

FOREGOING DEVOTEES OF MYSTICISM

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS
So many of our men of achievement are becoming devotees of mysticism that we may commence to question whether the modern tendency is, after all, toward a more material plane.

A lawsuit recently revealed that no less a light than Paul Morton, ex-Secretary of the Navy, and now one of the leading financiers of New York, had been president of the Association for the Study of Ancient Wisdom, organized by the followers of Sri Agunya Guru Paramahansa, the great "tiger Mahatma of India," lately condemned to four months in a London prison for insulting women who had responded to his advertisements for a typewriter. Mr. Morton had subscribed nearly \$100 to the cause and another disciple of the seer was Mrs. Emma Eames, the diva. Around this tiger Mahatma in a London prison for insulting women who had responded to his advertisements for a typewriter. Mr. Morton had subscribed nearly \$100 to the cause and another disciple of the seer was Mrs. Emma Eames, the diva. Around this tiger Mahatma in a London prison for insulting women who had responded to his advertisements for a typewriter. Mr. Morton had subscribed nearly \$100 to the cause and another disciple of the seer was Mrs. Emma Eames, the diva.

Another ex-Cabinet officer who has for some time been interested in the occult sciences is Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury in the McKinley Cabinet. He has for some years been an interested member of that organization of ghost-hunters, the Society for Psychical Research, and recently he built himself a cottage near to Mrs. Katherine Tingley's temple within the Theosophist colony at Point Loma, Cal., where the much discussed Raja Yoga School is located and where A. G. Spalding, the ex-baseball star and sporting goods man, also went into retirement lately. Upon its being announced that Mr. Gage had joined the theosophists in response to a dream suggestion, he gave out the statement that he had not been invited to join the society, but would consider it an honor to be. Here are two noted financiers with established reputations as men-captains of industry, if you like.

Noted Editor's Test.

A no less solid man who is now an enthusiastic devotee of the mystic sciences is Dr. Isaac K. Funk, the head of the great publishing firm of Funk & Wagnall, and the editor of the Standard Dictionary. Some time ago it was announced that Dr. Funk had been the principal in a most interesting psychic experiment. He shut himself in a room in Brooklyn at the same witching hour when, by prearrangement, a group of people in a room at Lyons, N. Y., were hypnotized and commanded to concentrate on Dr. Funk. Then when the doctor, in his room, drew a fish, "he said," while the hypnotized ones at Lyons said "fish," while when he raised his arm toward the ceiling they exclaimed, "He points upward."

When Dr. Funk was compiling the Standard Dictionary he wished to use a drawing of the "widow's mite"—an ancient coin worth hundreds of dollars. A specimen was found in the possession of a friend of Henry Ward Beecher, who arranged that his friend, Dr. Funk, could borrow it.

Then Beecher died and time passed without the doctor's thinking more about the matter until some time ago, when he was investigating a spiritualist medium, who announced a communication from the departed divine. Beecher reminded Dr. Funk that the "widow's mite" had never been returned, and directed him to seek it in the editor's office safe under a stack of old papers. Then Dr. Funk searched as directed, and he alleged found the coin just where the supposed spirit said it would be, but where no one, not even the cashier, had suspected that it had so long resided. These and other alleged experiences have brought the learned lexicographer to the conclusion that there are "whole classes of phenomena which point clearly to the operation of intelligent forces that exist outside of what we know as human bodies." He, however, refuses to declare himself a spiritualist.

Hamlin Garland and "Astral" Forms.

