SEEKING TO SOLVE RIDDLE OF UNIVERSE

SCIENTIST HAS PLANNED GREAT WORK

Camille Flammarion, World's Most Noted Astronomer, Is Confident He Can Discover Truths Hitherto Hidden—Says: "I Believe That Scientists, by Means of New Discoveries, Are Face to Face with the Great Principle.

CAMILLE FLAMMARION, one of the greatest of astronomers and French scientists, has set himself the problem of trying to solve the riddle of the universe.

Along with his astronomical studies he is trying to find if the Marconi wireless telephone, radium, telepathy, and spiritualism are some of the manifestations of this same great power.

After some thirty years of study and investigation he has set forth the result of this work in "The Mysterious Psychic Force," which was begun some years before in his work called "The Unknown." In this book he gives the result of his investigation in spiritualism, and in "The Unknown" he handles the questions of mental telepathy, dreams, etc. Though approaching the subject differently, he comes to the same conclusion in both of these studies.

By CAMILLE FLAMMARION.

THE wireless telephone and telegraph have proven that the earth, as well as the air, has powers of transmission that were never imagined a quarter of a century ago. Interesting as these discoveries are in themselves, they are more interesting because they are urging scientists on to find the same laws and principles in telepathy, spiritualism, and hypnotism.

I find the same laws governing mental telepathy that prevail in the Marconi and the wireless telephone, and think that these are only the first steps of greater discoveries that are to come. I admit that investigation

Telepathy

of mental telepathy and spiritualism has brought me face to face with a great psychic force more powerful than electricity, radium and other physical forces.

Matter is only an appearance. The mysterious forces we are studying are themselves manifestations of the universal dynamism with which our five senses put us imperfectly into relation.

These things belong to the psychical as well as to the physical. They prove that we are still living in the midst of an unexplored world in which the psychic force plays a role as yet imperfectly studied. It is an established fact that this dynamism exists, though it has not been fully explained, and perhaps will never be fully explained any more [illegible] all the physical manifestations. This is because we take our ideas for realities.

"Things Not What They Seem."

For example, to our senses the air is not a solid body; we pass through it without effort while we cannot pass through an iron door. The converse is true of electricity; it passes through the iron and finds the air to be a solid, almost impassable body. To the electrician a wire is a canal leading electricity across the solid rock of the air. Glass is opaque to electricity and transparent to magnetism. The flesh is transparent to rays, while glass is opaque.

Thus, for example, if some one had said that there could be instantaneous communication between London and Paris before the invention of the telegraph people would have laughed. Later it would not have been admitted as possible, except on condition of the existence of a wire. Now that we have wireless telegraphy, we can apply the discovery to the explanation of wireless telegraphy, spiritualism and other phenomena.

Likewise spiritualism, auto suggestion, mind reading, are as real as electricity and other forces found in physics and chemistry, only of a higher order, for they have in them something vital and a kind of mentality.

Wireless Telegraph

My experiments made during many years with spiritualism and its manifestations have shown me that these psychic forces are worthy of being embraced within the scope of scientific analysis. At present they have been as little studied as in the time of Ptolemy and have not yet found their Newton, yet they fairly obtrude themselves on our notice and cry out to be examined. That is not so strange when we remember that the earth and planets were circling about the sun in their harmonious orbits, while astronomical theories saw in them only a complicated mass of seventy-nine crystalline shells. Magnetism was encircling the earth with its complicated currents long before they were arrested in their flight. The stars were darting their rays through the ether before any human eye had been raised to them.

Soul Independent of Body.

From all my experiments, both in those gleaned from spiritualism and telepathy and set forth in "The Mysterious Psychic Force" and "The Unknown," I come to the same conclusion: that the soul exists as a real entity independent of the body. It is endowed with faculties still unknown to science. It is able to act at a distance without the intervention of the senses. There exists in nature a myriad activity, a psychic element, the essential nature of which is still hidden from us.

Ever since I was a boy of 16 years of age, along with my studies in astronomy I have been at work studying these questions. The study of spiritualism was quite accidental.

