The World Wide Search for the Truth Regarding Psychical Phenomena. A Bequest to an American University Authorizes Further Investigation of Occultism.

ghosts. Belief in "spooks," of one on the side of spiritism, or of the kind or another, or at any rate in mysterious forces which transcend ordin- which, if not due to deception, must ary experiences, is strong in this age have a bearing on the problems of the Smead is said to be the assumed name ing of a guileless and unsuspicious of enlightenment. Enthusiastic and nature and destiny of the human soul. of the wife of a clergyman living in an nature, they are readily deluded. well trained inquirers are continually Only this month the civilized world interior town who accepts no money That is a charge made by Professor discovering phenomena which in their was startled by the declarations of Sir for her services and has never ap-judgement can be explained only in Oliver Lodge, whom many recognize peared in public so that she seems department of Yale University in case there lie beyond the world of the as the most distinguished living scien- not to have the ordinary motives for recent article in The Independent. senses manifestations of which the tist, that he has believed himself to be deception. human mind is not ordinarily cogniz- in communication with manifestations In addition to these volumes of mense value to human kind of Sir ant. The bequest, just made, of a from another world. Sir Oliver, says Proceedings which give Americans William Crookes' studies in chemistsum of money to Clark University in those who agree with the late Wif- specially interested in the scientific ry, many of which have revolutionthis state for special investigation of liam E. Gladstone in holding psychic aspects of psychic research an oppor- ized whole industries, Mr. Scripture the claims of spiritism is a new illus- research to be "the most important tunity to keep in touch with the latest asserts that outside of his own dotration of the modern disposition to- work which is being done in the happenings in this fascinating domain main of investigation Sir William is ward the occult.

Worcester, Dr. G. Stanley Hall, emi- hypnotist. As professor of physics Hyslop, who has devoted most of his ent professor of physiology of a nent as a psychologist of very prac- for many years, principal of the Uni- recent years to a study of the probtical turn of mind, is reported to have versity of Birmingham and enthusias- lems of occultism, has treated in a expressed his entire willingness to tic first hand investigator in the re- clear, popular way such topics as disreceive the bequest and to live up to its terms. His desire to do whatever is reasonable in studying the facts, or alleged facts, of occultism is in line with the attitude of an increasing number of scientifically trained men.

Whatever investigation, furthermore, is carried on at Clarks will be simply another contribution to the vast amount of material of this char acter that has been brought together in the past 25 or 30 years by earnest students in Europe and America. Many Americans, whether rightly or wrongly, still think of the occult simply as an imaginary realm which vulgar fakirs exploit for the sake of their pocketbooks, and they have no con-

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markable communications, a tele- tervention of the five senses.



TABLE RAISING BY PSYCHIC POWER.

and kindred subjects have led to a be- jects. lief that we may be about to make fundamental discoveries in metaphysics. Many of the Englishmen of interntaional reputation have for years been active members of the Society of Psychical Research. Its proceedings number 20 thick volumes. Of more cosmopolitan caste is the considerable group of devoutees of pyschic research whose special organ is the "Annals of Psychical Science," published fortnightly in the French language in Paris and in English in London (the Boston publishing firm of Small, Maynard & Company having of curtains, the appearance of hands, agents) and containing contributions by world famous authorities. The directors of the publication are Dr. Dariex and Professor Richet, while on the committee of publication are such men as Sir William Crookes, the English chemist, Camille Flammarion, astronomer, and Caesar Lom-

American is familiar. In this country the American Society for Psychical Resarch continues ings" are issued under the editorship table lifted to a height of eight, of Professor James H. Hyslop, formerly of Columbia University. Ante- the floor under conditions where the dating them and already becoming only lifting that could be practised classics of the subject are the proceedings of the old American Society for Pyschical Research, which contained contributions by such men as tion of objects by psychic power is Professors William James and Josiah no more to be doubted than the lift-Royce of Harvard University and by the late Richard Hodgson, the dean a magnet.

of psychical research in America. date cite cases that have attracted credulous associates unhesitatingly and the other kinds cost just as much widespead interest through their ap- with a world apart from our own. as this famous remedy.

