

MODERN SPIRITUALISM

By Hugh Elliot, in Quarterly Review

1. RAYMOND: OR LIFE AND DEATH. BY SIR OLIVER J. LODGE, METHUEN, 1916.

2. EXPERIMENTS IN PHYSICAL RESEARCH AT LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY. BY JOHN EDGAR COOVER, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA, 1917.

3. THE QUESTION: "IF A MAN DIE, SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?" BY EDWARD CLODD; WITH A POSTSCRIPT BY PROF. H. E. ARMSTRONG. GRANT RICHARDS, 1917.

4. SPIRITUALISM AND SIR OLIVER LODGE. BY CHARLES A. MERCIER, M.D. THE MENTAL CULTURE ENTERPRISE, 1917.

5. SPIRIT EXPERIENCES. BY CHARLES A. MERCIER, M. D. WATTS, 1919.

To the eye of the philosophic historian, a few things are more remarkable than the unchangeableness of the human mind. It is natural indeed that the leading passions of mankind should persist unaltered, for upon them depend the continued preservation of the individual and the species. But it is not only the leading passions that endure; the minor passions and convictions, nay even the opinions of men, maintain through centuries a stability which even the most adverse circumstances cannot shake. When ancient civilization slowly dissolved away in the great ocean of medieval barbarism, it might have been thought that, out of that desolate waste, any new civilization could ever arise, it must surely be of very different character from the earlier one, whose landmarks had been so effectively washed away. A thousand years rolled by, and a new civilization did arise. And as its features gradually became discernible through the lifting cloud of darkness, it was not a new type of society that was evolved, it was the old type, though rolling once more in all the vigour and freshness of youth. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

We are here concerned only with one point in the resemblance between past and present, namely the resemblance in the sphere of philosophical thought. Alike in ancient, mediæval, and modern times, there stand out two main currents of opinion among learned men—the one tending towards religion, idealism, and spiritualism; the other towards rationalism, science, and materialism. The former works by the subjective method invoking as Bergson puts it, instinct rather than objective method; the latter works by the objective method, and ultimately comes to rest on the pillars of observation and experiment. This great antithesis in thought, first noted by F. Schlegel, has altered its form no doubt in the course

of time, but has always preserved its substance. Among the ancient Greeks, there was Democritus on the one side, Socrates on the other; Epicurus on one side, Plato on the other. Lucrætius, the Roman poet, gave the highest expression to ancient materialism. Plotinus, the Egyptian, was the last exponent of ancient idealism. With the transition to the Middle Ages, the objective school passed into high metaphysical obscurity, while the subjective flourished universally in a low and barbarous form, under the domination of priestcraft. But the materialist line of thought had not perished altogether; it was merely in abeyance. As time went on, it became more insistent. Roger Bacon, William of Occam, and Nicolaus de Autricuria made their voices heard through the darkness, until at length the Renaissance burst forth like spring after a Polar winter, and objective philosophy strove through its fetters on every side. Out of them, the old antithesis remained, now on a far higher level of thought. There was Francis Bacon on the one side, Descartes on the other; Hobbes on the one side, Berkeley on the other. The strong expression of later Materialism was among the pre-revolutionary French writers, especially La Mettrie and D'Holbach; while idealism culminated in the extreme views of Hegel and his followers. In more recent times, objective expanding spheres of science; and the antithesis tends to adopt the form of science versus metaphysics.

It is not to be supposed that this broad line of cleavage in human thought makes its appearance only in high metaphysics. It is a deep fact of human character, so comes out everywhere—in religion, in politics, in science, and in literature. One of the most striking of its minor manifestations is in the great controversy about spiritism. Through the ages we have now and then seen men and women who have a natural tendency to believe in the genuineness of spiritualistic manifestations, and others to disbelieve in it, before any evidence on either side has been presented. Belief is largely a matter of mental constitution, and such is little shaken by a slight preponderance of logical argument on one side or the other. It is no mere problem of chilly mathematics that we have before us, where one solution is as readily acceptable as the other. On the contrary, we are touching one of the deepest and most permanent chords in human nature. We have to contend, not only with the delicate refinements of intellect, but with the massive inertia of instinct.