One day in the month of November, 1861, under the galleries of the Odeon, I espied a book entitled "The Book of Spirits," by Allan Kardec. I bought it and read it with avidity, several chapters seeming to me to agree with the scientific basis of the book I was then writing, "The Plurality of Inhabited Worlds." I hunted up the author, who insisted that I should enter a free, associated member of the Parisian Society for Spiritualistic Research, which he founded and of which he was president.

The members come together every Friday evening in the assembly room of the society, in a little hall which was placed under the protection of St. Louis. The president opened the seance with an invocation of the good spirits. It was admitted as a principle that invisible spirits were present there and tried to appeal to us. A certain number of people were selected. They were seated at a large table and were told to abandon themselves to the spirits in the room and to write; these were called mediums. Several years later my illustrious friend, Victorien Sardou, who had often visited the observatory, wrote as a medium some curious pages on the inhabitants of the planet Jupiter and produced picturesque and surprising designs which tried to represent men and things as they appeared in this giant of worlds. One of his sketches showed the house of Mozart, others the houses of Zoroaster and of Bernard Palissy. But I must confess that the drawings clearly showed that Sardou was not directed by a spirit from that planet.

The transference of thought from one brain to another is a fact proved by telepathy. Several mediums have also composed, in successive seances, genuine romances, such as the history of Joan of Arc, written by themselves, seeming that there is a kind of doubling of the personality of the subject, a second personality. As to the second, planchette. I became familiar with this through the seances of Mme. de Girardin at the home of Victor Hugo, in the isle of Jersey. It works more independently than the first method, but still it is only a prolongation of the hand and the brain. The third method is the table rapping. I mean taps on a table; they seem more emphatically to be an extension of the hand and brain. Rappings made on the floor by one foot of the table have no value because the least pressure can produce the seesaw movement.

Greater Things Yet to Come.

What man of good sense would formerly have admitted that we should one day be able to photograph the skeleton of a human being, or store up the voice in a photograph, or determine the chemical composition of an inaccessible star? What was science a hundred, two hundred, three hundred years ago? Yes, in a thousand years, what will human intelligence be? Our actual condition will be to that what the knowledge of the dog is to the cultivated man now—that is to say, there is no possible comparison. There are properties of matter which are completely hidden from us, and humanity is endowed with faculties still unknown to us.

These experiments, as well as those I have made in telepathy, lead me to believe that all these phenomena are not simply a material order, that

Radium

they belong to a higher, a psychical order.

I may sum up the whole matter with the single statement that there exists in nature, as I said before, a myriad activity, a psychic element, the essential nature of which is still hidden from us, but which some day will be understood by a further study of spiritualism, discoveries in the physical sciences.

Peculiar Chinese Industries.

In Taochow there are some strange industries. One is the raising of the machi, a sort of large pheasant, the tail feathers of which are very valuable, as they are needed for the dress hats of mandarins. Timber is very plentiful in this district and is sent away by raft to all parts.

Kansas Schoolgirl's Choice of Ways.

One day last week two little girls in Parsons were hurrying to school and were afraid they would be tardy. One little girl said: "Let's kneel right down and pray that we won't be tardy." "Oh, no," said the other, "let's hike on to school and pray while we're hikin'."—Parsons Sun.

SPIDER AS AN ARCHITECT

Naturalists View With Admiration the Really Marvelous Work of These Small Insects.

One who is desirous of studying the architectural gifts of spiders may easily do so by observing the labors of the little garden spider common to all localities. These beautiful webs, circular in outline, with radiating threads running from center to circumference and supporting a series of concentric lines, are regarded by naturalists as the highest architectural achievement of the spider. [illegible] web sits at its center [illegible] lightest vibration [illegible] an entan[illegible] felt [illegible] genuity and perfection of geometric form are conceded. The naturalist is not satisfied with the reply that it is a matter of instinct. He learns that there are wide differences to be found among the webs of different spiders, and his observations lead him to think that he can discern a sort of actual progress, which he calls evolution, in the art of web making among spiders.

