

The World's Amazing Vision of Life After Death

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Offers What He Believes to Be Irrefutable Proof That He Has Been in Communication With the Spirit Realms—"Our Dead Soldiers Yet Live and Speak to Us," Says Dr. Hereward Carrington

BY CLIVE MARSHALL.
ONE of the most remarkable phenomena of the war has been the tremendous worldwide revival of interest in all subjects pertaining to death and the possibility of another life beyond the grave.

So many have gone to the other world that it seems to have been brought closer. We cannot forget them, we cannot get away from thoughts of them—those boys dead upon the battlefields of Europe.

There is not a man or woman who has not thought more about death within the last three years than in a whole lifetime before. It is not a cold, academic interest. It is vital. It is personal. Fathers, mothers, the bereaved in many lands are looking into the beyond, where are their heroic dead, with a new, a passionate questing.

Religion affords the age-old consolation of faith that the dead shall live again, but religion has pierced the curtain into the beyond only with the eyes of faith. Today, simultaneously from scientists of England and America, comes the amazing statement that this curtain has at last been lifted, and that living human beings are in daily communication with loved ones who have gone beyond.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, known throughout the world as the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and known to many as a physician and scientist of note as well, has followed recent magazine articles by an astonishing book, entitled "The New Revelation," in which he sets forth his absolute conviction that he and others have been in communication with the other world, and offers what he believes to be irrefutable proofs for this belief.

At the same time Hereward Carrington, Ph. D., one of America's foremost thinkers, and a man whose work on the causes and phenomena of death have won him a distinguished place, publishes a new volume, entitled "Psychical Phenomena and the War," in which he declares that in a literal sense "Our dead soldiers yet live," and gives a host of communications which he declares have been received by bereaved parents.

Long Investigation. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in the astonishing book which he has written after 30 years of scientific study, says that "the subject of life after death is one upon which I have thought more and about which I have been slower to form my opinion than on any other subject whatsoever."

"When I first read my medical education in 1882," he says, "I found myself a convinced materialist. When it came to a question of my little personal beliefs, I was slow to admit to me that the whole analogy of nature was against it."

"This was my frame of mind when spiritual phenomena first came to my notice. I had always regarded the subject as the greatest nonsense upon earth. I met some friends, however, who were interested in the matter, and I sat with them at some table-moving seances. Near in mind that this was 20 years ago. We got connected messages. But I am afraid the only result they had on my mind was that I regarded these friends with some suspicion."

Such, then, was the initial attitude of the man who today declares that communication with the dead is an accomplished scientific fact.

"When I regarded spiritualism as a vulgar delusion of the uneducated, and could afford to look down upon it; but when it was later endorsed by men like Crookes, Wallace, Flammarion, the best known of astronomers, I could not afford to dismiss it. He would draw his head in, thinking it was a very poor place. That is just what you have done. In a mixed seance with no definite aim, you have thrust your head into the next world, and you have met some naughty boys. Go forward and try to reach something better."

name unknown to any of us. She said she had died at Melbourne five years before at the age of 16; that she was now happy, that she had work to do, and that she had been at the same school as one of the ladies. On my asking that lady to raise her hands and give a succession of names, the table tilted at the correct name of the head mistress of the school.

"She went on to say that the sphere she inhabited was all around the earth; that she knew about the planets, that Mars was inhabited by a race more advanced than us; there was no bodily pain in her sphere, but there could be mental anxiety; they were governed; they took nourishment; she had been a Catholic and was still a Catholic, but had not fared better than the Protestants; there were Buddhists and Mohammedans in her sphere, but all fared alike; she had never seen Christ and knew no more about him than on earth, but she believed in his influence.

"Spirits prayed, and they died in their new sphere before entering another; they had pleasures—music was among them. It was a place of light and laughter. She added that they had no rich or poor, and that the general conditions were far better than on earth.

"This lady bade us good-night, and immediately the table was seized by a much more robust influence, which dashed it about very violently. In answer to my questions it claimed to be the spirit of one whom I will call Dodd, who was a famous cricketer, and with whom I had some serious conversation in Cairo before he went up the Nile, where he met his death in the Dongleuse expedition. Dodd was not known to either lady. I began to ask him questions exactly as if he were seated before me, and he sent his answers back with great speed and decision. The answers were often quite opposed to what I had expected, so that I could not believe I was influencing them. He said that he was happy, that he did not wish to return to earth. He had been a freethinker, but had not suffered in the next life for that reason. Prayer, however, was a good thing, keeping us in touch with the spiritual world. If he had prayed more he would have been higher in the spirit world."

"When he died he had found people to welcome him. He knew more than he did in life. Duration of life in the next sphere was shorter than on earth. He had not seen General Gordon nor any other famous spirit. Spirits lived in families and communities. Married people did not necessarily meet again, but those who loved each other did meet again."