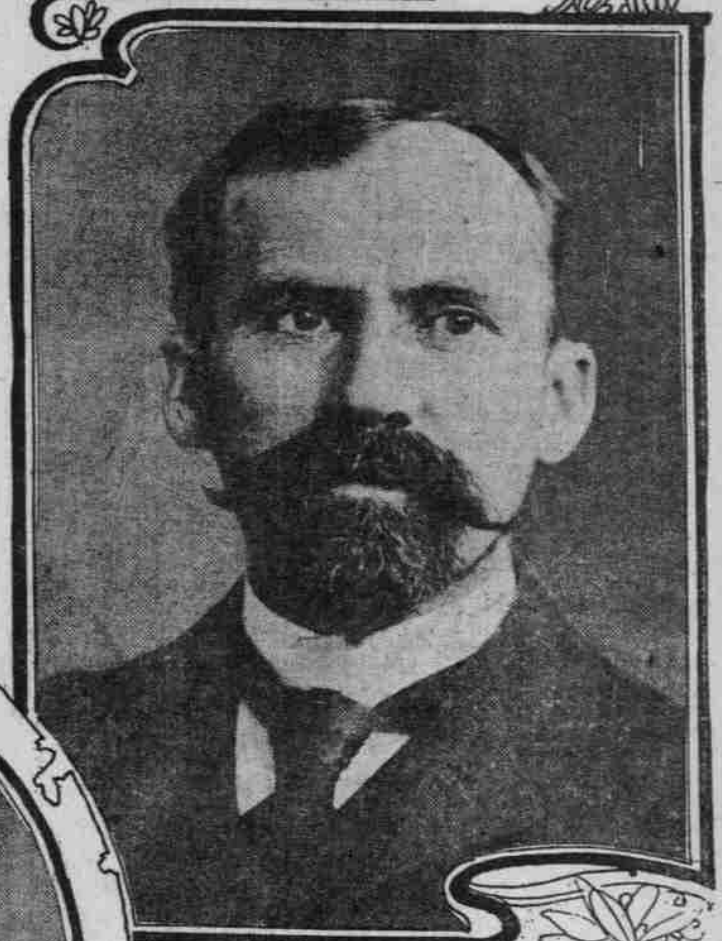
Hamlin Garland, the novelist, is also a deep student of the dark mysteries. He refuses to accept the phenomena of spirit messages, but puts much stock in the psychic researchers' modern laboratory tests of "astral forces" alleged to move heavy furniture and cause "astral hands" and such appearances. "We are on the point of discovering a new and wonderful force which suggests laws heretofore not apprehended by science and apparently contradicting all physical laws," says Mr. Garland, whose many actual personal experiences have been reported to the American Psychical Society, of which he is now president, and among whose leading members are



WM. T. STEAD IS NOW A WRITING MEDIUM.



MANY NEW RECRUITS TO THE RANKS OF BELIEVERS IN COMMUNICATION WITH DEPARTED SPIRITS.



PROF. JAS. H. HYSLOP

F. H. W. Myers, author of "Human Personality." Our Mrs. Piper also helped to convert Sir Oliver. He got her to come to his Liverpool residence, where, in the presence of a committee, she is reported to have told just what two women "utter strangers to her, were doing minute by minute in their London cooks."

Sir William Crooks.

Sir Oliver's brother knight, the celebrated chemist and inventor of the X-ray tube, Sir William Crookes, has too long been a strenuous exponent of the occult sciences to elicit surprise by any new theory that he might now announce in this line. But probably few American readers know that some time ago Sir William risked his scientific reputation by reporting to an exalted body how he had known the materialized spirit "Katie King" how he had had crystals placed in his palm by hands not belonging to any persons in the room with him, and how in broad daylight he had seen a cloud condense into a hand, which carried objects about. This exalted body to which he reported these alleged phenomena was no less than the British Royal Society.

His paper was ignominiously thrown out, the great society's outraged secretary refusing to so much as enter it upon the files. And we, too, most of us, this quarter hour have been sticking up our noses and sniffing skeptically at these wondrous doings here and abroad. But we must ever bear in mind that the orthodox of today were yesterday's heretics!

Mrs. Howe, a Good Agitator.

