

What Is The Secret Of "Sightless" Boy Marvel?

Uncanny Feats Performed By Youth Arouses Speculation By Scientists Of Future Revelations In Field Of Spiritualism And Possible Results



Hamlin Garland, author of "Forty Years of Psychic Research", noted spiritualism authority.

By Thekla Glenn

IT SEEMED uncanny—visiting Hamlin Garland in the sunshine of his garden, drinking coffee from his delicate china—and talking about voices from the dead—but that's exactly what we did!

I had gone to Los Angeles to visit this author of "Forty Years of Psychic Research" because I had heard that he could tell me about a boy named Pat Marquis, 12 years old, who could see without the use of his eyes.

I was not disappointed, because Mr. Garland and the Los Angeles Doctors and surgeons had been investigating the lad and found that vision was NOT dependent upon the use of his eyes.

"Do you believe," I questioned, "that the boy is controlled by spirits?"

I asked this because I had just read Mr. Garland's book on his forty years of study and I was rewarded by a definite "NO."

"I believe that the boy has 'supernormal sight,'" Mr. Garland replied, explaining that he himself had put dark glasses on "Pat"; then had covered the eyes and head with adhesive tape; after which he had put a velvet band of black over it all and then covered the entire head in a red silk bag.

In spite of this the boy told the time by Mr. Garland's watch with the gold encased instrument wrapped in a handkerchief; he read the pages of a book; called out letters of the alphabet which Mr. Garland pointed out and did many other things which science has not yet explained.

"THE boy is perfectly normal," said Mr. Garland, "except that he has a vision that the rest of us either do not have or have not cultivated. It is possible that all of us have this ability but have not used it. I don't know. I do not believe that it is a psychic power but I am at loss to explain that, just as I am at loss to explain the voices of the past which come to me from what many believe is the other world."

Mr. Garland expounded upon the marvelous qualities of the mind and said that he thought the mind was capable of wonders of which we have not dreamed. Pat he said is only one example of the hundreds he knew about.

He told me of a friend of his who had a complete record of ectoplasm (a wraithlike mist in human form, resembling some one who has died) demonstrations, and spoke of phantasms he himself had seen.

I had heard vaguely of such things, but had never met any responsible person who ACTUALLY HAD SEEN THESE THINGS WITH THEIR OWN EYES!

Then, of course, I said, he must surely believe in the control of spirits from "the other side" and he said that he could not claim this as proof as he believes there is this strange substance thrown off by every human body which (if the thoughts are strong enough and concentration powerful enough) take on the form of the image held in the minds of the individuals.

He told me that he believed the so-called ghost photographs were but photographs of this strange substance formed by the minds of those sitting around the room. He does believe this substance exists and takes on human form. It is molded by human thought, he says, just as a sculptor models wax.

"IT DOES not convince me of spirit return, but it does confirm me in my own deductions," he said, referring to the many records in his library.

He explains that he has often dictated what is to be written on a slate when there were no human hands to write it. As he says, in his book, "What are we to say when all the laws of matter stated by our text books appear to be negated in this way?" Speaking further of this experiment and many others like it he said, "It demands explanation on a psychical plane—if there is such a plane."

In speaking of an authority on these matters he said, "In a public meeting recently Millikan is reported to have rebuked a speaker for speaking of the electron as though it were well known while the soul was an abstraction. He is re-

Mr. Garland believes that pictures of "returned spirits" are nothing but photographs of invisible substance formed by minds of participants.

ported as saying, 'We know nothing of the electron other than that it is a center for chemical forces.' Richet, you know, refuses to admit that these physical phenomena are in opposition to official science. He says: 'To admit telekinesis and the formation of ectoplasmic phantasms is not to destroy the smallest fragment of science—it is but to admit new data, to recognize that there are unknown energies. Materialization does not contradict one established fact, it merely adds new facts.'"

After this discussion we went back to the boy "Pat" and wondered if he might not actually be under some control, but Mr. Garland refused to believe it and said that the world is on the edge of some very great and very vital discovery—a discovery involving the power of the mind.

SO—THERE I sat, drinking coffee with Mr. Garland, in his lovely garden, with sunshine and flowers all about while we discussed things which my own mind could hardly grasp.