gion of the new chemistry, involving association, illusions, hallucinations theories of radium and ionization, no sub-conscious action, clairvoyance man ought to be better equipped to mediumistic phenomena and the like distinguish between fraudulent and in such works as his "Borderland of Psychical Research," "Enigmas of Sir Oliver is not alone, as all the Psychical Research" and "Science and world knows, among European and a Future Life." Dr. I. B. Funk, the American men of high attainments in well known temperance advocate, has science whose researches in spiritism written extensively on kindred sub-

Very entertainingly from the popular point of view, Camille Flammarion, he who beyond perhaps any other writer has made astronomy interesting to the newspaper readers of two continents, has been looking into subjects of psychical interest for nearly forty years and has become convinced that while undeniably a large percentage of fraud exists in mediumistic performances, there are instances in which the lifting of tables the moving of pieces of furniture, the raising of pianos, the blowing about recently been appointed American heads and spectral figures may be accomplished by use of forces that have not heretofore been appraised by scientists. M. Flammarion in his book "Mysterious Psychic Forces," which has just been translated into English, does not deny that all mediums may cheat at times but he asserts that "they don't always cheat; and broso with whose discovery of the they possess real undeniable psychic methods of modern criminology every powers." . He has personally carried on many experiments and has confirmed his observations with the camera. Inasmuch as he has, according its interesting work. Its "proceed- to his statements, often seen a heavy twelve or even sixteen inches from was due to the hands of four or five persons placed on its top, he has arrived at the conclusion that the levitaing of a pair of scissors by the aid of

The astronomer maintains a truly The three volumes of the newer So- Gallic scepticism regarding these evi-

trial treatment. irritated mucous membrane. it does not cure catarrh.

There is nothing else "just as good" ciety which have been issued up to dences of powers which the more as Kemp's Balsam, the best cough cure,

parent genuineness. In the last vol- He merely understands that marvelume of Proceedings, for example, lous feats are accomplished with the Professor Hyslop himself makes re- help of forces which are not recogmarkable statements of results ob- nized in the ordinary text books of tained through a new medium, a physics and chemistry and without "Mrs. Smead," with powers which he expressing opinions as to the future believes to equal or even surpass life or the existance of God, he mainof the celebrated Mrs. Piper of Bos- tains that the soul exists independton whose case has been under con- ently of the body, with faculties that stant study of experts for many years, are still very little understood, and Through this medium Professor Hys- that in some instances the soul is able lop received, among many other re- to work at long distance without in-

wife to the effect that her father was tions brought against the conclusions about to die in his Philadelphia home of some of the very eminent men of -as, indeed, he did die in strict ac- science who have participated in the cordance with the prediction. Mrs. work of psychical research is that, befor her services and has never ap- E. W. Scripture of the psychological Acknowledging, no doubt, the imworld," should be no easy victim of of investigation an extensive general a man of childish mind. He throws The president of the university at the itinerant medium or professional litertaure is growing up. Professor out similar hints regarding an eminworld famous Americans university who, he says, has been fooled at seances where many of the audiences saw the trick.

> There is at least one investigator into things occult whom even Professor Scripture would probably not regard as being necessarily by temperament and training an easy mark. This is Hereward Carrington, form erly a professional sleight-of-hand performer in England and now a resident of New York City, a member of the Council of the American Society of Scientific Research, and an assistant to Dr. Hyslop in certain of his work. Mr. Carrington has been called a "spook detective." It actually is detective work in which for a considerable part of his time, he is engaged. He shares with Flammarion the conviction that every medium, whether he has genuine psychic power or not, is peculiarly subject to temptations to use trickery. His interest in psychic affairs was aroused by the discovery that through his knowledge of legerdemain he was enabled to detect the more common forms of deception. Investigation led him, however, to believe that amog nthe mediumistic manifestations there are some that can be explained only in terms of forces beyond our present ken. His studies of individual mediums have led him now to Nova Scotia, now to the Middle West, now to sittings with Mrs. Piper who is living in seclusion near Boston. Of his newly published book, "The Psychical Phenomena of Spiritualism," the first and larger part is de-voted to fraudulent examples of spiritism while the secondary portion undoubtedly genuine.

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