

EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK ARE SHOWN IN PHOTOGRAPHS



Mrs. Sophie D. Gummy and Bobinette



Roosevelt at Oyster Bay

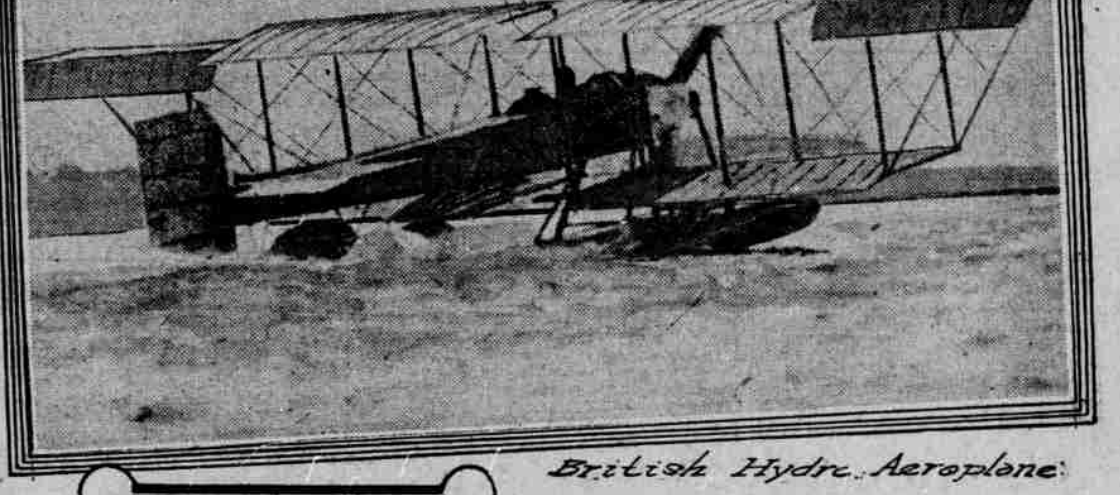


Royal Family of Belgium

Left to Right: C. J. Edwards, J. C. Eberhardt, W. M. Hammer, R. J. Collier at Wright Funeral



Wilbur Wright's Funeral



British Hydro. Aeroplane

New 5th Avenue Special Police

NEW YORK, June 15.—(Special).—King Albert of Belgium has instituted a criminal suit for libel against the originator of a slander which has been in circulation for some weeks and which has as its motive the desire to create the impression that the good-looking young King was developing along the lines of his predecessor, King Leopold. The story is that at a garden party the Queen surprised the King in the company of a chambermaid and that she shot the woman dead with a revolver. The incident has created a sensation and public opinion is greatly wrought up over the affair. This photograph shows the King and Queen and their children.

Theodore Roosevelt has been busy telling the reporters that the election of a temporary chairman for the convention at Chicago is an "unimportant matter." A few days ago he thought it worth fighting for. He was convinced by a dubious brother who called on him and told him that while they would follow the instructions of the voters and vote for his nomination, they would follow their

own judgment in other matters and in the matter of the chairmanship they wanted to vote for Root.

All activity in Dayton was suspended for three minutes while the first airman of the world, Wilbur Wright, was buried. His body lay in state in the First Presbyterian Church for three hours. The principal officers of aeronautic societies throughout the United States attended the burial services, among them R. J. Collier and C. J. Edwards, president and vice-president

respectively of the Aero Club; W. M. Hammer, representing the Aeronautical Society; and J. C. Eberhardt, of the Dayton Aero Club.

This is Emil Seidel, candidate for the Vice-Presidency, and his children. Mr. Seidel will necessarily be among the "also ran" in November for the Socialists are not strong enough to cut a serious figure in the election. Mr. Seidel has just completed a very satisfactory term as Mayor of Milwaukee.

Eugene Debs is the Socialists' candidate for President.

