

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## Society for Psychical Research

PART 143

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### A PROXY CASE EXTENDING OVER ELEVEN SITTINGS WITH MRS OSBORNE LEONARD

BY C. DRAYTON THOMAS

#### FOREWORD

THE following letter by Mr H. Hatch vouches for the accuracy of statements made in this narrative.

THORNTON HOUSE,  
58 HIBSON ROAD,  
NELSON, LANCS. *March 11, 1935.*

Perhaps some matters in this book will be clearer if I explain my connexion with Bobbie. I am his mother's stepfather, but he lived in my home all his short life. His own father only knew him when a baby and I looked upon Bobbie as my son, and he thought of me as his father.

I ought to say also that I have no connexion with Spiritualism, that I have taken an Honours degree in Science, and that I have spent most of my life in teaching science and in writing text-books.

I am perfectly certain that the evidence proves that knowledge of facts and places was obtained in some abnormal way—how, it is for psychic researchers to say.

Fraud is quite out of the question. As explained in the book, none of the facts, places or people were known to either the sitter or the medium. I was most careful in my letters to make no statements other than comments on evidence already given.

Chance coincidence is an equally absurd theory. Consider some of the names given. "Bentley" (96) was given as a place name—a clue to the "pipes"; actually Bentley Street is one minute's walk from my home in that direction. "Catelnow" (140) is given as a place near by; actually Catlow is a hamlet some two miles away to which Bobbie and I walked on the last occasion he left the house before his death. Are not

the chances against correct guessing in each case thousands to one, and therefore millions to one in combination ?

I would direct particular attention to the statements about the photograph of Bobbie with " a board in front " and " a round thing without a peak " on his head (34 and 35). The chances against correct guessing here seem to me to be so high as to make the theory absurd.

Telepathy can only be an explanation if by that vague term one here means the power of the medium to read the subconscious thoughts of people (1) whom she did not know, (2) of whose locality in Britain she had no idea, (3) who did not know when the sittings were in progress, (4) who were actually over 200 miles distant. I suggest that this hypothesis is too far-fetched.

I wish to say that all the statements of fact made by Mr Drayton Thomas are absolutely true. I shall be glad to answer any questions relating to them.

(Signed) HERBERT HATCH.

## INTRODUCTION

IN the *Proceedings* of our Society for May 1933 there is an account of some proxy sittings with Mrs Osborne Leonard which I took on behalf of various applicants. Two or three sittings were given to most of these cases, but in the experiment now to be described there were eleven sittings and the series extended over many months. The longer opportunity for accumulation of material may in some measure account for its better quality. It is possible that, had I given more sittings to each of the cases above mentioned, the results would have been better.

Although the present case concerns a young boy it was said that he was helped by others : it may have been owing to their experience and suggestion that the child was able to select so much appropriate material. The subject of chief interest in this study was not originated by the boy, but by my regular communicators. The opinion expressed by them as to the cause of the boy's death is highly important ; firstly because it had been suspected by no one on earth, and secondly because we were unable, for several months after the clues were given, to trace any connexion between the boy's illness and its asserted origin.

This therefore merits special consideration and will form the subject matter of Part II, for which all relevant material is reserved. I shall, however, indicate in Part I the place in each sitting where reference was made to this topic.

The first sitting introduces the baffling subject of psychometry. It is rarely that I have tried this with Mrs Leonard, but I happened to do so on this occasion. The psychometrising was of doubtful assistance ; for although Feda (Mrs Leonard's Control) seemed to begin with pure psychometry this quickly changed into the familiar type of message. Feda meanwhile was apparently uncertain whether the information came to her by means of the article, or direct from some unseen communicator.

The series affords illustration of problems connected with trance mediumship which still await final solution. Prominent among these is the question of *modus operandi* and the fact that information which one could express in a few sentences will often emerge in diffused and extended form. Whether the cause is to be sought in telepathy, imperfect clairaudience, the medium's inhibitions, or the communicator's difficulty with memory—or various combinations of these—one would much like to ascertain. It is my hope that the material here provided may be useful to those studying such questions, and may directly or indirectly help toward a solution.

I am grateful to Mr Hatch and Mrs Newlove for allowing me to give their names and postal address. This will enable anyone wishing to make further enquiries to go to headquarters, and it disposes of the objection which might otherwise arise that the whole of this story would seem to depend upon my unsupported word. It happened that Mr Besterman and Mr Gerald Heard were present at Sitting No. 6, and heard Fedra give the remarkably correct description of a route which would lead towards the locality where the mysterious "pipes" were said to be.

Part I consists of a slightly abbreviated record of the twelve sittings, with verifications and an analysis of results.

Part II gives a complete story of the "pipes" problem.

Part III is a numerical analysis of successes and failures.

Part IV is an inquiry into Telepathy and the *modus operandi* of trance messages.

Fedra is the name of Mrs Leonard's Control.

John my father, and Etta my sister are my regular communicators.

C. D. T. are my initials and will indicate my part in dialogue with Fedra.

Readers will be able to place their own valuation upon the evidential material of these sittings, but in the table appended to each sitting will be found the mark given by me.

The name of the child from whom I was seeking information was Bobbie Newlove; he will be called Bobbie in these records. His messages of affection and all personal matter which has no *definitely evidential* value will be omitted, as also his descriptions of the life he is living in the Beyond. We shall confine ourselves strictly to evidence which can be tested.

Much of the material connects with the boy's memories, while some of it relates to his opinions, or to things he was said to have observed since his passing. These items I distinguish by M. for memories, and by O. for opinions or observations. Fedra, John and Etta occasionally offered opinions.

## PART I

## BOBBIE NEWLOVE

IN September 1932 I received a letter from a stranger, a Mr Hatch. He wrote from Nelson, a town 200 miles distant, of which I had no knowledge other than the fragmentary memories of having once lectured there ten years before.

Here are relevant portions of the letter.

For ten years my stepdaughter has lived with me and my wife, and her little boy has been the life and centre of our lives. He was particularly intelligent and extraordinarily loving and lovable. A few weeks ago he died suddenly of diphtheria, aged ten. The loss is so dreadful that we feel we must ask if you can in any way obtain comfort similar to that recounted in your book, *Life Beyond Death*.

I discouraged expectation of receiving messages; it seemed to me that this boy would be too young to make a successful communicator. Meanwhile the family remained unaware, until receiving extracts from the first sitting, that I was attempting (by methods previously successful in similar cases) to make contact with the child. It was in these circumstances that I took the letter to my sitting of November 4, 1932.

At an appropriate moment during the sitting I said to Feda, "I have a very earnest request for news of a little boy, Bobbie True-love". (By a slip of memory I gave the surname wrongly, it should have been Newlove. It will be noticed that I corrected this at the beginning of the third sitting.) I then suggested that Feda should hold the letter. She accepted the idea. Needless to say I had folded it in such a way that no information could be ascertained by glancing at it. Added to this I watched carefully during the few minutes it was in the medium's hands, and observed that her eyes did not open.

I will now set out Feda's remarks consecutively, adding the comments received from the family.

*First Sitting, November 4, 1932.*

- (1) FEDA: Isn't there a name connected with them beginning with a 'T'?

When I said that I did not know, Feda added that it was an "important name". The family's comment on this was that Bobbie loved his mother to call him by a pet name beginning with the letter 'T'.

It is unfortunate that in so many cases Feda gives only the initial letter instead of the full name. In the present case there is nothing

to make one sure that Bobbie's pet name was being attempted ; on the other hand, an attempt to announce this name would be quite natural in the circumstances. As we shall shortly see, Fedra had the impression that the child was actually present.

- (2) FEDRA : Will you find out whether this boy had had a pain in his hand. I felt such a funny pain in the hand while touching this letter.

As the medium was holding the letter I assumed that psychometry was in progress. If so, then the pain in the hand would presumably refer to the writer and not to Bobbie himself. I learned on enquiry however, that the writer, Mr Hatch, did not recognise this as applying to himself, but that Bobbie, who had always been a delicate child, occasionally lost the use of the right hand after a bout of excessive laughter ; at such times he did not complain of pain, but he was unable to use the hand for writing while the condition lasted.

- (3) FEDRA : I am also getting a name beginning with ' M ', it sounds like Mar— something, connected with this letter too . . . Is there a name in or on this letter starting with ' M ' ?

One is left in doubt as to what may have been intended by this reference to Mar—. The first comment I received was as follows :

" Yes, Bobbie's godmother, whom he loved, I think, more than anyone outside the family circle, is named Marie."

There is, however, no doubt that Bobbie's thoughts had often reverted to a child named Marjorie, whom he had frequently met and who had made a great impression on him. There will be several references to this on later pages. Neither this name, nor any other commencing with ' M ', was mentioned in the letter I had received. Fedra was not sure of the source of these ideas ; for, in relation to this name, she added : " I think I am getting that from the letter, or it may be in the thought of the person who wrote the letter to you." The phrase, " It sounds like Mar— ", certainly seems to suggest clairaudience and not psychometry.

- (4) FEDRA : The little boy has been trying to get in touch with them before.

[His people wrote : " We have had very vague messages from local mediums."]<sup>1</sup>

- (5) FEDRA : You said a few weeks since he passed over, Fedra feels it would be several months now.

<sup>1</sup> Short comments interspersed between quotations from the record of the sittings are in square brackets. These comments, unless there is some statement to the contrary, are based upon information received from Mr Hatch or Mrs Newlove, either in letters or verbally when I made their acquaintance during my visits to Nelson in June and July 1933.

[I was informed that the child had died some three months before this sitting, *i.e.* on August 12, 1932.]

- (6) FEDA : Glands ; ask if he had anything the matter with his glands.  
When I get anything like that it helps to find out if I am getting the right one.

[Mr Hatch replied : " I do not know whether the glands are affected in diphtheria, but it is probable."

I was equally ignorant, but on referring to books, discovered, as did Mr Hatch, that the glands *are* affected by diphtheria. So this point, which had been neither in my mind nor in Mr Hatch's, was correct.]

