

BOOKS DEALING WITH COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD

CONAN DOYLE'S CONFESSION OF FAITH IN SPIRITUALISM

He Has Written a Book That Will Persuade No One Not Already Convinced—Experiments of an Engineer With Levitation

IT SEEMED that Conan Doyle has gone over to the spiritualists, body and breeches," remarked Doctor McFabre. "It seems to me a remarkable conversion," said Owen. "Doyle was educated as a physician and very few physicians believe in ghosts. Many of them are materialists, with no belief in a life after death."

"That is what Doyle says he was," said I. "He has written a book that he calls 'The New Revelation,' in which he explains his change of opinion. It will be welcomed with enthusiasm by all the students of psychical questions who have already accepted the theory that the dead can communicate with the living."

"How about the rest of us?" Owen asked.

"For my part," said I, "I find the book the most unconvincing discussion of the subject that I ever read. My mind is open. I believe in life after death. I would not attend Doctor McFabre's church if I didn't. But I have yet to come across any satisfactory evidence that the dead do communicate with the living."

"Does not Sir Oliver Lodge say that his son Raymond communicated with him after death?" came from the clergyman.

"Yes, he says so, but I have seen the evidence which he offers in proof of it," analyzed and pronounced fallacious," said I. "Now, the curious fact about this whole subject is that the spiritualists say that no demonstration of the ability of spirits to communicate with the living can be given to those who do not believe."

"Conan Doyle, himself, says it frankly and he cites the New Testament to prove that there is scrip-

tural authority for it. He speaks of the failure of Jesus to do many wonders in one place or another because the people there had no faith, and he suggests that Jesus was a 'medium.'"

"Blasphemous!" exclaimed Doctor McFabre.

"He goes farther than that," I went on. "He suggests that when a group of the disciples saw Jesus after his death and some of the ancient prophets it was merely a spiritualistic materialization brought about through the mediumship of one of the disciples. Conan Doyle's object is commendable. He wants to comfort the fathers and mothers of the men killed in war and assure them that their ones are enjoying a conscious exist-

ence in agreeable surroundings. He tells us that we shall have to change all of our theology and all of our previous conceptions of the future life, but that the gain will more than offset the loss, because the new religion, based on spiritualistic revelation, will be true, while the old religion is false. Doyle has accepted the whole spiritualistic theory and believes in the genuineness of the manifestations, beginning with those that appeared at the seances of the Fox sisters in Rochester, N. Y., which started modern spiritualism. He also accepts Daniel D. Home as a successful summoner of spirits of the dead. You know Home is the man about whom Browning wrote his scathing poem, 'Smudge the Medium.' He takes Sir Oliver Lodge's word for the genuineness of his communications with his son Raymond. His book is merely the confession of a convert."

"If you are interested in scientific investigation into the physics of spiritualism you will find it worth while to read 'The Reality of Psychic Phenomena,' by W. J. Crawford, lecturer on mechanical engineering in the Municipal Technical Institute of Belfast, Professor Crawford, who accepts spiritualism, spent two years conducting a series of experiments into the physics of table lifting. He had a medium who, with the assistance of members of his family sitting in a circle, could, according to Professor Crawford, perform remarkable feats of levitation. He found that when the table was lifted the muscles of the arms and legs of the medium were tense. Thereupon he set out to measure the amount of force she exerted. In one experiment he put the medium on some platform scales, after weighing her and weighing the table she was to lift. The table was two or three feet from her knees. He found that when the table was held in the air with no visible means of support the weight

of the medium was increased on the scales by the weight of the table. His experiments into the means used for lifting the table convinced him that a cantilever of palpable psychic force extended from the body of the medium to the table and that this lever did the lifting. The table was connected by the lever with the body of the medium and accordingly increased her weight when it was suspended in the air. Professor Crawford confesses that on more than one occasion he touched the lever with his hand. It was not solid, but he could pass his hand through it, but it felt clammy and 'repellent.' He says that when one has once felt this emanation from a medium he can never mistake it for anything else. In order to find out what the lever looked like he asked the 'spirits' that manipulated it to stick the end of it in a saucer of soft putty. They complied and he found it made an impression something like that which would have been made by the ball of a foot. He admits that the spirits do not work well in the light and when he wanted to take a flashlight photograph of the psychic cantilever the spirits would not consent."

