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JANUARY 1913- DECEMBER 1914**

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SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

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OF THE

Society for Psychical Research



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OF THE

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NOTICE OF MEETING.

A Private Meeting of the Society

FOR

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES ONLY

WILL BE HELD IN

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF 20 HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.

On TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1913, at 5 p.m.

WHEN A PAPER ENTITLED

“ A Study of Dreams ”

WILL BE READ BY

DR. FREDERIK VAN EEDEN.

N.B.—No Tickets of Admission are issued for this Meeting. Members and Associates will be asked to sign their names on entering.

TEA WILL BE SERVED AT 4.30.

 NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

Names of Members are printed in Black Type.

Names of Associates are printed in SMALL CAPITALS.

Clark, Rev. F. H. H., 7 Wyndham Place, Bryanston Square, London, W.

Edwardes, Mrs. Dyer, 5 Hyde Park Gate, Kensington, London, W.

Guttwoch, Charles, 7 Kingswood Avenue, Queen's Park, London, N.W.

Mason, Frank, 7 Stanley Crescent, London, W.

GELLERT, J. W., Adelaide, South Australia.

MANDEVILLE, MRS. JAMES I., 1546 South 6th Street, Terre Haute, Indiana, U.S.A.

M'CONNEL, MRS., Matlaske Hall, Norwich.

MENENDEZ-MENA, RODOLFO, LL.D., D.Sc., Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

PYE, W. A., Priest Hill, Limpsfield, Surrey.

TRENCH, MRS. C. CHENEVIX, Broomfield, Camberley, Surrey.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

THE 118th Meeting of the Council was held at 20 Hanover Square, London, W., on Monday, December 9th, 1912, at 6 p.m., MR. H. ARTHUR SMITH in the chair. There were also present: Mr. W. W. Baggally, the Rev. M. A. Bayfield, Sir Lawrence J. Jones, Bart., Mr. W. M'Dougall, Dr. T. W. Mitchell, Mr. J. G. Piddington, Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, and Mrs. A. W. Verrall; also Miss Alice Johnson, Research Officer, and Miss Isabel Newton, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct.

Four new Members and six new Associates were elected. Their names and addresses are given above.

The monthly accounts for November, 1912, were presented and taken as read.

PRIVATE MEETING FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

THE 42nd Private Meeting of the Society for Members and Associates only was held in the Council Chamber at 20 Hanover Square, London, W., on Monday, December 9th, 1912,

at 8.30 p.m.; MRS. HENRY SIDGWICK in the chair. Mrs. Sidgwick, in welcoming the reader of the paper, expressed great regret that Sir William Barrett, its joint author, was unfortunately unable to be present, on account of illness.

THE REV. E. SAVELL HICKS read a paper by Sir William Barrett and himself on "Recent Experiments with the Ouija Board."

The experiments he described were carried out by a small group of members of the Dublin Local Section, who met regularly for the purpose. They used an ordinary baize-topped card-table, on which they distributed at random the letters of the alphabet, covering them with a sheet of plain glass, 22 inches square. The sitters were blindfolded, and various precautions were taken to prevent them from knowing the position and arrangement of the letters, which were frequently changed. Nevertheless coherent sentences were spelt out and intelligent answers given to questions, notes being always taken by one of the other persons present who were observing what took place.

Mr. Hicks added to the interest of the paper by exhibiting a table arranged with an alphabet and a sheet of glass, as used at the sittings. In the discussion that followed, many questions regarding the experiments were asked, and Mrs. Sidgwick expressed the hope that other members of the Society would experiment on similar lines and report the results obtained.

CASE.

L. 1194. Apparition.

THE following case of an apparition, seen on the first day of what proved to be the fatal illness of the person represented by it, was recently communicated to Mrs. Sidgwick by a friend of hers, who was acquainted with the percipient, Mrs. Bolton, and Mrs. Bolton then kindly sent us an account of her experience. The first account was written by her husband and signed by herself, and the corroborative statements of her servants, to whom she mentioned what she had seen at the time, are embodied in it, as follows:

December 7th, 1912.

Oct. 7, [1900] Sunday.—When in church at the afternoon service, when the last hymn was being sung, I distinctly saw my stepson

standing outside the pew looking in my face. I stopped singing, feeling very upset, and sat down. On looking again I saw the face again, but looking drawn and white.

On returning to the house I called the maid who always waited upon him, and I said, "Sarah, I feel Master Charles is ill; he will die," and I burst into tears. The maid said, "I think, madam, you cannot be well."

(This statement as to what my mistress said to me is quite correct.
SARAH WHYBROW.)

I also spoke to E. Webb, the cook, and said, "I saw Master Charles in church, and I saw his coffin by the chancel steps."

(This statement is quite correct.
ELIZABETH WEBB.)

On this day Charles wrote his last letter to me.

Oct. 13.—My husband heard from Charles that he was on the sick list, and this day he was moved from the "Benbow" to hospital.

Oct. 17.—Much against my wish, we went to Boscombe.

Oct. 19.—My husband went up to Greenock.

Oct. 24.—Decided to go myself to Greenock, notwithstanding my husband's telegram that "there was a decided improvement," and telegraphing me not to come up.