- (7) FEDA : All boys are fond of cakes and things, but a little while before he passed over I get such a feeling of a lot of cakes and cooking going on as if for some special occasion.

[This is vague. The only fact at all relevant is that, at some time within six months of passing, Bobbie and a friend, after having studied a cookery book, had a grand toffee-making.]

- (8) FEDA : Do you know if he was connected with a town, not London but a town, not one of the biggest in the provinces ?

[This was, as I knew, correct for Nelson where Bobbie had lived.]

- (9) FEDA : Is there something to do with a place—does anybody go there to do some special study, not like Oxford or Cambridge, Eton or Harrow.

C. D. T. : No, it is a manufacturing town.

FEDA : The studying they are doing is not so much of a scholastic kind. It is more as if they are learning to do something in a practical way.

C. D. T. : And who is this that is studying ?

FEDA : Somebody connected with the boy, like making a study of how to make something, like specialising in the making of something, not just making it and turning it out with a machine, but a kind of study of it.

[After a short break this subject was continued, see below.]

- (10) FEDA : It is a busy place, but not one of the very biggest of those towns. I don't think you would call it the biggest of those towns, and yet it is a largish place where they are concentrating on important things.

C. D. T. : I should say that is correct, so far as I know.

[Mr Hatch wrote : " This is unquestionably an accurate description of Nelson."]

- (11) FEDA : Do you know if some manufacturing places are on the banks of a canal or river there ? It does not feel pretty enough to call a river because of the buildings and the things on the side of it.

[There is a river and a canal, and there are factories on the banks of the river. Bobbie knew both river and canal.]

FEDA : (Resuming previous theme 9). Oh, are they partly making some stuff, there in this place, is it earthenware or pottery, some-

thing like stone? I think they are making more than one thing there, but I do get a feeling of something being made of a hard nature, something like stone, something is being put together, I get a feeling of it being put together very closely in lumps; it is not steel or iron or metal, it is more like things being made, and I think it is rather a new industry.

[Mr Hatch replied: "Bobbie had a great friend who is a working man engaged usually in making mortar and cement. He took a great interest in the boy and was most distressed when he died. Later he suggested that he should make a concrete cross for the grave. We thankfully agreed, feeling that work with real love behind it was better than anything bought from a monumental mason. This friend has never made one before and had to 'make a study of how to make something.'"]

Readers will feel that this is not convincing. When, however, after the conclusion of these sittings, I visited Nelson and met the person above alluded to, Mr Burrows, and saw the grave—the cross not yet erected, but blocks of concrete making a curb with a concrete platform round the grave, and noticing that the concrete was made in small portions fitted together,—I realised how apposite had been the above description. Mr Burrows will be mentioned hereafter. Bobbie greatly admired him; for, in addition to teaching Bobbie gymnastics and boxing, Mr Burrows was the professional at the skating rink, and Captain of the Rink Hockey Club.

It is only my fear that readers will not be in a position, at this point, to share my opinion that Feda's remarks actually apply to the concrete-and-cement work around Bobbie's grave, that restrains me from pointing out in detail how clear it is that Feda did not know what it was she was describing. But it is unwise to build upon inadequate foundations, and there will be other opportunities, as we proceed, for illustrating this fact, namely, that the mind originating the message is not Feda's and that Feda is frequently unable to realise what it is that she is describing. There is abundant evidence indicating that Feda's part is simply to transmit from one who knows the facts, and who is trying amid difficulties to convey information which can be recognised by those for whom it is intended.

- (12) FEDA: These people are not very poor and not very rich, sort of between people; I think they have a comfortable home and nice surroundings—the family of the boy.

[This remark was accepted by Mr Hatch as a correct description.]

- (13) FEDA: Ask them if the boy's neck or throat was affected. I keep on getting something about that.

[The diphtheria affected the boy's neck and throat, but he had previously been troubled with enlarged tonsils which would have been operated upon had Bobbie been less delicate.]



Mr Hatch's reaction to this first sitting may be judged from the following passages which I extract from his letter of comments.

"There certainly seems more in the above than coincidence would explain. Yet do you not think that psychometry, while showing that the mind of the medium has certain unknown powers, is yet no evidence of survival? If Bobbie were trying to communicate I cannot believe that he would refer to any of the matters mentioned. Still, as you say, it is a foundation, and if you will be good enough to try again we shall indeed be grateful.

"I have heard it said that those who are desperately anxious for evidence are very credulous. I do not think it is so with me. My fear is lest I should be deceived by evidence that can be explained by some other faculty of the mind, perhaps one that has not been investigated as yet."

#### FIRST SITTING.

##### *Abbreviations used.*

M : Memory.	R : Right.
O : Opinion or Observation.	G : Good.
	F : Fair.
	P : Poor.
	D : Doubtful.

Classed as—

- O : F. A name 'T' (1).
- O : D. Pain in hand (2).
- O : G. A name Mar— (3).
- O : R. Tried to get touch previously (4).
- O : R. Passed several months ago (5).
- O : R. Glands (6).
- M : P. Special cooking (7).
- M : R. Town in provinces (8).
- O : F. Making something like stone—studying it—(9)  
put together in lumps.
- M : R. Largish town and important things (10).
- M : R. Manufactories on canal or river (11).
- M : R. Financial status of family (12).
- M : R. Neck and throat affected (13).

Result of above analysis—

<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>	<i>Bobbie's opinion or observation since passing.</i>	<i>Feda's opinion.</i>
R 5.	R 1.	R 2.
P 1.	F 1.	G 1.
		F 1.
		D 1.

*Second Sitting, November 18, 1932.*

(14) A previous weakening. (See Part II.)

[This is the first of 33 references to the subject discussed in Part II, *The Problem of the Pipes*. It seemed better to deal with them as a whole and so I have removed them from among the miscellaneous matter of the sittings. The position of each is shown as above, by number and a brief indication of contents.

The valuation marks are included in the analysis at the end of each sitting.]

(15) FEDA : Etta thinks he had a good constitution as children go.

[Mr Hatch says that Bobby had not a good constitution but was always frail.]

(16) FEDA : He seemed rather a lively boy and he was not what Etta would call a naughty boy in temperament, he was a boy who was what you would call "all there". He had a very nice nature, and though he was quite a boy he could be, and was, very affectionate too ; she says, I think his mother would say "yes" to that. Many boys are so undemonstrative, but this boy would be very affectionate.

[It should be noted that it is Etta who says, "I think that he had a good constitution as children go." This seems to have been an inference of hers and therefore the mistake is less important than would have been a misstatement made by Bobbie himself. The rest of the paragraph is correct. Bobbie was very lively, very good, and particularly affectionate.]

(17) FEDA : He was very appreciative of his mother and his relations and his home life.

[Mr Hatch writes : "This is all true."]

(18) FEDA : There was a little girl that this boy was very fond of.

(19) Does the girl's name begin with 'J'? I keep seeing a 'J'. J. G. and P.

(20) There is a girl's name beginning with 'G'; there are really two names beginning with 'G' connected with him. One is a proper name and the other is a little made-up name, a pet name.

["A little girl he was fond of" : Yes, Marjorie, a child of twelve who was a semi-professional at the skating rink. There will be several further allusions to her, usually by the letter 'M'.

Feda here seems to have assumed that because the letter 'J' came after the reference to a girl it was therefore the girl's name ; and similarly with the name 'G'. The initials are all quite relevant, however.

'J' and 'P' : Jack and Peter were two of Bobbie's special friends. The two names 'G' may refer to his mother, whose name is Gwendoline, but often called in the family Gennie.]

(21) FEDA : There is a rather elderly gentleman he is very fond of. Etta thinks it is someone he regarded as a relation, I am sure too old to be the father.

[Mr Hatch says that this may refer to himself. Mr Hatch is older than Bobbie's father and is step-father to Bobbie's mother.]

(22) FEDA : I understand he had given him something the boy was very pleased about only shortly before he passed over.

[Mr Hatch frequently gave things to Bobbie, but remembers nothing to which this would specially apply.]

(23) FEDA : Had this gentleman taken out something in the boy's name that would be of monetary advantage to him later on, putting something on one side for him that would have been useful to him later.

[Not understood. They gave Bobbie money for his Savings Certificate at school, but cannot think of anything further to which this would apply.]

(24) FEDA : There was something that Bobbie was very interested in, but I don't quite understand. He had been allowed to build something. I think he was not doing it alone, he was going to do it with another young person ; it seems as if he was going to build something. It felt to me like building an outhouse, but he seemed too young for such an interest. There was something of that kind being done in which he was very interested and going to take his part. It is one of the things he would have wanted to talk about if he had been on the earth.

[With a boy friend, Bobbie had planned to build a glider—an impracticable scheme, but one upon which, for a time, he had worked with much enthusiasm. His mother allowed the boys to do this in the scullery. *Note* : Etta says, "It felt to me like building an outhouse, something of that kind". Did she confuse the scullery with the object under construction there ?]

(25) FEDA : He was fond of someone who was attached to a school.

[This might refer either to one of Bobbie's teachers, or to Mr Hatch, to whom he was much attached ; Mr Hatch teaches in a school.]

(26) FEDA : And he sent his love to someone whose initial was ' M ', I don't mean his mother. It is a woman, that is to say, it is a female name.

[This is highly appropriate for his godmother, of whom he was very fond and with whom he had stayed in London. She was always alluded to as "Auntie Marie". Alternatively, it might mean the little girl Marjorie, above mentioned, to whom Bobbie was much attached.]

(27) FEDA : Someone called Joyce he liked.

[Two years back Bobbie had known a Joyce, but the family do not think it likely he would name her in this connection. There were others

of that name whom he knew at his co-education school, also others among the Brownies<sup>1</sup> with whom he was acquainted.]

(28) FEDA : He was very pleased at winning something not very long before he passed over.

[Not long before he died Bobbie was pleased at being top of his form for the half-year's examination, as well as for the term's marks.