How could I, in broad daylight, imagine that my body was throwing off a strange substance which couldn't be seen in that light, but which, (if I thought hard enough about) could be shaped in the image of my thought. Also how could I imagine Mr. Garland talking with friends of his who had been dead for years just as he sat and talked to me.

Perhaps the strangest of all was that Mr. Garland insists that such things DO happen—but that it proves nothing concerning eternity to him!

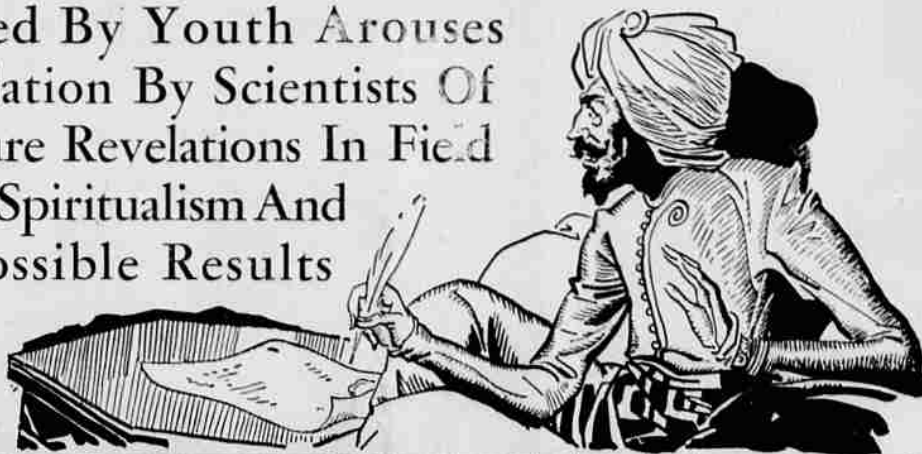
For forty years this grand man, who is now in his seventies, has sought the riddle of it all and has not found the answer—how could I hope to understand it in the course of an interview?

In his book, "Forty Years of Psychic Research," published by Macmillan, he gives the following self explanatory summary:

"AT THIS point I should like to have the reader recapitulate with me the most significant events of the foregoing plain narrative of my experiences. They may help to a clearer understanding of a most elusive problem. Let us take them up in the order of their appearance:

"First: In 1892, under test conditions, I heard the strings of a closed piano sound while my hand was on the lid. The strings were plucked in accordance with my dictation, now on the treble, now on the bass, keeping time to my whistling.

"Second: A year later, under rigid test conditions, Professor Dolbear, a distinguished physicist, and I, in his own study, with a psychic under our control and with no one else present but Mrs. Dolbear, secured the movement of books and other small objects without normal contact by the psychic. While her sleeves were nailed to her chair-arms, we saw the moving of a huge shadowy hand and arm above our heads. Hands at my request thumbed a book, and a box was brought from a shelf at Mrs. Dolbear's request. Not only were the psychic's sleeves nailed to her chair, but her wrists were encircled by a silk thread of which the taut ends were held by Dolbear and myself.



"This boy is perfectly normal except that he has a vision that the rest of us either do not have or have not cultivated," said Mr. Garland. "I do not believe that it is a psychic power but I am at a loss to explain his phenomenal gift."

"Third: In the home of B. O. Flower, with no one present but Mrs. Flower, the psychic, and ourselves, we obtained telekinetic movements of a megaphone and secured independent writing on sheets of paper two yards from the utmost normal reach of the psychic; and as a final test we secured writing on a sheet of paper while we controlled both the psychic's wrists, which were in addition bound by tape stitched to her sleeves and nailed to her chair-arms.

"Fourth: IN FULL SUNLIGHT, on slates UNTOUCHED BY EITHER THE PSYCHIC OR MYSELF, received messages in varying script and signed by differing personalities; and while alone with the same psychic and rigidly controlling her hands and her feet, I saw the soaring flight of a megaphone.