Mrs. Sophia D. Gummy used to be a prominent figure when she drove her blooded horses at the horse shows in the Eastern circuit. If you want to know how Mrs. Gummy now looks, glance in any business office where a corps of woman typewriters sits pounding the keys all day. Mrs. Gummy had a husband once. He was J. McFarland Gummy, a high-roller. He was at the head of a big firm of real

estate operators. One day J. McFarland disappeared. He left countless debts behind. Mrs. Gummy was quite sure he had not deserted her and she lived in hopes of his return until a recent day. Meantime she learned stenography and got a job. She now earns \$18 a week. This week she decided J. McFarland did not intend to return and she instituted suit for divorce. Mrs. Gummy's home is in Philadelphia.

Great Britain has astonished the

naval as well as the scientific world by developing a fleet of hydro aeroplanes. Recently at the naval review which was witnessed by King George, they maneuvered and flew over the battle-ships with great success. Great Britain has more of these naval air engines than any other nation now.

There is now a corps of new special policemen in Fifth avenue. The natty uniforms of these watchmen have caused them to be called "Beau Brummels" and "Algernon Reginalds" and other such names. The new police are paid for by the Fifth Avenue Association. The principal idea is to protect the Fifth-avenue shopper from pickpockets, beggars, etc. The force in time will number 150 men, will have their own officers and their own headquarters. They will be expected to furnish information concerning the shops on the avenue. They will not have authority to make arrests and will not have special policemen permits.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD BASIS FOR SPECULATION

Circumstantial Evidence to Prove Correctness of Conversations With Professor James, Commencing Day Following His Death, Are Given by Spiritualists.

BY GEORGE A. THATCHER.

ON evening recently I heard a street preacher at Morrison and Third harranguing a crowd of God, Heaven and hell. Pausing for a moment to get his breath, he was interrupted by a bibulous brother who, with the preternatural gravity of a drunken man, raised his hand and asked "What do you know about it?" with quiet emphasis on the word "know." That is the question that all men ask at one time or another, "What do we know about life after physical death?"

It is true that we have the authority of the church, but what is that based on? It may be said fairly that it is based on the statement of seers and prophets—men whose experiences were on a different plane from that of the average man.

It would be hard, if not impossible, to find a religion that is not based on these supernatural or supernatural experiences. The savages had what is described as animism, based on the same sort of authority, only their grade of culture was at a low level. Tylor in his "Primitive Culture" gives a minimum definition of religion as a belief in spiritual beings, and says that so far as the evidence goes such a belief appears among all the lower races. Tylor also remarks, "The theory of the soul unites in unbroken line the savage, the fetish-worshipper and the civilized Christian."

Aside from the authority of religion there is the authority of philosophy. Secularists say in the "Principle" and in their philosophy the practice of death. The philosophers, aside from the pessimists, claim that there is a super-sensible something behind the phenomena of the physical universe. Spencer calls it the unknowable and Kant describes the unknown forces as "things-in-themselves."

The churches and philosophers agree on one point, and that is that nothing can be learned of man's destiny as a scientific fact. And yet the man is vaguely satisfied that these generalizations are based upon the fact of human life—a knowledge which has resulted from experience, investigation and reasoning. The savage believed that there was an intelligence in man which could exist independently of his body. Shelley, in a elegy on Keats says:

"Peace, peace, he is not dead, he doth not sleep—
He hath awakened from the dream of life;
Tis we, who, lost in stormy visions,
Keep
With phantoms an unprofitable
strife.
It is less than 30 years since an or-

ganization of scientific men in England began a careful study of supernatural phenomena. They cover a wide range—telepathy, clairvoyance, prevision, apparitions in the waking, sleeping and trance states. The American branch of the English society, and, of late years, the American society, have added much material to the collection of the original society. Naturally a good deal of this material relates to alleged communications from the dead. These have aroused a good deal of interest, but have not carried conviction, except to a comparatively small number.

In a new and serious investigation of our sort the question of what constitutes proof of any fact is the first one to arise. There is no precedent and individual opinions differ immensely. It is not too much to say that investigators have to devise means of responding in drinking the health of the Queen and snapped the stem of his wine glass afterward—an old custom long since outlawed. He also said something about a horse, and went to the spot where a painting of a famous regimental horse once hung. These trifles established his identity in connection with the muster rolls of the regiment.