Nine weeks before his death Bobbie won, in a competition, a salt-sifter shaped like a dog. This article gave him much pleasure. He called it his "bow-wow". (See Fig. II.) It will be referred to later : see Nos. 54, 56, 61.]

(29) FEDA : Etta says he was very fond of something which he did not do by himself ; and it seemed to do with numbers, as if he played with something with numbers on, and he used to take turns with it. Whatever this was with numbers he used to like to do something with curved lines, grooves and curved lines and numbers : he used to do this after tea, it occupied some time after tea.

[At a recent Fair he was particularly successful with one of the automatic machines from which he won pennies by shooting into numbered circles. "Not by himself" : he was always accompanied there by others and of course would take his turn at the machine and not monopolise it. "After tea" : he did this several times during evenings after tea.]

(30) FEDA : He played indoors with coloured marbles, it was something they did on a table.

[Yes, he played a game with coloured marbles and a card pattern on the table.]

(31) FEDA : They had been trying to make something—this is nothing to do with what I said about building—they had been doing something intricate in the house that Bobbie was interested in, they got a lot of parts for it, like fixing them all up together. They were wanting some other parts for it not long before Bobbie passed over.

[Mr Burrows was fitting up a gymnasium for Bobbie and it was not yet finished. They still required a horizontal ladder and other items. It was being made in an upstairs room and Mr Burrows added to it each time he called. Bobbie's diary has the following references :

*March 31.* The instructor came and put up two parts of gymnasium.

*May 10.* Instructor came and fixed up parallel bars.

*June 15.* Got bellbar for gym.]

(32) FEDA : Was he interested in rabbits ?

<sup>1</sup> For the information of foreign readers the name "Brownies" may be explained as the junior branch of the Girl Guide organisation. Its chief aims are the building up of good character and bodily health. Brownies have their counterpart for boys in the well-known Boy Scout movement, whose younger members are called Wolf Cubs.

[Yes, Bobbie frequently visited Mr Burrows' garden, and when there was interested in the rabbits kept by a neighbour close by.]

(33) FEDA : I think he will come again and let me see him. I feel he is a bit on the dark side, not a fair boy.

[No, the boy was decidedly fair. Feda's idea, which she seems to have obtained by feeling rather than by sight, was wrong.]

SECOND SITTING.

*Abbreviations used.*

M : Memory.	R : Right.
O : Opinion or Observation.	G : Good.
	F : Fair.
	P : Poor.
	D : Doubtful.
	W : Wrong.

Classed as—

- O : R. A previous weakening (14).
- O : W. Etta thinks his constitution good (15).
- O : R. Description of Bobbie's character (16).
- M : R. Happy home life (17).
- M : R. Little girl friend (18).
- M : F. Initials J and P (19).
- M : G. Two names G (20).
- M : G. Fond of elderly gentleman (21).
- M : D. Recent gift from gentleman (22).
- M : P. Money put aside for him (23).
- M : G. Interested in building something (24).
- M : F. Friend attached to a school (25).
- M : G. Sent love to M (26).
- M : P. Liked Joyce (27).
- M : R. Won something shortly before his passing (28).
- M : R. Played with grooves and numbers after tea (29).
- M : R. Coloured marbles on table (30).
- M : R. Something yet incomplete making in the house (31).
- M : F. Interested in rabbits (32).
- O : W. Feda's attempt to describe him (33).

Result of above analysis —

<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>	<i>Feda's opinion.</i>	<i>Etta's opinion.</i>
R 6.	W 1	R 2.
G 4.		W 1.
F 3.		
P 2.		
D 1.		

*Third Sitting, December 2, 1932.*

C. D. T. : Have they been able to bring Bobbie Newlove ?

FEDA : You mean Truelove, don't you ?

C. D. T. : I made a mistake, the name is Newlove. Let us call him Bobbie. Have they brought him ?

(34) FEDA : Yes, and they thought about passing over a few messages. What is that you are showing me ? Will you ask is there a photograph of Bobbie in a rather peculiar position ? I see him full faced, or very nearly full faced, but with something in front of him, as if there is a board in front of him. It is as if he had been photographed sitting at the back of something, like at the back of a board or a tray or something. In the position he seemed to be leaning a bit forward towards the tray or board or whatever it is, I get a feeling of a crouching position.

[Mr Hatch writes : " This is certainly remarkable. The last photograph we have of Bobbie is in fancy dress. He is the Jack of Hearts with boards back and front like a sandwich-man. On his head is a crown as in a pack of cards. It is wrong that he was sitting or crouching, he was standing erect (see Fig. I)."

One is uncertain whether Feda was given a visual impression of this particular photograph or whether she received Bobbie's generalised impression of his various attitudes while wearing the fancy dress.]

(35) FEDA : Will you ask also if he had been given—I think it must have been a joke—something new that he was fond of using or wearing on his head, something round ; if it was a cap it had no peak to it. He used to put it on his head and I think he liked it. Mr John is trying to draw just like a ring, like something he had put on. It has no peak to it at all. You had better say something round that was new, to wear on his head, that he was pleased at having. It was as if he thought it was rather important putting this round thing on his head.

[This apparently refers to the crown. He was so fond of putting it on that his mother had to check him lest it should be worn out. (See Fig. II.)]

(36) FEDA : What does Bobbie want to say about his nose, his nose hurt ? (hand rubs nose).

He is making me feel as if something had hurt his nose on the side towards the end of his earthly life. Oh, he doesn't think it caused his passing or anything of that kind.

[Mr Hatch writes : " Bobbie was learning to box, and on the last lesson his instructor, usually very gentle with him, gave him a blow on the nose which brought tears to his eyes. He complained afterwards that it hurt when washed." When, on visiting the house, I was shown Bobbie's little diary, I noticed that he humorously referred to this under its date thus—" June 14. The instructor came. Burst my nose." This happened shortly before Bobbie's death.]



FIG. I.—The Knave of Hearts.

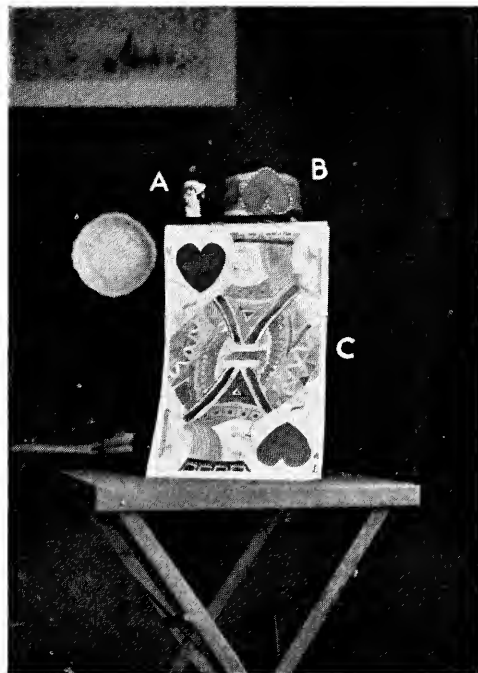


FIG. II.—(A) The salt-sifter, shaped like a standing dog. (B) The Jack of Hearts cap. (C) One of the Jack of Hearts sandwich-boards.

(37) JOHN repeats the reference to a predisposing cause for Bobbie's illness.

[See Part II where this topic will be dealt with in its entirety. Wherever this matter of the "Pipes", is alluded to in these sittings the paragraph will be represented by its number, and a reference to Part II where it will be found in full.]

(38) An event nine weeks before the death for which the "pipes" will be the clue. [See Part II.]

(39) FEDA: Did I tell you last time about a girl a little older than Bobbie that he was fond of? She seemed as if very kind to him, like giving up things to him and being very nice to him, and this girl has been—I can't get this quite—but it is something to do with a ball that belonged to Bobbie. I don't think this is much good—you see I am not getting this from Mr John now, I am getting it from Bobbie. Something this girl has been doing about a ball that Bobbie was fond of when he was here, the girl has been doing something with it.

[The child Marjorie at the Rink had a special part which she played at the commencement of hockey matches. The team termed her their mascot, and she began their competitions by an exhibition of skating in which she finally drove a ball into the goal. Bobbie enjoyed watching this. She was twelve years old and they were great friends. While Marjorie was away on a visit Bobbie said to his mother, "If I don't see Marjorie soon I shall go mad". This was only a month before his death. The sittings allude to her several times. The ball did not, of course, belong to Bobbie although he may at times have joined in playing with it; for he often skated with Marjorie.]

(40) FEDA: And will you ask them if he went to a place where there was a broken stile? At least it may not have been the stile itself that you put your foot on was broken, but a part of the construction through which the stile was made was broken.

(41) And there was a long footpath there too, part of it seems to go between something, like as if you were going between something rather high, I get like a high wall on one side. There is not usually building near stiles now, but I get the feeling of something close to the path and the stile.

(42) When you get over the stile it is more open.

(43) Then I think there is a church with a group of trees round it.

(44) I feel you have only got to go a little way over the stile, and there is something that would be dangerous near to this stile, something you can fall down, as if you would say to children, "Now, don't go that way." It is something you could fall down into.