"Do you believe all that?" asked Owen.

"I hope you will not press me for an answer," I replied. "If it is not true, Professor Crawford is a liar or has hallucinations, or the medium and her family are conscious or unconscious impostors. You might think, Owen, that the book itself provides evidence enough for forming an opinion on these matters, but I am not a lawyer and I want to be charitable."

"Well, I don't believe it," Owen declared with some emphasis.

"Then you would not believe the stories told by J. Arthur Hill in 'Man is a Spirit.' It is a collection of cases of dream, vision and ecstasy. Mr. Hill's earlier book, 'Psychical Investigations,' is one of those which was influential in converting Conan Doyle. The cases which he reports lack the necessary verification required by the Society for Psychical Research. Perhaps they are more interesting on that account. There is one splendid ghost story in the lot. The ghost is an officer killed in France, who appeared a number of times to a woman with whom he had a friendship before he died. When he first appeared he was haggard and wore a soiled uniform, but in later visits he was dressed in a new uniform, his boots were polished, the lines had disappeared from his face and he looked several years younger than when he was killed. When another woman beside the one to whom he had appeared saw him she stopped coming. Now this is the kind of evidence that convinces those willing to be convinced that the dead do communicate with the living."

"It would not be accepted in court," said Owen.

"No, and I do not think any one would accept it who was not convinced of its truth in advance. Camille Marbo, the wife of a distinguished Frenchman, has put one phase of the spiritualists' theories to what seems to me a very proper use. You know they say that men have died and left their bodies and returned to them again. Madame Marbo has used a variation of this interesting theory as the motive of a romantic novel, 'The Man Who Survived.' She has two French officers, friends, killed with the same bullet. Some time later one of the officers returns to consciousness in a hospital, reads his wife's letters with delight and longs for the time when she may visit him. One day he looks in a mirror and discovers that it is not he at all, but his friend whom he sees. Then he learns that he is in the hospital under the name of his friend and he remembers that when he went into battle he had asked his friend to take care of his wife's letters in case anything happened to him. His friend was to remain behind, but he disobeyed orders and went along. He learned that his wife was mourning him. We must assume that when the two men died the body of one of them revived, with the spirit of the other inhabiting it. The widow finally

visits the friend of her husband in the hospital and in the course of time she falls in love with him and marries him. But her real husband, living in the body of his friend, is continually jealous of the body which his wife loves without knowing that the spirit in it is the spirit of the husband whom she thought was dead. The story ends tragically. Yes, I think it is very suitable to write fantastic romance around the mysteries that we do not understand."

"Madame Marbo has doubtless written a very interesting story," said Owen. "But I think it is fatally defective as you describe it. Edgar Poe wrote some years ago wrote a novel about the transfer of personalities from one body to another. A man desperately in love with the wife of his friend succeeded by a mysterious chemical process in transferring his personality from his own body to that of his friend and his friend's personality to his body, but his body had to die to have the thing succeed. Then he went to his friend's house and greeted his 'wife.' She discovered instantly that while the body was the body of her husband the man inside of it was some one else. And this story ends tragically also."

"If such a thing could happen," said I, "I think Poe's story is nearer to the way it would be."

GEORGE W. DOUGLAS. THE NEW REVELATION. By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.

THE REALITY OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA. By W. J. Crawford. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.

MAN IS A SPIRIT. By J. Arthur Hill. New York: The World Publishing Company. \$1.50.

THE MAN WHO SURVIVED. By Camille Marbo. New York: The World Publishing Company. \$1.25.

The Scandinavians. To the already numerous list of volumes in the department of "Story of the Nations" series is now added "Denmark and Sweden." The volume, which also includes Iceland and Finland, is by Jon Stefanson, lecturer in Icelandic at King's College, London. Viscount Bryce has provided an interesting preface in which he points out that of the European countries the Scandinavians are nearest to the Anglo-Saxons in blood kinship and ideas.

