

of general interest, I had no part in writing it, nor did I suggest it be written.

F. CLIVE-ROSS

SIR,—In the *Journal* for March, 1966, Mr Simeon Edmunds seems to me to suggest, at least indirectly, that because certain passages in a book of automatic writing (scripts) by Miss Geraldine Cummins (*The Return of Colonel Fawcett*) are almost entirely similar to some in an article written by the living Col. Fawcett, therefore the scripts in her book, *Swan on a Black Sea* might also be due to memories forgotten by her. Miss Cummins is herself answering this.

As I was the editor of the *Swan* book, I want to point out that these two books were written under completely different circumstances. Miss Gibbes, the sitter for the scripts from 'Col. Fawcett', was a lady who was steeped in all the information she could find out about the disappeared explorer. It is most probable that the medium's subconscious in this case picked up the passages in question from the sitter.

But there was no sitter for the 'Willett-Cummins' scripts. In 1957, Miss Cummins, with whom I was in correspondence, told me she had been given a task by Mr. W. H. Salter, but she found it 'impossible'. In her next letter, she said that though it might all be unconscious fiction yet the 'communicator' was so vivid a personality that she would go on. Mrs 'Willett's' younger son (whom she did not know) and Mr Salter told her that the scripts were 'interesting and would she please go on'. This she did till they finished in 1959. The recipients had the scripts copied, except for a few passages of an especially private nature, and added their comments. Miss Cummins gave me a set. I began comparing them with her other automatic writings as well as with the Balfour Report on the mediumship of 'Mrs Willett'. In 1962 I met the older son of 'Mrs Willett' and his wife. I stayed with them in their house for about six weeks, comparing the original scripts with the private diaries of his mother. (I noted, rather late in my work, that spelling mistakes not made by Miss C. normally but characteristic of Mrs W. were sometimes made in the scripts.) No one, not even her sons, had read the diaries until the scripts were at an end, and even then they had only glanced at them.

It seems to me that the correspondence between them and Miss Cummins' scripts is too striking as to facts, names, sentiments and, above all, as to personality to be, in effect, labelled as probably cryptaesthesia by Mr Edmunds.

The deeply intricate subject of mediumship is still as good a subject to explore as when Gerald Balfour wrote his unparalleled—and now apparently forgotten—Report on the Mediumship of Mrs Willett. It is largely a question of the right means. They cannot be either statistics or insinuations.

SIGNE TOKSVIG

### ABSTRACT

[The full text of the report abstracted below may be consulted on application to the Secretary, S.P.R., 1 Adam and Eve Mews, London, W.8.]

### EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION AND THE EXTRAVERSION SCALE OF THE MAUDSLEY PERSONALITY INVENTORY

108 subjects were used in this experiment, and they were tested in three different groups ( $N_1=37$ ,  $N_2=22$ ,  $N_3=49$ ). The ESP test in each case consisted of a binary random series of 30 Zener symbols ('star' or 'cross'). The questionnaire consisted of the 24 E-scale questions of the MPI.

Three ESP scores—(0), (+1) and (-1)—were extracted for each subject. In none of these positions was a significant difference found between the mean E-scores of above- and below-chance scorers. Likewise, no significant difference was found in any of these 3 positions between the mean E-scores of 'chance' scorers (those who obtained from 13 to 17 'hits') and 'away-from chance' scorers (those who scored more than 17 or less than 13 'hits').

The failure to find any correlation between E-score and ESP score in this work may simply have been due to the fact that ESP was not operating on any of the three occasions, since neither collectively nor individually did the three groups' overall ESP scores deviate significantly from chance expectation.

Further work is being undertaken, making use of the MPI in its entirety, and testing the subjects individually rather than in groups.

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