"FIFTH: With Henry Fuller as my assistant, I secured from another medium, in a sunlit room, seven bars of music written on folded slates, while they were in my own hands or in Fuller's hands, at a distance of six feet from the psychic sitting immovably in full view, some of this music being recorded on the SLATES WHILE THEY WERE UNDER MY FOOT. All

of it came without contact by the psychic, and corrections were suggested by a voice which appeared to come from the air. The speaker claimed to be my friend, the composer Edward McDowell.

"Sixth: In a sunlit room while I held the corners of the CLOSED end of a thick pad of Manila paper, with the psychic's fingers merely touching the closed end of the pad, I obtained on several pages in the middle of the pad, written messages; and later, in the center of a four-hundred-page book (selected at random from the shelves of a library which the psychic had never before entered) I obtained writing while the closed book was held in my two hands, a grasp which I never relaxed for one moment.

"Seventh: In the presence of a psychic whose wrists were encircled with tape and nailed to his chair, I secured writing in the center of the table nailed utterly out of his reach; and while he was thus nailed to his chair arms and his right hand controlled by a sitter, I felt on my left arm the grip of a strong right hand. I SAW this hand dart from a cloud of blue vapor before the psychic's breast and raise a glass of



Pat Marquis, the youth of normal vision, who is able to tell time and point out many geographical locations while blindfolded.

water to his lips. On another occasion, while the psychic's wrists were nailed to his chair and his little finger was linked with mine, his under-shirt was tossed across the table. The psychic said it had been taken off his body while thus controlled.

"EIGHTH: From a woman psychic while under my control with her sleeves nailed to the arms of her chair, I secured on a sheet of paper the print of TWO LARGE HANDS, and on wax the print of a thumb which was neither that of the psychic nor that of any other member of the circle. In the red light of a lamp, I placed a gag in the mouth of this psychic, and while my hand was on her head, she produced (or helped to produce) a voice which did not issue from her lips, a voice which loudly sang.

"While she was still controlled by my nails and tape, invisible hands in complete darkness picked minute objects from the floor, described them accurately, and afterward placed them in my hand. Invisible hands pulled my hair, touched my fingers, and at last a large hand showed itself under my eyes moving about above an illuminated pad.

"I group these observed phenomena at this point not because they are more interesting than many others I have witnessed, but because they were secured in small circles, under my own test conditions. If they did not happen, then my testimony on any phenomenon in the world about me has not the slightest value to me or to my readers.

"I shall begin my discussion of them by admitting that they, and many others I have recorded, were all in the nature of 'stunts', as if the invisibles were intent upon amazing me rather than converting me. I use the word 'stunt' in its popular sense, a display of skill in the execution of a difficult task; but describing these phenomena by a slang term does not lessen their essential mystery.

"They should have astonished me, but in truth they did not. On the contrary they took place so naturally, so quietly, that I studied them without the slightest feeling of awe or even surprise.

"Magical as they may seem, incredible as they are, they happened exactly as I have described them, and were recorded at the time without taking into account the aspects which religious beliefs had given them. In this chronicle I have attempted to present each event clearly and without prejudice for or against the spiritualistic theory. All I ask of the reader is a like dispassionate judgment of my chronicle. I repeat: If my testimony is of no value on these phenomena, it is of no value in any other of my experiences. I merely state what I saw and heard as in my "Afternoon Neighbors" I have recorded the words and faces of my fellow writers and artists."

GARLAND in his last chapter "Summing Up the Evidence" says, in part:

"As I bring this record of many personal experiments to a close, I am urged by my friends to state my conclusions. To them I must reply: 'I have no conclusions. I am still the seeker, the questioner.' I can only put into this final chapter some of my convictions along with a candid statement of the intellectual barriers which thus far have prevented me from an acceptance of the spirit hypothesis.

"I do this in a mood of sincere regret. I wish I could end this book with a triumphant song of victory, but I can not do so. . . .

"Men will be discovering new facts in nature a thousand years from now just as they are finding out new natural laws today. The human organism will never be completely weighed, measured, and diagrammed. It is a microcosm of the universe. There will always be a field of unexplored biology. Beyond the fourth dimension other dimensions will allure men who are insatiably curious, those to whom the unknown is at once a challenge and a way of escape. We know a little now, we shall know a little more a century hence—but death will still be the ultimate insoluble mystery."