The common house spider spins a web quite different from that of the garden spider. The house spider's web consists of a silken tube hidden in a dark corner, with an irregular sheet of closely woven meshes spread before it. The tube is the spider's lurking hole and place of refuge; the ou[illegible] spread web is its snare. T[illegible] spider makes a tubular ho[illegible] hinged door for a refuge, [illegible] relying entirely [illegible] overcome the [illegible] of opinion that at the beginning the only kind of web that any spider knew how to spin was a simple cocoon intended to protect its eggs. Then a web for the protection of the spider itself from its enemies was woven around the cocoon. This web had an opening for ingress and egress, and such webs, intended for use only during the time that the eggs are hatching, are still spun by some species of spiders. The next step was the development of a snare. It has been suggested this may have resulted from the accidental spinning of threads over and around the opening of a tubular retreat surrounding a cocoon.

In all this there may be discerned some resemblance to the progress of architecture among men. The earliest representatives of the human race were content to dwell in caves and rudely constructed huts. Then more elaborate dwelling places and bu[illegible] [illegible]ed for other pu[illegible] [illegible]until [illegible]

Madame Merri's Advice and Suggestions

Shower for a Bridegroom.

This affair certainly was something entirely new to me and I think will be so to most of the department readers. It all came about in this way: There was to be a wedding and the bride was a much entertained lady. One night the men who were to be in the bridal party said they thought a bridegroom was a much neglected individual, etc. The result was his receiving the following invitation, a copy of which was sent to about twenty of his most intimate friends:

"A 'shower' will be given at the home of Mr. J. F. Black in honor of Mr. C. G. White on Tuesday night. Please bring an article suitable for him in the new life he is about to undertake."

The men entered into the spirit of the thing and the result was amusing in the extreme, so those say who were fortunate to get a detailed description. There was not a girl in evidence, though the best man's sister arranged for the refreshments, flowers and place cards. Here were some of the articles contributed, all done up in tissue paper tied with ribbons:

A box of collar buttons, razor strop, silk hose, suspenders, garters, shaving brush, a tack hammer, bath slippers, cup and saucer. Many of the gifts were accompanied with rhymes, which were read aloud as each parcel was opened.

The ushers and best man planned the shower, and it is said from henceforth the pre-nuptial entertainments will not be confined to the bride, at least in this town, for everyone declared that the bridegrooms of the future would be as much feted as the brides.

It is an idea that may be carried out at stag parties and add lots of fun.

A Farewell Good-Luck Party.

This is the description of a merry party given by a neighborhood crowd of young people in honor of two of their set who were going away for a year's absence. The invitations were decorated with good luck symbols, like horseshoes, four-leaved clovers, wishbones, etc. When all had arrived the hostess passed halves of gilt cardboard horseshoes, each cut at a different angle; when a perfect horseshoe was made by a couple they were partners to hunt new pennies which were hidden throughout the lower part of the house. This was a good starter and the couple who brought back the most coppers in their little silk bags received a box of candy decorated with a huge gilded horseshoe. Next, cards were passed with the words "Good Luck" at the top, and a prize was given to the one making the most words in twenty minutes. The refreshments consisted of ice cream frozen in the shape of four-leaved clovers, the cakes were horseshoe-shaped and the place cards ornamented with gilded wishbones. Each guest took home a bright new penny for a good luck pocket piece.

The table centerpiece was a low brass bowl filled with forget-me-nots and maiden hair fern, surrounded by a large gold horseshoe cut out of cardboard. The going away guests were presented with little stickpins in the shape of wishbones with tint pearls.

Bachelor Stag Dinner.

Whenever a bachelor entertains he is usually indebted to some obliging feminine friend who plans the affair for him and then disappears.

Here is the way a couple of girls carried out the decorations and menu for ten men, the meal being served at the home of the host's sister:

The table centerpiece was bachelor's buttons, golden wall flowers and wild oats, surrounded by a circle of dainty dolls dressed as ballet girls in pale pink, blue, yellow and white, green and lavender. There were ten of them and ribbons radiated from each to the place cards which marked each plate and which were tied to corncob pipes. On the cards were pen and ink sketches of a man in front of a fireplace smoking, with girls' faces indistinctly appearing through the smoky haze. The candles were red, in brass holders, and an image of Cupid was suspended from the overhead light so that it just poised over the flowers. He was equipped with a quiver well filled with gilt arrows. The following menu was served:

Consomme.
Lobster Newburg.
Broiled Mushrooms.
Marinade of Lamb Chops Broiled.
Mashed Potatoes.
Buttered String Beans.
Currant Jelly.
Orange and Celery Salad.
Ices in Meringues.
Cafe Noir.

