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## Can Ghosts Be Laid?

AUTHENTIC CASES ARE VERY  
RARE.(By Elliot O'Donnell in Pearson's  
Weekly.)

There is probably no point in con-  
nection with psychic matters on  
which there is such a divergence of  
opinion among believers in the super-  
natural as that of laying ghosts.

One of the most interesting cases  
in which ghosts have been success-  
fully laid happened in a field about  
half a mile from Botaden, six miles  
north of St. Columb, in Cornwall.

A youth of about sixteen, who was  
usually very bright and cheerful, was  
observed by his parents and friends  
suddenly to become intensely silent  
and depressed.

On being questioned as to the reason  
of his changed behaviour, he at  
length reluctantly confessed that it  
was on account of a ghost he kept en-  
countering in a field near Botaden on  
his way to school. He declared it was  
the spirit of a woman called Dorothy  
Durant, who had died some eight  
years previously, and he said she

accompanied by the boy and his par-  
ents, and all four saw the apparition  
simultaneously, whilst the spaniel  
they had with them barked and ran  
away.

## A Chat With a Spook.

The following morning Mr. Ruddle  
went to the field alone again, and,  
overcoming his fear with a mighty  
effort, spoke to the apparition and ex-  
horted it to tell him why it was unable  
to rest in its grave. He had to ad-  
dress it several times before he re-  
ceived a reply, but it finally spoke  
and told him to come there again that  
night.

This he did, when, after a lengthy  
conversation, Mr. Ruddle resorted to  
the form of exorcising spirits special-  
ly prescribed in the prayer book. He  
supplemented it, according to some  
accounts, with the drawing of a magic  
circle and various other symbols.

The ghost then went, and was never  
known to trouble the neighbour-  
hood again.

The laying of ghosts even by  
clergymen is not, however, invariably  
successful.

Seven ministers were called in sim-  
ultaneously to lay the famous "Pear-

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used to waylay and follow him, and  
that he could not escape her.

His parents laughed at him and  
tried to make him believe it was all  
his imagination, but on his adhering  
to his story they finally consulted his  
schoolmaster, the Rev. John Ruddle,  
afterwards prebendary of Exeter  
Cathedral.

Phantom Frightened the Parson.  
Far from ridiculing the boy, Mr.  
Ruddle evinced considerable interest  
in his tale, and, determining to put  
it to the test, accompanied him to  
school one morning.

On arriving at the field the boy had  
specified, the apparition appeared and  
was at once identified by the clergy-  
man as Dorothy Durant.

Though he tried to appear quite  
composed, Mr. Ruddle was, as he ad-  
mitted afterwards, very badly scared,  
so much so that he neither dared ad-  
dress the phantom, nor even glance  
round at it.

A short time afterwards he sum-  
moned up courage, however, to visit  
the field alone, when he again saw the  
ghost, but was once more too terrified  
to speak.

He made a third pilgrimage there

lin Jean," of Allanbank, but all to no  
avail.

Similar fruitless efforts were made  
in the case of the notorious Beoley  
ghost, in Worcestershire. While, de-  
spite the many efforts that have been  
made to get rid of them, spirits are  
alleged still to haunt Hampton Court,  
Windsor Castle, Peel Castle, Berry  
Pomeroy, Glamis and hundreds of  
other places.

It is my opinion that the really au-  
thentic and well-corroborated cases  
of ghost layings are few and far be-  
tween.

St. Joseph, Lewis, July 14, 1903.  
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Gentlemen,—I was badly kicked by  
my horse last May, after using several  
preparations on my leg nothing would  
do. My leg was as black as jet. I  
was laid up in bed for a fortnight and  
could not walk. After using three  
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**"Skippers"**

"Skippers"  
are  
Bringing  
with  
Good Points.

Sir Walter Scott's  
Great Year, 1820.

In Spite of Mental and Bodily Tor-  
ture His Imagination Worked at its  
Highest Pitch and Produced "The  
Bride of Lammermoor," "The Le-  
gend of Montrose" and "Ivanhoe."

"The year 1820 might be considered  
the most brilliant in Scott's career.  
That before it had been clouded by  
domestic affliction and crippling ill-  
health," says the Glasgow Herald.

"His mother, her brother and her  
sister died within a few days of each  
other, and he himself was so ill that  
even his iron resolution gave way and  
he despaired of recovery. But in  
spite of mental and bodily torture his  
imagination worked at its highest  
pitch and gave to an astonished and  
delighted world 'The Bride of Lam-  
mermoor,' 'The Legend of Montrose,'  
and 'Ivanhoe,' three of his finest nov-  
els.

