for some weeks before, and the season was considered to be over; this alone constitutes the unusualness of killing a woodcock in that particular place.

Appended is a letter from the Rev. Canon Johnson to Mr. Trevor, written, as Mr. Trevor tells us, "quite independently of my narrative, which he did not see before he wrote."

Leaniestyn Rectory, Carnarvonshire.

June 11th, 1884.

DEAR TREVOR,—I have a perfect recollection of what you allude to. You were spending a couple of days with me in March, when one morning I took you to see a place in the neighbourhood, where you had never previously been. On our arrival there, the day being fine, and having fallen in with the keeper (poor fellow! since dead), I proposed going down to the marsh to take a farewell shot at the snipe, the present close season not

having been then fixed. This we did, and after a time returned towards the house, skirting the covers as we went, when all at once, after crossing a lane into a glade between two woods, you caught hold of me with a scared look on your face, and exclaimed, "Good Heavens! I dreamt last night I saw this place, and a woodcock got up just there," pointing to the edge of one of the covers towards which the keeper was approaching with the gun; and whilst I, half surprised, half amused, was beginning to question you on the matter, much to our joint surprise a woodcock actually did rise from the very spot you had pointed out, and was immediately shot by the keeper.—W. JOHNSON.

The coincidence is certainly striking. At the same time, it has to be admitted that the evidential value of this case, regarded as a prediction of an unexpected event after recognition of the scene depends on the possibility of accurately discriminating which was the first of two very nearly simultaneous mental acts—the idea that the woodcock would rise and the perception that it was rising. Woodcocks do not, I presume, rise absolutely without warning. There is doubtless some slight sound, some slight movement of the herbage as the bird begins to move and before it is visible, which would instinctively suggest a woodcock to a practised sportsman. And we should, I think, be attributing to Mr. Trevor exceptional power of observing the sequence of his own ideas if we assumed that he had not had any such instinctive perception of the woodcock before he felt the conviction that it would rise. The whole thing, it will be observed, passed in a few seconds. In another case—in which the coincidence, apart from illusion of memory, would be also striking—I think there is special reason for supposing such illusion to have occurred. Mr. A. writes in February, 1883 (P. 385):—

In the spring of 1878 I had an extraordinarily vivid dream, so vivid that it made a great impression on me, and the leading facts of it remained indelibly fixed upon my mind. When the dream took place I was residing in London.

In the autumn of 1878 I paid a visit to the United States, and while there went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a place I had never been to before. I arrived at Pittsburgh at 11.30 p.m., and went straight to my hotel, which was situated close to the railway station. The following morning I made my way into the town to find the offices of a man whose acquaintance I had made in Paris during the *summer* of 1878. As I advanced up the main street, everything seemed strangely familiar to me, and then it suddenly flashed upon me, "Why, this is the place I saw in that dream." As this startling fact dawned upon me, I found I had reached the street I required (which intersected the one I was in), and, not knowing how the numbers ran, I was about to ask for information, when I remembered that in my dream the office I had visited was on a hill, with shops on either side of it. Looking to the right, I noticed that there was a considerable elevation to the street, and determined to test my dream. I walked direct to the group of houses, and, stopping in front of the centre house, said to myself, "If this is not some

wonderful coincidence, P.'s offices ought to be here." There on the side of the doorway, amongst numerous other names, was the name of my friend, and I walked through the dark entrance passage, up a narrow flight of stairs, and straight into my friend's office.

There was a second incident in this remarkable dream that was also fulfilled in every particular:—I dreamt that I was in what appeared to me to be a library, and that there I had a struggle with a very powerful man, and succeeded in getting the best of the encounter. I then (in my dream) left the room, and passing down a narrow staircase with a man in front of me, who appeared to be an intimate friend, was struck by the curious manner in which his hair grew at the back of his neck, and made some laughing remark with regard to it.

Now this second portion of my dream was fulfilled in every particular. In my friend's office (he was a lawyer, and his room was filled with books) I had a wrestling match (quite a friendly one *bien entendu*) with another American lawyer, who was supposed to be the strongest man in the town, and got the best of it. My dream never came into my head at this time, but later on in the afternoon I was following my friend down the stairs when I was struck by the curious growth of his hair, and said, laughingly, "Why, P., you have got a regular duck's tail." Leaning forward I seized hold of it, meaning to give him a hearty pull, but as I did so the recollection of my dream suddenly flashed upon me, and I sat right down upon the stairs, utterly astounded for the moment. Now you must bear in mind that at the time of my dream I had never seen this friend.

The reason why this dream made such a very extraordinary impression upon me was that I could in no way account for the incidents in it being so impressed upon me, as there was really nothing in them to account for it. I have no recollection of mentioning the dream to anyone before its fulfilment, and have only related it to two people since—viz., to my friend on the spot, as an explanation of my sitting on the stairs like a stuck pig, and some two or three years ago to my mother.

I may, perhaps, add that in 1878 I was 26 years of age, in robust health, and one of the last men in the world to indulge in any superstitious nonsense.

It is the second part of this dream which makes me think that Mr. A. was the victim of a memory-illusion, because it seems to me difficult to believe that, *after* he had recalled his dream, the wrestling match should occur without his at once remembering that it also occurred in the dream, if it really had done so. I think, therefore, that we have here a case where the supposition that incidents were read back into the dream is more than a mere conjecture. If I am right, it is worth noting how very strong the memory-illusion was when it came.

DREAMS FORESHADOWING DEATHS.

The dreams I have now to relate have almost all been either told or acted on before fulfilment. I will begin with death cases. Of course, as we must all die, a mere dream of death has no value in itself. It must include the date of death or some unlikely circumstance connected

with the death. In the case I will first give (P. 88) nothing is remembered of the dream except a date associated with the idea of misfortune.

Mr. Edisbury, Belgrave House, Wrexham, writes : —

February 4th, 1884.

In the year 1859, I was with a medical man here as student. On the night of June 9th, in that year, I dreamed a dream, and when I awoke in the morning I could not recollect the details, but the date, June 9th, 1864, was forcibly impressed on my memory.

I went to the surgery and told the assistant surgeon of my dream, and I said, "Look here, I will write the date on the underpart of this mantel-piece, 'June 9th, 1864, J. F. E.,' and if you are here you will see that on that day I shall die, or a calamity will overtake me." I wrote as above; time went on. I left the profession, went into a business. In 1863, June 9th, I married, and on *June 9th, 1864*, my wife died, and only on the evening of that day did the recollection of my dream (five years before) come back to me.

The end of that month I took two friends up to the old surgery, and there was my memo : "June 9th, 1864, J. F. E."

Strange ! is it not ?

J. F. EDISBURY.

In answer to questions, Mr. Edisbury wrote in February, 1884 :—

Did I think the dream betokened calamity ?

Yes—so much so that I told those in the surgery (where I noted the date on the mantel-shelf) that something terrible would happen to me on that date (June 9th, 1864), and the impression remained many weeks, but as time went on it escaped my thoughts until the evening before my wife's death—when it came like a "flash of lightning" on my mind, as the doctor came downstairs and said, "There is no hope for your wife."

Have I ever had other dreams making equally strong impressions ?

No—not such strong impressions—but have very frequently had trivial circumstances verified, of which I had previously dreamed.

Did I note down any other dream ?

No—not in writing.

Recently (1888) we wrote to Mr. Edisbury, asking whether the memorandum was made in pencil or in ink. In reply he states that he wrote it with a pen. In this letter he gives substantially the same account of the experience, but refers to the dream as a "thrice dreamt dream." Also he gives 1858 as its date instead of 1859, so that there seems to be a slight uncertainty as to when it occurred.

All the persons mentioned in this narrative, except Mr. Edisbury himself, are now dead, so that no corroboration is possible. The surgery also no longer exists, having been altered and turned into a painter's workshop. And there is no contemporary record of the event, so that we are dependent on Mr. Edisbury's unaided memory. It is a memory, however, not only of the dream, but of a very peculiar record of it which marks it off from other dreams.

In the next case (P. 96) the date of death is again the important feature. It is from Mrs. M. Smith, 32, Beaumont-square, W.C.

Some 12 years ago my husband was in Scotland, where he had a staff appointment. His mother was an old woman ; she lived in Ireland. I dreamed three nights running she was dying. The third time, I jumped up and said to Major Smith, " Oh that horrid dream again, and some one has just whispered in my ear, ' She will last but five weeks.' " He laughed at me. This was 5 o'clock in the morning ; winter, and dark. When daylight came, I rose and wrote down the dream. In it I saw her on a bed, high-pillowed up. The place was strange to me. Each time I dreamt, I tried to get to her, as she wanted me ; but, as in nightmare, I could not move a step.

I received a letter that or next day to say she was very well, had, indeed, " taken a new lease of life." My letter crossed this. About four days later, I got one to say she had been " taken for death "—struck by paralysis, and had asked for me. Small-pox was in Dublin very bad, her coachman was ill of it, and one of her sons. My husband refused to allow me to go. In a day or two came another letter urging me to go, and sending me money for my journey. Major Smith still refused, saying, if I should go it would be without his sanction : he feared the infection for me. However, I packed a portmanteau ready to start should he say yes. She lasted exactly five weeks to the very hour, dying at (making allowance for the difference of time) the hour and moment of the five weeks' end. Almost her last words were, " Why did not Jane come to me ?"

Here was my dream in full. I tried to get to her but failed. She died in Dublin in strange lodgings.

Major Smith writes September 12th, 1884 :—

All the particulars of my wife's dream as narrated by her are strictly correct. I remember her waking me and stating that for the third time she had dreamt of my mother's death, and that someone had said in her ears that she, my mother, would last but five weeks. This my mother did, to the very hour, I believe. She was in her usual health at the time of the dream.

M. E. SMITH, Major.

Mr. Podmore writes :—

In conversation, Mrs. Smith explained that at the time of the dream her mother-in-law was actually in the strange lodgings, so that the only prophetic part of the dream was the prevision of the date of death. Mrs. Smith has had no other prophetic dream ; but has frequently had obscure presentiments of misfortune. She has also seen an apparition which may have been veridical. (L. 1018.)

Here again no contemporary documentary evidence can now be procured.

A third case of date foreseen is older than either of these. It was

sent to us by Mr. John Holmes, of Morden College, Blackheath. (P. 426.)

January 16th, 1883.

Having been connected with certain speculative transactions, which terminated unfortunately, it was considered incumbent upon me, in the spring of 1853, to settle with numerous creditors, which two brothers of mine undertook to arrange. I may mention that at the time referred to it was assumed that I should come into possession, on the decease of two uncles, of considerable property and money; consequently the basis of the settlement was the conveyance of my interest in the said reversion on the death of the parties referred to. My brothers, without my privity or consent, agreed with creditors to become sureties for the payment of their claims, and in certain exceptional cases to pay interest until the property was realised. Well, in the course of a week or two, I met, by special appointment, my brothers and different solicitors representing creditors, and various deeds were placed before me for my signature, but upon discovering that my brothers had rendered themselves personally liable in every case for payment of principal, and in some instances for payment of interest, I declined executing any of the documents then, but at the entreaty of my brothers, who declared their perfect willingness to sign, and undertake their responsibility by so doing, I consented to think the matter seriously over, and to give a final answer at noon of the following day. I retired to rest, no doubt with my thoughts much absorbed with the subject of the proposed settlement with my creditors, and, as it seemed before awakening, a gentlemanly individual addressed me, or appeared so to do, observing, "You will be surprised to hear that—was taken ill on Thursday, the 13th, and is dead, and his surviving brother is not expected to live many weeks." I replied, or as I seemed to reply, "Thursday was not the 13th, but the 16th. How is that? there must be some mistake." Then came the remark, "What I have stated is absolutely true," at the same time reiterating the assertion as to the day and date.

After breakfast, the extraordinary information having made a forcible impression on my mind, I referred to an almanack at a friend's chambers, and ascertained that Thursday the 13th only occurred once during the year of 1853, and that it was in the month of October. When my brothers called upon me at noon, I declared my unalterable determination to do nothing further in the settlement of my affairs, on the basis before indicated, until November, being ridiculed for my refusal, when I stated my reason. Months went by, and with the exception, probably, of myself, the occurrence of my ghostly visitor had been forgotten, when I received a letter from one of my brothers, who resided in the North of England, on Saturday, the 15th of October, to the effect that—had been taken ill on Thursday, and was dead, and that his brother was not expected to survive many weeks; he died, in fact, on the 5th November following.