MADAME MERRI.

Scarfs are shown in every material—chiffon and lace, velvet, satin and fur.

Handkerchief Cap

For sweeping and dusting caps men's handkerchiefs with fancy printed borders are used. A casing is sewed about the handkerchief and a draw-string run in, which draws the handkerchief up into a cap. The points are tacked up against the crown. It is very easy to unfasten the draw-string and flatten the handkerchief when time comes for laundering the cap.

IN VOGUE

Panels and covered buttons are very effective on the skirts of the season's street dresses.

Fur is used more extensively than ever to trim dresses intended to wear without a wrap.

The newest pendants and necklaces are quite long and many show a lacy effect that is very pretty.

The latest jabot is accordion plaited and hangs straight and full. These are particularly good in black and white combinations.

The Russian lac[illegible] in the gown[illegible] are used [illegible] than on the gowns modeled on simple lines, but of elegant fabric, with little else in the way of contrast.

Rococo Flowers.

The rococo flower, when it came in, had in it an element of surprise from which we have hardly recovered, in spite of our familiarity with this form of ornament.

Whenever one sees these fascinating little bits of trimming they seem to crop up with a light air of unexpectedness and to win and deserve always the approval of the eye.

On heavy winter millinery they have a singular coquetry and grace.

Tucked in a velvet corsage they are equally quaint.

Dangling from a satin or chiffon [illegible] a fragile n[illegible] any air[illegible]

DATE GROWING IN TEXAS

Federal Government Aiding Development of Fruit in Southern Part of Lone Star State.

Fort Brown, Tex.—The federal government is lending valuable assistance to the development of the date growing industry in South Texas. In the government plant testing gardens at Fort Brown are a number of varieties of date palms which are said to be doing as well as in the countries where these fruit bearing trees are native.

There are already many producing date palms in the lower border region of Texas, but it was not until the last few years that steps began to be taken to place the industry on a

Texas Date Tree.

commercial basis. As a result of the success that has been attained at the Fort Brown reservation in growing the palms many people of this section have planted large groves of the trees and some of them have already come into bearing. A co-operative date farm, conducted by the United States department of agriculture, was also established near Laredo, Tex., a few years ago. Four acres of the palms have been planted and a large part of them are in bearing. The yield of some of the trees is enormous, often amounting to as much as 500 pounds of the delicious fruit.

One of the requirements of successful date growing is an abundance of water and plenty of sunshine. There must also be a minimum of cold weather. Rich soil is, of course, necessary. All of these elements are found in the region. Some of the seeding date palms on the ranches and farms of this section have been producing abundant crops of fruit for many years, but it was not until the government took hold of the matter and began to demonstrate the possibilities of the industry from a commercial standpoint that it was taken hold of on a scale commensurate with the profitable returns that it promises to bring the growers.

MAN WHO SUGGESTED PEACE

Was Long Time Finding Out What He Was Good For, But Finally Landed High.

New York.—It took Lincoln Steffens a long time to find out what he was good for. He spent his youth in California hunting and having a good time generally. He was graduated from the University of California and then he went to Europe, where he studied in the Universities of Heidelberg, Leipzig, Berlin and the Sorbonne. He topped that study off by marrying a fellow tstudent at Sorbonne and going to London, where he spent much time in research work in the British museum. Then he considered himself ready to enter the field of letters. He

Lincoln Steffens.

was made editor of McClure's after several years of newspaper work.

One day Mr. McClure, just back from abroad, entered Steffens' office and said without preamble: "Steffens, you're getting out a rotten magazine. You don't know anything about the country. Don't you realize you are living in the United States? Go out and see something."

Steffens did. He had imagination and enthusiasm and had at last become limbered up mentally after his long years of academic study. He had energy and an unlimited supply of questions. The result of that trip was "The Shame of the Cities," a series of exposures of municipal graft that made him famous.

Fell 425-Year-Old Tree.

Palouse, Wash.—Another immense tree in the white pine belt of northern Idaho was cut by the [illegible] comp[illegible] of P[illegible] and [illegible]

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

They Are Closely Observing Public Health Conditions.