## He Dictates His Novels.

"Most of this excellent fiction was  
dictated amid such agonising pain as  
it seemed no human frame could bear,  
and Scott's friends looked for the  
worst. Speaking of 'The Bride of  
Lammermoor,' James Ballantyne  
says it 'was not only written  
before Mr. Scott was able  
to rise from his bed; and he assured  
me that, when it was first put into his  
hands, he did not recollect one single  
incident, character, or conversation  
it contained.' A marvellous instance  
of the triumph of mind over matter!"

## Two Stories at a Time.

"Ivanhoe" was the first novel in  
which Scott broke away from purely  
Scottish ground, and English read-  
ers hailed it with acclamation. Dr.  
Moore, the author of 'Zeluco' had ad-  
vised Burns to abandon the use of  
dialect on the ground that it must  
narrow the circle of his admirers,  
and no doubt Scott's native themes  
and language made a less powerful  
appeal to those outside the ranks of  
Scotts, and therefore lacking in full  
understanding and sympathy. But  
'Ivanhoe' had its setting in one of the  
most romantic periods of English his-  
tory, the 'Lion King' was a supremely  
popular subject, and the book  
placed the author if the Waverley  
Novels on the highest pinnacle of fame.

"From its publication, indeed, a  
certain decline in vogue may be dated,  
and it would have been well if some  
wise, friendly critics had had the  
courage to utter a  
warning that might have served to  
check the lavish expenditure that  
marked the brief period before the  
crash came. While 'Ivanhoe' was in  
progress Scott was at work also on  
'The Monastery,' finding the writing of  
a tale that belonged to his own  
neighbourhood a relief from the com-  
position of one where his imagination  
was more severely taxed.

## Then Came 'Kenilworth.'

"The two stories seemed to give  
each other relief, like bread and  
cheese, as Gray says of his habit of  
reading Greek prose and verse con-  
currently. 'The Monastery' was by no  
means well received, and Scott was  
constrained to admit that the White  
Lady and the Euphuist had missed  
fire. It was an un auspicious opening  
for the 1820 season, and Scott felt the  
check. But he quickly rallied, and in  
'The Abbott' and 'Kenilworth' he  
made ample amends for a compara-  
tive failure. His portraits of Queen  
Mary and Queen Elizabeth are among  
the most notable things in literature.

"Scott's mastery of the situation  
was aided by the restoration of his  
health, and he entered on the new  
year with a confidence and a gaiety  
that enabled him to enjoy to the full  
the success, the honours, and the  
pleasures that came to him in abun-  
dant measure. It was a proud moment in  
his career. His reputation as a poet and  
a man of letters was fully estab-  
lished; the novels had won universal  
applause, and within a widening area  
the authorship was perfectly well  
known.

## A Proud Position.

"He had position and means; the  
Court of Session and literature, Edin-  
burgh and Abbotsford, filled busy,  
prosperous, and happy hours. He was  
the host of the world; Abbotsford was  
the resort of an unending stream of  
visitors and guests who came to en-  
joy its unstinted hospitality and re-  
creations, to see and to hear the fa-  
mous writer who, after the golden  
mornings of swift creation, moved  
among them, wise, humorous, gay, as  
if toil and care were without the  
gates.

"These were the boisterous days  
of the Abbotsford Hunt, burning the  
water, and coursing on the braes of  
Yarrow. The whole countryside  
joined in these revels under the lead-  
ership of the Duke of Darnley, as  
Scott was called by his neighbours  
in that hamlet. The 1820 pages of  
the biography glitter with splendour  
and echo with merriment.

"Scott kissed hands on his bron-  
zey, moved a conspicuous figure in  
London society, saw his son's affairs  
in happy progress, welcomed Lock-  
hart as a son-in-law, built and  
bought lands. The only thing that  
troubled him was the state of public  
affairs, for in 1820, as in 1820, the  
ground swell of a great war disturbed  
the country. The aftermath of the  
struggle with Napoleon was seething  
discontent.



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## A Few Years Distant.

"As one reads Lockhart's story of  
the year 1820, crowded with high  
hopes and triumph, one contrasts it  
with a scene only a few years dis-  
tant, when Scott sat alone in a silent  
Abbotsford, ruined in estate and in  
health, tugging painfully at the oar  
to lift the heavy burden of debt.  
Family factions and troubles beset  
him, unremitting toil was his lot, and  
his old age seemed to him but a cy-  
press avenue leading to the tomb.  
How great a change and how man-  
fully borne!"

"If it marks the vanity of human  
wishes, it also marks Scott's sturdy  
pride, courage, and nobility of char-  
acter."

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There is only one Aspirin, that  
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Look for the "Bayer Cross"! Then  
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## CANNIN' TIME.

Cannin' time, an' the kettles gay  
Singin' an' steamin' the live long day.  
An' the air as fragrant as it can be  
With all o' the spices of Arabey.  
The children, eager an' merry-faced  
Standin' around for a little taste.  
Oh I reckon the happiest time o' year  
Are the days when the cannin' time  
is here.

