

Telepathy.

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ANY of the famous psychologists have been trying for some time past to develop clairvoyant faculties in hypnotic subjects, and with reasonable success. Most of the results of these experiments should more properly be classed with telepathy, as the subject is usually unable to describe any impression not emanating from the mind of the hypnotist. In one case of this kind the operator vainly endeavored to send the mind of the subject to places utterly unknown to him. The attempt was a failure. When he brought his own mind upon scenes and persons familiar to him, they were accurately described by the subject. A letter in the pigeon-hole of a desk was described and its contents given in a general way. The chief cause of failure to go beyond telepathy rests in the fact that a hypnotic subject voluntarily depends on the operator for impressions or suggestions, thus losing his own individuality. Self-induced subjectivity or trance is the only condition in which clairvoyance can be successfully accomplished.

The most important of all the phenomena occurring when the Agent is in an abnormal state are the apparitions perceived at or about the time of the Agent's death. It is absolutely necessary to use here the vague phrase, "at or about the time of death," in order to cover the whole process of dissolution; for, in fact, some of these appearances would seem to have been witnessed at some little interval before death, others at the moment of apparent death and others again at some short time after apparent death had supervened. It is obvious that when the interval between death and the apparition exceeds a certain length, we are brought face to face with problems, and possibly with phenomena of a quite different kind from those we have been discussing. These phenomena and these problems lie outside the scope of this magazine and cannot, therefore, be treated upon. We shall merely discuss the cases in which there is approximate coincidence between the death and the apparition, and

these cases are quite numerous. In many of these cases, as of those where the excited or dying person is the Percipient, the evidence seems to point rather to the vivification of a general *rapport* already existing between the parties, than to any special transference of the emotion or thought of the moment, and the impression produced on the Percipient's mind is either that of the sensible presence of the Agent, or is a strong idea of him, without any distinct reference to what is passing in his mind.

In the Reports of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychological Research, we find the following narrative, written by Captain G. F. Russell Colt, of Gartsherrie, Coatbridge, N. B. :

"I was at home for my holidays, and residing with my father and mother, not here, but at another old family place in Mid-Lothian, built by an ancestor in Mary Queen of Scots' time, called Inveresk House. My bedroom was a curious old room, long and narrow, with a window at one end of the room and a door at the other. My bed was on the right of the window, looking towards the door. I had a very dear brother (my eldest brother), Oliver, lieutenant in the 7th Royal Fusiliers. He was about nineteen years old, and had at that time been some months before Sebastopol. I corresponded frequently with him, and once when he wrote in low spirits, not being well, I said in answer that he was to cheer up, but that if anything did happen to him, he must let me know by appearing to me in my room, where we had often as boys together sat at night and indulged in a surreptitious pipe and chat. This letter, (I found subsequently) he received as he was starting to receive the sacrament from a clergyman who has since related the fact to me. Having done this, he went to the entrenchments and never returned, as in a few hours afterwards, the storming of the Redan commenced. He, on the captain of his company falling, took his place and led his men bravely on. He had just led them within the walls, though already wounded in several places, when a bullet struck him in the right temple and he fell amongst heaps of others, where he was found in a sort of kneeling posture (being propped up by other dead bodies) thirty-six hours afterwards. His death took place, or rather he *fell*, though he may not have died immediately, on the 8th of September, 1855.

"That night I awoke suddenly, and saw facing the window of my room, by my bedside, surrounded by a light sort of phosphorescent mist as it were, my brother kneeling. I tried to speak, but could not. I buried my head in the bedclothes, not at all afraid (because we had all been brought up not to believe in ghosts or apparitions), but simply to collect my ideas, because I had not been thinking or dreaming of him, and indeed I had forgotten all about what I had written to him a fortnight before. I decided that it must be fancy, and the moonlight play-

ing on a towel, or something out of place. But on looking up, there he was again, looking lovingly, imploringly, and sadly at me. I tried again to speak, but found myself tongue-tied. I could not utter a sound. I sprang out of bed, glanced through the window, and saw that there was no moon, but it was very dark and raining hard, by the sound against the panes. I turned, and still saw poor Oliver. I shut my eyes, walked through it and reached the door of the room. As I turned the handle, before leaving the room, I looked once more back. The apparition turned round his head slowly and again looked anxiously and lovingly at me, and I saw then for the first time a wound on the right temple with a red stream from it. His face was of a waxy pale tint, but transparent-looking, and so was the reddish mark. But it is almost impossible to describe his appearance. I only know I shall never forget it. I left the room and went into a friend's room and lay on the sofa the rest of the night. I told him why. I told others in the house, but when I told my father he ordered me not to repeat such nonsense, and especially not to let my mother know. On the Monday following he received a note from Sir Andrew Milne to say that the Redan was stormed, but no particulars. I told my friend to let me know if he saw the name among the killed and wounded before I did. About a fortnight later he came to my bedroom in his mother's house in Athole Crescent, in Edinburgh, with a very grave face. I said, 'I suppose it is to tell me the sad news I expect?' and he said, 'Yes.' Both the colonel of the regiment and one or two officers who saw the body confirmed the fact that the appearance was much according to my description, and the death wound was exactly where I had seen it. But none could say whether he actually died at the moment. His appearance, if so, must have been some hours after death, as he appeared to me a few minutes after two in the morning. Months later his small prayer-book and the letter I had written to him were returned to Inveresk, found in the inner breast pocket of the tunic which he wore at his death. I have them now."

Mr. Colt's narrative was corroborated by a letter from his sister and he mentioned the names of several persons whose evidence would support it.

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