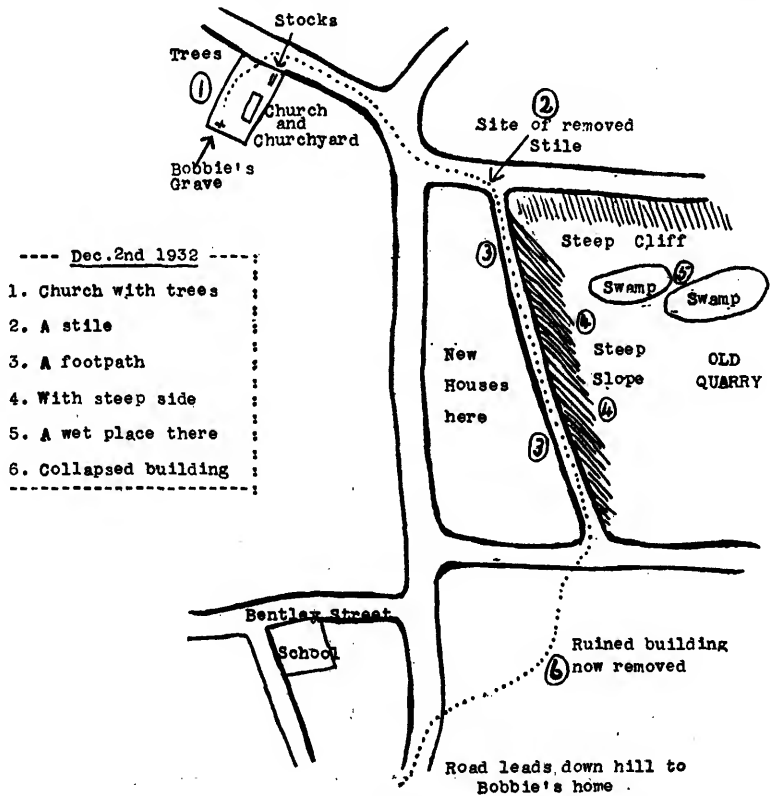
(45) And it is wet too; I can't see the water—I think they want me to say that—and yet it feels sticky and wet there.



- (46) This is a place that Bobbie would know very well, would have reason to know. He has been thinking of it lately when he has been with his people on the earth. He must have been near this place with them and it made him think about it again, whereas he would have forgotten it.

Mr Hatch writes: "This is very good. A favourite walk was by a stile. Whether it is damaged I do not know, but I will find out. And beyond it is a church with trees. His body is buried in the churchyard. Past the stile the path leads to a quarry, at the foot of which is water. (See Fig. III, p 488.) Bobbie wanted to go there to play, but we forbade it." Mr Hatch wrote later: "I have been the walk described in your last notes, but cannot find any damaged stile; however, these last messages are the best we have had."

Mr Hatch enclosed a plan of his walk, which is here reproduced (Plan 1). The stile, which had been there in Bobbie's time, and was



PLAN 1.

broken, had now been completely removed. Beyond the site of this stile a footpath runs along the precipitous edge of a quarry. Bobbie's mother tells me that she used to regard this unprotected path as dangerous. It is now made safe by a fence. There is no high wall on the side opposite the quarry but a row of houses; these houses might be described as "something rather high" and "like a high wall on one side". "When you get over the stile it is more open"; yes, there is an extensive view over the quarry on the left. "Church with a group of trees round it"; this is a few minutes' walk from the quarry, not connected with it, but part of a walk which the family often took. "He must have been near this place with them, etc."; Mr Hatch adds, "Yes, almost every time we have gone out since his passing we have been either to the grave or to a friend who lives near."

On re-reading the above, while preparing this paper, I mistakenly assumed that the walk which the family often took included the path by the stile. It therefore seemed inexplicable that, if passing the site of the stile "almost every time we have been out since his passing"—a period of several weeks—they should have been unaware of the stile and its subsequent removal.

To my letter of enquiry about this Mr Hatch replied on February 24, 1935, "You are mistaken in thinking that we had often taken the walk by the stile *after* Bobbie's death. The walk we did take was up the road to the grave. Gwen (*i.e.* Mrs Newlove) went the walk after your sitting and could not find the stile, though she had thought there was one. We then wrote you that the description of the walk was correct except that there was no broken stile. Some weeks afterwards I found from a friend that a broken stile had been there but had been removed shortly before Bobbie's death."

### *Third Sitting (Continued).*

(47) FEDA: A place near there beginning with Sw— It is near the place they have been describing. There seems to be an 'L' a little further in the same name—'Sw' and 'L':

(48) Bobbie would sometimes go by ways and means of this stile to a building that has collapsed, he would not go to it exactly, but he would go near it. Why it has collapsed Mr John does not know, and he doesn't think Bobbie does either, but it is left there in heaps, partly standing and partly a heap of debris.

[Sw . . . L"; These letters present an unsolved puzzle.

As to the ruined building, Mr Hatch wrote: "Nearer our house than the quarry is an old barn, partly standing and partly a heap of debris."]

- (49) FEDA : What was it Bobbie used to do with that ? Bobbie wants to tell me about a very wonderful strap he had got, it went round something. He was always fitting it on and taking it off, making it a bit longer and a bit shorter, as if he was trying to pull it like that. (Medium's hands here acted as if pulling up to the shoulder.) As if it was made of rubber or elastic. He was always pulling it, and his mother did not like it much, she used to say, " Now be careful, mind what you do with that " .

[His mother remembers that he would pull out an elastic band or something similar, and she warned him, being afraid that it would fly in her face or his.]

- (50) FEDA : Did he tell you anything about a man relative who had passed over not long before he did ? Mr John says it is almost impossible for us to be correct in calculating time, but he would have thought it would be about two years. He was connected with the family ; and there is a letter ' A ' in connection with this.

[His father's brother-in-law, named Arthur, died suddenly about two years before this.]

- (51) FEDA : Bobbie was funny about his food, some foods that boys like he was rather strange about, as if he did not like a certain food, he was very difficult about it, and there was something that he was being given only a little while before he passed over that he did not like at all. It was one of his pet aversions. It was a food, quite an ordinary food that many boys would like but he happened not to. He was given it towards the end of his earth life.

[Quite correct. He was funny about food ; for instance, he would never touch jam, not even a cake that had a little jam in it. He disliked milk too. Bobbie's mother wrote : " The food which Bobbie was being given towards the end of his earth life, his pet aversion, was the white of egg. He hated it and always left it, but I was beginning to insist that he should try to eat it." ]

- (52) FEDA : Did Mr John tell you that for a boy he would think Bobbie was rather affectionate, sensitive to people's words and actions and even thoughts, a particularly understanding kind of boy. Thinks there would be a very strong link between himself and his family. He was not quite the casual off-hand boy. He was a boy with a good deal of deep feeling and understanding.

- (53) He was rather fond of flowers, which not many boys are. Mr John says, I think he means some particular plants that perhaps he took an interest in and would notice more than many boys.

[Mr Hatch wrote : " The first part is correct, but I do not think he was very fond of flowers " .

During my visit I was talking with Bobbie's friend Mr Burrows, the

boxing instructor, who told me that Bobbie liked to come with him to his garden. While there he showed much interest in potato plants, which he had never previously seen. He had not understood that several potatoes grew on a single root. Mr Burrows therefore gave him one to plant, and Bobbie was excited about its growth and over zealous in watering it. He often inquired when he might dig it up, and frequently spoke of it at home. He lived to see it flower only.]

(54) FEDA : You must not take it off the shelf, you must leave it on the shelf near the corner. Leave it on the shelf where the others could see it and have it. He used to take it sometimes—I think I have got this right—there was something that used to be on the corner of the shelf, and sometimes Bobbie wanted it, and they used to say, “Leave it on the shelf in case the others want it”, —something round and smooth and polished.

C. D. T. : I wonder what he did with it when he took it in his hands ?

FEDA : Was it a watch ?

C. D. T. : Are you guessing, Fed a ?

FEDA : I was only asking him, because it looked like a watch he was holding in the palm of his hand.

C. D. T. : What does he say ?

FEDA : He seems to be twisting something like you do a watch or a clock.

C. D. T. : Winding it ?

FEDA : Yes, winding something.

C. D. T. : Is it Bobbie showing this ?

FEDA : It is Bobbie giving it to me. It feels something like a watch.

C. D. T. : It looks like a selected bit of evidence, but it just lacks the definite indication. I could think of at least four things.

FEDA : You had better not guess. He rolls it or winds it. It was not a watch. They still have it. It is not in that place, it has been put somewhere else, but they have still got it. Bobbie thinks it has been put in a drawer instead of on the shelf. Is it on a plate ? He is giving me the idea of a plate being near it.

[Mr Hatch writes : “Bobbie was very fond of a little salt-sifter which he won at Morecambe. It was kept at the corner of a shelf and he used to twist the cork at the bottom and to roll it along the dinner table. It has been moved, but not into a drawer. It is of glazed earthenware, shaped like a dog. ‘Round, smooth and polished’ is correct. It is now kept on a shelf just below the dinner plates.” (See Fig. II.)]

## THIRD SITTING.

*Abbreviations used.*

R : Right.  
 G : Good.  
 F : Fair.  
 W : Wrong.

Classed as—

- M : R. Photograph with boards (34).  
 M : R. Cap without peak (35).  
 M : R. Injured nose (36).  
 O : R. John repeats the reference to a predisposing cause for Bobbie's illness. Cf. 14 (37).  
 O : R. An event nine weeks before the death for which the "pipes" will be the clue (38).  
 M : R. Girl with a ball interested Bobbie (39).  
 M : R. Broken stile (40).  
 M : R. Footpath described (41).  
 M : R. Open view past stile from path (42).  
 M : R. Church with group of trees (43).  
 M : R. Dangerous place near stile (44).  
 M : R. Place sticky and wet there (45).  
 O : R. Bobbie was reminded of this place lately when his people went there (46).  
 M : W. Sw—. Name of a place (47).  
 M : R. A collapsed building past stile (48).  
 M : R. Description of a strap about which Bobbie was warned (49).  
 M : R. Male relative 'A' passed about two years ago (50).  
 M : R. Unusual fancy about food and a pet aversion (51).  
 O : R. Characterisation of Bobbie (52).  
 M : F. Interested in special plants (53).  
 M : G. A treasured object described (54).

Result of the above analysis —

<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>	<i>Bobbie's observation since passing.</i>	<i>John's opinion.</i>
R 14.	R 1.	R 3.
G 1.		
F 1.		
W 1.		

*Fourth Sitting, January 13, 1933.*

Mr Hatch wrote at this time : " Is it possible for you to put two or three questions ? If they were answered correctly it would be well-nigh overwhelming proof of survival. I leave it to you, of course, but to save time I append the questions :

1. What did Bobbie keep in the bathroom cupboard ?
2. Where did he like to go with his Mummie last winter in the evenings and was looking forward to going again this winter ?
3. What did he do in the attic besides boxing ?