An examining physician for one of the prominent Life Insurance Companies, in an interview on the subject, made the astonishing statement that the reason why so many applicants for insurance are rejected is because kidney trouble is so common to the American people, and the large majority of applicants do not even suspect that they have the disease.

He states that judging from his own experience and reports from druggists who are constantly in direct touch with the public, there is one preparation that has probably been more successful in relieving and curing these diseases than any remedy known. The mild and healing influence of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its remarkable record of cures.

We find that Swamp-Root is strictly an herbal compound and we would advise our readers who feel in need of such a remedy to give it a trial. It is on sale at all drug stores in bottles of two sizes—fifty cents and one-dollar.

However, if you wish first to test its wonderful merits, send to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle, absolutely free. When writing be sure and mention this paper.

Pax Mundi.

Adam bit into the apple.
"The first peace dinner," he cried.

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE."
That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of E. W. GROVE. Used the World over to Cure a Cold in One Day. 25c.

Any man ought to get three square meals a day if he is able to work and able to keep from being worked.

Constipation causes and seriously aggravates many diseases. It is thoroughly cured by Dr. Pierce's Pellets. Tiny sugar-coated granules.

The Curse.

"May you haf three sons, and may dey all marry for love!"—London Opinion.

Hamlins Wizard Oil is recommended by many physicians. It is used in many public and private hospitals. Why not keep a bottle on hand in your own home?

A girl may not really object to being kissed, but she objects to the young man's thinking that she doesn't object.

For HEADACHE—Hicks' CAPUDINE. Whether from Colds, Heat, Stomach or Nervous Troubles, Capudine will relief you. It's liquid—pleasant to take—acts immediately. Try it. 10c., 25c., and 50 cents at drug stores.

Labor Question.

Lady of House—You say you work. At what?"

Hobo—At intervals.

Chorus Girl Repartee.

Trixie—O, you're not such a much!

Zaza—No? I don't see any Pittsburg millionaire's picture on your bureau, either!—Christmas Puck.

Asking a Good Deal of Her.

Mrs. Back-Bay—I shall want you to be dressed by three o'clock, Ellen, to receive any friends who may call.

Ellen—Oh, lor', mum! Ain't you goin' to be in?

Slow.

"Myra, how long has Joe Nevius been going with you?"

"About 18 years."

"That seems an awful long time."

"Yes; I sometimes wonder if Joe's ever going to ask me to marry him."

Her Logic.

It was the week before Christmas. Emery and his younger sister, Mildred, were debating very seriously the reality of Santa Claus.

"There isn't any Santa Claus," said Emory, with finality.

"Why, there must be," insisted his sister. "How could they make pictures that look just like him?"

"Those Youthful Prodigies."

"Will wonders never cease?" said Jones to his wife. "Here is an account of a six-year-old boy who can work the most difficult problems in algebra."

"Remarkable!" admitted Mrs. Jones, "but I know a four-year old girl that knows Greek. Where does your little wonder live?"

"In Boston. Where does your linguistic marvel live?"

Mrs. Jones gazed out of the window with a far-away look in her eye as she answered: "In Greece."—National Food Magazine.

SURPRISED DOCTOR.
Illustrating the Effect of Food.

The remarkable adaptability of Grape-Nuts food to stomachs so disordered that they will reject everything else, is illustrated by the case of a woman in Racine, Wis.

"Two years ago," she says, "I was attacked by a stomach trouble so serious that for a long time I could not take much of any sort of food. Even the various kinds prescribed by the doctor produced most acute pain.

"We then got some Grape-Nuts food, and you can imagine my surprise and delight when I found that I could eat it with a relish and without the slightest distress.

"When the doctor heard of it he told me to take several small portions each day, because he feared I would grow tired of it as I had of all other food.

"But to his surprise, (and that of everybody else), I did not tire of Grape-Nuts, and became better day by day, till, after some weeks, my stomach entirely recovered and I was able to eat anything my appetite craved.

"My nerves, which had become so weakened that I feared I would b[illegible] come ir[illegible]ane, were also [illegible] the [illegible] Nuts foo[illegible]

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