I was unable to induce certain influential parties to intervene, in the interval between spring and November, so as to induce the old gentlemen to put their respective houses in good order, so that in case of death their worldly matters would be free from dispute or entanglement, the consequence

of which was that instead of succeeding to estates and property of considerable value, I became a party to 13 Chancery suits, so that no wise end was answered by the visitation I was favoured with, excepting the absence of any involvement on the part of my brothers in the settlement of my accounts.

JOHN HOLMES.

In answer to inquiries, Mr. Holmes says :—

January 25th, 1883.

My uncles, at the time of my unexpected visitor, were old men, but not considered to be in failing health, and the family was regarded as long-lived which you will believe to be the case when I inform you that no death occurred amongst my father's nine brothers and sisters for 47 years. My father and grandfather died at the age of 90 or thereabouts.

I did not recognise the man whom I saw in my vision as a friend, but I was under the impression that I had seen him before, but any inquiry on that point was checked by the individual at once entering upon the apparent object of his mission.

The three brothers, as well as my father, to whom I related the occurrence, have died since, but a brother who resides in the North may recollect having heard me relate the narrative.

Later, he writes :—

I wrote to a brother of mine, residing at Liverpool, as to his recollection of the narrative of my dream in the spring of 1853, in connection with the death of our surviving uncles. He replied on May 25th as follows :—

“I well remember the account of your dream or vision which you refer to, but where is the double-walled room in which the money or title deeds are to be found? I only hope you will yet find some clue or traces, as I know there was at least £100,000 not accounted for.”

I cannot recall to mind anything in relation to the inquiry concerning the double-walled room, &c., &c.

JOHN HOLMES.

May 28th, 1883.

The following corroboration is from Mr. W. Bingham, 161, Sloane-street, S.W.

July 21st, 1884.

In reply to your questions, I am glad to have it in my power to corroborate my friend Mr. Holmes's statement to you, of his having communicated to me his extraordinary premonitory dream, as I considered it to be, and told him so at the time—the next morning I believe—many months previous to its apparent fulfilment in a manner so remarkably circumstantial.

W. BINGHAM.

In the next case the circumstance dreamt of in addition to the death is of a different character. (P. 384.) The case seems to me to be a very remarkable one, and none the less so from the somewhat grotesque character of the dream, which was communicated to us about three months after it occurred. For clearness I will begin with the account of the death taken from the *York Herald*.

YORK HERALD, *Friday, July 28, 1882.* "SCARBRO'. SAD DEATH OF A GENTLEMAN VISITOR.—An accident of a melancholy character, and which unfortunately has been attended with fatal results, occurred on Wednesday evening to a London gentleman named Frederick Schweizer, who for the past few days has been staying at the Grand Hotel. It appears that on the afternoon of that day the deceased, along with a casual acquaintance named Deverell, who is staying at the Castle Hotel, went for a ride on horseback along the beautiful Forge Valley rides. When near Ayton the deceased was somewhat in advance of his companion, and it is surmised that his steed shied at a white gate; anyhow he was thrown on to the road, and the horse galloped away. His friend on getting up to him dismounted, and a passing carriage was utilised to convey him to his hotel. This was at six o'clock, and three hours subsequently the deceased expired, it is supposed from concussion of the brain."

The accident occurred on July 26th.

Mr. Schweizer's mother, Mrs. Schweizer, now of 6, Addison-road North, wrote on October 28th, 1882:—

I send you the particulars of the dream I had just eight days before it was realised, though why I could not be told of the unfortunate accident as it occurred I can't understand, nor why Henry Irving's name should be mentioned.—J. SCHWEIZER.

On the 18th of July I had the following dream or vision (I can't say which):—I was walking on the edge of a high cliff, the open sea in front, dear Fred and a stranger a little in advance, when Fred slipped suddenly down the side of the cliff, and in doing so gazed with the *most* intense anguish into my very soul. I shall *never* forget that look. I turned to the stranger and said, "May I ask who you are and what is your name?" He replied, "My name is Henry Irvin." I said, "Do you mean Irving the actor?" He said, "No, not exactly: but something after that style." I said, in reply, "Now that I look at you, you have the same agonised expression in your face that I have so often noticed in Irving's photographs in the shop windows." So I awoke in a miserable state of mind. It was between 5 and 6 a.m. The servants came down soon after. The dream seemed to haunt me; I could think of nothing else. When I met my eldest son John, at breakfast, I asked at once, where was Fred? (I must state here that Fred was the travelling partner of three brothers, and then in the North of England on a journey.) His brother, after hearing the dream, said, "Oh, Fred is all right; he is in Manchester." He saw how miserable this dream made me feel, and he promised at my request to "wire" to me when he got to his counting-house in case there was no letter from Fred, who was in the habit of writing to the firm daily. There was, however, a letter as usual, and when I received no telegram as arranged, I judged that dear Fred was all right. Still the dream was present to my mind, and I thought of it continually. I begged of his brother to tell him to come home. In a day or two I heard he was at Leeds, and next day after that, John the eldest brother said, "Fred says he is going to take a week's holiday at Scarborough," when I at once exclaimed, "I wish he were at home; do write to him

to come back ; he has had holidays enough this year. I shall write to him myself." John said, "Oh, don't ; let him enjoy himself." On this day, before I got out of bed at the same hour, between 5 and 6 a.m., a person seemed to pass the side of my bed, and said into my ear in an audible voice, "You are not done with trouble yet." I started up and awoke, and related the matter at breakfast while talking of Fred to John, and said, "I think it was your father." He said, "Oh, nonsense, that is like the dream you bothered me about a few days ago." This was on the 23rd. On the 24th John mentioned that he had a telegram from Fred to send on £10, that he was enjoying himself immensely, that the weather was glorious. I again wished he were at home, and John said, "He will be here on Friday next." In the morning on the 26th I went to the letter-box, and found a telegram for John, which announced an accident to Fred. John, however, did not like to tell me, and hurried off to the office. I asked John the nature of the telegram, but he said, "Business." On arriving at his office, there was a telegram of a similar kind from the hotel proprietor at Scarborough. Poor Fred was dead at the time, as he only survived the accident three hours. John and I set off at once, and found all over, and next day it was proposed that we should visit the fatal spot. His companion in that unfortunate excursion accompanied us. He sat opposite to me in the carriage, and when I looked at him I remembered the dream of the 18th, and recognised the stranger who had the agonised expression, and asked him at once if his name were "Henry." He said, "Yes, my name is Henry," when I told the dream. He then said, "The most extraordinary part is, I am connected with the Volunteers, and we have private theatricals, and I recite, and am always on those occasions introduced as Henry Irvin, jun."

Mrs. Schweizer says that an account written by her, and substantially the same as the above, was signed by her son and by Mr. Deverell.

In answer to inquiries Mrs. Schweizer said (April, 1888) : "My son Frederick was not acquainted with Mr. Deverell at all, nor was Mr. Deverell known directly or indirectly to me or to any member of my family. . . . We knew nothing about his private theatricals." He was an acquaintance of a friend of Mr. F. Schweizer's and was only introduced to him by his friend on the afternoon of the accident, as a companion for the ride in which the friend could not join. Mr. Deverell was drowned while bathing the following year. Mr. Gurney had an interview with Mrs. Schweizer about this experience only a day or two before his death, and was favourably impressed with her as a witness. The dream, he says, "certainly made a very powerful impression on her, as she told one of her sons next morning to send her a telegram if there was no letter from Fred at the office proving him to be all right. He was away purely on business, and as he had already had a holiday, shortly before, she was not in the least expecting him to have another, and had not the least idea, therefore, of his visiting the seaside . . . Mrs. Schweizer did not see horses in her vision. When

she recognised Deverell as the 'Henry Irving' of her vision (feeling herself the absurdity of this detail), and told him of it, he was extremely impressed—'The blood left his lips,' she said."

There is one well-known dream of death, with detail of a certainly unlikely kind, which will probably occur to every one in this connection; I mean Mr. Williams' dream of Mr. Perceval's murder in 1812. This dream was not recorded before its fulfilment, nor even immediately after it, but we have a printed account dated 1832—20 years later—purporting to be in Mr. Williams' own words, and signed by him. It was sent to us by a great niece of Mr. Perceval's, who had received it from a grandson of Mr. Williams.¹ (P. 607.)

Sundhill, December, 1832.

Some account of a dream which occurred to John Williams, Esq., of Scorrier House, in the County of Cornwall, in the year 1812. Taken from his own mouth, and narrated by him at various times to several of his friends.

Being desired to write out the particulars of a remarkable dream which I had in the year 1812, before I do so I think it may be proper for me to say that at that time my attention was fully occupied with affairs of my own—the superintendence of some very extensive mines in Cornwall being entrusted to me. Thus I had no leisure to pay any attention to political matters, and hardly knew at that time who formed the Administration of the country. It was, therefore, scarcely possible that my own interest in the subject should have had any share in suggesting the circumstances which presented themselves to my imagination. It was, in truth, a subject which never occurred to my waking thoughts.

My dream was as follows :—

About the second or third day of May, 1812, I dreamed that I was in the lobby of the House of Commons (a place well known to me). A small man, dressed in a blue coat and white waistcoat, entered, and immediately I saw a person whom I had observed on my first entrance, dressed in a snuff-coloured coat with metal buttons, take a pistol from under his coat, and present it at the little man above mentioned. The pistol was discharged, and the ball entered under the left breast of the person at whom it was directed. I saw the blood issue from the place where the ball had struck him, his countenance instantly altered, and he fell to the ground. Upon inquiry who the sufferer might be I was informed that he was the Chancellor, I understood him to be Mr. Perceval, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer. I further saw the murderer laid hold of by several of the gentlemen in the room. Upon waking, I told the particulars above related to my wife; she treated the matter lightly, and desired me to go to sleep, saying it was only

¹ The same account, with only verbal differences, is printed in a footnote at the end of Walpole's life of Perceval (1874). Mr. Walpole says that it is "taken from an attested statement drawn up and signed by Mr. Williams, in the presence of the Rev. Thomas Fisher and Mr. Charles Prideaux Brune. It was given by the latter of these gentlemen to the author of this memoir."

a dream. I soon fell asleep again, and again the dream presented itself with precisely the same circumstances. After waking a second time, and stating the matter again to my wife, she only repeated her request that I would compose myself, and dismiss the subject from my mind. Upon my falling asleep the third time, the same dream, without any alteration, was repeated, and I awoke as on the former occasions in great agitation. So much alarmed and impressed was I with the circumstances above related that I felt much doubt whether it was not my duty to take a journey to London, and communicate upon the subject with the party principally concerned. Upon this point I consulted with some friends whom I met on business at the Godolphin mine on the following day. After having stated to them the particulars of the dream itself and what were my own feelings in relation to it, they dissuaded me from my purpose, saying I might expose myself to contempt and vexation, or be taken up as a fanatic. Upon this I said no more, but anxiously watched the newspapers every evening as the post arrived.

On the evening of the 13th of May (as far as I recollect) no account of Mr. Perceval's death was in the newspaper, but my second son, returning from Truro, came in a hurried manner into the room where I was sitting and exclaimed, "Oh! father, your dream has come true. Mr. Perceval has been shot in the lobby of the House of Commons; there is an account come from London to Truro written after the newspapers were printed."

The fact was Mr. Perceval was assassinated on the evening of the 11th.

Some business soon after called me to London, and in one of the print-shops I saw a drawing for sale, representing the place and the circumstances which attended Mr. Perceval's death. I purchased it, and upon a careful examination, I found it to coincide in all respects with the scene which had passed through my imagination in the dream. The colours of the dresses, the buttons of the assassin's coat, the white waistcoat of Mr. Perceval, the spot of blood upon it, the countenances and attitudes of the parties present were exactly what I had dreamed.