We shall therefore depart somewhat from the conventional mode of presenting the subject. It would indeed be of little value to recite the evidence adduced in favour of spiritism, or the arguments marshalled against it; for that evidence and those arguments are well enough known already, at least as regards their general nature. The works named at the head of this article furnish an excellent illustration of the weapons used on either side. But it seems probable that too much stress has been laid on the question of evidence. We all know that it has been sufficient to convince various leading men of science, and that it has entirely failed to convince others. We have to consider, therefore, any further evidence which may be forthcoming will confirm the conviction of those who already believe, and increase the antagonism of those who do not. If evidence alone could settle the matter, it would have long since been settled. The mere piling up of fresh instances, per se, does not strengthen the case, where the validity of the whole procedure is in question. The question of evidence is but a part of the problem before us. We have to consider, not only that, but the whole bearing of the controversy, its relation to other parts of human experience, the full implications which it conveys. Perhaps this method of attacking the problem may be more productive of results than a mere recitation of alleged occurrences.

The matter in dispute is relatively simple. In all science and practical life, events hinge together according to a mechanistic scheme of so unvarying a nature that from the unchangeable natural laws of science has been induced. Thus

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And he is growing old, not in the sense that the years are pressing heavily upon him—but in the sense that his vital forces are wasting away faster than Nature replaces the worn out tissues.

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brings back your pep—punch and mental vigor—chases away that tired, worn-out feeling and replaces it with a spirit of buoyancy.

Phosphonol is a distinctive preparation, scientifically correct in its combination of medicinal ingredients, and there's nothing more invigorating, more strengthening or more rebuilding. Specially beneficial for invalids, convalescents and run-down people of all conditions. Get a box from your druggist today—tomorrow you will feel better for it.

Price \$3.00 a box, or 2 for \$5.00. The Scobell Drug Co., St. Catharines, Ont.

Sold at Foster's Drugstore.

If we leave a room with a chair in a certain position, and, returning shortly afterwards, find it in a different position, we immediately infer either our absence or that some kind of material force has acted upon it, such as a gust of wind, or a gravitational pull due to an inclined floor, or some other force of that nature. True, there is another alternative which we normally consider. We may have been mistaken in our recollection of the place where we left the chair, or, on the other hand, we may be suffering from some optical illusion, while the chair has in fact not moved at all. These various possibilities agree in attributing the apparent motion of the chair to agencies well recognized in human experience, and purely mechanistic in character.

Now the admission of such an alternative as this constitutes a very deep inroad on all our habitual methods of thought and action. It would indeed be a revolutionary overturning of all the axioms of common life. The foundations of applied science—of engineering and medicine—would be sapped. If unknown spiritual forces, then, the best of material forces, when the best of signed bridges may fall, the strongest foundations may shift, water may flow uphill. An element of determination and doubt is everywhere introduced, for all the works of man are based on the material forces, which he controls; and if they are subject also to unknown spiritual forces, nothing any longer can be controlled; chaos lies at the root of all things.

Yet everyone knows that chaos does not lie at the root of all things. If a train is wrecked through a signal being down, when it ought to have been up, we do not for a moment consider the possibility that it has been moved by a spiritual force. We infer, either that the signalman was out of order, or that the signalman was not satisfied until we have discovered the actual cause. Even if it remained undiscovered, it still does not enter our heads that any other than a material cause was at work. And if, on returning to our house at night, we find it lying a heap of ruins, it is the architect or the builder whom we blame; or else the chance of an earthquake or other material catastrophe comes to mind. We never consider as a practical alternative that various bricks may have moved off proprio motu without a mechanistic cause; and, if we made a claim to the insurance office on such a ground, we nearest probably be referred to the department to deal with the matter in short, "levitation" (for the name such uncaused movement is known) is utterly and completely foreign to human experience; if established as a fact, it would render any human undertaking liable to instantaneous and supernatural collapse; nowhere would security or certainty (in the human sense) be found; man's mastery of his environment would be no more than the wild vision of a lunatic; pessimism would be the one doctrine of our philosophy, and abject fatalism our rule of conduct.

Yet we know well enough that these things do not happen. Our world is no island of Laputa, though the existence even of that island, moving by definite principles, is easier to believe than the phenomenon of levitation. Why talk of evidence? The evidence is all around us everywhere; we cannot get away from it; it is in the

Western Guardian

—IT PAYS to buy in this Province.

—TRYON HALL.—Concert and dance social for orphanage, Monday March 8th, at 7.30 sharp. Ladies with baskets free. 7424-3-5-ME21

—NEW OVERLAND LIGHT 4.—See this new model at Bruce's. There is nothing like it for the money on the market. 7369-3-3ME31

—BIDEFORD CIRCUIT.—Sunday March 7th. Rev. F. W. Sawdon hopes to be able to hold service at Bideford, 10 a. m. Ellerslie Hall 7 p. m. There will be no service at Union Corner nor Lot 16.