Hey! you youngsters clear out o' the  
way  
Get in the yard if you want to play.  
We're all too busy to tend to you.  
An' the time's too short for the tasks  
to do.

Watch the jelly! Don't let it burn!  
An' give that ketchup a gentle turn.  
Somehow the peaches don't seem to be  
As big as the ones that we used to  
see.

The table's loaded with jars an' cans,  
An' rubbers an' spoons an' pots an'  
pans,  
An' 'bout the kettles come perfumes  
rare.

From the far off east an' they fill the  
air  
An' I can't help thinkin' how strange  
it seems.

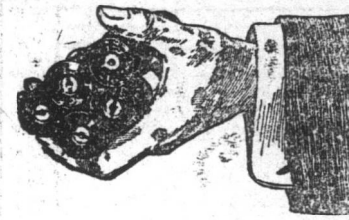
Like the curious things that you see  
in dreams,  
That should grow on a distant  
shore  
An' find their way to our kitchen door.

It's a curious world, I say  
How we serve each other, though far  
away.

Men that I never shall know or meet  
Have worked for the jelly we soon  
shall eat.  
An' from over the seas an' the burnin'  
sun

Has traveled a parcel of cinnamon,  
Bearin' the scene of a tropic clime  
Into our kitchen at cannin' time.

Just arrived for Stafford's, two  
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## Noises Too Loud For Man to Hear.

During one of the big battles of the  
war the sounds of the terrific can-  
nonading in progress were seen mov-  
ing across the sky.

Great parallel arcs of light and  
shade were viewed passing swiftly  
across the clouds, not by one person  
only, but by all the members of a  
battery of artillery. These bands  
moved with the exact speed of sound  
waves—at the rate of a mile in five  
seconds—and the space between the  
bands was larger for the big guns  
than for the small.

This strange sight lasted for about  
ten minutes, and appears to have de-  
pended upon the relative positions of  
the observers, the guns, and the  
sun.

Sound, as we all know, is caused  
by waves in gases, liquids or solids.  
In a vacuum—an empty space—sound  
does not exist. If you could fire a  
twelve-inch gun from the top of  
Everest, the sound would be but  
feeble. Could you carry it much  
higher, its discharge would be in-  
audible.

There are rays of light which the  
eye cannot see, and there are sound  
waves which the human ear cannot  
catch.

Ask yourself if you can hear the  
cry of a bat. Any person who, at the  
age of forty, is able to hear the thin  
squeak of the bat, has reason to con-  
gratulate himself on being possessed  
of exceptionally good hearing. The  
squeak is too high—it has too many  
vibrations per second to be heard by  
any ear that is not very delicate.

## Silence That Terrifies.

Some years ago Mr. Galton, the  
famous anthropologist, invented and  
constructed a whistle which, by means  
of an adjustable plug, could be re-  
ndered so shrill that presently it  
ceased to be heard by human ears.

But—here is the curious part of it  
—after the sound of the whistle had  
ceased to be audible to any human  
ear, a dog was still able to hear it,  
and came readily when it was blown.

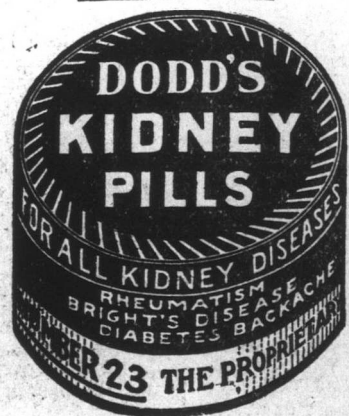
Animals and birds hear far better  
than man. It was noticed during the  
war that pheasants in East Coast  
coverts were disturbed by the noise  
of guns at sea, when even children  
(whose hearing is quicker than that  
of older folk) could hear nothing at  
all.

Sound travels better across water  
than across land. By actual experi-  
ment it has been found that across  
water a person could be distinctly  
heard, reading aloud, at a distance  
of 140ft., whereas on land the same  
voice only travelled 76ft.

Across ice, too, and particularly in  
hard frost, sound travels amazingly.  
Lieutenant Foster, on an Arctic ex-  
pedition, found that he could converse  
with another man quite easily across  
the mouth of a bay which was a mile  
and a quarter wide.

Perfect silence is far rarer than  
most of us imagine. Even in the  
quietest room in the depth of the  
country, on the calmest night, there  
are always sounds. Absolute silence  
is only found in deep caves and  
abandoned mines, and is a really ter-  
rifying phenomenon.

It makes the ear ache in a desper-  
ate effort to catch some sound, how-  
ever tiny. In such a place the beating  
of one's heart and the rush of blood  
through the arteries will become per-  
ceptible.



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come back and purchase the goods.

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