The singularity of the case, when mentioned among my friends and acquaintances, naturally made it the subject of conversation in London, and, in consequence, my friend, the late Mr. Rennie, was requested by some of the Commissioners of the Navy that they might be permitted to hear the circumstances from myself. Two of them accordingly met me at Mr. Rennie's house, and to them I detailed at the time the particulars, then fresh in my memory, which form the subject of the above statement.

I forbear to make any comment on the above narrative, further than to declare solemnly that it is a faithful account of facts as they actually occurred.

(Signed) JOHN WILLIAMS.

The close correspondence of the supposed dream scene with the picture may well have been a trick of memory, but it is difficult to see how Mr. Williams' memory can have deceived him as to his having dreamt of a man being shot in the lobby of the House of Commons, before he heard of the murder, and a letter written by Mr. C. R. Fox to Mr. Hensleigh Wedgwood in 1876 affords some corroboration. Mr. Fox was the son of one of the friends to whom Mr. Williams told the dream

on the next day, and was, Mr. Wedgwood tells us, 14 at the time. He says: "I have now no certainty as to the day on which J. W. related his dream, but it is indubitable that he did so before the Chancellor's death." Taking it all together, and allowing for the natural rounding off of an oft-told tale, we cannot, I think, deny that it is a remarkable case.

I have had some hesitation about including the next case (P. 490) because it also is recorded 20 years after the event and it depends entirely on the memory of one man for details. It is at any rate interesting. It was given to us by the narrator, Mr. C. F. Fleet, of 26, Grosvenor-road, Gunnersbury, in April, 1888, when Mr. Gurney had an interview with him. In a letter Mr. Fleet says he can swear to the authenticity of the story, and also that it has been in no way "cooked up" or embellished.

In the year 1868 I was the third mate of the sailing ship *Persian Empire*, of London, homeward bound from Adelaide to London with a full cargo of wood, &c.

We had lost two men who had deserted the ship and gone up to the Gold Fields; hands were scarce in that city, and we thought the ship would have to make the passage home short of two men, but luckily, the day before we meant to sail, a man came on board saying he was most anxious to ship and get home.

The captain was struck with his appearance, which was fine, respectable, and indicative of bravery; he also could show a V. G., very good, discharge from his last ship, so the captain agreed to put him on our articles. The man (who gave the name of Cleary) went ashore with the captain to the shipping office, where he was put on the articles, being told to join the next day at six a.m.

He, however, failed to put in an appearance, so the captain sent me ashore to look him up. After searching in vain for a long time, I turned to go on board, and when nearly reaching the ship, I found him walking about in a most dejected manner and looking very miserable. I asked him why he had not joined the ship, and I could see from his countenance that something was troubling him.

By a little persuasion, however, I induced him to come on board. On the way down to the ship we chatted freely and pleasantly on different topics, and after awhile his look of dejection entirely passed away and the man seemed himself again.

Once, mention was made concerning the qualities of our ship, the *Persian Empire*, by Cleary asking me if she was staunch and a good sea boat, at the same time adding in a peculiar tone of voice that he hoped she would carry him safely home. I said she was everything that could be expected, was only five years old, and on the "first" letter at Lloyd's (A 1). This seemed to satisfy him, and as we had by this time arrived alongside the ship, we jumped on board. The pilot then gave the order to "unmoor ship" and pass the tow rope to the tugboat which was in waiting to take us down the river.

Cleary went to his work cheerfully, we got down to the lightship where we cast off the tug, discharged our pilot and got away to sea, making a good start, the weather being fine.

One night about a week after sailing we had a slight spell of "dirty weather," for it blew a hard gale from the westward, with a high following sea. I had the middle watch (12 to 4), and Cleary, who was in my watch, was taking his turn at the wheel, and as I chanced to be standing near the compass at one time, he thus spoke to me :—

"Mr. Fleet."

"Well," said I, "what is it, Cleary?"

"Why, sir, I would like to explain to you how it was I failed to join the ship on the morning I should have done so."

"What was the reason?" I answered.

"Well, sir, after I left the captain, I went to my lodgings to put my things together and settle a few matters of business, but was kept so late that I had to turn in before finishing what I had in hand, and so had to leave it till the morning. Do you know, sir"—here he lowered his voice and became quite mysterious—"I had a dream that night and a very ugly and extraordinary one it was too. Do you believe in dreams, sir?"

"Well," I answered, "I cannot say that I do, or do not. I have known some astounding ones come true."

"Ah, sir, that's just what's troubling me," he said, and his face grew pale and great beads of perspiration came on his forehead, "but I'll just tell you what I dreamt, sir, and then you'll see. On my way to my lodgings I could think of nothing but the ship I had just joined, and which was going to take me home. As was quite natural, I fell asleep, thinking of her, and at last dreamt that the *Persian Empire* was off the 'pitch,' or exact vicinity, of Cape Horn, South America, and that she, on Christmas morning, was in a very heavy gale and high sea. Well, sir, I, with the rest of my watch, were ordered to secure a boat hanging in davits over the side. I got into the boat, the rest of the watch remaining on deck, and in the middle of the work a most fearful sea broke over us, washing overboard me and another hand, and we were both drowned. I remember no more, sir, and I woke but I cannot get that dream out of my head."

I told him not to allow his mind to be troubled by such nonsense, and tried my best to laugh him out of his fears, but he seemed so deeply impressed with the vividness of the dream that I utterly failed in my object.

He also told me that, during a cyclone which blew in Madras, in 1864, he had swum off with a small line to a barque that was dragging her anchors and fast driving ashore. By so doing he had been the means of saving nine hands out of her by the aid of the life saving apparatus, for which act of gallantry the Humane Society had awarded him their gold medal with a piece of vellum giving an account of the occurrence. These, together with a small bag of gold, were safely locked up in his chest down in the fore-castle and intended for some near relative.

Soon after this, the weather cleared up, but only for a short time, as we fell in with another gale with violent snow and hail-squalls. One night when not far from Cape Horn, it was my first watch (8 to 12), Mr. Douglas, the chief officer, being in charge of the deck. The rest of the watch,

with two exceptions, those being the man at the wheel and the hand on the "look out," were either asleep aft, or "standing by" for orders. Amongst the former was Cleary. I heard a loud cry and on my going down to the main deck to ascertain the cause, I found Cleary looking very pale and evidently much upset about something. I learnt that it was he who had called out, and on my asking him the cause he told me he had had a repetition of the dream. We had great difficulty in calming him as he had worked himself up into a state of nervous excitement almost terrible to behold, but at last he got a little quieter yet kept muttering, "I know it will come true."

The next morning was Christmas Day. The wind was still blowing very hard, and although it was our "watch below" from 8 a.m. until 12 noon, yet the chief officer and I had to remain on deck, as the second officer was too unwell to leave his berth. This came rather hard upon us as we had already "stood" 8 hours watch that night. However, at 8 bells (8 o'clock) Mr. Douglas went below to the captain and reported the weather as still being bad and the barometer on the "fall."

After awhile he came on deck again, and told me that the captain had given him orders to secure the boat hanging in the davits over the port quarter, in the event of the sea increasing. When I heard this order I could not help thinking of Cleary and his dream, at the same time feeling a presentiment that something might happen; however, duty is duty and must be performed sometimes under most trying circumstances. The sea increased considerably and began to break on board with great force, so I went forward to turn the hands out; they one and all obeyed me with the exception of Cleary, who hung back. I called and asked him why he did not come out with the rest of the hands. On my receiving no reply I went right into the forecabin and found him seated on his chest, his face buried in his hands, to all appearances completely overcome.

I took a seat beside him inquiring what was the matter. At first he would not answer, but after a little while he again referred to the dream, saying, with a miserable tone, his face still buried in his hands, "Oh, sir, I fear it is about to come true now," giving this as his reason for not coming on deck with the other men. In answer to my question as to whether he would go to his duty he replied he would not. Then I said at any rate he must go with me to the captain and be put in the "Official Log" for "Refusal of duty," unless he changed his mind. This he said he had determined not to do, so we went to the captain who, after gently persuading him to do that which was required of him like a man, but all to no purpose, produced the log-book, and I was told to call Mr. Douglas to witness and sign the entry. After the captain had made the entry and had read it over to Cleary, who had answered to its being correct, the chief officer took the pen to sign his name. Whilst doing so, Cleary, in an excited tone of voice said, "I will go to my duty, for now I know the other man relating to my dream," at the same time looking at Mr. Douglas, who looked at Cleary and then at me, as much as to say what does it all mean? Whilst going on deck I briefly told the chief officer of the dream. He laughed at the idea of his being the man meant in it. I had a strange foreboding, and it was with no cheerful heart that I went on deck. On our arrival there we found the rest of the hands waiting for orders about the boat. The duty that lay before us was to turn her up clear of the seas

with her keel outwards, and to do this we had to pass a pair of gripes, or broad rope bands, around her, then to hook on a tackle, made fast in the mizen rigging, which, when hauled taut, would turn her up. Cleary jumped into the boat to pass the gripes around her, and Mr. Douglas got over the side for the purpose of handing me the gripes from Cleary, also to overhaul the davit falls, which have to be eased up a little. The chief officer was holding on with one hand to an iron rail running around the quarter-deck, and was in the act of passing the gripes to me, when the man at the wheel, by his bad steering, "luffed" the ship into the wind, and on my looking to windward I saw a very heavy sea coming along, which, for the moment, I thought would capsize the ship and, as a warning to all hands, I sang out, "Look out men, here it comes." We, who were able to do so, rushed to the mizenmast and there held on for dear life, but unfortunately both Mr. Douglas and Cleary were unable to do so in time. The sea struck the ship on the starboard side with very great force, nearly throwing her on her beam ends, flooding the decks and doing much damage, besides washing overboard both those two men. The sea then caught the boat, turning her completely over, breaking the stout iron davits as one would a match, and she, with Cleary clinging to her, was swept away. Mr. Douglas held on to the iron rail, trying in vain to get on board, but the rush of water was too powerful for him, and with a cry for help and a look of agony, which I shall never forget, the poor fellow dropped overboard. We dared not let go our hold of the mast to try and save him for fear of being washed overboard ourselves, so we had the sad spectacle of seeing our poor shipmate drown without being able to save him. As for Cleary, he was swept away at once, therefore there was no chance of saving him. This was not the only disaster, for the man at the wheel had his right shoulder dislocated by being jammed up under the grating, and the boatswain had his left leg broken in two places.

After the sea had somewhat gone off the quarter-deck, I ran up into the mizentop to see what had become of the poor fellows who I feared had met with a watery grave. Mr. Douglas was vainly trying to get on a hencoop, which had been washed overboard from the quarter-deck, full of fowls. A lifebuoy was also close to him, we having thrown them two. Cleary was taking off his oilskin coat, keeping himself up by "treading water" meanwhile, and then tried to reach Mr. Douglas, who could not swim, and was moreover impeded by too much clothing, it being bitterly cold weather. Cleary must have been a very powerful swimmer to have swum in such a sea, for he managed to reach Mr. Douglas, and then try to help him to get on the hencoop. Shortly after they met, a heavy sea came sweeping along which overwhelmed them, for after it had passed away I saw them no more. So, poor fellows, they died together. It was with a sad heart that I went down on deck, as Mr. Douglas and I had been great friends.

We had tried to get out another boat to save them, but in lowering her into the water she, too, got smashed up by a sea, and we lost our Christmas dinner as a sea broke into the galley, washing out its contents and the cook along the deck. But this trouble was as nothing compared with the loss of the two men, which was all we could think of for some time; in fact we had a very miserable Christmas, and one long to be remembered by me.

We arrived in London two months after the accident, and three months after leaving Adelaide.

Standing on the pierhead, amongst the crowd of people watching the ship come into dock, was Mr. Douglas's *fiancée* anxiously expecting to see him. When the captain saw her he went ashore and, in the best way he could, broke the sad news to her. The poor girl was utterly prostrate with grief on hearing what had befallen her lover. After she had recovered somewhat she begged to be allowed to visit his cabin. The captain handed her on board, and then, after awhile, she went ashore again. Whilst the captain was breaking the news to the poor girl, a wild and piercing shriek was heard. We were told that it came from the girl to whom Cleary was to have been married on his arrival home. The scene with her was truly distressing. Learning that Cleary had also been drowned, she fainted, and was taken away by her friends, perfectly helpless and heart-broken.