Identification of Souls Difficult.
Proofs of identity of a similar trivial character are considered most trustworthy in the case of a disincarnate soul, but as they have to come through the subconscious faculties of persons known as mediums the difficulties are very great. However, they have been offered with varying success for a number of years, but many persons regard them as so foolish as to be contemptible. Perhaps the Christian eschatology is responsible for that contemptuous attitude in providing harps and crowns and white robes for the departed—if their brains of theology met with approval in this world. Accepting that scheme of things, it is downright sacrilegious to believe that a glorified spirit about a horse, and a tenpenny, through a medium, to establish its iden-

tity by relating trivial incidents in "earth life." Generally speaking, the idea is preposterous to orthodox souls and all their kin.

Messages From Professor James.
The latest of these communications claim to come from Professor William James and the account of them is given in the "Proceedings of the American Society," volume 6, and also a summary of the seances given in the monthly Journal for May, 1912. In estimating the value of these trivial incidents, the chances of fraud are to be remembered as well as the possibilities of guesswork on the part of the mediums. Then there is the question of telepathy. Some good people profess to believe that if any living person knows an incident in the life of the deceased, the medium can get it by some process of mind reading and relate it as coming from the spirit. That is a theory for which there is no proof, but it saves one from believing in spirits. Then there is the belief among other good people that only evil spirits—a family of mischievous devils—come to mediums and impersonate the departed. This is likewise gratuitous, but it gives the skeptic a chance to evade the issue and avoid sober and independent thought. This is the gaudiest spiritualistic communications have to run and readers may take their choice without cost.

Professor James died August 28, 1910. The day following, Mrs. Smead, living 13 miles from a railroad, in the mountains, in a Southern State, had an apparition of a man in a military uniform. Later she was shown a picture of Professor James and recognized it as identical with the apparition. Mrs. Smead had a sitting September 6 (Dr. Hyslop not present) and the Greek letter Omega was written.

September 26 Dr. Hyslop held a sitting with Mrs. Chenoweth. George Pelham communicated and said of Professor James, "We thought we would give James a sign or name by which he could be known. If he made any attempt at communicating, he would decide for himself and when it is given he will make effort to give it at various places. I mean by various, one or two or three where he would naturally go, and thus the cross-references and definite identification will be helped."

had received the record of Mrs. Smead's sitting, but took no special notice of the Omega. The sign was given again by Mrs. Smead February 1, 1911, and May 29. May 30 it was given with other signs. June 6 it was given several times.

To go back to Mrs. Chenoweth. October 20, 1910, after getting a message, the name William James was written and Omega after it. November 2 a message began by writing "William James and closed with the sign Omega. This message is worth quoting in part, for it bears of the skeptic's assertion that spirit messages are identical. Here it is: "Good morning, and thank you for your patient effort in this matter. It is so important that personality is lost sight of in the endeavor. My chief effort is to make identity plain and I agree with you that identity is proved by tone and spirit as definitely as by date and incident, but to the scientific mind still unconvinced the proof is in exact and complete statement. A psychologist may believe many things that are perfectly undeniable as a given moment, and unlike some other forms of expression he can make no test, but must cite instances and relate experience with evidence. I understand all this and yet my desire remains unchanged by death to have exact data to work from."

At this same sitting another paragraph is worth quoting. "We are practically alone today. By that I mean no one is here with an ardent desire to communicate or with curiosity animating them except myself. It leaves me with a clearer head. I never had my best thinking in the presence of anyone. I was dependent on quiet and isolation. (Pause in choice of word isolation.) You wonder at my heat. I thought isolation somewhat rather far-fetched for a room apart for work only."

The latter incident was true and unknown to the medium. The first statement gives Professor James' opinion on this problem while he was living. As I said, this sitting began by writing the name William James and closed with the sign Omega.

giving Omega as his sign. We cannot photograph Professor James in the act; we cannot get his unspoken message in the photograph, and as for the sense of touch, no surgeon's knife could divide his hand, for his physical frame was buried in the ground. There is nothing but a sign given through two different mediums (commonly known as spiritualistic) and the assertion given through one of them by another personality that Professor James would give a sign. What is it all worth as an attempt to establish his identity? It certainly does demonstrate that the common rules of evidence, which require the use of sight, hearing or touch, do not apply in this problem. Different rules of evidence must be used to establish identity.