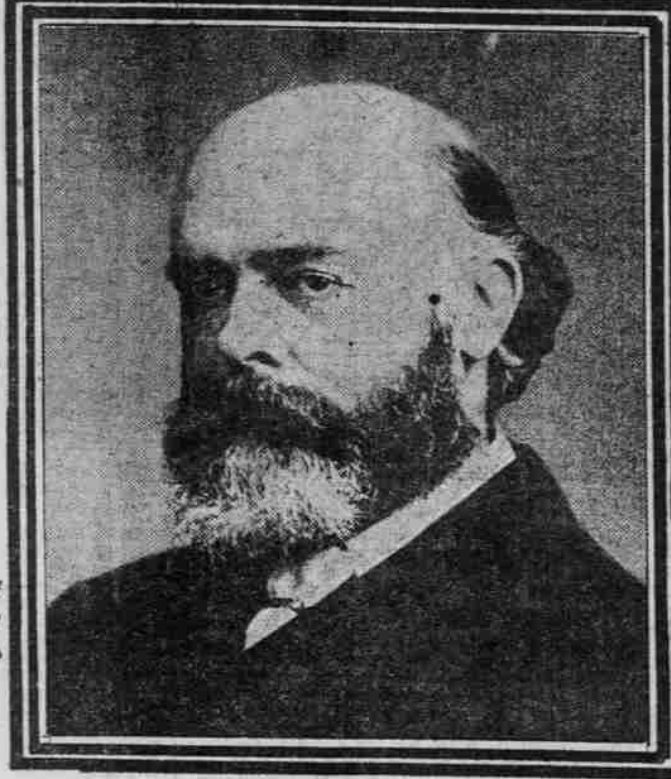
Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer. Julia Ward Howe, whose 96th birthday is lovingly remembered by her children and friends, is undoubtedly the first woman of America today. If in all her long life she had done nothing but write the mighty "Battle Hymn of the Republic" she would deserve lasting honor and reverence. But Mrs. Howe has not been content to rest upon this achievement. Up to within the last decade she has been actively engaged in forwarding reform movements, and her pen has seldom been idle. Her life should remain an inspiration to all Americans. Already a middle-aged woman when she wrote the battle hymn, Mrs. Howe had long been engaged advancing the anti-slavery movement in New England. After the Civil War she turned her energies to other activities, and took a special interest in prison reform, and in same advocacy of suffrage for women. Mrs. Howe has always been, in a good sense, an agitator. She has striven for things the realization of which were apparently beyond her day and generation. And now, in extreme old age, she is loved and honored by all the people as a brave and noble and unselfish soldier in the cause of civilization.

The Sheriff's Report.

Denver Republican. We just went out to get him, and we did— We trailed him from the asparagus to the pine. We seen the long-dead ashes where he'd hid And where he'd cooked his bit of bacon rine. We found the hoax, where it had fell and died. But he'd gone on—a tough nut, yet that's true. We seen the blood where he had stopped and tied His coat sleeve 'round his wern and busted shoe. We heard his lead, a-singin' past our ears. Where he stood pat, 'way up a lonely draw; We smell his powder, yet it brings no fears. 'Cause wasn't we the Majesty of Law? We seen his face, his black eyes blazin' hate. We heard him fall, and in plain view he laid; The words some better off, I calculate— We just went out to get him, and we did.



SIR WILLIAM CROOKS.



SIR OLIVER LODGE



PAUL MORTON.

The Rev. Minot J. Savage and Prof. A. E. Dolbear, the physicist and inventor.

Professor James' Discovery of Great Medium.

An appetite for the mysterious developed some time back by William James, professor of psychology at Harvard, was perhaps early youth, to make head or tail of the writings of his brother, Henry James, which doubtless he had to peruse to keep peace in the family. Be this as it may, Professor James' psychical research has forced him to admit that there are supernormal phenomena for which our natural sense impressions cannot account. Professor James was the real discoverer of Mrs. Leonore E. Piper, the now famous Boston medium. It was 20 years

ago that he found out the peculiar power of this remarkable woman, who has since been tested by the trained psychic researchers of two continents and who lately surrendered herself completely to the British Society for Psychical Research. During these latter experiments this trance medium, although isolated, guarded and subjected to the severest tests by a committee of trained skeptics, is reported to have described what other persons were doing and saying hundreds of miles away.

Masked Himself and Disguised Voice.

Mrs. Elavatsky was exposed in India by a strenuous Australian investigator, Richard Hodgson, who afterward settled down in Boston, where he became head of the old American branch of the British Society for Psychical Research and where also he met Professor James, who took him to see Mrs. Piper. Dr. Hodgson studied this woman for 15 years and she convinced him that telepathy, automatic writing and communication with the dead were bona fide phenomena. To give her a special test Dr. Hodgson arranged a unique course of experiments, in which he was aided by Dr. James H. Hyslop, professor of logic and ethics at Columbia.

masked himself and disguised voice.