In this case it will be noticed that, washing overboard, Cape Horn, and Christmas Day are all likely enough ideas to occur to a dreamer about to take that particular voyage. It is in their combination that the strength of the coincidence lies, and the knowledge Cleary must have had of the dangers of Cape Horn, and of the prospect of their reaching it about the time they did of course considerably reduces the improbability of such a combination of ideas. The identification of Mr. Douglas as his fellow-sufferer must either have been an independent impression at the moment, or an instance of the memory-illusion already discussed, for it is impossible that he should have been for a month in the company of the dreamer without being recognised, if he had been vividly presented in the dream.

There are other death-dreams where the improbability of the combination of circumstances dreamt of is hard to estimate. I cannot, for instance, feel sure that a Consul at Salonica would be unlikely to dream that he was murdered by a mob (P. 108); or a railway porter that the station-master's legs were cut off by a train (P. 368); or, that a man having an acquaintance known to be insane and under restraint, and staying in the same house as his wife, would be unlikely to dream of his cutting his throat with a dinner knife (P. 620). And on the ground of too great probability I have also omitted a case (P. 68) where the date of the death was dreamt a fortnight before it occurred, that death, however, having been almost daily expected for two or three months.

A dream of a death very shortly before its quite sudden occurrence seems to have some claim to consideration as evidence for premonition. We have two or three cases of this, of which the two following are the strongest. The first (P. 317) is from Mr. James Cox, Admiralty House, Queenstown, Ireland (Secretary Ret. to the Admiral Commanding in Ireland).

December 18th, 1883.

On Sunday, 11th September, 1881, while proceeding in H.M.S. *Phoenix*, from Newfoundland to Halifax, Nova Scotia, I dreamt that one of

my brother officers was lying dead in a house at Portsmouth. The dream was so vivid that it quite disturbed my mind the following morning, and it was with difficulty that I could shake off the uncomfortable feeling. At breakfast I sat opposite the officer, and looking round the table, I remarked : "I dreamt last night that I saw one of you fellows lying dead, but I won't say which, as I don't want to spoil your appetite." In the course of the afternoon, as we were steaming into Halifax harbour, the officer was sitting at the stove in the wardroom joining in an animated conversation about the speed of the ship, &c. A few minutes after we anchored, I went on shore, and returned again on board at 10 p.m., and as I was about to go below to my cabin, the officer of the watch motioned me to be silent, and approaching me, said "Poor S. is dead, he has just died suddenly"; and as I passed across the mess-room I beheld the officer of my dream lying dead in his cabin.

I am certain that two or three officers who were with me in that ship will remember the circumstances.

In answer to inquiries, Mr. Cox adds :—

I never before or since had any similar vivid dream of death. The case of the chief engineer of the *Phoenix* was so vivid and distressed me so much that I am not likely ever to forget it.

The following is from one of Mr. Cox's brother officers, at the time of the dream and at the time of writing, an engineer on the *Superb* :—

H.M.S. *Superb*, Malta.

January 5th, 1883 (a mistake for 1884).

MY DEAR COX,—I think I can fully corroborate the story that you ask me about, as it made a great impression on my mind at the time, which has never left it. In fact, I have frequently spoken of it to persons who have been speaking of similar affairs, and now I will tell it as nearly as I can. On the morning of the 12th September, 1881, you told me that you had dreamed the night before that you saw Mr. Sharp lying dead in the back room of a printer's shop in Commercial-road, Landport (as far as I recollect it was Trivers'), whither you had been called by some one for the purpose. You said that he had fallen down dead very suddenly, and that when you told the captain of the circumstances, he requested you to make all necessary arrangements with regard to the funeral, &c. You then, in your dream, found yourself in an undertaker's shop, with some one else, engaged in superintending the funeral matters and selecting things, &c. ; and then, as far as I recollect, your dream ended.

All this you told me, and at the same time remarked that we had better not tell Mr. S., as he was rather a nervous man. We laughed over the affair, and thought no more about it. That same evening the subject of your dream actually died suddenly from heart disease, and I think on the following day yourself and Hill went ashore, and selected some coffin fittings, &c., and you told me when you came back how the whole thing flashed through your mind again on finding yourself in the undertaker's shop.

It was the strangest thing that ever came under my actual notice, and I am pleased to be able to corroborate it.—Yours sincerely,

M. HAWKINS.

The next (P. 316) is from a lady who unfortunately does not allow us to print her name, though it may be mentioned to anyone wishing to know it.

My mother died very suddenly on December 14th, 1876, and in the absence of my husband our vicar came to break it to me. I quickly suspected his errand and then told him it was no shock to me, I had been so fully prepared by dreams. I had seen her funeral, and gone through all the last scenes more than once, and so vividly that when I awoke it was a few moments before I could realise that she was still alive.

In answer to inquiries, our informant adds :—

If I had been anxious about my mother at the time, I should not have thought my dreams worth mentioning. I was expecting to pay her a visit in six weeks' time, and she was just as usual when the breaking of a blood vessel on the brain ended her life in a few minutes. I do not remember ever to have had what I call a "warning dream" except on this occasion.

I think for about 10 nights previous to her death, I had vivid representations of her being ill, dying, being buried. I could see her dead, see her funeral.

DREAMS OF ACCIDENTS.

Analogous to death-dreams are dreams of serious accidents. The following (P. 310) is from Miss R. F. Curtis, 37, Springfield-road, St. John's Wood.

On a Saturday night in the autumn of 1882, I dreamt the following :—I was walking down a street in London when a lady in black passed me, who turned round to look at me. I saw she was in tears. The lady hurried on; I hurried after her to see who she was. When I came up to her I found her lying in the road. A number of people had collected. I said, "Is she hurt?" Some said, "She is dead," some that she was not dead. I asked who it was that was lying in the road. They said, "Mrs. C." There was some confusion, and I awoke from my dream. As I had not heard of my friend, Mrs. C., of Clapham Common, for so long, I made inquiries about her among my friends, about a week after I had the dream, and was told Mrs. C. had fallen over a kerb-stone that was very high, and had fallen into the road, much hurt. She had the accident on the Sunday evening following the Saturday night when I had the dream. The dream was remarkably clear, and I do not often dream of my acquaintances. I related it to my sister Jessie, a short time before the accident occurred to Mrs. C. My sister Jessie signs her name in proof that the account above is correct, and that I related the dream to her before the event happened.

ROSAMOND F. CURTIS.

JESSIE KATE CURTIS.

Miss Curtis wrote on December 2nd, 1884 :—

I can safely state that I had no cause of anxiety about Mrs. C. before I dreamt of her.

The next case (P. 336) was sent to us, in 1885, by the Rev. E. N. Pochin, of Barkby, Leicester. The dreamer, Miss E. N., is a parishioner of his.

About the year 1876, I had a dream in which I saw H. B., the wife of the parish clerk, slip down on the causeway opposite to the house of Mr. C. I then saw her carried into Mr. C.'s house, when it appeared that she had sustained some injury from the fall. Nothing that I know of led up to this dream. H. B. was in no wise more likely to slip down, certainly not when I dreamt she did, than anyone else in the parish. I told this dream to several different persons, and amongst others to the vicar, Rev. E. N. Pochin, in the presence of several of my companions, before the facts occurred, which all happened after I had told my dream, exactly as I had dreamt.

Then follows an account of another premonitory dream where the future event was perhaps less unexpected; and of impressions that certain visitors will call that day. The document proceeds:—

All this I declare to be faithful and true, in token of which I sign this statement, as also my mother, who confirms it in its several particulars; and the vicar also in those parts where his name is mentioned, and my brother, who knows these facts.

This document is signed by Mr. Pochin, Miss E. N., and her mother and brother.

The following two dreams occurred to Mr. J. W. Skilton, formerly an engine driver in Ohio, and now living in Florida. They appeared in 1886, in *Mind in Nature*, a periodical published in Chicago. He says:—

Six times has my locomotive been overturned, while running at high speed; and each time I have dreamt of it two nights before, each time in the dream I saw the exact place—direction in which the engine was going, and the side on which the engine turned over.

(P. 491) [In 1853] I was firing a locomotive, a fine new passenger engine, built for speed, and just from the shop. I thought myself lucky to be on such a fine engine, and was proud of my position. One night, May 29th, 1853, I dreamed that the train ran through a shallow cut, and came out on a high stone bridge, over which the train passed, and then the engine turned over down the bank some 70ft., into the river. I mentioned my dream the next morning to the family with whom I was living. The lady [now dead] told me I was going to be killed, but I told her that in my dream, I had assurance that I should not be hurt. On the second morning after my dream, we were sent over a part of the road with which I was not familiar, and presently came to a shallow cut, and I saw a number of men ahead on the track. The engineer was near-sighted, and did not see them. I called to him to stop the engine he tried to do so, but the track was wet, and seeing that part of the track ahead had been taken up, he jumped from the engine. I remained on it, and tried to stop it. Before this could be done, we were on a stone bridge, and I could not get off. The engine left the track, and at the other end of the bridge turned over twice before it reached the bottom, and I with its receiving but a small scratch *how*, I do not know. I climbed the bank, and

looking back, saw just what I had seen in my dream. The bridge was 200ft. long, with five stone arches, 54ft. high, and the bank down which the engine rolled, 70ft.

(P. 493) One more instance I very clearly remember, although it occurred many years ago, when I was engineer on a Western road. About 12 o'clock Saturday [night September 5th], 1859, I arrived at the west end of my run, and retired. I dreamed I was coming west with my train, running at full speed, trying to make up about one hour lost time. About half way between two stations, 8 miles apart, on the smoothest track on the whole road, the engine jumped the track, and turned over on the north side, and when it stopped I was sitting on one of the driving wheels, with my legs between the spokes; and a person in white came down from the sky, with a span of white horses and a black carriage, picked me off the engine, placed me in the carriage, and drove up toward the sky in a south-easterly direction. I awoke, but the dream distressed me so that I slept very little more that night. I did not mention it to anyone, but I could not get rid of the impression all through the Sabbath. Monday morning I took my train back to the other end of my run, where I lived, arriving there at 1 p.m. At 9.40 p.m. my time came to go west again. The train was 54 minutes late; as usual, the conductor said to me "Make up all you can," equivalent to saying: Run as fast as you dare. When about 40 miles out, running as fast as I ever ran,—something more than a mile a minute,—just at the point I had seen in my dream, the engine struck a horse, which threw the forward truck off the track. It was one of the darkest nights I ever saw. I instinctively reversed the engine, but did not shut off steam. The engine soon turned over on the north side of the track, and slid over 50ft. on the level ground before it could be stopped, when I found myself sitting on the driving wheel, with my feet between the spokes, my under jaw, and three ribs broken, and a deep gash on each side of my face¹ with 18 inches of the throttle lever broken off in my hand, which I had not let go of all the time; but the person with the horses and carriage was not there. I had not mentioned my dream to my wife—; they telegraphed her that I was killed, but she would not believe it. I reached home the next day at 5 p.m., fully persuaded there was something in my dreams, but the mystery to me was that it should come so true to the letter, to the point where I should see the man with the horses, and they not appear.

The dream had so impressed me that at one time on Monday, I made up my mind not to go out that night, but at the same moment came the impression, more distinctly than if uttered by an audible voice, giving me the assurance that I should not be killed; that He to Whom I always committed my life when starting, and Who has never failed me in all times of need, and Who had always brought me safely out of all accidents, would keep me this time, and not allow me to be seriously injured.

J. W. SKILTON,
Shell-road, near Jacksonville, Florida, U.S.A.

A third dream (P. 492) is given in *Mind in Nature*, but the collision vividly dreamed of did not actually occur. It was just prevented

¹ I have seen the scars on the under jaw, and on each side of the face.—G. A. S.

by Mr. Skilton's own exertions and he thinks he might not have prevented it had he not been doubly on the alert on account of the dream.

