

Telepathy.

ASTRA.



HE communication between two minds when the percipient is in an abnormal condition may be placed in the second class of telepathic phenomena. There may be a condition of exalted perception in sleep, in trance, or at the moment of death. The demarkation between pure telepathy and clairvoyance is difficult to determine in this case, as the impression frequently produces visualization. This is peculiarly the fact when the percipient is at the point of death. While the subconscious mind is active during sleep through the natural closure of the senses, and in trance on account of an artificially induced inactivity of the objective mind, still in neither case is it in the condition of exalted excitement, as it is at the hour of dissolution. In this latter case it would seem that the excitement of danger or imminent death has a very potent influence in facilitating the transference of supersensory impressions, and though, as a rule, it is not the percipient, but the agent, who is dying or in danger, this is by no means always the case.

When the percipient is asleep and the agent awake, the impressions are so rarely stamped upon the memory that they are not likely to be observed or remembered. This is more particularly the case when there is nothing of an extraordinary nature in the impression, but even should it have unusual features, it is too often laughed at as a phantasy of the brain and of too little importance to command any attention.

In the following case the impression was vivid and unusual enough to fasten itself strongly in the percipient's memory, so that on awaking he was able to recall its every detail. The names of all the persons connected with the case are in the possession of the writer, but cannot be published.

In April, 1896, Mr. L., a western gentleman, long connected with matters pertaining to psychical research, was obliged to make a trip to New York on some personal matters of importance. One of the members

of the family, whose guest he was, was nursing a friend who had undergone a severe surgical operation and was then in a critical condition. Although the time of Mr. L. was limited, he determined to wait until a favorable opportunity of seeing her presented itself, as she could be of material assistance to him in a certain business transaction. On the third morning of his stay he was aroused by a dream, in which the figure of this young lady, Miss W., presented itself. She looked sadly at him and said: "Mrs. Z. is dead. I will see you in the morning." The dream was so vivid that Mr. L. remembered every detail of the dress worn by Miss W. At breakfast he related his dream to the family, who laughingly requested him to describe her dress. This he did minutely, to the intense astonishment of all, as the family were well aware he had not seen her in that costume. At eleven o'clock in the morning Miss W. arrived at the house. Her friend had died during the night and she had been thinking of seeing Mr. L. in the morning.

A similar experience was related to the writer by Mr. L. and the statement verified by the correspondence relating to the matter which had passed between him and the agent. Mr. L. says: "One evening recently, I was sitting in my study, resting quietly in an easy chair, and, becoming drowsy, fell asleep. While in this condition I imagined myself in the house of a friend, who is a medical practitioner in Newburgh, N. Y. His sister, Miss K., a lady very deeply interested in psychical research and with whom I have had considerable correspondence, was seated at a desk writing a letter. She said: 'I am writing you a letter, which I wish you would answer immediately.' The vision then faded out, only to reappear, this time in a different room. Being familiar with the house, I recognized the room as the dining-room. Miss K. was seated with her back to the mantel-piece, writing a letter on the dining table. No words were spoken in this second vision. On arousing from my sleep, I distinctly remembered every portion of the dream, but cast it out of my mind as being highly improbable. I had reason to believe that Miss K. was then at a summer resort in the mountains, more than a hundred miles from Newburgh. Again, it seemed very unlikely that she would begin a letter in one room and finish it in another. Judge of my surprise, however, to receive a letter a couple of days later, post-marked 'Newburgh,' and written at the time of my dream. Miss K. had made a flying trip home on some business matters. In

my answer to her letter, I asked if she had written the letter in the dining-room and received the following reply: 'I began my letter in my brother's office, but, as there was too much noise there, I took my writing materials to the dining-room and finished it there.'"

Had the percipient been less interested in telepathy than Mr. L., the theoretical importance of the impression would not have been discerned. It would have been thought trivial and purposeless—merely incredible, a phantasy of the brain. Mr. L. assured me that he had not been thinking of the agent at the time, nor had anything occurred that would serve to suggest that Miss K. was about to write him a letter. The most interesting incidents in the case are those which lent an improbable character to the entire dream, namely: the presence of Miss K. in Newburgh, when Mr. L. supposed her to be more than a hundred miles away, and the writing of the letter in two different rooms.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

DAY AND NIGHT.

FIONA MACLEOD.

From grey of dusk the veils unfold
To pearl and amethyst and gold—
Thus is the new day woven and spun.

From glory of blue to rainbow-spray,
From sunset-gold to violet-grey—
Thus is the restful night re-won.