The professor masked himself and disguised his voice during his visits to her, and while she lay unconscious, with her head upon a pillow resting on a table her hand wrote out messages alleged to come from his father. She converted Hyslop to the spiritistic hypothesis, and his announcement of the fact made a stir in the scientific world. He and Hodgson formed a compact that whoever died first would communicate with the other, and Professor Hyslop expressed to me some time ago his satisfaction that he has received messages from Hodgson since the latter's death.

Prof. Hyslop's Woman of Mystery.

She is a woman of mystery, and all that has been revealed about her of a personal nature is that she is a blue-eyed young woman of a modest and retiring temperament who lives about 24 miles off from New York in a town which is surrounded by an evergreen forest and in which her husband enjoys good standing as rector of an orthodox church, surrounded by a cross.

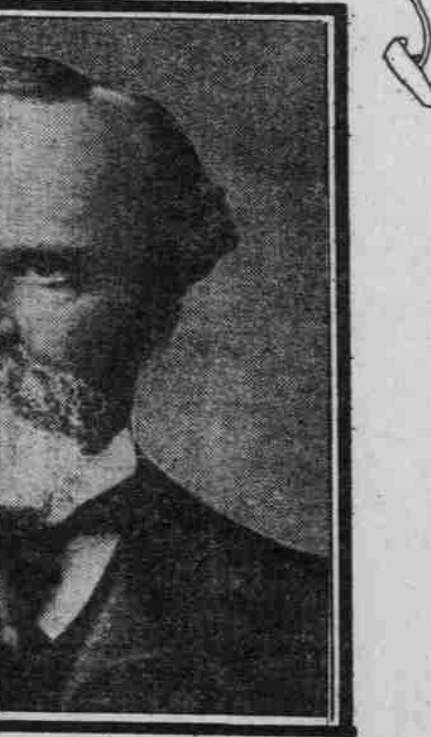
Converti Lombroso and Flammarion.

Across the deep no less a proportion of thinking men have turned their thoughts in the same direction. Cesare Lombroso, the great Italian criminologist and anthropologist, after having studied the medium Eusapia Paladino, has announced his belief in disembodied spirits, although he does not endorse the theory of the return of the dead. Professor Charles Richet, of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris, is a French leader in psychical research work and claims to have photographed the spirit of a Spanish soldier, while Camille Flammarion, the French

astronomer, is now an aggressive convert to spiritism. He says that he has proved that such phenomena as the movement of chairs without contact and the suspension of heavy tables in space are caused by spirits.

Editor Stead Now a Medium.

William T. Stead has become a medium, so he now says, a writing medium, not one of the lamboirine and trumpet brand. At first the noted editor accepted telepathy and claimed to have written down the thoughts of living men many miles away. Then, of late years, he alleges, he has gotten into close communion with the dead. But it is only this year that he claims to have developed automatic writing, his right arm becoming



PROF. WM. JAMES.

impassive while its fingers guide a pen over paper on which appears letters from his son, the brilliant young writer, William. Mr. Stead claims that this writing appears without his exercising any will power to either hold the pen or move it.

Sir Oliver Lodge Now a Spiritualist.

If the English-speaking public was surprised to hear that Mr. Stead had strayed this far into the spiritualist camp, it was startled to learn a few months ago that Sir Oliver Lodge, head of the University of Birmingham, had announced his belief in such communication with those beyond the grave. In a recent journal of the Society for Psychical Research he has given details of messages which he claims to have received from dead members of the society through the pen of a writing medium known as "Mrs. Hollandrose"—another of these psychic "women of mystery." From Mr. Gurney, one of the founders of the society, Sir Oliver received an alleged message commencing: "I appear to be standing behind a sheet of frosted glass which blurs the sight and deadens sounds." He claims to have also heard lately from



BULL THAT WILL TROT AGAINST ANY 2300 HORSE.

Trotting between fast horses and a full-grown 4-year-old Durham bull is down on the cards for Western Pennsylvania tracks this year. Dr. Joseph D. Chaney and John H. Ross, of Waynesburg, Pa., have for the last three years been training the bull, and they have issued a challenge to trot the bull against any 2300 horse in that end of the state for a large stake. They assert that the bull has frequently trotted a half mile to sulky in 1:22, and that he can do the mile in less than 2:30. The bull was first noticed trotting by Dr. Chaney in Maryland when it was one year old, and the physician bought it.