Mr. G. A. Smith called on Mr. Skilton when in America in November, 1886, and writes :—

I found Skilton yesterday, and he proves to be a very pleasant and apparently most reliable man. He has now retired from railway life, and has an orange grove and beautiful residence on the St. John's River, two miles from Jacksonville. There is no confirmation obtainable for his narratives, as he only spoke of his impressions to his wife, who is dead; and there does not seem to be any one who could give her second-hand testimony. Skilton is an engineer and railway man every inch of him, and the very embodiment of practical good sense. He has had other similar experiences, which will soon appear in *Mind in Nature*, and has outlined them to me, as well as going through the enclosed [the article in *Mind in Nature* from which the above has been taken]. I never met a man with a more accurate memory for facts and dates; he is a walking railway guide and time-table and I frequently verified his memory by reference to old time-bills in his possession. One has no reason to doubt his narratives in any way; as he relates them in simple and earnest language, the details never vary; and he prefers to have you regard them as coincidences rather than as evidence of anything else. But he himself regards his experiences as an indication of some sort of protection. He has put dates against each case, which is about all that can be done; and he also was anxious to give the two references [to gentlemen in America] which I have written on the margin. I regard him as an excellent witness, whose testimony would be faithfully relied upon in any other matter.

(Signed) G. A. SMITH.

Mr. Smith tells us also that Mr. Skilton assured him that he had never had similar premonitions which were not realised.

The next case, a recent and very well authenticated one, was contributed by the secretary of the Munich *Psychologische Gesellschaft* to *Sphinx* for March, 1887 (P. 187). The following is a translation of part of his article :—

. . . Intercourse with a "sensitive" lady friend has given the writer of these lines many opportunities of observing transcendental impulses, which exhibited themselves in her case as "presentiments" and "truth-telling" dreams. The following characteristic dream appears to be worth publication, because it is so especially well authenticated.¹ Frau K. describes her experience as follows :—

"In a night early in August 1886, I was witness, in a dream, to the outbreak of a rapidly spreading conflagration, which through its terrifying grandeur had a paralysing effect on me. When I woke I remained so much under the

¹ The editor of *Sphinx* states that the persons concerned have authorised him to allow to those who should exhibit a special interest in the occurrence, a perusal of the signed evidence.

influence of what I had dreamed, that the reality of such a misfortune could not have distressed me more. Strange to say, soon after waking the thought pressed upon me, that our securities, which the brewery-proprietor B. kept in his fire-proof safe, were in danger. Although I cannot remember having dreamed of any danger to the bonds, and though there was no external reason for connecting the papers with the fire, to my astonishment despite all the reasons with which I endeavoured to talk myself out of this apparently motiveless feeling, the idea increased to such a point, that I at once told those around me about my dream. As though my mis-giving was to be confirmed as correct, three days later I had exactly the same dream, only with still greater distinctness. The unaccountable uneasiness increased still more, and I had the sensation as though an internal voice called to me, to put the bonds in safety. As the loss of them would have meant a great misfortune for us, I tried (following the warning) to induce my husband to put the papers in some other place.

“As the majority of persons in his place would probably have done, he looked upon my fears as groundless and could not attribute any importance to a dream. At first he flatly refused to grant my request. But in the meanwhile the inexplicable feeling of anxiety so thoroughly took possession of me, that I made him continually more urgent representations. At last, after about 10 days, he gave in, less on account of the dream than for the sake of my comfort. From the moment that I knew that the bonds had been placed in security, in the Munich Mortgage and Exchange Bank, my equanimity was restored. Soon afterwards I went into the country, to the Tyrol, and should hardly have thought more of this occurrence, had I not suddenly, during the night of the 14th-15th of September, again been the dreaming witness of a tremendous fire. But instead of, as before, being frightened by the exciting scene, there came over me a feeling of relief as of being saved from a great calamity, by the timely saving of the papers. On the morning of the 15th I made known my dream experience to those around me. Sadly enough the warning was fulfilled; for already, the following day, I received written information that the brewery, in which was the above mentioned safe, had been reduced to ashes by a destructive fire, which had broken out on the 14th of September. As I afterwards heard, the building was burnt to the ground; the fire-proof safe was exposed to flames and heat for 36 hours, so that the proprietor's papers which were preserved in it were completely charred. These dreams therefore (as has happened to me before¹) saved me from a great misfortune.”

The correctness and precision of this communication is confirmed by the signature of five witnesses. The husband of the lady testifies in his protocol that he really had been led to the removal of the papers by her request, as above described; he was also a witness of the breaking out of the fire on the 14th of September. Three friends of the family, Frau von O., Herr von M., and Baron von E., state in their evidence that the above dream had been fully related to them during the first days of August, and that they them-

¹ Only a few months before this event, Frau K. owed to a similar transcendental warning the saving of her life, which was threatened by an escape of gas.

selves had taken part in the discussion respecting the danger of the bonds. Further, Herr von M. states that before the arrival of the letter on the morning of the 15th of September, in the Tyrol, the dream of the previous night (also given above) had been related to him. According to the statement of the thus heavily visited proprietor of the brewery, the fire broke out on the 14th of September, thus some four weeks after the delivering-up of the bonds, and raged three days; the 36 hours of heat which the safe had sustained had destroyed all the papers that were in it. Moreover, several newspapers lie before me which give an account of this great conflagration. . . .

This case offers several special points for consideration. In the first place, the feeling of anxiety about the papers, which was the only thing to connect the dream fire with the building afterwards burnt, did not, so far as the percipient was aware, arise out of the dream itself. It may have formed a part of the dream and have been forgotten as such, but it almost looks as if both dream and anxiety were the result of a subconscious impression of danger to the papers from fire. Another interesting point is the occurrence of the final dream simultaneously with the fire, a coincidence which certainly adds great weight to the reasons for regarding the whole set of experiences as supernormal. This last dream was, if supernormal, clairvoyant or telepathic,—not of course premonitory; and it seems possible that all three dreams were of this character and not premonitory at all, for the danger of fire may have existed all the time and not only when it actually occurred. As this is, however, a conjecture, not a certainty (as would be, *e.g.*, the present existence of a letter whose arrival next day was dreamt of), I have thought it best to include the case among premonitions.

With it we may group the following, where also we seem to have a supernormal perception of what may have been existing danger (P. 322). It is from Mrs. Stella, of Chieri, Italy.

The following occurred to my mother, the most matter-of-fact person and not one to be easily impressed. About three years ago, I received a telegram from her, from London, saying, "Take care of the plate; will write and explain." I did not understand what she meant, but nevertheless, I took extra precautions in shutting up the house at night, and awaited my mother's letter. It appears she had dreamed that she had been aroused from her sleep by a noise, that she got up to see what it was, and went out on to the staircase, and on looking down she saw our dining-room here in Italy, and a man was filling a bag with the plate, which another man was handing to him from the sideboard. She heard one man say to the other, in Italian, "To-morrow we will go to Genoa and spend Sunday" (that making it Friday that they were robbing us). One of the men, looking up suddenly, saw my mother, and began mounting the stairs with a long knife in his hand, and the fright woke my mother. But the impression was so vivid that she sent me a telegram the next morning (Thursday), being quite sure that our house

would be robbed on the Friday night. It was not, however; but the following Wednesday a band of robbers broke into the house nearest to us and carried off everything, but they were taken the next day, when they confessed that they intended on the Friday to rob our house, and then go to Genoa. Among the things taken with them were a bag and a long knife answering to the ones my mother described. My mother has great common-sense, and held until then all superstitious presentiments and belief in dreams as really wrong, yet on this occasion her dream was so clear that she not only acted in contradiction to all her previous opinions, but even thought it sufficiently urgent to necessitate a telegram.

In answer to inquiries, Mrs. Stella adds :—

With regard to the plate robbery, the man's confession was made to one of our peasants (since unfortunately dead). As they were being handcuffed, our man was there, and, I believe, even assisted to secure the thieves, who were personally known to him; and one of them said to him, "If it had not been for our bad luck, we should have cleaned out your padrone's place to-morrow night and then got off to Genoa." This is the exact translation of his words as well as I can remember, and of course our man came to tell us of our escape. Under other circumstances I might not have attached any great importance to an Italian peasant's story, but it quite confirmed my mother's dream.

The weakest point in the evidence here is the testimony to the supposed fulfilment of the dream, the intention of the men to rob Mrs. Stella's house, for it is at second-hand from a peasant. Still, it is of course very probable that they did intend it, and they may quite well have intended it at the time of the dream.

We have another case with some analogy to the two last, though less well evidenced, being remote in time and uncorroborated. (P. 485.) It is from Mrs. Hunter, Silverwood, Skelmorlie, N.B.

I lived in Ayr. My sister, who lived out of town, came to stay a night with me before leaving the locality, and sent a trunk to the railway station to be left till called for. That night my sister and I slept together. I dreamt of running up and down the streets of Ayr in distress, looking for a policeman, and not one could I find. I awoke, and falling asleep again dreamt exactly the same dream. I woke my sister and told her about it, adding that I was afraid some trouble was brewing, but she just laughed at me. Again falling asleep, the third time the dream repeated itself. Being now rather alarmed, I got up, at 6 a.m., and asked my sister to go off with the earliest train, 8 a.m., and leave me. She did so, and, on reaching the station, the first thing she noticed was her trunk with the feet knocked off, and otherwise disfigured, and standing by it a woman dressed in her own shawl and other wearables. My sister became greatly agitated, and the woman, on seeing her thus, ran away. And for more than an hour my sister ran up and down the streets seeking for a policeman, and not one could be found. She afterwards came back to me and told her story. It was afterwards found that this woman had claimed the trunk on the previous evening, taken it to her lodgings, abstracted the valuables, and was trying to make off with the

earliest train. She was apprehended, and having been previously convicted, was transported.

SARAH HUNTER.

Mr. Gurney remarks on this case:—

August 29th, 1884.

I have had a long interview with Mrs. Hunter, who is a sensible woman, with no inclination to the marvellous. The case was more striking as told *videlicet*. The sister was angry and offended at Mrs. Hunter's insistence that she should start by the early train. The event happened quite 30 years ago. Mrs. H. does not know her sister's present address.

Here the dream, it must be admitted, represented a future event—the search for the policeman—but the theft which made that search necessary had already occurred. There seems to have been here, as in the German lady's dream of fire, a waking impression not apparently derived from the dream. In this case it caused Mrs. Hunter rightly to connect the idea of impending misfortune with her sister, and in fact led to the partial averting of the mischief. It is difficult to say how far, given an idea of theft, the idea of vainly looking for a policeman was likely to occur spontaneously in a dream.

Returning to accident-dreams, we may group with them the following dream of an averted accident. It was recorded by Mrs. De Morgan, wife of the late Professor De Morgan, in the *Spiritualist* newspaper for October 11th, 1878, and corroborated by her daughter-in-law, at our request, in 1883. (P. 60.)

I took my family, consisting of my daughter, my daughter-in-law, the four young children of the latter, and a servant, into Dorsetshire five weeks ago. Four days before we left London, I awoke from a sleep, or doze, with an image vividly depicted on my mind. I was sitting on a bank reading. My daughter-in-law started up suddenly and ran to a spot grown over with weeds, briars, and dank grass. Then I saw her catch up one of the little children, who was running to the same spot. She looked at the place and called out to me that there was a deep well there. I felt a sense of relief that the child was safe, but was so impressed with the dream, or vision, that I described it at once to her, and it was mentioned afterwards to others.

When we arrived at the railway station we were met by the landlord of our lodgings, who was to drive us in a waggonette to the village. On the way I asked him if he had a well on his ground, as we had little children with us. He replied that there was a well in the house, but it was covered and had a pump over it. Three or four days after our arrival, we were sitting reading on a green ridge in a field belonging to our landlord. The children were playing a little way from us and their mother was beside me. All at once she started up and ran to a spot at a little distance where rough coarse grass and weeds hid what was directly behind. The youngest child, a baby of two years old, was running to this place, and as he approached it his mother caught him up, turning round to me and exclaiming, 'Oh! here is a deep well.' We then remembered my dream and our intended precautions.

But the dream was really of no use as a *warning* for we had quite forgotten it, having been made easy by our landlord's assurance that all was safe.