I put these questions, and it will be observed as we proceed that two of them were answered with some detail. It is as well to mention here that I thought it would be interesting to compare the result with my own guesses. I therefore wrote to Mr Hatch that I guessed :

(1) Boat, (2) the Pictures, or Ice Skating-rink, (3) playing with trains. It became clear after the next few sittings that my alternative guess for number (2), Skating-rink, was partly correct. I did not learn until the sittings were completed that my guess for (1) "Boat" was also correct. But it is, perhaps, of some significance in view of the telepathic hypothesis, that this never emerged in replies to these questions, nor did my third guess, which proved completely wrong.

FEDA : Etta says that she has brought the boy ; you know, Bobbie Newlove, and that he wanted to say one or two things before they went on to anything else.

C. D. T. : Bobbie, I can't think what it was you used to do in the attic besides boxing. I have been trying to guess.

(55) FEDA : Had he been given by his people something that was in a box, and he used to take it out and it seemed to be in an awful lot of pieces? I think he had two boxes to do with it, he used to take things out of the boxes as if he was fastening them together. What he is building seems as if it comes up to a point, or there is a high something sticking up on top of it. I feel there is a poking-up part on top ; and I think there is a picture to do with it too, as if he was trying to build something from the picture, or to look like it.

[Mr Hatch : "This might be his Meccano. Bobbie was fond of making cranes with it which certainly come up to a point. He also had a Meccano aeroplane in two boxes. Both have pictures as a guide."]

(56) FEDA : Had Bobbie a duck ? I will tell you what he is showing me ; it looks something like a duck. Will you ask if he had a toy duck ? I think that is right. I see it in his hand like as if he is pushing it towards me. I don't think its legs is very long, or else he is holding his legs up a bit, but ducks have not got very long legs. I think it must be a duck because of its legs.

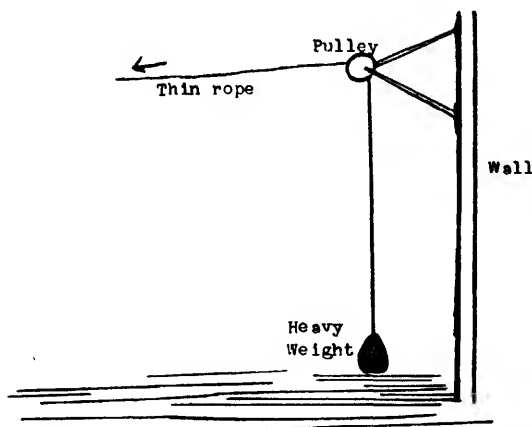
[Possibly this was an attempt to refer again to the dog salt-sifter which Bobbie had won at Morecambe (see Third Sitting, No. 54). If so, the subject is resumed later in this sitting, No. 61. The dog stands on short hind legs with fore legs inconspicuous.]

- (57) FEDA : He keeps on saying " mice ". He was interested in something to do with mice and I think someone else is mixed up with this, because I get a feeling of another child, or young person, who was interested in and had as much to do with the mice as Bobbie had.

[Bobbie's mother wrote : " I have at last been able to make inquiries with regard to the mice. Bobbie, it appears, was interested in some mice which a friend of his had. Apparently he brought some to show us, but was shooed off again because I am frightened of them. I have only a very vague remembrance of this, but the boy friend is quite certain." ]

- (58) FEDA : What are you showing me ? Did you pull a string out of the wall ? Bobbie did some funny things for a boy, now look, he is going to the wall and he seems as if he is untwisting something and he is pulling something from the wall, either thick string or rope, and on the end he seems to be fixing something carefully. That is important, what he is doing with it. It is the pulling it out that seems to be the important thing. It is something about drawing it out as far as is possible and then letting it go back to the wall again. It is something that he seemed to do rather regularly.

[Mr. Hatch : " This is good ; in the attic he had, among other things, an arrangement for strengthening the muscles. The drawing appended will show you the idea. Drawing it out was the important thing, and he did it rather regularly." (See drawing.)



This is evidently the answer to question No. 3, which was, " What did he do in the attic besides boxing ? " ]

- (59) FEDA : Ask if he was going to have something done to his teeth a little while before he passed over, something that was delayed a

little. That was before he got very ill. He remembers having his teeth looked at, and that something was to be done.

[Mr Hatch : " Yes, we knew he would have to visit the dentist soon, and we were rather worried about it." ]

(60) FEDA : His mother had a rather important engagement before he passed over, he thinks it was a Saturday, and he thinks that his being ill would have in some way interfered with it. He thinks it was something for the Saturday afternoon.

[Mrs Newlove tells me that she had such an engagement fixed for the Saturday, it was with the Brownies of which she was an official. Bobbie was taken ill on the previous Sunday. Directly his illness became serious, Mrs Newlove wrote to postpone the engagement. Bobbie died the following Thursday night. Bobbie knew that his mother was to have spent that Saturday with the Brownies.]

(61) FEDA : Not the name Bobbie, but another name beginning with ' B ' that was rather important in their house. I mustn't say sound because I am getting this by feeling. He gives ' B ' by sound, but now I get the feeling that this would seem to be more like an animal's name, or the name of a toy. It is something in their house that he was very fond of, and he calls it a funny name beginning with ' B ', not a long name. Wait a bit—Ber, Bunkey, Bussey. The name he is giving me sounds as if it began Bus or Bos.

[This is possibly a further reference to the salt-sifter mentioned previously (see No. 56). It is shaped like a dog in sitting posture. Bobbie was very fond of it and called it his " bow-wow ". Cf. Like an animal's or toy's name. A funny name beginning with ' B '.]

(62) FEDA : There is someone he liked and was interested in whose name began with ' W ' and it sounds like Wenda, or Wendy, that is the nearest I can get to it.

[Mr Hatch : " We can only think of a Winnie in whom he was interested." ]

(63) FEDA : Bobbie wants to say something about handwriting. He was told to do something which would help, and he had been trying to do it. He wanted to improve it, and he tried to before he passed over.

(64) The reason he is mentioning this is because it has been spoken of lately, and he wanted to say, " Yes, I was trying to do it a little while before I passed over." ]

[Mr Hatch : " We begged him to try with his writing as it was keeping him back at school. We had mentioned his bad writing when trying to read his diary—after his passing." ]

(65) FEDA : His people have been talking about going to a place that was much connected with Bobbie when he was here, and they know that they ought to go some time. It may make them a bit



... sad because of the connections with Bobbie when he was on the earth. There is an initial 'H' connected with where they are going. I get Ha— They have been thinking of going to this place. He feels as if something is making them go to this place.

[Mr Hatch : " We have thought of visiting friends near Halifax. The place has no associations with Bobbie, but the 'bus journey there would remind us vividly of him, as we have been most of the way there with him."

If this Ha— was an endeavour to transmit the name Halifax, it is an instance of Feda's imperfect clairaudience, similar to the preceding B, Ber, Bunkey for bow-wow, and the Wenda for Winnie.]

(66) FEDA : Will you ask his mother if she has been thinking or doing anything about Rosemary ; will you say that ? He means it as a little message for her. He wanted it to be symbolical. He felt it was in her mind.

[Bobbie was interested in the Guides and the Brownies and his mother's work with them. After Bobbie's death she began to receive letters in connexion with this work from Lady Rosemary Stopford. The name Rosemary might be considered symbolical of this work, but it did not strike Mrs Newlove until some time after she had written to inform me that the name was not recognised.]

(67) FEDA : He keeps on saying he has seen Arthur there.

[Mr Hatch : " In a previous sitting (see paragraph 50) it was correctly stated that a connexion, actually his father's brother-in-law, died suddenly about two years ago. The initial 'A' was given ; now the full name is correctly given."

(68) FEDA : And there is a funny name he is remembering, sounding rather like Euan. It is a name that Bobbie remembers, somebody he used to be interested in, and the name does sound very much like Euan.

[This is not recognised.]

(69) FEDA : Do you know if there was some discussion about having another doctor, if another doctor had to be got to look at him, suddenly, late ; because I keep getting a mix-up between two doctors.

[Mr Hatch : " Correct. Another doctor, a specialist on the throat, happens to live next door. He saw Bobbie a few hours before he died."]

(70) Previous constitutional weakness, and further reference to " the pipes ". (See Part II.)

C. D. T. : Bobbie, have you given the answers to those three things your mother asks, they were—(1) What was kept in the bathroom cupboard ? (2) What did you do in the attic besides boxing ? and (3) Where did you go last winter evenings with your mother and were hoping to go again this winter ? It may be that you have given the answers already.

(71) FEDA : When he went with his mother didn't he carry something for her ? I feel it is rather important that he carried something for her, not something that he put under his arm, but something swinging a bit.

[Mr Hatch : "Bobbie was keenly interested in roller-skating and it is curious that you guessed correctly this answer to the question about what he did on winter evenings. Bobbie used to carry his skates swinging. His mother sometimes offered to carry them but he would never allow her to do so. Possibly he feels that he carried them to save her trouble."]

(72) FEDA : And when they walked did he hold her arm ? I don't know if he always did this, but I get a very strong feeling of holding her arm. Boys don't usually do that, but I seem to get him doing this when they went out at night.

[Mr Hatch : "Yes, correct."]

(73) FEDA : They had spoken and thought about buying something new for this winter that was going to be rather expensive in connexion with where they were going together. It was a bit expensive, but it would be rather an improvement on what they had. He enjoyed going to this place, and he would talk about it a lot afterwards, and about the progress they had made.

[Mr Hatch : "There was some talk of a pair of skates for his mother. She had none, but used a pair from the rink. It is true that he enjoyed going and would talk about the progress they had made."]

