

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON'S favorite aphorism was this :

" In the world there is nothing great but man.
In man there is nothing great but mind."

The truth of these comprehensive statements is growing more apparent to the world as men advance in knowledge of nature and of themselves. Man is the centre of all the great plans and purposes of God in creation, providence, and grace, and man is but another term for mind. The mineral kingdom exists for and supports the vegetable, the vegetable in turn supports the animal kingdom, the animal creation in turn serves and supports man's physical being; man's physical nature is the instrument for nourishing and developing the mind. The mind is therefore the final development, the finished product, the highest result of all nature's processes and of all the providential oversight and care bestowed upon our world.

What study then can be more interesting or instructive than that of psychology, and what engagement more fascinating than the investigation of those wonderful powers of mind which manifest themselves in certain individuals, and in many individuals under abnormal conditions—powers and faculties which are so astounding in their operations that we are almost tempted to style them supernatural? It may well be doubted if any other realm than the mental can furnish such wonderland for exploration.

Nature presents us many wonders for our contemplation, in the heavens above and the earth beneath—wonders of sea and land, of the valley and mountain, of the air and ocean. Yet no department of the physical realm offers such arrays of marvellous facts for human contemplation and study as the world of mind and that mysterious region where mind and matter seem to meet, known in modern occult literature as "borderland."

For power to interest and charm the human soul no tales of "Arabian Nights," no romance of the novelist, no weird work of the imagination displayed in painting or in poem can equal the tales of marvellous mental experiences which show powers and potencies of mind as yet but dimly understood.

Our current literature abounds with testimonies of reputable men and women concerning mental experiences that border on the mysterious, and in some cases on the miraculous. In addition there is a vast body of interesting data to be collected from the current traditions, and many a marvellous tale told, and believed, at the fireside which has not been seen upon the printed page.

It is true very many of these can be explained by illusion, error, hallucination or otherwise, or referred to some law of mental activity well known to the student