Oct. 25.—Doctor said there was no hope, but when [Charles] saw me his face brightened, and taking me by the hand he said, "Oh, mother, mother."

Oct. 30.—On this night I felt a strong pressure on my left arm, and I put out my hand, thinking some one was there, but I felt nothing; but I said, "Charles, are you here?" No answer came, but I felt a further strong pressure.

Oct. 30.—On this day he was brought home and placed in the church.

All the dates in this statement are correct, and agree with memo.'s made in [Captain Bolton's] diary of 1900.

(Signed) C. J. BOLTON.
Dec. 7th, 1912.

This is a true statement written by my husband for me.

JULIA E. BOLTON.

Mrs. Sidgwick went to see Captain and Mrs. Bolton on December 7th, 1912, and gives the following account of her interview:

I saw Captain and Mrs. Bolton at their residence, Bocking Hall, Braintree, yesterday. I heard from Mrs. Bolton about her experience, and received from them the account written out by Captain Bolton for his wife and signed by her. She also read me an account written by herself, which she has promised to copy and send me. It contains important points which she also told me in

conversation, namely, that the letter written on the Sunday stated that her step-son, Lieutenant Bolton, R.N., had a cold, and that on account of the alarm caused by her vision she telegraphed on the Monday to ask how he was, and received a telegram in reply stating that he had slight influenza. The letter and telegrams have been destroyed. This was the beginning of the illness of which he died. Pneumonia supervened on the influenza, and then the heart failed.

I saw both the servants who sign statements in the account. It will be noticed that one speaks of a coffin at the chancel steps. Mrs. Bolton confirms this, but my impression is that, if she really saw it at the same time as the figure, it must have been much less vivid. I gathered that it was the apparition and the drawn expression of the face when she looked up and saw it again that alarmed her. The coffin actually stood in the church at the chancel steps during the night before it was buried in the churchyard of a neighbouring parish. The house, it may be observed, is quite close to the church.

ELKANOR MILDRED SIDGWICK.

In reply to a request from Mrs. Sidgwick that Captain Bolton would write his own recollection of what Mrs. Bolton had told him at the time, he wrote to her:

BOCKING HALL, BRAINTREE,
ESSEX, Dec. 10th, 1912.

In answer to your enquiries, I have no recollection of my wife saying anything to me regarding seeing the apparition in church, and I think this can be accounted for. Mr. ———, who was in our pew that afternoon, came in to the house with us to have tea, and remained all the afternoon, and of course she would not say anything before him, and, again, she might have thought I should consider her fanciful and foolish. . . .

I have a distinct remembrance of my wife's distress at that time, and her great anxiety, and that I postponed our visit to Boscombe for a week at her persistent request, although we had the house taken.

You must remember all this took place twelve years ago, and at 84 (my age) memory is not quite at its best.

C. J. BOLTON.

Mrs. Bolton afterwards wrote a more detailed account from which we extract the following:

BOCKING HALL, BRAINTREE,
ESSEX, Dec. 13th, 1912.

On October 7th, 1900, on Sunday afternoon, I was sitting in the Bocking Hall pew, and during the last hymn I looked up and my step-son, Lieutenant Bolton, appeared to be standing in front of me, and looking earnestly into my face. I stopped singing and sat down

feeling very upset. I looked again and saw his expression had changed and he looked drawn and white. After leaving the church I came into the house and went into the housemaid's room and called my housemaid, Sarah Whybrow (who always waited upon him), and said, "Sarah, Master Charlie is ill. I have seen him and he is going to die." The maid answered, "I think, madam, you are ill." I felt so distressed I burst into uncontrollable tears.

On the next morning by the second post, Oct. 8th, I received a letter from my step-son saying "he had a slight attack of influenza." (It was the last letter he wrote to me.)

On the same day, Oct. 8th, I telegraphed to him to know how he was. The reply was, "slight influenza."

We had previously taken a house in Boscombe for the following Wednesday, 10th, but with difficulty I persuaded my husband to wait a few days here, feeling my son would wait me. From the 8th telegrams between my son and me passed, but always he was "getting on." We heard of nothing serious till Saturday, 13th, when we received a telegram to say "Lieut. Bolton has been moved from the 'Benbow' to the hospital in Greenock."

The rest of the account describes the course of the illness, which terminated fatally on Sunday, October 28th, 1900.

PSYCHICAL RESEARCHERS AND THE WILL TO DISBELIEVE,¹

BY F. C. CONSTABLE.

It may be that the will to believe vitiates all the results of psychical researchers. But, if so, it is possible at the same time that the will to disbelieve as fully vitiates the criticism of Dr. Ivor Tuckett.

Dr. Tuckett at the outset compares the schools of thought of Sir Ray Lankester on the one hand and of Sir Oliver Lodge and Sir William Barrett on the other. He says: "The former demands evidence which is capable of verification and is based on experiments or observations that can be repeated under definite and known conditions, while the latter is satisfied with evidence that does not come up to this standard."

Dr. Tuckett evidently agrees with the former school and, as will be shown, such agreement prevents him from any unbiassed consideration of the evidence in favour of telepathy. Sir Ray Lankester is reasonable: he denies the possibility of

¹ A reply to "Psychical Researchers and the will to Believe," by Dr. Ivor Tuckett, *Bedrock*, July, 1912.