(74) FEDA : What a funny place it is, there did not seem much furniture there. Will you ask if it was rather a bare place, because I am getting a feeling of a place that is rather bare, perhaps it is purposely bare ? It feels as if it was a place where they cleared the furniture ; it feels as if there were a lot of other people there too. I keep hearing voices. That has to do with where they went on winter evenings, and they hoped to go again, only after buying something special.

C. D. T. : He has not told you what it is ?

FEDA : No, I can't get what it is.

[Mr Hatch : "A correct description of the rink."]

(75) FEDA : There was someone they used to expect to see there, a youngish man, someone they knew particularly well, someone much older than Bobbie. Now I am seeing an 'M', I think that would be the man's name. And getting warm there.

[Mr Burrows, a great friend of Bobbie's, was a prominent person at the rink. The little girl, Marjorie, previously mentioned in these notes, was there also as a semi-professional.

Note Feda's wrong inference : "M—I think that would be the man's name." "Getting warm there" ; one certainly does in roller skating.]

(76) FEDA : Did she ask him to get new boots for it ? I get a discussion

about boots or shoes to do with it, which he knows she will remember. He is losing it a bit, he is going back a bit.

[Mr Hatch : "Bobbie wanted new boots for the rink."]

(77) C. D. T. : Bobbie, what did you keep in the bathroom cupboard ? Show a picture of it, think about it and let Feda see.

FEDA : No, Bobbie, I am seeing that wrong, what is it ? not a balloon, Bobbie, it would go bang ! I don't know what he means now, he shows me a picture which looks like a balloon, and it came when you asked him. I feel it is light and round, like something that floats in the air. Will you ask them if he did keep one in the bathroom cupboard ?

[There is no known connexion between this reply and the bathroom. I suspect that we have here an example of the confusion which inevitably follows when the sitter's question is ignored and the communicator continues his previous train of thought. Bobbie had just been speaking about the rink—carrying skates, buying new skates, the rink, persons he knew there, new boots for skating. What more natural than that he should think of the Festal Nights at the rink in which he usually captured several of the coloured balloons ? On those nights a bunch of balloons was dropped to be scrambled for by the children. I have repeatedly noticed that, for reasons which we can guess, a communicator either does not catch one's question, or prefers to complete what he has in mind to say.]

C. D. T. : Can you show Feda what you did in the attic ?

(78) FEDA : He is lying on the floor. I suppose you are lying on the floor ? He is showing me something like stretched on the floor. I think he wants me to go flat on the floor or something. It feels as if I have got to lie on the floor and move something. I want to wobble altogether, sort of squirm about. I think my hands and feet and head is going. That is all I can get about it.

[Mr Hatch : "Lying on the floor is correct. Bobbie was given drills there ; raising legs while on his back, raising the body from the hands and toes, and various tricks."]

C. D. T. : I was very interested when they sent me a photograph of Bobbie showing the board that Feda seemed to see him looking over, and the round thing on his head without a brim that Feda described. It was all perfectly shown in the photograph. The only discrepancy was that he was not crouching. It was a fancy dress occasion, and he was representing someone, and he had the large card half as big as himself slung in front of him to illustrate the character he portrayed.

(79) FEDA : No, Etta, no, what do you mean about a book ? Something is coming back to my mind about that, but I am not in a position now to ask Bobbie to verify this, but you know we have told you that when we are bringing a would-be communicator to you

we often know something about it beforehand, we know the synopsis of what they are going to give. Well, to my mind now there comes back the recollection about a book. Will you find out, did he get it from a book, had he been interested in a book that is in some way connected with what he pretended to be? I do remember that he was going to speak about a book.

[Mr Hatch : "The boards had been used before, not by Bobbie, but he knew about it; they were used in a play by Brownies taken from *Alice in Wonderland*. Bobbie had read the book *Alice in Wonderland* and was very thrilled with it."]

## FOURTH SITTING.

*Abbreviations used.*

R : Right.  
G : Good.  
F : Fair.  
P : Poor.  
D : Doubtful.

## Classed as—

- M : R. Building to picture pattern, with point (55).  
M : P. Something like a duck (56).  
M : G. Mice (57).  
M : R. Apparatus fixed to wall (58).  
M : R. Attention to teeth (59).  
M : R. Mother's plans for Saturday altered (60).  
M : R. Name 'B' of toy or animal (61).  
M : F. Interested in a name 'W' (62).  
M : R. Handwriting to be improved (63).  
O : R. His handwriting spoken of lately (64).  
O : G. Family going to a place 'H' thinking of him (65).  
O : R. Mother thinking about Rosemary (66).  
O : R. Has met Arthur (67).  
M : D. Name like Euan (68).  
M : R. Doctors and his illness (69).  
O : G. Previous constitutional weakness. Further reference to the "pipes" (70).  
M : R. Carrying for his mother something swinging (71).  
M : R. Manner of walking with his mother (72).  
M : F. A purchase for the winter (73).  
M : R. A frequented place described (74).  
M : R. People met there, etc. (75).  
M : R. Discussion *re* footwear for the above place (76).  
M : F. Something that floated in air (77).  
M : R. Exercise in attic (78).  
M : G. Bobbie's fancy dress was connected with a book (79).

<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>	<i>Bobbie's opinion or observation since passing.</i>
R 13.	R 3.
G 2.	G 2.
F 3.	
P 1.	
D 1.	

*Fifth Sitting, January 27, 1933.*

- (80) Pipes not in house, reached via a second place. (See Part II.)
- (81) Connexion between pipes and infection.                    ,,
- (82) The animals will be clue to pipes.                           ,,
- (83) An alteration has made the pipes less dangerous.           ,,
- (84) Bobbie's people not familiar with the pipes place.           ,,
- (85) Another boy went there with Bobbie.                         ,,
- (86) Not quite country where pipes are.                           ,,
- (87) Stables, straw. One side partly open.                       ,,
- (88) View of country hidden by buildings.                         ,,
- (89) Water trickling or swilling.                                   ,,
- (90) FEDA : Bobbie wants to ask his mother does she remember how the doors were changed at that place they went in the evenings ? They shut up one lot of doors and opened the others, went in by a different set of doors to what there were first. There was a different arrangement of the doors afterwards. He only just remembered about that.
- [Mr Hatch : " This is incorrect. No change has been made regarding the doors of the skating rink."]
- (91) FEDA : And did he use something made of celluloid, something that he used and they wanted him to stop using it ? They thought it might make a flame or explosion.
- [Mr Hatch : " Yes, he had bought a second-hand cinematograph lantern, and we were a little nervous about the celluloid films."]
- (92) FEDA : Will you ask his mother whether she had the bathroom done after he passed over, the walls, because he remembers she wanted to have them done ? there was something that she was talking about having done before he passed over, about the bathroom ; talking about the bathroom reminded him.

[The family say that parts of the bathroom wall and ceiling needed attention where the linocrusta was loose. This had been put right since Bobbie's passing.]

(93) FEDA : Wait a bit, Bobbie. I nearly got what you are trying to give me. He saw that his mother had folded up a coloured paper thing that he had used. It was something he wore. You know, tissue paper ? Well, he is showing me that and in several colours, and as if they were folded up into conical shape and triangular shapes ; but she has had to fold them very carefully, because they have been folded up before, and there seems to be several of them, because they seem to make a big lump. It was something that she had an idea might come in useful again, and it was something Bobbie had helped her with. Part of it was a puce pink, and also there was a bright green and blue ; there seemed to be several colours, white as well, and he thinks his mother folded them and put them all in a box together ; but he did not use them again, because he passed over. There has been an occasion since he passed over in which, and for which, they could have used them, but they did not, and he rather thought they would, but yet was not surprised when they did not.

[Mr Hatch writes : " This might be the caps out of Christmas crackers which were folded up, and which would have been used again if Bobbie had lived."

In answer to my further inquiry I was assured that these caps answered to the description, including the " puce colour ".]

(94) C. D. T. : They did not know what you meant about the month of April. They don't think anything happened in April ; was it your birthday, Bobbie ?

[In a previous sitting Feda had mentioned April but failed to catch Bobbie's meaning. Finally she had said, " He keeps on saying April. I think they will recognise it."]

FEDA : No, it was not, nor his passing.

C. D. T. : Was it connected with your school, Bobbie ?

FEDA : Yes, in a way, Sir. You are getting very near it.

C. D. T. : Did you win something then ?

FEDA : No, but he tried something.

C. D. T. : Work or play ?

FEDA : It was a bit of both. It was something that he tried to do, there was a kind of meeting about it, which he was rather important in, and which he thought a lot of and looked forward to. (Long pause.) And Atkins, there is a name he is giving me sounding like Atkins. It is either Atkins or Atkinson. I get At—, Atk—, and that is all mixed up with the April thing.

[This may refer to the following facts which were given me by the family on my visit to them. Bobbie had wished to enter for his school sports. He asked permission, and the matter was discussed by the family. Although the sports were held in the summer the competitors' names were taken in April. There was a similar family discussion as to his entering for the fancy dress parade of the Hospital, at which he wore the Jack of Hearts costume. The name is not recognised.]

C. D. T. : They thought that that animal beginning with the letter 'B' was his bow-wow.

FEDA : That is right, but what a silly name.

C. D. T. : I believe it is what he called the china article that he won and kept on the shelf.

FEDA : I think it is something to do with bow-wow, he seemed to come forward and somehow open to me about that.

C. D. T. : The little girl they thought was Winnie, whom Bobbie knew so well. You said Wendy.

FEDA : That is the right one, but that was Feda's fault.

[My object in reporting on these items was partly to give encouragement, and partly in the hope of eliciting further confirmatory descriptions. I attach little value to a mere assent when I ask if such-and-such is the right solution.]

C. D. T. : And what else did you do in the attic besides exercises to strengthen the muscles? You boxed, but you did other things there too?

(95) FEDA : What is he pretending to be? Is he being silly? He is jumping about, putting his hands like that—(here medium's arms were thrown upward), bowing and like that. He is pretending to be acting, like clowns or something; it is something like that he did, because he made me feel he wanted to be something like posing and all that.

