

PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Concerning Hallucinations.

A Few Suggestions Elicited by Professor James's Circular.

New Orleans Picayune.

THE question is, can it be possible, with no other means than are furnished by the intellectual faculties, for persons distantly separated, to send or receive information from one to the other? We do not here speak of the so called messages alleged to pass, through the manifestations of self-styled spirit mediums, between the living and the dead. All the parties to the communication we are considering are required to be alive at the moment of the transmission of an impression.

How many of our readers, when engaged in their regular business, have suddenly heard the voice or seen the face of an individual who was at that time in some more or less remote locality? Have you never seen a recognized face suddenly come between you and your work and, with an expression bright and joyous or haggard and distressed, convey a message of happiness or of misery? A less distinct form of such hallucinations would be a touch or the sound of a voice. A more complete manifestation would be a vision in all its details of an event or the particulars of an entire transaction, showing all the persons who took part in it.

In one form or another, we believe that many persons have received such impressions, nor can we believe that they are all hallucinations or mental illusions, concerning things which did not exist. Of course, people with a superstitious turn might sometimes see wonderful things where really there was nothing, but it is impossible for intelligent individuals who receive mental impressions or spiritual images of transactions which occurred at a particular moment, but in some distant and at the time inaccessible locality, and subsequently have all the particulars of the vision confirmed as facts, to believe that there was any delusion or hallucination.

The whole thing, however mysterious, is, in some degree, at least intelligible if we will only accept the existence of the intellectual part of us as a life, an entity, a power separate and distinctly inde-