Bedford Park.

I perfectly remember my mother-in-law waking up and telling me that she had just had a dream about a well hidden by a bramble bush and overgrown with rank grass, in a field in which we were all together, and she cautioned me to be on my guard about it at Chideock, on account of the children.

And all happened exactly as she has here narrated it.

A. M. DE MORGAN.

The next three dreams are not of the accident itself, but of the appearance of the sufferer as first seen by the dreamer afterwards (P. 354.)

Mrs. Donaldson, Devereux House, Daleham gardens, Fitzjohn's avenue, N.W., writes, I think, in 1883 :—

On Sunday morning, the 29th September, 1878, I roused my husband by speaking in my sleep in a moaning and distressed manner. I said, "Oh, B., what is the matter with your face?" and then began to sob. My husband woke me and inquired the cause of my distress. I said, "I saw B." (mentioning the name of my nurse) "standing in the nursery with her back turned to me, and when I spoke to her, and she half turned round, I saw the side of her face terribly cut and bruised." Hence my distressed inquiry as to the cause of the injury.

That Sunday evening she did not appear as usual at family prayers, and upon inquiring the reason of her absence, the cook replied, "B. has met with an accident, ma'am, and has fallen out of the Metropolitan train." I rushed upstairs, and there, in precisely the same position as I had seen her in my dream, stood B., with the side of her face cut and bruised as I had seen it, and without thinking of the coincidence at the moment, I said, "Oh, B., what is the matter with your face?" and as I said the words the whole dream flashed vividly across my memory.

AGNES E. DONALDSON.

On the Sunday morning I heard my wife distinctly say in her sleep, "Oh, B., what is the matter with your face?" and then I roused her. We thought no more of this until after the accident in the following evening.—A. B. DONALDSON.

In answer to inquiries, Mr. Donaldson adds :—

Mrs. Donaldson is not accustomed to have distressing dreams, and she is by no means of a fanciful or morbid turn of mind.

No exact account of the dream was written at the time, but the fact was noted in a journal. We have both the clearest remembrance of the dream and its fulfilment.

In the next case (P. 345) the evidence that the dream preceded the accident is less decisive. It is from Mrs Medwell, Fulbrook-road, Junction-road, N.

February, 1884.

About 11 years ago my husband was a fireman on the Great Northern, going out very early in the morning. I expected him home about 2 o'clock in the day. A few hours after he left me I had a dream. I fancied I saw my husband brought home with his head all over blood, and very much cut. It so startled me that I could not keep in bed, but I got up and told my landlady my dream, and told her I felt sure something would happen to my husband.

I was looking out of the window, when I saw a man bring him home to the gate. I was quite ready for him, and he was surprised to see I knew all about it. This is quite true.

MARY MEDWELL.

Mr. Gurney applied to Mrs. Crellin, of 62, Hilldrop-crescent, N., who employs Mrs. Medwell, and through whom the account was obtained, to discover the relation of time between the dream and the accident. She has been informed that "the dream preceded the accident by an hour or so." Mrs. Crellin has also ascertained from Mrs. Matthews, of 59, Pratt-street, N.W., who was Mrs. Medwell's landlady at the time, that "Mrs. Medwell narrated her dream in the morning; and Mrs. Matthews afterwards saw the husband led home, with a wound in his head, caused by a stone thrown on the railway by some boys." Mrs. Medwell had another vivid dream about an accident to her husband, but it seems to have occurred simultaneously with or soon after the accident.

The third case of the kind is from Mr. Rowland Rowlands, of Bryncethin, Bridgend, who has had a considerable number of impressions and dreams corresponding with real facts (see, for some of his experiences, *Phantasms of the Living*, Vol. I., pp. 252, 291, and Vol. II., p. 443), in two or three cases these real facts being in the future. The one about to be related has the defect of being remote and uncorroborated, but it was apparently acted on, which is of course important as diminishing the danger of memory deception. (P. 81.)

About 25 or 30 years ago, when I was living at Pontyeats, and before I was manager at Pen-y-graig, my son was at a school in Kidwelly, kept by a Mr. Nicholas. One morning, when I had come back to my house from work, I sat down in a chair as soon as I got home, and then, when just between sleeping and waking, I saw my son standing before me with the blood running out of his eye. It was not a regular dream, and yet I wasn't quite awake.

I was so sure that something had happened to the boy that I went off at once to Kidwelly, five or six miles off, and asked Mr. Nicholas where the boy was and how he was. Mr. Nicholas said the boy was all right, and he had seen him only a few minutes before. Whilst we still were talking, my boy came in, bleeding from a cut just over the eye. He had gone to fetch his

cap, and a nail, which was sticking out from the wall, had struck him just beneath the eyebrow. He still bears the scar of it.

DREAMS OF WINNERS OF RACES.

Passing on to a different kind of event dreamt of, it is perhaps worth noting that we have five or six first-hand accounts of dreams foretelling correctly the unexpected winners of races, (P. 404 [two cases], 405, 406, $\frac{10}{c}$ and one of Lord Vivian's in the *Spiritualist*), but we have to bear in mind that races are probably a very frequent subject of dreams among persons interested in them, as all our informants were; and if so it is of course to be expected that the dreams will sometimes come right. In confirmation of this view we may note that when one of our informants mentioned his dream to a friend, the friend remarked, "Oh, I am always dreaming about horses, but they never come off."

Somewhat analogous to racing dreams would be dreams about examination lists, and these are probably also frequent, though we have only one in our collection. This was recorded soon after the event and is well attested, and it has some rather curious points about it. (P. 101.) It is from Miss K. D. Ellis, Cranborne Vicarage, Windsor.

August 21st, 1884.

I have lately been very anxious about the success of a young friend who had been examined for a Sandhurst cadetship. The list of successful candidates was due on the 15th August. About 10 days before that date I dreamed that I saw the list, and that a boy of the same name as my friend (Johnson) was two places from the bottom. I mentioned this to my sisters in the morning. About three days after I dreamed exactly the same thing, with the addition that I noticed that the initials of the *Christian names* were not those of my friend. I did not see clearly what they were, but only that they were wrong. I mentioned this second dream to my family, saying that I now believed our friend would pass, although it was considered very unlikely that he should do so. When the Sandhurst list appeared in the *Times* of August 15th, we looked first at the bottom of the list, and there, second from the end, was the name of Johnson, but it was that of a stranger, as I had dreamed. Our friend (of the same name, but other initials) was 71st on the same list.

KATHARINE DIANA ELLIS.

A newspaper extract was sent with the narrative, showing the list of successful candidates for cadetships. The name of Hugh W. B. Johnson is 71st, and that of Rupert M. R. Johnson 98th, the number on the list being 100.

In answer to the question, Was this dream marked by exceptional vividness, or was it unusual in any way? Miss Ellis says it was unusually vivid, and repeated twice. She also informs us that she has had other seemingly veridical dreams.

Miss D. Ellis writes :—

I remember that my sister Katherine told me that she had dreamed that the name Johnson was two from the bottom of the Sandhurst list, and that the initials were wrong. I do not recollect for certain whether she told me of each dream as it happened, or if she told me of both dreams *after* both were over.

In a later letter Miss D. Ellis adds :—

I *intended* to say in my account of the Sandhurst dreams that I *was* told of them before their fulfilment.

Miss B. Ellis writes :—

I have a *strong impression* that my sister Katherine told me of each dream as it happened. I remember she mentioned the exact place on the list. I do not *remember* hearing the initials were different.

DREAMS OF TRIVIAL INCIDENTS.

From this we may appropriately pass to dreams of trivial incidents fulfilled. The first (P. 462) is from Mrs. Mackenzie, Lamington House, Tain, Ross-shire.

July 14th, 1884.

One morning last spring, when at breakfast, I suddenly remembered a dream I had had the night before, and told it to my house party, who numbered 10 individuals. I should say that it was rather a joke against me that I believed in dreams and that very often my dreams came true; so when I mentioned having had a curious dream, I was greeted with the usual joking remarks. "Well," said I, "this is what I dreamt. I thought there were several people in our drawing-room, among others Mr. J., and I left the room for a few minutes to see if supper was ready, and when I came back to the drawing-room I found the carpet, which was a new one, all covered with black spots. I was very angry, and when Mr. J. said it was ink stains, I retorted, 'Don't say so, I know it has been burnt, and I counted five patches.' So ends the dream." Well, we all went to church, it being Sunday, and on our return Mr. J. came with us to luncheon, a thing he had never done before, and some others joined our party. I went into the dining-room to see if things were ready, and then going back into the drawing-room I noticed a spot near the door and asked who had been in with dirty feet; being a new carpet I was particular. Mr. J., as in my dream, said it was surely ink, and then pointed out some more spots, when I called out, "Oh! my dream! my new carpet! burnt!" As we afterwards discovered, the housemaid had allowed the fire to go out, and had carried in live coal from another room in a shovel, which she had tilted against the door and spilt the coals on the carpet, burning *five* holes. Of course next Sunday I had several offers from my party to remain at home and watch the other carpets, but I don't think that housemaid will burn any more carpets.

J. W. MACKENZIE.

Miss Mackenzie writes :—

I certify the above to be correct.—GERTUDE AGNES MACKENZIE.

Miss Mackenzie—her mother says—“ was present when I related the dream, and was present also when the *dénoûement* occurred.”

Mr. Gurney remarks about this case:—“ Mrs. and Miss Mackenzie are known to me, and are intelligent and trustworthy witnesses. I have had the whole account from them *vivâ voce*, and have no doubt that what is written above is accurate. Mrs. Mackenzie says that Mr. J.'s coming to lunch was the merest chance, and that she could have had no idea of it the previous day.”

I told this story to a lady a little while ago, who remarked, “ But then the question is of what use was it ? ” meaning that if it was of no use it cannot have been a premonition. Now this consideration seems to me irrelevant. I do not deny that the coincidence I have just related may have been purely accidental, with nothing supernatural about it at all, but the fact that it was of no use does not make it more probable that it was so. For we have no sufficient reason to suppose that premonitions, if they exist, are a species of petty private miracles intended to help us in conducting our affairs—temporal or spiritual. We must regard them as peculiar manifestations of unknown or imperfectly known laws. I do not think, therefore, that the triviality of a foreseen event detracts from the evidential value of a case, provided the event is sufficiently definite and unlikely.

The next case (P. 13) is from the Rev. Walter Smith and Mrs. Smith, friends of Mr. Podmore's.

Harpenden, St. Alban's.

March 7th, 1883.

I write to tell you of a thing that has just happened, and which may interest you. It is at least a curious coincidence. I think it was about a month ago that my wife woke up in a fright and told me that she had been dreaming that she was in her old room at the rectory, and that the clothes basket was mysteriously on fire. I perfectly remember the circumstances of the dream as she told them to me, and we laughed at it, as the thing seemed so wildly improbable.

However, this morning, not long after the nursery fire was lighted, the baby's clothes basket was found in flames, and was burnt to cinders, the floor and walls of the room being also a good deal burnt. The basket was so far away from the fire, and it was so obvious that the fire had proceeded from it, that the origin of the fire was at first almost as mysterious as in the dream, and the thought of spontaneous combustion passed through my mind. I have little doubt now that it really arose through some fragments of burning paper being blown out from the grate and against the basket.

It is a curious case of a dream partially prophetic. You may easily set it down to mere coincidence, but if many cases like it were multiplied, one would ask whether it is possible that dreams can grow out of a reminiscence of the future as well as of the past. It was a common-place dream enough, and just such an one as in future times might grow out of the events of this

morning, and the strong shock which they gave her nerves; but it was a curious dream to arise quite spontaneously.

WALTER SMITH.

Mrs. Smith gives the following fuller account of the dream.