[Mr Hatch : "I think this is good. We had fitted up the attic as a gymnasium. The 'bowing' is a good description of his movements when lifting dumb-bells or other weights."]

FEDA : Some of the things I have got for them I don't understand, and just a little bit of a twist would make them get the wrong meaning.

#### FIFTH SITTING.

##### *Abbreviations used.*

R : Right.

G : Good.

F : Fair.

P : Poor.

D : Doubtful.

W : Wrong.

##### Classed as—

M : R. Pipes not in house, reached via a second place (80).

M : G. Connexion between pipes and infection (81).

M : R. The animals there will be clue to pipes (82).

O : D. An alteration has made the pipes less dangerous (83).

M : R. Bobbie's people not familiar with pipes place (84).

M : R. Another boy went there with Bobbie (85).





*Seventh Sitting, March 10, 1933.*

(101) FEDA : Etta says Bobbie had very good powers of observation and you might tell his people I say so. I think that would be marked in him as a boy, because boys are very careless in many things, and Bobbie was not. He was a normal boy, but he had strong powers of perception and observation.

[Mr Hatch : " Very true. Bobbie certainly had powers of observation above the average." ]

(102) FEDA : Another thing about him, he would have had a rather scientific mind.

[Mr Hatch : " I think that, as far as one can judge a boy of ten, this is correct. He used to pore over some books of mine on palaeontology. He mastered the names of certain extinct monsters. He loved chemical or electrical toys." ]

(103) FEDA : He also had a strongly artistic side which I think he gets from his mother. She says he is not telling you this, it is Etta. Bobbie gets some artistic power through his mother's side of the family.

Will you ask his mother whether someone rather closely connected with her became rather well known and esteemed for some special artistic work that I think was connected with drawing or designing? Bobbie has inherited that, not in the exact form that his relative had it, but the same gift in a rather different form. (See 104.)

[Mr Hatch : " We do not think he was artistic. He could not draw at all well, but he had good taste. His mother is not artistic either, but an uncle of hers is well known in the east of England as an architect." ]

(104) FEDA : Bobbie has an exceptionally good idea of form, outline, shape, proportion, perspective—I gather that his people have concrete evidence of it.

[Mr Hatch : " No, Bobbie had not good ideas of form, perspective, etc., and we have nothing concrete of artistic value of his." ]

On my visit to Nelson I was shown some of Bobbie's artistic efforts with paints; they are crude, and scarcely equal to the average for boys of his age. Etta's impression of his abilities in this direction seems mistaken.]

(105) FEDA : A little thing that Bobbie mentioned to her; an oblong wooden box with a flat lid that just comes down on top of the thing. Inside this seems to be a collection of, well—metal things; Etta says, I can't remember what he said it was now—I think some kind of tools. But they are special things.

I gather he had had a set given him as a present not very long before he passed over, and something about them had to be changed, exchanged. I don't know whether he meant the box had to be exchanged, but something in it had to be exchanged.

It was not quite right for what he wanted. Somewhere on the box is a round stamp or label. I think Bobbie said it was near the edge or corner.

[Mr Hatch: "We do not know what this means. He had no wooden box as is described, and he had not had a set of tools for a long time. At the last Christmas he was given a Meccano aeroplane construction set, but it was in a cardboard box. It had a large number in a circle like a label in the corner."

I incline to think that two boxes are here confused, either in Etta's memory or in the transmission through Feda: (1) I was shown the one given to Bobbie more recently, and its lid answers to the description. (2) The aeroplane set, which he had two years before, was beyond his power to piece together, and so was taken back to the shop to be built up.]

(106) FEDA: Are Bobbie's people helping a very old person? I forget what Bobbie told me, but I think it was an old lady, whom they were sorry for and doing their utmost for, and Bobbie is very pleased about it. Bobbie's people feel they must give special help for the time being.

[The family informed me that, at the date of this sitting, they were thinking of sending daily dinners, and were inclined to select as the recipient a certain old lady whom they knew. Shortly after this they decided upon this widow, aged 63, but who looks older and is toothless. They were still sending dinners to her when I visited them in June 1933.]

#### SEVENTH SITTING.

#### *Abbreviations used.*

R: Right.

P: Poor.

W: Wrong.

Classed as—

- O: R. Bobbie's powers of observation (101).
- O: R. A scientific mind (102).
- O: R. A relative on the mother's side is artistic (103).
- O: W. Bobbie and perspective, etc. (104).
- M: P. Description of toy box, changed; round label (105).
- O: R. Bobbie's people help an aged lady (106).

Result of the above analysis—

<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>	<i>Bobbie's observation since passing.</i>	<i>Etta's opinion.</i>
P 1.	R 1.	R 3.
		W 1.

*Eighth Sitting, March 24, 1933.*

- (107) Etta certain that the pipes will be discovered. (See Part II.)

*Ninth Sitting, April 10, 1933.*

- (108) Brook and inland water to which Bobbie went. (See Part II.)
- (109) FEDA : Do you know if Bobbie would be very interested in—well, I could only describe it to you as a kind of chemist's shop, a place where there are bottles? I don't think it is a chemist's shop, really, but it is a place with bottles and weighing things, and like instruments and things of that kind. I have a feeling that he had been in such a place, and was very interested in it, and liked going, too. I get a feeling of a clean, white place, all nice and clean and white. Clean taps and bottles and measuring things. He went there for some reason.

[Mr Hatch : "This is very good. I had a good deal to do with a laboratory in the town, and Bobbie liked to go there with me. The reference to taps, bottles and weighing things is quite correct."

I gathered later, when discussing this with Mr Hatch, that Fedá's emphasis upon the cleanliness of the place was a trifle overdone.]

*Tenth Sitting, May 19, 1933.*

C. D. T. : I am wondering whether Bobbie Newlove will give more messages.

- (110) FEDA : He is a very bright boy, and he is rather polite too, I think if you would ask his mother that she would tell you that it is so.

[Mr Hatch : "Yes, he was certainly polite."]

- (111) FEDA : His mother has been thinking something about a cap, thinking something rather special of it lately. It is only a little thing, but he just wanted her to know it.

[Mr Hatch writes : "Yes, she has been thinking about his cap."]

- (112) FEDA : She came across something with a special badge on it. It is not a heart exactly, but the lower part is rather shaped like a heart, at the bottom it is heart-shaped. It is something like a straight line goes through the top of it, and a little upstanding piece comes out of the top.

Mr Hatch replied that they knew no badge of this shape. On my visit to Nelson I asked whether Bobbie had a badge on his school sports jacket, or other kind of badge. They knew of none. I therefore marked this as a failure. Later in the day I was shown the boards and cap which had been spoken of in an earlier sitting, and of which I wished to take a photograph. On seeing the Jack of Hearts

cap I recognised it as answering exactly to this description. Cf. photograph (35) and notice the heart on the front of the crown or cap, with the line going each side the top of the heart, and the "little upstanding piece at the top". The one inaccuracy was the statement that "it is not a heart exactly", unless one takes this to refer to the cap itself, upon which the heart is fixed. Referring to my notes I saw the words, "she came across something with a special badge on it". A question elicited the reply that Bobbie's mother had turned out this paper crown while spring cleaning. The date of this sitting agrees closely with the time when it had come under her notice.

*Sitting continued.*

(113) FEDA : Wait a bit, don't be in a hurry. (Long pause.) "Church." Wait a minute, Bobbie. I don't see quite what you mean. (This was all whispered.) "Church", something about a church. I don't know—anyhow he is showing me a church, the outside of a church, and the churchyard.

C. D. T. : Church and churchyard ?

FEDA : Yes, he is taking me to the side. I think the right-hand side of the church as you face it. I think it is somewhere his mother has been lately. Not going into the church, but going down into the churchyard to the right, and I think the ground slopes down a bit just there too. It is somewhere his mother has been lately, and where she was thinking of him very much.

(The above was whispered softly and with long pauses between the sentences.)

[Mr Hatch : "This is quite correct ; his grave is in just the position indicated."

On visiting Nelson I found that this description was exact. One enters the gate, passing the stocks, which are on the left side of the path ; then, going along the right-hand side of the church, the ground distinctly sloping downwards, one comes to the grave. It was true that his mother had been there shortly before this sitting, indeed, she frequently goes there, and naturally thinks then of Bobbie.]

(114) FEDA : His mother has been thinking very much of apples in connection with him.

[Mr Hatch : "Yes, he was very fond of apples, and his mother has thought often of this lately."]

(115) His people's attitude respecting the pipes problem. (See Part II.)

(116) Underground. "

(117) Pipes can be reached past the school. "

(118) A turning to the right. "

- (119) Route uphill described. (See Part II.)  
 (120) Place ' B '. " "  
 (121) Enter at corner of side road. " "  
 (122) Building that was added to. " "  
 (123) District there is ' H '— " "  
 (124) Another living there went too. " "  
 (125) Route near place with precipitous drop. " "  
 (126) Can be reached by alternative routes. " "  
 (127 and 128) FEDA : He thinks his mother wants a new dressing gown for herself.

[His mother had been to Manchester and, while there, purchased material for a dressing gown, as requested by her mother. It was not for Bobbie's mother herself, but she had thought much about it.]

- (129) FEDA : He wanted to tell his mother that he is usually with her early in the mornings.

Will you ask her if cardboard boxes made her think of him just lately ?

[Mr Hatch : " Correct, it was in connexion with the spring cleaning." ]

C. D. T. : I expect she thinks of you a great deal, Bobbie.

- (130) FEDA : She and I were such chums. We were not so much like mother and son, we were chums. He says he felt so grown up, sometimes she felt as if he was taking her out, felt really as if he was taking her. He says, " I think she will understand if you tell her." And she used to love to plan things she and I would do and go to together, especially that last year in which I was on the earth. I seemed to have got more grown up than ever, and she depended on me so much that last nine months. I had grown more, so that she and I could enjoy things together that usually are enjoyed by two people of just the same age, and we really enjoyed them as if we were the same age ; and she used to tell me things that she had done, and even about things she had bought, you know. She would even mention things about her clothes which I suppose most mothers don't do, but she used to often tell me about things she had bought."