—THE SCHOOL BOARD held their monthly meeting Tuesday evening the 2nd March. It was decided to repair the flues and other damages caused by the recent gales.

—WEDDING BELLS.—A very quiet wedding took place at the Baptist Manse in Summerside Tuesday evening when Mr. Roy Huestis one of Summerside's popular young men was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Smallman. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Huestis one of Summerside's popular couple left for a short honeymoon.

—A VERY PAINFUL ACCIDENT.—Mr. E. E. Woodside, blacksmith Summerside, met with a very painful accident. While backing in a load of coal into his blacksmith shop in some unaccountable way he got his foot caught between the foot rest and the sleigh breaking the bone just above the ankle. The Guardian is pleased to report that Mr. Woodside is now resting easily.

—FUNERAL SERVICES.—The funeral of Jessie Ruth McKay, daughter of A. S. McKay of Summerside took place from her home at two o'clock Wednesday and was very largely attended. The services at the house and grave were conducted by Rev. Mr. Rice and Rev. Mr. Harding. Mrs. B. Owen sang a solo "Face to Face" and Miss Laura Hurst, accompanied (pianist) The all bearers were: Caleb Taylor, Ray Morrison, Ernest Morrison, Ralph Muttart, Horace Monkley and Heath Warren.

WESTERN PERSONALS

—Father Connolly of Wellington was a visitor in town Wednesday.

—Misses Laura and Madie McLeod of Stanley were in Summerside Wednesday.

—Miss Marguerite Sutherland of Montague was a visitor in Summerside Wednesday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Chester Simpson of Malpeque were visitors to Summerside Wednesday.

—Mr. J. D. Goss, of F. W. Strong & Co., is visiting friends in Hunter River.

—Mr. William A. Cameron, Summerside, has returned to his home after visiting friends in Hunter River.

—Mr. B. I. Rayner, Aliberton, paid a business visit to Tryon Thursday last in connection with the Reid & Rayner Knitting Mills.

—Mr. Joseph F. Perry, of Muddy Creek who was contracting work at Moncton, N. B., arrived home Monday night for a short visit.

—All are pleased to learn that Mrs. Donald Bell, Tryon is greatly improved after being confined to her home for the past month with an attack of la grippe. Her many friends hope to see her out again in the very near future.

—His friends are pleased to know that Mr. Arnold Leturage, North Tryon, is improving after his recent severe illness and hope that he will continue to improve until he is restored to his usual health and strength.

chair we sit upon in the paper we read, in the walls and ceilings which enclose us, in the air which blows upon us. All these things are standing witnesses to the fact that levitation does not exist; and, if it were liable to exist, our sanity could not for long withstand the strain. Nevertheless, various distinguished observers have testified to an actual existence of levitation. We shall not at present inquire into their grounds for this belief. We wish only to note the kind of evidence required to carry conviction. It must be of so high and irresistible a quality as to be commensurate with the sum-total of human experience crying out against it. Can any evidence based on a few cases, even of the most purely irrefutable character, be ranked so high a pitch as this? That is the main issue before us.

(To be continued.)

I feel sorry for boys who don't have Post Toasties says Bobby

WORKING ON CONTRACT.—Mr. Charles Pooley, Tryon has been awarded the contract for supplying the Tryon Dairying Co. with ice. There are at present a number of men at work and if weather conditions continue to keep favourable the contract will be completed in the course of a few days.

—PARK CORNER.—Following is the standing of the pupils of Park Corner School for the month of February. Grade VI Sr.—1, Florence MacLeod; 2, Mildred Bernard. Grade VI Jr.—1, Alice Ramsay; 2, Myrtle Bernard; 3, Clarence Pidgeon.

Grade V Sr.—1, Wallace Bernard; 2, Fred Bernard; 3, Almie Pidgeon; 4, Hazel Bernard; 5, Marion MacLeod. Grade V Jr.—1, Amy Campbell; 2, Vere Wheeler; 3, Mary MacLeod. Grade III—1, Marjorie Pidgeon; 2, Helen Stewart; 3, Archie Pidgeon. Grade II—1, Jean Sharp; 2, Lillian MacKenzie; 3, Harold Bernard. Grade I—1, Mur-

ed Montgomery; 2, Arthur Pidgeon. Perfect attendance for month—Myrtle Bernard, Clarence Pidgeon.

PILES Do not suffer another day with itching, bleeding or protruding Piles. No surgical operation required. Have you one at once and as certainly as you can. A box of Edmanson, Bates & Co. Limited, Toronto. Sample box free if you mention this paper and enclose 2c.

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They are attractive—useful and very moderately priced.