Offering the Proofs. After telling of coherent and intelligent messages received in other seances at which he was present, Dr. Doyle says that he asked himself at the time:

"What proof was there that these statements were true? I could see no proof, and they simply left me bewildered."

"Now with a larger experience, in which I find that the same sort of information has come to very many people independently in many lands, I think that the agreement of the witnesses does, as in all cases of evidence, constitute an argument for their truth."

In 1891, Dr. Doyle joined the Psychological Research Society and continued more seriously what he sincerely believes to be his communication with spirits in the other world and his study of the ceremony and the blessing of the Women's Battalion of Death before it was sent out to fight.

that all disease, weakness or deformity has passed from it. This body is standing or floating beside the old body, and conscious both of it and of the surrounding people. At this moment the dead man is nearer to matter than he will ever be again.

"In most cases I imagine that the dead man is too preoccupied by his own amazing experience to have much thought for others. He soon finds to his surprise that though he endeavors to communicate with those he sees, his ethereal voice and his ethereal touch are equally unable to make any impression upon those human organs which are only attuned to coarser stimuli. The spirit is not a glorified angel or a goblin damned, but simply the person himself."

"New before entering upon his new life, the new spirit has a period of sleep, varying in length. Having awakened from this sleep the spirit is weak, as the child is weak after each birth. Soon, however, strength returns, and the new life begins."

The Spirit World. "This leads us to considerations of heaven and hell. Hell drops out altogether, as it has long dropped out of the thoughts of every reasonable man. Hell as a permanent place does not exist, but the idea of punishment of purifying chastisement is justified by reports from the other world. The probationary spheres are perhaps rather a hospital for weakly souls than as a penal community. Aside from them, the reports from the other world are all agreed as to the pleasant conditions of life in the beyond."

"They agree that like goes to like, that those who love or hate interests in common are united, that life is full of interest and occupation, and that they would by no means desire to return."

"All of this is surely tidings of great joy, and I repeat that it is not a vague faith or hope, but that it is supported by all the laws of evidence which agree that where many independent witnesses give a similar account, the account has a claim to be considered true."

"All agree that life beyond is for a limited period, after which they pass on to yet other phases, but apparently there is more communication between these phases than there is between us and Spiritland. The lower cannot ascend, but the higher can descend at will."

"Life there has a close analogy to that of this world, but it is pre-eminently a life of the mind, as this is of the body. "Preoccupations of food, money, lust, pain, etc., are of the least importance. Music, the arts, intellectual and spiritual knowledge and progress, have increased."

"The people are clothed, as one would expect, since there is no reason why modesty should disappear with our new forms."

mentioned Crookes, Wallace, Flammarion, Charles Richi, Sir Oliver Lodge, Barrett, Lombroso, W. T. Stead, Judge Edmunds, Admiral Osborne Moore, the late Archdeacon Wilberforce and scores of others.

Our Soldier Boys. So much for the English scientific mind. Now to return to the leading American exponent of these new ideas, Dr. Hereward Carrington, Ph. D., author of many scientific works on death, its causes and phenomena.

In his latest work, entitled "Psychical Phenomena and the War," he not only sets forth the same startling general conclusions as those arrived at by the English scientists, but declares that this new knowledge is practical, and that many bereaved fathers and mothers in France and England are today in actual communication with their boys who were slain on the field of battle.

In a thrilling chapter entitled "Our Dead Soldiers Yet Live," Dr. Hereward Carrington offers what he believes is the convincing scientific proof that it is possible to get in touch with the dead.

And his words are not couched in academic or obscure language. It is a vital belief with him, a new religion, which he offers passionately and sincerely to all who have been bereaved.

He declares that these boys have been heard from since they passed to the beyond, and quotes from them in detail. "Have they died in the real sense?" he asks, and answers, "A thousand times no!"

"Are they still alive? Yes! And they are the self-same dear, loving, natural 'boys' as when they moved among us. There is only one change. They have simply lost their physical bodies. The real man, the immortal ego, remains absolutely unaltered by the process of death."

"These deathless boys, then, are precisely the same today in their essential characteristics as when enveloped in their mortal robe."

The author quotes from a letter received from one who recently lost his son in battle: "We have spoken with our boy (killed in action) many, many times; in fact, it is now a regular thing, and this is what he said recently: "Do you know, Dad, I don't think

did everything in their power to interfere with her recruiting, and they tried hard to breed discontent and insubordination in her ranks. When I first made the acquaintance short time she remained she stirred up a rebellion that seriously threatened the existence of the corps. By some means, which I never understood, the identity of the spy became known

you quite grasp it. Do you know that the boys sometimes suffer more here when they return home in spirit and are refused a hearing than ever they suffered on the battlefield? They know they are alive, they try to apprise their loved ones of the fact, only to be met with and encompassed by waves of tormenting grief."

