

the death of a friend living in another state; this communication was made at the hour of her death. The third occurrence was recently: this last voice told me that a man who was sick in my house at the time, would die on such a day and hour;—and he passed out exactly on the day and hour mentioned.

Sometimes the voices I hear are confused murmurs, other times distinct words. I have ofttimes heard a sob followed by a mirthful laugh, and then terrible oaths, etc.

I offer no further explanation than the belief that in some abnormally formed brains sound reservoirs exist and act upon the sensory organs of the head as the wind plays upon an æolian harp. However, I would like to hear some scientific explanation of this fact.

SR. SANGHAMITTA.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

In reply to Sister Sanghamitta's information I will briefly state that the experience of hearing voices is not uncommon, although it must be regarded as abnormal. The interesting part of her report consists solely in the fact that some communications through these internal voices were verified even in the detail of the exact time.

Internal voices originate through noises in the ear and are assumed to be due to an abnormal condition in the blood circulation. Since no investigation can be made with a living brain, while post mortem examinations are of no avail, nothing particular is known as to the definite seat and mode of operation of these phenomena, but it is natural that in persons of lively imagination, these rumors may assume the sound of words that are heard with more or less precision. They fall within the same category as visual hallucinations, and so far as I know the larger part are coincidences. If any information communicated by such internal voices proves to be not true, they are regarded as hallucinations and forgotten. A small part turns out to be more or less true, and if true at all it is not uncommon that some auto-suggestion which is natural even to clear-headed persons renders it definite in every detail even to a determination of time to the very minute.

Auditory and visual hallucinations are very important factors in the history of prophecy and seance. We may assume that many stories reported to have been extremely puzzling to critical observers, may very well be literally true. They are, however, easily explained through our better knowledge of the physiological operations of the nervous system.

The case of Mrs. Blake, however, is somewhat different. The phenomena investigated by Mr. Abbott do not concern internal voices which she heard, but external voices which she was able to produce in some way or another, and which came from her ear, thus suggesting to Mr. Abbott the theory that her Eustachian tube connecting the innermost ear with the throat must be abnormally large so as to enable sound-waves to pass through it and be audible although her lips remain unmoved and closed.

NEW MARVELS IN MAGIC.

BY DAVID P. ABBOTT.

Of late there has been considerable publication of the secrets of magicians, which has reached the public at large. There has also been a certain amount of exposing, conducted from the stage, by persons who could not earn their

salaries by the legitimate presentation of the art. Accordingly, any pronounced advance in the art has been welcomed by magicians generally. Performers are continually looking for improvements in their art, and are diligently



searching for new principles of which they can make use. I wish to call your attention to some recent astounding advances in magic which have taxed my curiosity, for I find myself at a loss how to explain them. I mean the living

skull, the automatic card riser, the enigmatic cube, and other contrivances of Joseffy. In each case this man seems to perform what other magicians have only dreamed of accomplishing. With his card riser the spectators may bring their own packs, choose the cards freely; no threads are used nor is there any visible connection with the goblet that contains the pack, and yet any card

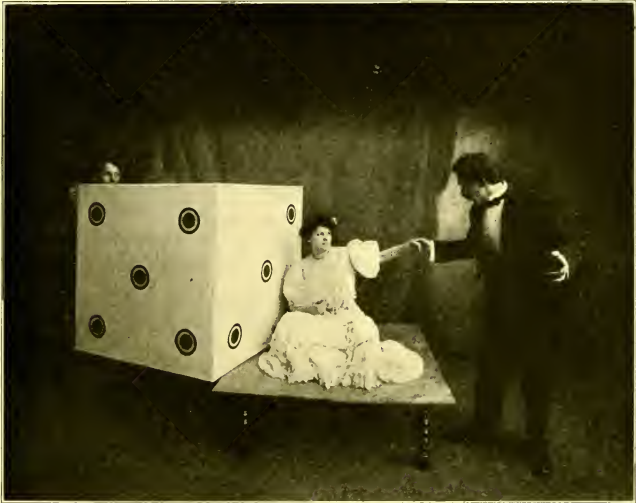


will rise at Joseffy's command at any time. The "living skull" is made of copper and may be placed on any article of furniture. There is no thread or outside connection yet it carries on conversations with its master by clicking its teeth the required number of times when asked a question.

The enigmatic cube is first a one-inch cube which Joseffy produces from the air, and it is then seen to grow while in his hands to a two-inch, a four-

inch and a nine-inch cube. This he now sets in full view upon his table, where it is seen to grow slowly to a size of three feet and six inches. The wizard now lifts this cube, from under which steps a beautiful young lady who starts to run up the stage. The master snaps his fingers, when she instantly stops and disappears in a sheet of flame in full view of the spectators; and in her place is seen a gigantic bouquet of real roses, which are plucked and distributed to the audience.

When such apparent marvels can be accomplished by the magician who uses nothing supernatural, and who claims nothing of the kind, it should be a lesson



to all in credulity. That the usually clumsy tricks of so-called mediums should be attributed to the supernatural, certainly seems an absurdity, after witnessing such marvels.

Certainly, if the performance of a medium requires the assumption of the supernatural on account of the mystery, then this far more mysterious appearing performance requires the same assumption in a far greater degree. This we know is an absurdity, for even the performer makes no claim to the supernatural.

A DEFENCE OF MEDIUMISM.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

Your cock-sure attitude on the subjects of telepathy and spiritism arouses in me a mingled feeling of amusement and indignation. It is evident that you have not carefully studied mediumistic phenomena at first hand. Will you