From the beginning of their history, the ninth century, the Scandinavian countries have materially affected the course of European affairs. The hardy and adventurous Vikings fared far and wide, and it is primarily to their early influence that England today owes her prestige on the seven seas. Their crusaders and leaders found their way to France and Russia, in each case lending their sturdy Norse strength to great constructive tasks. Not only is the physical hardihood of the Scandinavians renowned; their contribution to the intellectual life and development of Europe has been enormous, and Iceland, particularly, was a pioneer in democratic government.

The story of the Scandinavians is told by Doctor Stefanson in fascinating style. Excess of detail is avoided, enhancing the avowedly popular character of the series, but the notable events are covered adequately and accurately. Entertainment and information are ideally blended, making the book an admirable history for younger readers. By John Stefanson. With map and illustrations. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

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Socializing Religion. Ethical and spiritual values have been more deeply shaken during the last four years than during the four preceding centuries. The war has vitally affected the aspect of religion and its function in the present-day world, and in the opinion of Eugene W. Lyman, professor of the philosophy of religion at Union Theological Seminary, the need of the hour is to accept God as an active, helpful force.

"The Experience of God in Modern Life" Doctor Lyman deals with the subject in relation to the development of personality, social progress and cosmic order. Without denying the attributes of omnipotence or infinity, his interpretation of God as a spiritual force in the lives of men is essentially rationalistic, and so appeals strongly to the majority. His views are set forth honestly and vigorously; he protests against any "moratorium for theological and religious thinking during the period of the war." Society has thoroughly discredited "the old empirical medicine by which we used to put the social order." It is the mission of religion to promote social health through the new spiritual antisepsis and hygiene. The very simplicity and reasonableness with which Doctor Lyman presents his plea for co-operative social intelligence insure of it sympathetic attention.

THE EXPERIENCES OF GOD IN MODERN LIFE. By Eugene W. Lyman. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

THE HAPPIEST TIME OF THEIR LIVES. By Marion Hill. New York: The Century Company. \$1.40.

Stage Life. It is not a pleasant picture of stage life that Marion Hill presents in "The Toll of the Road." The qualities that give to youth its freshness and to girlhood its charm make up the toll that is here implacably exacted from a small-town girl who dreams of Broadway fever. The Bohemianism of the life, contrasting sharply with the prim, drab life she has known, enchants and seduces her to embark upon a stage career. Her small-town lover soon hopelessly dull and uninteresting in contrast to the brilliant and individual life she finds in New York. Her friends and family, who see the stage as a means of escape, are shocked and disapprove.

The story is rather artlessly written, but that, perhaps, is because "The Toll of the Road" tells in spite of a certain awkwardness of expression, the reader and the writer's impression of the character of the story is most strikingly apparent in retrospect.

THE TOLL OF THE ROAD. By Marion Hill. New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.

Youth Finds Adventure. New York is seen through the fresh eyes of youth in Elizabeth Jordan's novel, "The Wings of Youth." The process of character disintegration is gradual, but it is none the less thorough. On every page there is a personal tragedy and domestic infelicity that makes the heart ache. But when she must decide at the end between the provincial life she has known and the life of the city, she chooses the latter. Her less manager, she shows how completely the poison has undermined her character.

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A Boy Farmer's Success. Even the thrilling joys of the circus are dwarfed beside the fun of farm life in Lewis Edwin Theiss' "A Champion of the Foothills." For there is far more adventure than work for the boy hero of "A Champion of the Foothills." The author's style is simple and direct, and his characters are always wholesome.

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A Patriotic Warning. America is still asleep, or at least lethargic, in the face of many German perils which threaten it, in the opinion of William T. Hornaday. In vitriolic language that fairly sizzles with wrath and scorn he verbally burns to a cinder those who are indifferent to the perils which threaten "Awake America." His rallying cry is virtually: No quarter, military, economic or spiritual to anything or anybody German, now or after the war.

The author claims the distinction of being the first to warn America against unpreparedness. His present task is to warn against German influence and activities now, and against commercial intercourse with Germany after the war.

The book is not limited entirely to denunciations of German "socialistic snakes" and the needs of "The Anarchist Petal Called 'Free Speech.'" The author deals with the question of citizenship, dealing with giving allegiance, ballot, and "The Abuse of Personal Liberty."

AWAKE AMERICA. By William T. Hornaday. New York: The World Publishing Company. \$1.25.