Every Dollar Purchase Entitles You to a Guess

Save your sales slips. Every dollar cash purchase gives you a guess at the number of kernels of barley in the jar.

If you guess right that handsome new \$1050.00 CHEVROLET CAR IS YOURS. Ask the salesman when you are shopping he'll tell you all about it.

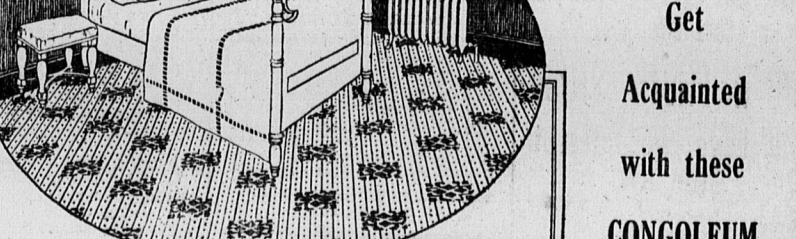
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The greatest stock of Wall Paper Prince Edward Island in ready for your inspection. Hundreds of patterns—thousands of rolls of the newest designs.

You will find patterns suitable for any room—in any house. You will find prices at the lowest point—compare with the lowest figures offered by any concern in Canada—if you compare—we will get your order.

Our prices are quoted for Double Rolls--16 yds.



CONGOLEUM ART-CARPETS

"Recarpet" this year with Congoleum Art-Carpets. You'll save all the bother of stretching and tacking, for they lie flat without fastening.

Congoleum Art-Carpets cost less than fabric carpets, and a damp mop is

all you need to keep them clean and bright. We have stunning patterns for any room. Be sure to see them. The ample width (three yards) makes it possible to cover many rooms without seams.

\$9.00, \$13.00, \$15.00, \$17.75

Get Acquainted with these CONGOLEUM RUGS They are an ideal floor covering at a moderate price

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Allow one heaping tablespoonful of Seal Brand Coffee to each cup. Pour fresh, boiling water over the coffee. Simmer 5 minutes. Let stand a few minutes. Then serve. Be sure you use rich, full-bodied

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PHOSPHONOL FOR MEN Restores Vain and Vitality for Nerve and Brain; increases "Energy" and Tonic—will build you up, \$3 a box, or two for \$5, at drug stores, or by mail on receipt of price. The Scobell Drug Co., St. Catharines, Ontario.

Fur Sales Meeting, Montreal

The Canadian Government Railway will place at Tormentine, to meet the Steamer on the 18th inst., Pullman sleepers to accommodate passengers going to Montreal to attend the above stated meeting. Already a number of reservations have been made. Applications for further reservations can be made to Ticket Agent, Summerside, W. K. Rogers, City Ticket Agent, Charlottetown or to W. T. Huggan, D. P. A. Charlottetown.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Time Table in Effect, January 19th, 1920

ATLANTIC STANDARD TIME.

Read Down		Read Up	
P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.
2:45	12:40	6:25	Dep.
3:55	2:40	7:35	Dep.
4:45	3:05	7:55	Dep.
6:10	4:45	8:55	Arr.

4:10	3:05	6:40	Dep.
5:00	3:05	8:05	Dep.
5:34	3:52	8:42	Dep.
6:02	4:30	9:20	Arr.

6:20	11:30	Dep.
7:22	1:14	Dep.
8:18	2:44	Dep.
9:08	3:31	Dep.
9:45	5:00	Arr.
10:15		P.M.

3:10	7:00	Dep.
4:30	8:55	Dep.
5:00	9:32	Dep.
5:22	10:02	Dep.
6:30	11:35	Arr.

7:50	Arr.
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4:35	8:10	Dep.
5:27	10:20	Dep.
5:51	11:00	Dep.
6:25	11:40	Arr.

3:30	4:00	Dep.
5:15	5:15	Dep.
7:25	6:45	Arr.

10:10	10:10	Dep.
8:55	4:30	Dep.
8:20	3:25	Dep.
8:00	3:00	Dep.
6:50	1:35	Dep.

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8:55	4:30	Dep.
8:20	3:25	Dep.
8:00	3:00	Dep.
6:50	1:35	Dep.

Except as noted, the above trains run daily, Sunday excepted.

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BIG FIRE IN SYDNEY

The Halifax Herald of Feb. 27th tells about the fire in which a whole block was wiped out including a Bank, Tailor, Dry Goods Store and a Lodge room. The losses are.

	LOSS	INS.
BANK	\$50,000	\$20,000
TAILOR	25,000	5,000
DRY GOODS	9,000	2,600
LODGE	5,000	1,400

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