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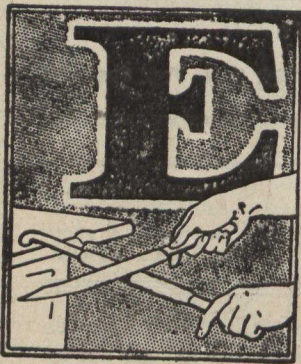
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ONTARIO

The Nervous Force

By D. GUY DE LESTARD

Editor's Note:—Newspapers and magazines nowadays are full of scientific gossip about the unseen universe and the occult; the laying on of hands, the moving of tables, messages from the deceased and magnetic healing—all have been exploited of late more religiously than at any other time known to the world. It all seems to simmer down somewhat to a study of personality and of nerves. In the following article Mr. D. Guy de Lestard relates for the Courier his experiences and investigations along this line.

A GERMAN, Dr. de Reichembach, is the first who has made a study of the exterior manifestation of the nervous force, but his discovery, made during the investigation of the commission appointed by the French Academy to find out if the theory of Mesmer was right, did not receive at this time much support from the scientific world. Reichembach found out that out of one hundred people put in a dark room one hour a day for a period of two weeks, sixty could plainly see around the human body some luminous waves. The right side of the head and body, the tips of the fingers of the right hand being bluish while the left side of the head and body, the tips of the fingers of the left hand were yellowish. In people sick with some nervous disease the yellow was much more prominent than the blue. In spite of the photographs taken by Dr. de Reichembach and the photographer Gunther and lately by Col. de Rochas the discovery was received with much skepticism until Prof. D'Arsonval, the eminent member of the Academy of Science of France, in a report read before the Academy the 14th of December, 1903, concludes by saying: "I have good reasons to believe that the body gives emission to a force which is different from electricity and very much like N rays (Blondlot rays)."

Dr. Barety and Prof. Richet renewed the experiments of Prof. d'Arsonval and arrived at the same conclusion.

I have tried myself the experiment of Dr. Reichembach and could plainly see the blue and yellow lines around the human body.

It was interesting to know if the existence of this force could be demonstrated in the light. The apparatus called a "stenometre" made by Dr. Paul Joire of the Neuralgic Institute of Paris shows it plainly. By resting their hand steady near the stenometre for about ten minutes, some persons have the power to attract the needle of the apparatus. In healthy people the fingers attract the needle. In people sick with hysteria, neurasthenia, St. Vitus' Dance or any other nervous disease, the needle remains motionless. With people subject to rheumatism the needle stands still, which seems to prove the theory of Dr. Archibald Garrod that rheumatism is due essentially to some nervous disturbance, though the immediate exciting causes are exposure to wet and cold.

The stenometre shows that in every nervous disease the nervous force has more or less vanished.

Dr. Paul Joire uses his apparatus to diagnose the ailments of his patients, but I must confess that my experience shows me that no more than twenty per cent. of the persons have this power to attract inert bodies, so I cannot see how the stenometre can be used to successfully diagnose nervous diseases unless we admit that only the few people who can attract the needle are



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