About the end of January of this year I had a very vivid dream. I thought that I was in my room in my old home. I saw all the furniture most vividly just as it used to be. Suddenly and mysteriously I saw flames burst up from the clothes basket, which was standing, as usual, in a corner quite away from the fireplace. I thought that two or three other people were in the room, and that they tried to put out the flames, but I was so frightened that I woke up before they had done so. I think that I woke my husband in my fright, but I cannot be sure whether I told him the dream then or in the morning. I remember we laughed at the improbability of the thing, and of course thought no more of it. On the 7th of March, as we were going down to breakfast, one of the maids met us in a great state of alarm. The nursery had been on fire, she said, and they had only just managed to put it out. We rushed to the room, and found that all one corner had been on fire, and the beams of the wall and floor were still smoking. How had it happened? The nurse had been down at breakfast, taking the baby with her, but she was quite sure she had left nothing near the fire. The housemaid had smelt smoke, and had rushed up to find the *clothes basket*, which stood quite away and *behind* the fire, had *mysteriously* burst into flames and was blazing furiously. She called for help and all was soon put out, but the origin of the fire seemed as mysterious as the fire in the clothes basket of my dream. (We afterwards conjectured that, as it was a day of high wind, some piece of paper must have been blown *out* of the fire, and then by another blast blown *against* the basket.)

When we had got over our first alarm, my dream flashed into my mind, and my husband perfectly remembered my having told it to him.

MARGARET SMITH.

The dream here is not exact, but the coincidence, so far as it goes, is certainly very remarkable owing to the great improbability of the event, and the difficulty of imagining what can have accidentally suggested it to the dreamer's mind.

The young lady from whom we have the next case does not wish her name to be printed. (P. 110.)

August 31st, 1884.

About a year ago, as nearly as I can remember, I had a remarkably vivid dream—that I went to Richmond Park (from London) with my sisters, and that upon a seat I found a brooch, which I gave to the maid. I mentioned this dream to the maid as she was doing my hair next morning, also to one of my sisters. I did not at the time of the dream know that we were going to Richmond on the following afternoon.

However, we did so, and as I was walking towards a bench with one of my sisters, we saw upon it a large common black brooch. My sister claimed it, as being the elder, but in a few days she gave it to me, and I gave it to the maid.

I may add that I dream a great deal, and sometimes prophetically. For instance, I dreamed one night last week that I received a letter from one of my cousins. In the morning I told my sister, who went downstairs and found on the table this particular letter, which I had no especial reason for expecting on that morning.

Her sister says in corroboration :—

This is to certify that I remember that my sister told me that she dreamed she had found a brooch in Richmond Park on the morning after the dream, and before its fulfilment.

Any other prophetic dreams she has had are, we are informed, too trifling to be written down.

The next two cases are from Miss Barr, of Apsley Town, East Grinstead, who, like Mr. Rowlands, mentioned above, has had frequent apparently veridical dreams, of which two or three corresponded to distinctly future events. Some of her experiences are quoted in *Phantasms of the Living*, Vol. I., pp. 94, 342; Vol. II., p. 431. Miss Barr informs us that she is not as a rule in the habit of dreaming much—or at least of remembering her dreams; and her sister, Mrs. Jeddere-Fisher, says: “I think nearly all the dreams my sister told me about came true, but I fancy there was perhaps one occasion, and perhaps two, when they did not come true. Certainly this did not happen often, or we should have lost faith altogether in her dreams, and this we have never done.”

The cases were written by Mr. Podmore from Miss Barr's dictation in 1884, and this summer he went carefully through them with her again.

(P. 73.) Some time in 1868, when in Poonah, I dreamed that I was in the Government Gardens, which are ordinarily very deserted, and found them crowded with tables laid out near the band-stand, at which children were seated at tea. I was serving at one of these tables, when I heard a voice behind me saying, “May I be allowed to help you, Miss Barr?” I turned round and saw a perfect stranger, an officer, in a uniform which was also strange to me. In my dream I accepted his help, and later on was escorted by him through the grounds, which then appeared to be brilliantly lighted and very crowded, in search of my father and mother. . . . I told my dream in the morning, and also described the man and his uniform to my father and mother, and also to a cousin, who happened to be staying with us. About a month after this, on the eve of the Abyssinian campaign, the cavalry regiment then quartered in Poonah was replaced by a Madras regiment, and, riding out with my cousin, a few days after the change, we met an officer, in a uniform which I recognised, even at a distance, as that of my dream, and pointed him out to my cousin on his nearing us. I also recognised his face as that of the officer of my dream, and in the evening of the same day pointed him out to my father near the *Ghourpoorie* band-stand. Perhaps as much as three weeks after this a fête was given in the

Government Gardens, when tables were laid for a tea, to be given to the soldiers' children, and I was requested by a friend to help her at one of the tables. Whilst so engaged, I heard a voice behind me saying, "Will you allow me to help you, Miss Barr?" and on turning round I recognised the man whom I had seen in my dream. I was afterwards obliged to accept his escort in searching for my father and mother through the gardens, brilliantly lighted by fireworks. . . . I have absolutely no interest in the hero of my dream, though we knew him tolerably well afterwards. The acquaintance has not continued.

This is attested by Miss Barr's mother.

Extract from Miss Barr's diary, copied by Mr. Podmore, June 13th, 1888:—

"September 25, [1868 apparently] Children's fête at the Government Gardens. I assisted at Mrs. K's tea-table. I had a curious dream some time back about a gentleman I did not know. I met him at the fête. He is . . ."

Mr. Podmore adds:—

Miss Barr told me that she had never before heard of festivities in the Government Gardens, and had no idea of the approach of the fête. . . She searched for the diary at my instigation during my interview with Mrs. Fisher, and found it, locked. It was opened with a key of my own and the above passage discovered.

(P. 74.) Some time in the summer of 1875 or 1876, when living at Culter, Aberdeenshire, I dreamt that we were invited out to dinner, and that I was taken in to dinner by a stranger, whose face was strongly impressed upon my recollection. After dinner I was asked to sing, and was aware of the fact that, whilst I was singing, the man was leaning against a prie-dieu chair behind me; and that when I had finished singing he said, "Thank you, that is very pretty; but do you happen to know a song called 'Douglas, Douglas'?" There my dream ended. I told it in the morning to my sisters. The next day's post brought the invitation to dinner, and when we arrived at the house I recognised the man; everything took place exactly as in my dream. I did not feel then, and have never felt since the slightest interest in the man, whom I have only met three times in my life.

Mrs. Jeddere-Fisher, says:—

My sister told me *before* we went to the dinner party.

Mr. Podmore, after seeing Miss Barr in June, 1888, says:—

Miss Barr told me that she knew the song "Douglas, Douglas," and could sing it; but was not in the habit of doing so. She is positive that she mentioned the name of the song in telling the dream to her sister.

And Mrs. Jeddere-Fisher adds:—

I think, as far as I can remember, my sister told me the man would ask her to sing "Douglas, Douglas," but I have heard the story so often since that I may be incorrect.

The next case (P. 30) is trivial enough, but differs from those so

far quoted in foreshadowing a more prolonged series of trifling events. It is from Mr. R. Castle, of 9, Canterbury-road, Oxford, known to Mr. Podmore. Mr. Castle also repeatedly experienced impressions about visits from his brother, which are described in *Phantasms of the Living*, Vol. I., p. 253.

From Mr. R. Castle, 9, Canterbury-road, Oxford.

May 27th, 1883.

The dream in question occurred about 20 years ago, at a time of the year when the days were very short, and the circumstances, as briefly as I can state them, were as follows:—

I had made an appointment to go to London by the first train, which left Oxford at 7.15 o'clock in the morning, to meet a gentleman I was then intimately associated with in our professional work, and on a business matter of some importance to us; and being very anxious not to miss my appointment, I retired to bed the night before with a strong impression on my mind of the necessity of not being late in the morning.

It is usual with me in such cases to wake at, or very near the time when it is necessary I should get up, even if the hour is quite an unusual one.

On this occasion I wished to wake about 5.30 o'clock in order to give myself time to dress and have breakfast and get to the station, more than a mile distant from my house, in time for the train.

I actually woke, and struck a light and looked at my watch, about 4.30 o'clock, and this being an hour or so before it was time for me to get up I dropped off to sleep again, and it was in the interval between this and 5.30 o'clock, when I did get up, that the dream in question, which was an exceptionally clear and vivid one, took place. It appeared to me that I woke, and got up, and dressed myself by candle light, in the ordinary way when leaving home by an early train in the winter, but that my brushes and some other toilet articles had been moved since the morning before, and had not been put back in their usual places, and I had to look for them and found them in different positions, which I noticed more particularly as not being their usual places. I appeared then to go downstairs and have my breakfast in the usual way, and go off to the railway station, walking there from my house; but I seemed to be able to look about the district, and see all that was going on in a curious manner, much as I could have done if I had been looking from a balloon, or very high tower, so as to have a sort of bird's-eye view of the country all round, and see other roads and places, which from the road I was actually walking upon would not ordinarily have been visible; but, as is often the case with one in dreams, this abnormal state seemed to be perfectly natural, and did not strike me as being peculiar in any way.

On arriving at the railway station, I dreamed that I quite unexpectedly met a Mr. H., the senior partner in a well-known firm of photographers, carrying on business in several different towns. I had formerly known Mr. H. and his partner, Mr. S., very well indeed, but as they had ceased to reside personally in Oxford, and I had not happened to meet Mr. H. for some four or five years, and had not seen his partner, who left Oxford before him, for seven or eight years, they had passed quite out of my mind, and nothing had

occurred, even in the most remote manner, to bring them to my recollection. I thought that I began talking to Mr. H., and that upon one of the roads leading to the station, at a considerable distance away, I could see his partner, Mr. S., walking to the station, with the square box-like top of a photographic apparatus, neatly wrapped up in a green baize covering, and carried under his left arm.

I seemed also to be quite aware of the other ordinary incidents of the journey, and that I got to London, and met the gentleman with whom I had the appointment, who, somewhat to my surprise, instead of referring to the business on which we met, began, rather more earnestly than usual, to tell me of something of an entirely different character, which had occurred to him since we had last parted, and of which I had previously known nothing. At this point I woke up rather in a flurry, thinking I had overslept myself, but found, on looking at my watch, that it was only just past 5.30 o'clock. I proceeded to dress at once, and the first thing which occurred to me as peculiar was to find that my brushes and other things on the toilet-table had been moved out of their ordinary positions, and placed as I had seen them in my dream, and that I was over again going exactly through all the same movements in dressing which I had dreamed of before. I could not help laughing to myself at the coincidence, and my wife, who was in the room, asked me what it was that amused me, upon which I told her that I was dressing for the second time that morning, and related to her my dream, saying that in it I had been to the station, and met there Mr. H. and Mr. S., &c., as above recorded, upon which she remarked, "I wonder what can have made you think of them, I have not seen or thought of them for years." I then had my breakfast just in the usual manner, and walked to the railway station, when, to my great surprise, there, standing on the platform, was Mr. H., just as I had seen him in my dream. I went up to him at once, and after the ordinary greeting, proceeded in a laughing manner to say that I had seen him once before, that same morning, and related to him my dream, asking him after Mr. S., and saying that he ought properly to be on his way to the station, and that we should soon see him, carrying part of a photographic apparatus, neatly wrapped up in a green baize cover, under his left arm. Mr. H. seemed very much astonished at this, and asked me how I knew that Mr. S. had been in Oxford that night. I said, of course that I did not know it, upon which he replied, "Well, this is certainly very curious; he is here, and I expect him to come and meet me, to go by this very train." We then walked along the platform together, and upon getting nearly to the end of it, at a point where we could see some distance along the road leading to the station, we both stopped suddenly, for there in the distance was Mr. S., coming to the station, and just turning a corner of the road, with the square box-like parcel neatly wrapped in green baize, and carried under his left arm, which proved to be the photographic apparatus, just as I had seen it in my dream, and as I had described it to both my wife and Mr. H. The latter seemed quite startled and alarmed, and said there was something supernatural about it, and that most people would say something extraordinary was going to happen, and that he had a great mind not to go by that train.

I pointed out, however, to him, that if there was anything in the dream, the train ought to get to its journey's end safely enough, because I had to meet

my friend in London over again, and hear from him something I had not expected, which seemed to allay Mr. H.'s fears; but the circumstance seemed to make a great impression on him, and he said he thought that very few people would care to go by the train after such an unusual occurrence.

We performed the journey safely, and I met my friend as arranged, who, curiously enough, began at once, just as I had dreamed, to tell me of some unexpected occurrences which had taken place with him after we last parted, and which had no reference to the object of our present meeting.