Car Traps Three on Bridge. Wilmington, Del., July 6.—Trapped on the trestle bridge across Red Clay Creek near Brandywine Springs Park, late yesterday by a crowded trolley car, Samuel B. Medford and his fourteen-year-old daughter, Mary, were knocked from the structure into the creek, a distance of twenty feet. Allen, a small son of the Medfords, was thrown from the car, occupied injuries by clinging to the trestle.

THE HAPPIEST TIME OF THEIR LIVES

Mrs. Miller Thus Characterizes the Wooing Period of Two Young People

Alice Duer Miller is not of those who achieve burlesque only when they undertake to put the socially elect of Manhattan within the grasp of a novel. Her characters of the "smart set" live, move and talk with a convincing air of reality, and their affairs possess the unflinching interest that interests genuine human drama. Her new story, "The Happiest Time of Their Lives," is her most ambitious piece of fiction. It tells of the vicissitudes that attend the romance of a patriotic, sheltered girl and a sturdy youth of the business world, whose antecedents and station are viewed askance by the relatives of the girl.

Genial humor, deft characterization, racy dialogue and penetrating observations abound in this story. The author's development of the plot, the mastery of the girl is vastly concerned with the social eligibility of young Wayne of whom little Mathilde Seeverance has become infatuated. It surprises her to learn that the youth's very capable mother is equally concerned about the effect a girl accustomed to luxury might have upon her son and his career.

The adjustment and reconciliation of these alien elements affords the author an opportunity to introduce vivid incidental episodes of unusual interest which describe the marriage of Burke, and his "framed" fight, the unwilling marriage of a slum girl, and the vigorous youth and personality of Mrs. Wayne.

"The Happiest Time of Their Lives" is a delightful tale of young love that is very much more than a romance. It has a wholesome urban panorama as its background; its presentation is engagingly human, and Mrs. Miller never loses her sound sense of proportion and values.

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BERLIN POLICE ALSO DISPERSE RELIGIOUS GATHERING AT CLERGYMAN'S HOME AS PERIL TO NATIONAL SAFETY.

SEEN IN CHILDREN'S PICNIC

Says Visiting Russian Singer

BECAUSE they were considered "menaces to the safety and peace of the German empire," 100 children holding a picnic near Berlin one day in August, 1914, were driven to their homes by the German police. This is according to Andre Arsenov, Russian singer. The real reason for the breaking up of the picnic, Mr. Arsenov said, was that the children were members of families which had left the German Lutheran church, contrary to the dictates of the Kaiser.

The meeting was broken up for the same reason the picnic was stopped. While walking in Berlin one day, Mr. Arsenov said he was attacked by a German singer. Mr. Arsenov brought suit against the German and in a lower court the judge ruled the German should apologize to Mr. Arsenov. The German refused and appealed to a higher court. In the upper court, the judge declared from the bench:

"You (meaning the German) did right. That is the spirit of Prussia, to show to all enemies of Berlin one day, nothing but the iron fist. Had I been in your place, I, too, would have exhibited the iron fist and did as you acted. Mr. Arsenov, the case was assessed the costs of the case."

For the next few months he was continually watched and his trips were covered by many instances of spying. Mr. Arsenov said that his reports with their own. At the end of a year, Mr. Arsenov was advised by a German singer who wanted to see him in Berlin, to his liberty to appeal to the Kaiser for a pass out of Germany.

Mr. Arsenov made the appeal. The Kaiser granted the request and Mr. Arsenov went to Switzerland, from which country he came to America.

Mr. Arsenov has brought suit here against Harry Davis, Pittsburgh theatrical manager, alleging breach of contract, when the recent opera festival was held in Philadelphia under Mr. Davis's direction. The singer, through his attorney, Daniel O'Connell, asks for \$200 which he says is due him for time the manager cancelled before the expiration of the contract.

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100 ELKS OF CONGRESS TO ATTEND BIG MEET

SPECIAL TRAIN TO RUN FROM WASHINGTON TO ATLANTIC CITY NEXT WEEK

Atlantic City, July 6.

One hundred members of Congress, all of them Elks, will forget all about war and its legislative attributes when they come to Atlantic City for a grand and glorious time during the national reunion of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks next week. They are to be jointly the guests of Atlantic City and Atlantic City Lodge of Elks, which has raised a convention entertainment fund of \$25,000, and nothing in the big shore town's locker will be too good for them.