Dr. Carrington quotes many other such messages. He says that the boys who have passed over are eager to communicate with their loved ones. It is easier for them to do so, he says, when those who are bereaved have confidence that they are living in another and better world, and do not give way to extravagant grief.

"Many there are," says the author, "who have had the experience and have learned the truth of the ancient saying that love bridges the chasm."

Could any revelations of life after death be more amazing than those to which these serious-minded men bear witness? If what they sincerely believe to be true is really true, could there be any



greater consolation for the hearts of the steadily increasing number of American fathers and mothers who have lost their boys on the battlefield?

LEADER OF WOMEN'S DEATH BATTALION NOW IN AMERICA

Rheta Childre Dorr Recalls Bloody Days of Revolution in Russia When Maria Botchkareva Became Famous.

BY RHETA CHILDE DORR. (Published by Arrangement with the New York Evening Mail.) WHEN I saw Maria Botchkareva in a beautifully furnished hotel room, saw her well groomed, in a new uniform of fine cloth, with all the orders pinned to her blouse, expensive boots on her feet, the gold stars of a Lieutenant-Colonel on her sleeves, the other day, I closed my eyes for a moment, another picture of her flashing into my mind.

I pictured the day in Petrograd, less than a year ago, when I saw Botchkareva made a commissioned officer in the Russian army. It was in front of the Cathedral of St. Isaac, and a thousand mounted Cossacks were drawn up in hollow square to witness the ceremony and the blessing of the Women's Battalion of Death before it was sent out to fight.

That day in Petrograd Maria Botchkareva was much thinner and browner than she appeared yesterday, but she was a gallant figure as she walked forward, proudly yet modestly, to receive from the military governor of Petrograd her officer's sword and belt. I was glad yesterday that through all the terrible vicissitudes of the Russian upheaval her star has never been allowed to disappear; glad that the friends of our unhappy ally have found means of sending her to plead their cause. It is a truly remarkable woman who has come to America.

Botchkareva, had a distinguished military career. Lieutenant-Colonel Botchkareva never claimed to be the heaven-inspired saint, nor has she ever shown herself the military strategist of Jeanne d'Arc was. She did not, like the Spanish nun, get into the army in the disguise of a man, nor did she fight, as the Spanish woman did, because of her adventure. Like the Maid of Orleans, Botchkareva made no attempt to disguise her sex. She simply claimed the right to fight for her country side by side with men.

Bravery Wins Decorations. She did fight and she fought well. She wears on her breast medals and crosses representing the five degrees of the Order of St. George, the highest military decoration that can be bestowed on any Russian soldier. The wearers of St. George, which is the ultimate decoration after the first four degrees have been won, have their names engraved in gold letters on the white marble walls of the Hall of St. George in the Kremlin Palace, Moscow.

The name of Maria Botchkareva probably has not yet been written in St. George's Hall, because after the world war began, formalities like that were neglected in Russia, as elsewhere. But when Russia gets back to sanity and order, after some stable form of government has been established there, what Botchkareva did and what she attempted to do when ruin threatened the revolution will certainly not be forgotten.



Maria Botchkareva ©Rathe-Thompson

of the Women's Battalion of Death and she was thrown out of the barracks. Indeed, but for the firmness of Botchkareva those fierce young Amazons might have done the spy violence. Botchkareva insisted on the allowing the

woman to go away unscathed, rightly judging that any other course would bring discredit on the battalion. She has not invariably been as discreet as that in her judgments. They know they are alive, they try to apprise their loved ones of the fact, only to be met with and encompassed by waves of tormenting grief."

Dr. Carrington quotes many other such messages. He says that the boys who have passed over are eager to communicate with their loved ones. It is easier for them to do so, he says, when those who are bereaved have confidence that they are living in another and better world, and do not give way to extravagant grief.

"Many there are," says the author, "who have had the experience and have learned the truth of the ancient saying that love bridges the chasm."

Could any revelations of life after death be more amazing than those to which these serious-minded men bear witness? If what they sincerely believe to be true is really true, could there be any

the Summer or Autumn of 1915 until after the revolution of February, 1917. It was February in the Russian calendar, which is two weeks behind that of the western world. Her only ab-

(Continued on Page Nine.)

Gray Hairs Vanish When Tinted With "Brownone" It is so easy to retain your youthful appearance long after the gray streaks in your hair have made you look old. Just a touch with "Brownone" and no one would ever suspect that you had a gray hair.

Absolutely Harmless Simple and easy to apply. No previous experience needed. Men-tion name of Dr. Men-tion shade desired when you purchase. All leading drug stores carry it. Price 25c and 50c. The Kation Pharmaceutical Co., Washington, D.C.