The circumstance was altogether so strange that it naturally made a great impression on my mind, and I at once told my friend of the dream, and all that had happened since.

I may add that this gentleman had formerly studied medicine, and qualified himself to practise as a surgeon, but had not done so, and I asked him if he could possibly give me any explanation of so strange an occurrence. He replied that he thought he could, and that he well remembered attending some lectures on subjects of the kind, when he was a medical student, which greatly interested him. Medical men, he thought, would tell me at once that it was a case, by no means rare, of double consciousness, in which all that is happening to a person appears to him or her to have occurred before, but has not really done so, the cause not being quite understood, but supposed to arise probably from some more or less independent action of the two lobes of the brain, acting separately from each other; but however that might be and however real the circumstances might appear to myself, as a matter of fact, he supposed the dream did not occur at all, but only seemed to me to have done so, at the time when the real events took place.

This, as I pointed out to him, might have been a very good explanation, but for the fact that while dressing I had told the dream to my wife, and also had told to Mr. H. the circumstances with reference to Mr. S., before they took place.

This, my friend admitted, made a difficulty, and he asked me to let him know what my wife remembered of the matter, which I afterwards told him. I also was anxious to ascertain this, and, on reaching home, I asked her at once if she remembered any conversation we had while I was dressing in the morning before I left home, and she replied at once, "What, about the strange dream you had as to getting up and dressing yourself, and going to the railway station, and your having met Mr. H. and Mr. S., before you really got out of bed? I remember that quite well." And she then repeated what I had told her, and was very much surprised to learn what had afterwards occurred.

The friend to whom I have above referred, upon learning this, said, "Well, I must give it up; the theory I gave will not do in this case, and I am quite unable to offer any explanation."

This is simply a statement of the dream and of the occurrences just as they took place. The extreme vividness of the dream made a great impression on me at the time. I related it then to a good many friends, and have often done so from time to time since, and this has caused me to keep it fresh in my memory, but I can suggest no theory to account for it, nor have I ever met anyone, to whom I have related it, who could.

The whole matter, as you will notice, so far as the incidents themselves

are concerned, was entirely common-place; and, so far as I know, nothing whatever of a special nature has occurred in connection with it to confirm Mr. H.'s fears.

R. C.

From Mrs. Castle.

I read the account that Mr. Castle sent to the Society for Psychical Research, and I fully corroborate it. I distinctly remember my husband relating to me his dream, as set forth in the account he has written, whilst he was dressing himself.—ELIZABETH CASTLE.

SYMBOLIC DREAMS.

The not inconsiderable class of symbolic dreams remains to be discussed. Two kinds of dreams may be called symbolic: firstly, those where the dream is unlike the real fact but yet has in it an underlying idea which suggests the fact. Mrs. Schweizer's dream quoted above is a case in point. Such dreams may vary to any extent in the degree of their correspondence with the supposed fulfilment, and in some cases might perhaps be more properly called grotesque or distorted dreams rather than symbolic ones. In the other kind of symbolic dreams the symbol has no resemblance to the fact supposed to be indicated. The interpretation is, so to speak, purely conventional. They resemble the symbolic visual and auditory cases already considered. There is no difficulty in supposing that the mind might clothe a premonitory (or telepathic) idea in a symbolic form once the "convention" is started, and this might be done either by tradition, or by the first coincidence of the dream and event in the dreamer's experience, the same dream afterwards recurring in apparent connection with similar events. Evidentially it makes no difference whether the dream that conveys the idea of the future event is symbolic or not, provided the idea is quite definitely conveyed *before* the event occurs. But as the event supposed to be foretold is usually a simple and not uncommon one,—*e.g.*, the death (without detail) of some relative unspecified,—great care must be taken in estimating the evidence, to ascertain that the dream *never* occurs except closely enough to the event in time to make it improbable that the event would happen within that time by chance. None of the recurring symbolic dreams which we have are evidentially thoroughly satisfactory in this way, and the following specimen is selected as an illustration, more for its brevity than for any other reason.

It is from a former Associate of the S.P.R., who does not wish her name to be given. (P. 92.)

March, 1884.

Several times in my life, before the death of a near relative, I have dreamed the same dream, that I am riding a white or grey pony through mud and muddy water.

The bridle of the pony is held by a dead man, either by my dear father, who died in my infancy, or by a young friend, Mr. A., who died a few years since, and with whom I was much when we were children.

(a.)

The first occasion I especially noted this dream was in July, 1875, when it was followed by the death of an uncle I loved very much. We had been expecting his death for some months.

(b.)

The next was in September, 1875. We had an unmarried sister of my mother's then on a visit to us, my aunt. I mentioned the dream to her. She said she had heard of such dreams before, and that in her experience they foretold the death of a relation. About the day after she herself died, all in a moment, of heart complaint.

(c.)

In November, 1879, I again had the dream ; it was followed by the death of my only child.

(d.)

In March, 1880, I again dreamed the same dream ; it was not followed by anyone's death, but my mother was struck down by paralysis, and has remained an invalid ever since.

The following are questions addressed to our informant and her answers :—

1. Have you had the dream on any other occasion besides the four mentioned ?

I do not remember distinctly, but I believe I had, before 1875.

2. Can you give, in each case, the interval between the dream and the occurrence of the death which it preceded ?

Two or three days.

3. Have any near relations of yours died since July, 1875, whose deaths have not been heralded to you by this dream ?

I have lost no other relation except these since July, 1875.

4. Did you make any note of these dreams in a diary, or elsewhere, before their fulfilment ?

No, I attached so little importance to them.

5. Did you mention them on any occasion before their fulfilment to any person now living from whom we could obtain corroboration of the facts ?

I mentioned the dream I had before my child's death in November, 1879, to my nurse, Mrs. K., before he died, and again the dream I had at the time my mother was struck down by paralysis, in March, 1880, to the same person, saying to her that I was sure that my mother would die. Mrs. K. has married again, and I have not seen or heard of her for many months past. I do not know where she is.

We have five or six cases of recurring symbolic dreams besides this one. One lady dreams of a baby in a bath before deaths (P. 23); another tells us that in her case dreams of weddings portend deaths (P. 609); another lady dreams in the same way of thunderstorms (P. 627); another used to have singularly disagreeable dreams of the presence of an offensive parasite (P. 386); in another case waves of water is the symbol (P. 107). In fact the symbol may be anything;

but in all the cases hitherto sent to us, either the record, or the constancy of the time-relation between dream and event, appears to me to be defective.

CONCLUSION.

This concludes my review of the evidence for premonitions. I think that no one will deny that some at least of the dreams are, as reported, if not premonitory, at least very remarkable coincidences, and if a sufficient number of such dreams could be observed and recorded before fulfilment, the most sceptical would admit that some explanation, other than chance, of the correspondence between dream and fact was required.

But when we consider the weakness of human memories, and the extent to which the evidence depends on unrecorded details; when we reflect on the sources of error above noticed in dream-evidence, and on the difficulty of tracing the origin of dream ideas in many dreams which no one would suppose to be supernormally prompted (in other words, the very odd things we do dream), and observe how many so-called premonitions occur in dreams; and when especially we consider the small amount of apparently good evidence for premonitions compared with that for telepathy;—we cannot, I think, demand that the possibility of supernormal prevision should be accepted even as a “working hypothesis” by the scientific world, as I myself consider that telepathy ought to be accepted. Still there is enough evidence to make us think about it; and one advantage of having a society like ours is to bring home to people the importance of observing and recording at once facts bearing on such subjects, and to supply a centre where such records can be kept.

It may, however, be said by a reader disinclined to suspense of judgment, “what can be the use of collecting more cases? If these do not lead you to a conclusion why should any more of the same kind produce the effect? Will you not always go on publishing striking narratives to gratify marvel-loving readers, and then stating that they are inconclusive to appease the scientific world?”

I should admit that there was much force in this objection, if the new cases were to be evidentially like the old ones. But my point is that an effort should be made to raise them—if they are really trustworthy—to a higher evidential level. If, in all the cases here recorded the evidence had been made as complete as it might conceivably have been made—for instance, by the apparitions and dreams being carefully recorded before the fulfilment—my conclusion with regard to them might have been different. It may be said that people cannot be expected to write down gravely that they have dreamt of five spots burnt in the carpet, on the chance that a careless housemaid may fulfil the prevision. I entirely agree, and so far as what I may call

sporadic premonitions are concerned, I could not expect or desire more than that special care should be taken to record at the time dreams or other experiences regarded as premonitory which produce a serious and strong impression.

But our cases are not all of the sporadic kind, so far, at least, as our information goes. It is clear from our evidence that many people, rightly or wrongly, believe themselves to have tolerably frequent premonitions. Here perhaps lies our best hope of obtaining certainty, one way or another, on this at present perplexing question. These persons have it in their power to make a quasi-experimental investigation of the subject. If they would make a point of recording before fulfilment all dreams or other experiences which appear to them to be premonitory, recording conscientiously their fulfilment (or non-fulfilment) and the interval elapsing before it, their records would, in a few years, go far towards settling the question whether genuine premonitions exist or no.

NOTE.

There is, of course, no sharp line between the best cases evidentially and others, and the judgment of different people as to which cases should be placed in the first class are sure to differ to some extent. I propose at some future time to put together for the *Journal* some of those cases about which I have hesitated whether to include them in this paper or not—finally deciding against them; and it would, I think, be of real service to the investigation if before then other members of the Society would study the evidence—almost all of which has been printed on slips or cyclostyled, and can be seen at the Society's rooms—and let me know of any cases which they think ought not to have been omitted, or of any other points in which they disagree with me.

IV.

EXPERIMENTS IN THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE.

Being a Supplement to the Paper on "Muscle Reading and Thought Transference," by Herr Max Dessoir, in Proceedings, Vol. IV.

Herr Dessoir has sent us the originals of the three drawings and reproductions below, with the notes made on the same evening as the experiments—namely, July 16th, 1886. They had been laid aside and forgotten, and have only lately been found again.

Herr Dessoir would not, he says, attach scientific importance to three experiments in thought-transference alone, but these should be regarded as an addition to the experiments made not long before with the same lady, Baroness von Goeler-Ravensburg, and described at the end of his paper in *Proceedings*, Vol. IV., p. 124.

Unfortunately the delicate health of the percipient has prevented any continuance of the experiments, but Herr Dessoir hopes it may be possible to make a fresh attempt before long.

I.

ORIG.



REP.



II.

ORIG.



REP.



III.

ORIG.



REP.



Herr Dessoir writes :—

In more complete explanation I may add the following. [A diagram which we have not printed] shows the position of the experimenters. I sat at one table ; $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres from me sat Frau von Goeler-Ravensburg at a second table, and at this stood also at the place indicated Herr Dr. von Goeler. The remarks attached to this diagram described the *modus operandi* : “ Herr Baron made the drawings in the next room, or behind his wife’s back but in the same room, and gave them to M.D to look at.”¹

As regards I. the percipient said : “ At other times I see it dark on light : this time light on dark.”

¹ The sentences in inverted commas are translations of the notes written at the side of the drawings at the time of the experiments.

In II. the proceedings were as follows : " First Frau Baronin drew the two long parallel lines (———), and said : ' I see two long horizontal lines, but there is something else there.' Thereupon M.D. concentrated his will chiefly on the left-hand cross line (|), which was then drawn, the percipient remarking, ' Now I see a line to the left'; and then similarly with the right-hand line."

The note attached to III. runs : " Frau Baronin added emphatically, that, ' it was only by mistake that the cross stroke was crooked, and that she saw the cross thicker.' "

I must observe that on that evening and in fact during the whole time till now, no further experiments have been made in the transference of diagrams. On that evening, however, a few experiments were made with numbers, the notes of which cannot be found.

21st July, 1888.

(Signed) M. D.

Baron Dr. von Goeler-Ravensburg certifies the correctness of the above. The following is a translation of what he says.

" I confirm the correctness of the accompanying drawings and notes, and consent to their publication."

(Signed) Dr. Freiherr Goeler von Ravensburg.

Berlin, 19th June, 1888.

