

Now what shall we say as to the existence of the fourth dimension, and what facts if any seem to call for the assumption of its existence? The idea that space might prove more than three dimensions seems to have originated with Kant, and was extended by Gauss and Lobatschewsky, but later writers have done much to popularize the subject. The most prolific of these is C. H. Hinton, the author of a number of books and essays. Hinton was a firm believer in the existence of the fourth dimension. He says in one place: "We must be four dimensional, else we could not think about four dimensions," a statement which will find but little acceptance. He says further that, assuming the existence of a fourth dimension, we must have some extensions into this dimension or we must be mere abstractions, just as plane beings must have some existence in a third direction or be abstractions. But until we are sure of the existence of the fourth dimension we need not worry much about our extension or non-extension into it.

A number of people have grasped at the opportunity of the greater freedom afforded by four dimensions and have made this new infinity the abode of departed spirits. The idea is not without interest since the four-dimensional existence would enable those enjoying it to come as near as they liked to mortals in ordinary conditions and remain near without their presence being suspected. Some have gone farther and attached to the phenomena of spiritism a four-dimensional explanation. From this region we are to believe that the crude manifestations of the medium are carried on. Automatic writing, levitation and all the other weird phenomena of the seance might be explained if natural explanations do not suffice. Perhaps these latter should not be neglected before recourse to the fourth dimensional explanation. The experiments of Zöllner with Mrs. Piper, the medium who attracted so much attention a few years ago, have become famous. If two rings be welded together like the links of a chain, they can not be separated without cutting a link, but if four-dimensional movement were possible, one link could be moved away from the other and returned with the links unsevered but separated. Zöllner gave two such interlinked rings to the medium for separation. It is unnecessary to state that they were not separated. Thus direct experiments have always failed.

Some have attempted to prove the existence of the fourth