Through one of these mediums, statements came which were characteristic of Professor James, and unknown to the medium, as that he "never had much patience with those who believed in the worldwide telepathy." To personal friends such characteristic statements sound convincing, but to outsiders their value is nil. There are many statements of this kind in the record but a few will indicate the value of all as evidence of identity. For instance, "I would have preferred to stay with my family a few years longer. I looked forward to some work long planned and some days of leisure and special endeavor on these matters. But I broke down all at once and could not seem to get any leverage. My wife regrets my efforts and as usual, when death comes, feels obliged to have made more protests, but tell her the body was nearer worn out than she knew."

Dr. Hyslop says that the medium and he himself were ignorant of the fact, but the autopsy showed that Professor James could not have lasted long.

Sorrow Is Overcome.
"I cannot feel the sorrow as he does for the joy that comes from the knowledge and reality of continued life and consciousness of her life and love dissipate in a measure the shadow of the present separation."

There are also references to discussions and conversations between Professor James and Dr. Hyslop, of which the medium was ignorant, that are accurate and significant. In a sitting November 11, 1910, there are some trivial facts given to prove Professor James' identity. "Bread and milk and having often made the meal at night in the summer and the vegetable kingdom furnished a large part of my food always. I was fond of apples and some kinds of fish. These may seem remarkable things to re-

turn from heaven to talk of, but you will appreciate their value. "I can see the headlines in the newspapers now if this were given out, but if I said I had broken bread with the Saviour or Saint Paul there would have been many who would have believed it the part of the life of a man of my reputation in my new sphere." (Professor James' son says: "Father was a small eater for some years before his death, and ate little meat. He was fond of apples and, of course, had his preferences in fish.")

There are various communications given in the report referring to incidents unknown to the medium, but which were known to Dr. Hyslop and Professor James, such as visits and conversations between the two men. These communications agree with the facts, according to Dr. Hyslop. Space forbids giving them in detail. Some are clear and good. Some are confused and blind. Some trivial events given cannot be verified and some are false.

Pajamas Help Identity.
Communications from an alleged spirit about pink underwear, and especially from a former professor of philosophy and psychology in Harvard University, strike the sense of the ridiculous too sharply, in view of the Christian eschatology which controls modern conventional thought, to receive attention as a trivial fact tending to prove identity. Here are the facts, however, which possibly relieve the absurdity of the idea of such a communication. Some years before Professor James' death and while he was on a lecture tour in England a medium in America said that he was wearing pink pajamas. Dr. Hyslop, who attaches value to facts, wrote to Professor James and asked him if it was true. Professor James replied that it was, which seemed to close that incident whatever the meaning was.

After Professor James' death and at a sitting with Mrs. Chenoweth, when Professor James claimed to be communicating, Dr. Hyslop asked him if he remembered anything about "pink pajamas." The response was that he did, which, of course, was an easy one for the medium to make. Later Professor James said through this same medium that he would try to refer to this matter as a test through Mrs. Smead, who knew nothing about the matter. Nothing came through Mrs. Smead, but another medium who was entirely ignorant of all the circumstances got a message in automatic writing and also in crystal gazing from Professor James, who said, "I want you to give Hyslop two pairs of pink pajamas and a black necktie for Christ-

mas." Dr. Hyslop had a black necktie formerly belonging to Professor James, which he used to place in the hand of a medium to assist in getting clear communications. Experience has shown that some article belonging to the deceased is a help in bringing a medium and communicator into rapport. The incident simply proves that a question asked through one medium was answered in this joking way through another medium when Dr. Hyslop was absent. Worldwide telepathy would explain it; only that no effort was being made by the medium who got this for the simple reason that he knew nothing of the matter. Maybe it just happened without any reason. At any rate it adds to the gaiety of nations that a glorified spirit is claimed by psychic researchers to refer in flippant fashion to shirts, drawers and a necktie, though of course the Mrs. General who form society will be shocked at such improprieties, especially since the occasion permitted the offering of some heavenly primes and prisms to elevate the thoughts of earth dwellers.

(Concluded on Page 10.)