

Mr. and Mrs. John Gardiner,
2237 Preston st., Complaint of Charles Strohmer.

A communication, as follows, was received, read and ordered referred to the Marshal for investigation and report:

"Baltimore, September 19, 1911.

To The Board of Police Commissioners,

Honorable Gentlemen:-

Mr. and Mrs. John Gardiner, who reside at 2237 Preston place, keep a place where they hold spiritual meetings, telling fortunes, etc. - they charge 10 cents a head. She has a family of children and the baby has the dyptheria, with a sign on the door from the Health Department. In the Police Investigation, the gentlemen of the Board and the Marshal said they would do all in their power to keep order and keep the health of the city up to standard. Here is a case where Officer Weber knows this place is open nightly and knows there are from 20 to 40 persons in the meeting, and after the meetings are over, he (Officer Weber) goes to the rear and gives the signal by a peculiar whistle and presently the lady, Mrs. Gardiner, hands him graft money. There has been two or three gentlemen went to this Officer Weber and made complaint, and he promised he would break it up and have her move - it is still in force of nights.

I have been deputized by a large number of reputable gentlemen in the neighborhood to write you this letter and await three nights to see what your Honorable Board would do about the case. You all know Gentlemen that those who frequent this house are liable to spread the dreadful disease all over the city, and you certainly can break this up in one night. Those people when driven away from other places in the city for breaking the law by telling fortunes &c. I am writing this letter in a spirit of fair play and I think the Police Board is the proper party to settle this condition of affairs.

Yours respectfully,

CHARLES STROHMER."

Gordon W. Ashley,
Watchman, New Howard Hotel.

A communication, as follows, was received and the recommendation