

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The reader now has the facts before him, and is in a position to estimate their significance for himself. The tests undertaken were fraud-proof, rendering simulation impossible. The genuineness of the trance was proved. The question is whether 'Uvani,' Mrs. Garrett's Control, represents a mere fragment of her subconscious mind, or a separate mental entity of some sort, having no seeming connection with any portion of her subconsciousness. This question can only be settled by a long series of experiments, and I must again emphasize the fact that the present investigation is but tentative and preliminary. It does mark a new line of approach, however, and a novel method of attack upon this important problem. Judging from the results obtained thus far, I think we are justified in saying that they tend to prove that no ordinary subterranean mental bonds exist between Mrs. Garrett's subconsciousness and the 'Uvani' personality; for, had they existed, our experiments were designed to bring them to light. As to the ultimate nature of 'Uvani' I do not pretend to speak. *I can only say that our experiments seem to indicate, for the first time, by laboratory methods and by instrumental tests, the mental independence of a so-called "spirit control," separate and apart from the conscious or subconscious mind of the medium.*

POST-MORTEM TESTS

A few final remarks and I will bring this lengthy Report to a close. It has occurred to us that tests such as those outlined above would be an excellent means of establishing *post-mortem* identity. Let any individual, when still living, subject himself, half-a-dozen times, to a galvanometer-word-list-test, so as to establish an average series of reactions and responses; let these be carefully sealed-up and deposited in some safe, or in the Archives of the A.P.I. When that individual purports to communicate, *post-mortem*, subject him to the same tests, and compare the two. (The reactions of the medium must also be tested, of course, at the same time.) Should the two series of tests—*ante* and *post-mortem*—show striking similarities—and at the same time be radically different from the reactions of the medium—we should have here a striking proof of identity which could hardly be equalled by any other method of research or attained in any other manner.

In order to eliminate telepathy as a causal factor, these tests could be so conducted that the subject's *ante mortem* record could be registered on instruments installed for that purpose, in a sealed room prepared especially for this type of experiment. The list of stimulus words could be given mechanically, and the stop-watch reaction-times, as well as the galvanic deflections accompanying the reaction words, could be registered either mechanically (*e.g.*, on a dictaphone or by the subject himself) and these records filed away in a safe

deposit vault—thus preventing any other living mind from having a knowledge of the reaction records of this subject. Then, when the subject died, and (on theory) returned to communicate, *post-mortem*, the only mind which had given his *ante mortem* reactions would be no longer 'living.' This way of securing an *ante mortem* registration would result in a "personality record" known to *no* living mind, and one which could be subjected to precise experimental tests when that same individual purported to communicate after death.

One further suggestion in this connection regarding methods of testing the possible independence of the alleged "communicator." If reactions to the same list of stimulus words be taken, several months apart (in the case of a living individual), it will be found that the reaction words chosen will be, to a certain extent, tinged and colored by the experiences of that individual: that is to say, the actual experiences of his life will affect his responses. To give a concrete example of this, drawn from personal experience. Some months ago, when answering the word list, in response to the word "door," I replied "opening" or "exit." During the intervening period our apartment was re-decorated! Shortly after this I answered the same word-list again. On this latter occasion, in response to the word "door," I replied "varnish." And the same sort of thing was noted in several other instances. Here, then, my reactions had been definitely influenced by the experiences I had recently undergone, during the intervening period of living.

Now, these same characteristic variations would doubtless be noticeable to a greater or lesser degree in everyone. If a medium were subjected to a test of this character at intervals of (say) six months or a year, her responses would be found to vary according to the experiences she had undergone during the intervening period. She had lived her life, and her reactions would be colored accordingly—just as her dreams would be. The words chosen and the general character of her reactions would be found to vary, to some extent, due to the very fact of her having lived through these experiences.

Her Control personality, if a mere fragment of her total Self, should theoretically share in these experiences, to some extent, and be similarly colored and influenced by them. 'His' reaction words should therefore show similar influences, resulting from their common experiences. If, on the other hand, the Control personality were a separate and distinct entity (as he claims to be) *living his own life in his own sphere*, he would have had an entirely different set of experiences, and his reactions would be characteristically different from those of the medium.

In other words, if the Control personality were a mere subconscious dramatization, his reactions would be colored and influenced by events in the medium's life; while, if he were a separate entity—living a life of his own—this influence and coloring should not be observable. This test would, I believe, go far toward proving the identity and degree of independence of the Control personality 'communicating' at the time.