

Boy Sees Things That are not Found Easily Without Looking Straight at Them

All over Scandinavia great excitement and sensation has been caused by a thirteen-year-old Norwegian boy, John Floettum, who seems to be possessed of a most phenomenal clairvoyant power. More than six months ago somebody at Singaas, where the boy is living, observed the remarkable ability which he had shown in finding lost things and persons.

At first no special notice was taken of it, but about a fortnight ago a commercial traveler, living in the Oosterdal valley, was missed. Somebody took the opportunity to speak about the boy's remarkable power to the police, who for nearly a week had tried in vain to trace the missing traveler.

John Floettum was appealed to and without hesitation the boy indicated a river, about twenty miles away, where the body was promptly found.

The method adopted was as follows: A photograph of the missing man was shown to the boy, who closely examined it. After a short visit at the house where the man had lived, the boy, escorted by two Norwegian policemen, started in the direction which he instantly indicated. After a short walk the boy suddenly stopped, exclaiming: "We are on the right way. Here the man lately sat down." After a few minutes' stay the boy continued his walk. Though many people followed the boy and the policeman, the boy did not take any notice of them. He followed rapidly the course which he had laid out, and, although it was dark, he requested the police to follow him until he had found a tree where he had seen that the man should have lost a handkerchief. After one hour's walk a tree was found, where a handkerchief was lying. It was the property of the missing man. By this time the boy was so exhausted that he said it was necessary to give up that day further walking.

Early next morning the boy arose and told the policeman that in the night he had seen the body of the man at the bottom of the river which he had indicated. The boy went straight to the river, where a boat was at the shore. He, together with the police, and two fishermen, steered in the direction which the boy indicated. Suddenly he cried out: "Here you are," and at the bottom of the river where the boat stopped the body was seen lying in about one and a half fathoms of water.

The news of the incident rapidly spread over Norway, and an enormous consternation arose among the Norwegian peasants. The boy was sent back to Singaas, where his mother, a poor woman, lives. The father died three years ago. His parents have six children, of whom he was the fourth. His oldest brother is working as a fireman. The next two are sisters, who are serving as chamber maids. The two youngest children, a boy and a girl, are at home at Singaas. John's school teacher, Mr. Morseth, sixty years old, says:

"I never cared for such experiments, which I always considered a waste of time, but now I believe it my duty to say that I am fully convinced about the remarkable sense of the boy. He is a phenomenal clairvoyant. I have already tried him with several cases, and nearly always John has had a complete success. Only in a few cases, when he was excited, the experiments have failed. But don't forget," added the old teacher, "that John is only a boy."

Asked what sort of experiments the teacher had made with John, Morseth said: "One day I asked John: 'Please tell me what I have in my purse?' Instantly John replied: 'A golden ring, some slips of paper, but no money.' That was quite correct. Another day I told John that thirty years ago, seventeen years before John was born, I lost a gold ring when I was playing with the school children in a field. John held his hand over his eyes and in a few minutes said: 'I see your ring flying through the air. Many small hands are searching for it on the ground and many eyes are looking for it. There is a very thick and fat boy who is very eagerly looking for it.' But with his one hand he covers the ring for which he is so eagerly looking."

The teacher now clearly recollected the fat boy who later died in prison. "Besides these experiments," he continued, "many others could be mentioned, but in these cases I suppose that it was merely thought reading. That it is real, you may be quite assured. In school John was a very intelligent boy, but he did not care for reading. He was not very industrious or even clever, but showed remarkable common sense and much ability in all sorts of pictures and photographs."

Pastor Brish, at Singaas, says: "I compare the case with the same sense which we learn in the Bible of many of the prophets. I call your attention to the story of King Saul, who went to Samuel and got full information about some asses which had disappeared from his father's stable. Quite so with the boy John."

Last week the boy was taken to Christiana, where he was placed with a family in the country, that he might recover from the excitement to which he has been subjected in the last month. He is, however, under the special observation of the well known nerve surgeon, Dr. Weffring, who was first very skeptical, but after close investigation declares that he does not deny that the boy possesses a sixth sense of which the scientific world has no acknowledgment.

Dr. Weffring made several experiments with the boy and had success in nearly all cases.

The surgeon has now agreed that the boy next week shall take up the difficult task of finding a little Norwegian girl, Gudrun Klausen, who disappeared some months ago and of

whom no trace has been found. Gudrun Klausen's disappearance caused a sensation in Norway and all the Scandinavian people are now looking forward to John's investigation.

Dr. Weffring says: "I see no reason why I should not permit John to search for the little girl. He is very eager to commence, and I suppose he will succeed. In every case the boy's health will be the first consideration. I will take the full responsibility in that direction."

By request of several people in Christiana Dr. Weffring told the clairvoyant boy on Friday that a young girl, Gudrun Klausen, has been missed nearly three months from her parent's home, and asked John if he could say where Gudrun was. With covered eyes and Dr. Weffring at his side John walked at night time through different streets, passing the railway station. Suddenly the boy took Dr. Weffring's hand, crying: "You must assist me, for this is the right way." John, who hitherto had walked slowly, began running, drawing the doctor with him. Only a few yards from the harbor John stopped, exclaiming: "I cannot go further." Dr. Weffring asked why not. "I cannot go through the sea. Gudrun is not in the water, and I cannot cross the water on my feet." At this moment John was evidently somewhat nervous and exhausted and further experiments will, therefore, not begin until John has fully recovered.

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Arago Chapter, No. 22, R. A. M. H. Lockhart, High Priest; Albert Seelig, Secretary. Meets fourth Wednesday of each month. Masonic Temple.

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