

startling sign of the times. Doctors were formerly supposed to teach nurses; now, apparently, the nurses are to teach the doctors. The next thing will probably be courses of instruction in nursing for medical men, who must at least be taught their place in relation to the New Nurse. This knowledge is becoming more and more necessary to the practitioner, and the want of it is likely to get him into trouble. The New Nurse waxes every day fatter, figuratively speaking, and 'kicks' more vigorously. She is no longer, it would seem, contented with a certificate; she must have a degree. At least 'post-graduate' lectures are given by learned ladies, and reported in the *Nursing Record* for her edification. "Exhibitions' are arranged where medical and surgical appliances of all kinds are displayed, to the admiration of the public and the greater glory of the New Nurse. Her tastes are strongly surgical, and she has a scarcely concealed contempt for the general practitioner. Even the hospital physician is made to feel that his attempts to hide his ignorance do not impose on her. If his cases recover, the credit is hers; if they do not, the fault is his. She is more tolerant of the student, for—to say nothing of his possibilities from a matrimonial point of view—he is more keenly conscious of his inferiority and more grateful for her patronage."—*Pacific Medical Journal*, Aug., 1896.

PROBABLE NATURE OF "SPIRIT" WRITING.

The chances of coincidence are much increased by the extremely illegible character of much of the script, which leaves wide room for "interpretation." I can not but suspect that the "anagrams" sometimes written automatically often owe their existence to this kind of "interpretation." Yet, after making all allowances for coincidence and forgotten memories, nearly all investigators admit that there remains a residuum which can not plausibly be explained by any accepted theory. I can not discuss this residuum here; it is enough to point to its existence, with the caution that no theory can be regarded as final unless it can explain all the facts.

The importance of this material from a psychological point of view cannot be overestimated. If the man's hand can write messages without the co-operation of the man's consciousness, we are forced upon the one horn or the other of a very perplexing dilemma. Either these utterances stand for no consciousness at all, merely recording certain physiological processes, or else they indicate the existence of mentation which does not belong to any recognized human being. The first would seem to deny the doctrine of parallelism, according to which physiological processes of the degree of complexity requisite to the production of writing necessarily generate mental states, and this would lead us toward the old theory of the soul, or something like it. The second would compel the assumption either of personalities distinct from that of the subject, which is the theory of possession, or of segregated mental states. The latter is the theory which I am developing in these pages, and although I am far from satisfied with it, it is more in line with our present scientific conceptions than others, and accounts for some of the facts fairly well.—Prof. William R. Newbold, in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* for August.