The "Congressional special" train is due to arrive at the shore at 5:40 o'clock Wednesday direct from Washington. After dinner at 6:30 the guests are to be exercised on the swings, the sliding boards and various other concessions to get them in condition to enjoy a bountiful supper-smoker at the Blackstone at 10:30 p. m.

No stipulations as to retiring time are prescribed in the program, but it is provided that the Washington delegation shall be housed in the shore at 10:30 p. m. to participate in Congressional bathing party at Senator Emerson L. Richards's bathing establishment.

At noon motor cars will carry the Congressmen to the exclusive precincts of the Atlantic City Yacht Club for a luncheon as the guests of Representative Isaac Bacharach, of the Second New Jersey district, a brother of Mayor Harry Bacharach, who is the chief engineer of the whole Elks' show.

At 2:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon the Congressmen will take their places in their respective home divisions of the big parade and march in review before Secretary of the Navy Daniels, who is coming to deliver a message from President Wilson to the assembled representatives of half a million Elks, some 30,000 of whom, including General Pershing, are either "over there" or trying to get there as soon as possible. The Elks as an organization have been doing big things to help win the war and they are going to lay the foundation for a whole lot more at their shore convocation.

The Congressmen expect to return to Washington Thursday evening. Chairman Page, of the Naval Committee, will be in the party. Pennsylvania men who have accepted included Vero, Butler, ranking Republican member of the Naval Affairs Committee; Graham, "Crags" McLaughlin, of the House; Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, also will be a convention guest.

OPTIMISM FROM TRENCHES. American Machine Gunners on Job, Writes Philadelphian.

From out of the trenches comes assurance by letter that the American machine gunners will do away with thousands of German soldiers. The writer, Oscar Kenesky, who says he is a second cousin of Alexander Kenesky, the decorated Premier of Russia, writes:

"I was received by a brother, Isaac, 420 Walnut street. Previous to Kenesky's enlistment with a rifle platoon he lived at 824 Alden street. 'You ask me to kill as many Germans as I can,' writes Oscar. 'You bet we will do it and with the aid of our machine guns we will kill as many Germans as you expect.'"

The writer tells of encounters with the Germans in the trenches and assures his brother that "I am lucky as yet."

TRAINING FOR VILLANOVA. War Course Will Be Introduced in Autumn.

A military training course will be provided at Villanova College in the autumn. The professor and other students will spend the summer in the Plattsburg training camp so that they may conduct the course with the aid of their own feet have just been made by Villanova.

Professor A. McGeehan and the following students will be in Plattsburg: Edward Dugles, John Jakovic, Alfred Kane, Frank Murphy, Volard Farley, William Brife, Harold Weigand, Michael Blanchfield.

PHOTOPLAYS. STRAND. 4th. Av. at Venango. R. of Broad. Sessue Hayakawa in "THE BRAVEST WAY."

ALHAMBRA. 12th, Morris & Passyunk Ave. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. MAJOR BRITTE OF MARK III. "TRINELLA."

APOLLO. 52d and Thompson St. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. "FLORA KIMBALL." MATINEE DAILY IN "THE REASON WHY."

ARCADIA. Chestnut below 10th. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. JACK PIERCE IN "SANDY."

BLUEBIRD. Broad Street and Vinyan Martin in "VIVETTE."

EMPRESS. Main St. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. SESSUE HAYAKAWA IN "THE WHITE MAN'S LAW."

FAIRMOUNT. 26th & Girard Av. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. JUNE CARRIE IN "BLUE EYED BOY."

FAMILY THEATRE. 13th Market St. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS IN "THE YELLOW TICKET."

56TH ST. Theatre below Spruce. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. "A WOMAN OF REDEMPTION."

GREAT NORTHERN. Broad St. at Erie. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. "THE DIVORCE."

IMPERIAL. 60th & Walnut Sts. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. "THE YELLOW TICKET."

LEADER. 41st & Lancaster Ave. Mat. Daily at 2. 10:30 & 9:40 P. M. ELISE FERGUSON IN "A DOLL'S HOUSE."

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THEATRE. 41