" I was always happiest when I was with her ", he says. " She was like another boy as well as a mother. When you know her better you will think she is a boy too."

" She is not mannish to look at, but I could always talk to her like I could to another boy." He says, " She always talked to me as if I was grown up."

[Mr Hatch : " This is a remarkably correct description of his relations with his mother." ]

" When you come to know her better, etc." Having now met Mrs Newlove, I can entirely agree with this.]

(131) FEDA : Do you know who Geoffrey is ? There is somebody called 'G' whom he thinks of and remembers.

[Not traced, but Bobbie had many school acquaintances whose names his people do not know.]

EIGHTH, NINTH AND TENTH SITTINGS.

*Abbreviations used.*

R : Right.  
F : Fair.  
D : Doubtful.  
W : Wrong.

Classed as—

- O : R. Etta certain that the pipes will be discovered (107).  
M : F. Brook or inland water to which Bobbie went (108).  
M : R. Visited place like chemist's shop (109).  
O : R. A polite boy (110).  
O : R. His mother thought of his cap (111).  
M & O : R. She found his heart-shaped badge (112).  
O : R. Four items *re* his mother visiting churchyard (113).  
O : R. She thought of apples in connection with him (114).  
O : F. His people's attitude respecting the pipe problem (115).  
M : D. Underground (116).  
M : R. Pipes can be reached past the school (117).  
M : R. A turning to the right (118).  
M : R. Route uphill described (119).  
M : R. Place 'B' (120).  
M : R. Enter at corner of side road (121).  
M : F. Building that was added to (122).  
M : R. District there is H— (123).  
M : D. Another living there went too (124).  
M : R. Route near place with precipitous drop (125).  
M : R. Can be reached by alternative routes (126).  
O : R. His mother wants a new dressing gown (127).  
O : W. For herself (128).  
O : R. Cardboard boxes brought him to his mother's mind (129).  
M : R. Description of his mother and their friendship (130).  
M : D. Geoffrey (131).

Result of above analysis—

<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>	<i>Bobbie's observation since passing.</i>	<i>Feda's opinion.</i>	<i>Etta's opinion.</i>
R 11.	R 5.	R 1.	R 1.
F 2.	F 1.		
D 3.	W 1.		

*Eleventh Sitting, June 2, 1933.*

(132) FEDA : Bobbie says, they will think at home about showing you a special photograph showing me down to the waist : I have got a kind of sweater on, it is one that mother likes. It is practically full face, only my hair is coming down a bit at the side of the forehead, and I am not exactly frowning, but as if I am drawing my eyebrows down over my eyes. I think you'll notice that particularly.

[During my visit to Nelson I was shown numerous photographs of Bobbie. In several I noticed " hair coming down a bit at the side of the forehead ", and one of them, in addition, showed the facial expression here described ; it was apparently caused by the fact that the boy was facing bright sunlight. In this photograph the child, wearing a jersey, stands upon a stool.

" Sweater . . . that mother likes " :

Mrs Newlove writes of this stool photograph, " I did not care for the likeness, but did like the jersey. I remember being rather disappointed because Bobbie looked so untidy and his hair needed cutting so badly. "

FEDA : I think she has been thinking about this photograph just lately, as if she would like to show it to you.

[It is not clear which photo is meant ; but for the fact of its showing Bobbie at full length it might be the above in which he stands on a stool. Mrs Newlove had *not* thought of that one recently.]

(133) FEDA : I wonder if she will show you something that belonged to me that is not—well, I can't show Feda the shape of it. It is made of yellow wood, it looks like varnished wood, a very high polish on it, he says. It was something he was very fond of that he had rather towards the end of his earth life. It used to smell of varnished stuff. I think it still does ; he says there are plenty of woods that do not smell at all, but that this is more like a varnish.

[For some time this object could not be traced. Later it was noticed that the above-mentioned photo showed Bobbie standing on a stool which is of " yellow, varnished wood ". The stool does not now smell of varnish, for the photo was taken in 1926, and the stool was then several years old. Mrs Newlove thinks Bobbie would consider that this stool belonged to her and to himself especially.]

FEDA : There is a connexion between photographs and this wooden thing. I think he will have to leave it like that.

[The yellow stool appears in this photograph of Bobbie ; but as he said, " showing me down to the waist ", and he is here seen full length, one is doubtful whether it is the one meant.]

(134) FEDA : Would you ask my mother if she has planted a small tree or has got a small tree especially for me ? It is rather a peculiar green, it is pyramidal in shape, I believe the tree has some—

well, your father calls it—"symbolical meaning". She has been thinking of me just lately in connexion with it.

[Mrs Newlove wrote: "This is only a surmise, but the 'tree with symbolical meaning' might possibly mean his Christmas Tree. Every Christmas Bobbie had a very large one, decorated with coloured glass ornaments, such as are used for Christmas Trees, and toys. Last Christmas, of course, we had no tree, and it would be about May when, turning out some drawers in preparation for the spring cleaning, I found some of these coloured ornaments; and my thoughts naturally went back to the memories they recalled... 'She has been thinking of me just lately in connexion with it'."]

(135) FEDA: Captain, someone he used to call Captain, someone he liked, I think his mother is going to see this Captain.

[Mr Hatch: "Mr Burrows, captain of the rink hockey team, a great friend of Bobbie's and who is now often at the house. But Bobbie did not call him Captain. The diary consistently terms him 'the Instructor'".]

(136) FEDA: The swings, the place where the swings are, he used to go there and his mother did not like it much. Jolly at this time of the year. Mother will remember.

[Mr Hatch: "The Fair comes soon to Nelson. Bobbie loved the swings, but his mother did not like him to go on them much."]

(137) FEDA: Will you ask her whether she remembers the track I was so interested in, that she did not like, the track where there was some racing? I think something had happened, I think it was rather dangerous, and I know I wanted to go, and I think it must be this time of the year. It was a sort of circular track. It was something I wanted to look at, and I don't think mother liked it.

[Mr Hatch: "This is good. There was a kind of motor cycle racing at the Fair which he wanted to see, but his mother disapproved."]

FEDA: I think something happened about it, an accident or something, I have a feeling of something dangerous and unpleasant, but that would have been after we saw it.

[Mr Hatch: "There was an accident there. He never saw the racing, however."]

Bobbie was familiar with the track, even if he did not see the racing.]

(138) FEDA: He says, did I tell you that ours was a hilly district? Did I tell you we lived close to hills, you seemed always to be walking up or down hills?

C. D. T.: I happen to know that it is hilly.

[This is more correct than I realised at the time; the hills are much steeper than I then supposed.]

(139) FEDA: He says it is pretty well straight down there. You know one part going that way. You know you get very near to where



the ground was cut away to make that road down there, rather a steep part, as if it is sliced away to make one side of the road, and, he says, I don't think this was very long ago. It is like a sort of wall it makes at one side. There is an awkward tramline at one part. People used to complain about it. He says, I don't know whether they have altered it, but there were a great many complaints about it. He says, like two lines coming close together, in a narrow part, it couldn't have been a worse place to make them close together.

- (140) There is a place 'C'—close by, a long name sounding like Catelnow, Castlenow. There seemed to be two or three syllables, like a Ca sound, cattle or castle something.

[Mr Hatch : "The name given is like Catlow, a hamlet near here. Bobbie and I went there the day he was taken ill, the last occasion that he left the house. About one-quarter mile along the road leading to it past the church is a place which was dangerous for buses—there are no trams. It was altered a little while before Bobbie's death and made safe by the removal of a building. Leading from this spot is Scholefield Lane and below it lies the hamlet of Catlow."]

[One of the last entries in Bobbie's diary, August 7, reads—"Went to Catlow Bottoms. Sore throat. Went to bed."]

- (141) FEDA : His mother's neck has been worrying her a bit lately. In the throat, the neck, she felt rather tired there. I don't know whether she got a cold there, but she seemed uncomfortable.

[Mr Hatch : "His mother says she has had exactly this feeling in her throat, but never mentioned it to anyone."]

- (142) FEDA : Wait a minute, there is a young girl Bobbie is interested in at home, her name begins with an 'M', and a boy with the initial 'R', and also another one beginning with 'E'; they are all special friends of Bobbie's and people his mother has been thinking of and doing things with just lately.

[Mr Hatch : "This is exactly correct if you take 'home' to mean the town but not the house."]

In conversation they gave me particulars as follows : 'M' : Marjorie of the rink, several times previously alluded to. 'R' : a boy Roy whom Bobbie knew at the rink. They had given some of Bobbie's toys to Roy. 'E' : a youth, Earle, whom Bobbie knew at the rink, aged 19.]

- (143) FEDA : There is another woman there as well as his mother. A woman talking about Bobbie ; this woman is in the house.

[This may be an allusion to Bobbie's grandmother, who lives with them.

In a recent letter Mr Hatch had written : "Bobbie used often to cycle in a garden ; will you ask him where ?" I therefore now put that question.]

(144) C. D. T. : You often cycled in a garden. Why you did it in the garden I can't think ; it wasn't your own garden, was it ?

FEDA : Wait a minute, I wonder who it belonged to. Bicycle through a gate, when you got to the gate you could turn to the left down a side path and you could bicycle there if you wanted to.

(145) I think there is another boy with him, and I see a tall lady. Is there a clergyman, minister, connected with this place ? I don't think he lives there, and yet I get a feeling of clergy and ministers. I see a tall lady and another boy.

[Mr Hatch : " This is remarkable, as the garden referred to belongs to the family of a minister who died about three years ago. The description is exact, except that there was no other boy." ]

When discussing this with the family I learnt that " a tall lady " lives there ; so that item is also correct. How shall we account for the reference to another boy which does not apply to that garden ? Since writing the foregoing I have received the following note in answer to my inquiry.

" ' Another boy with him, and I see a tall lady ' . We have discovered since you asked us about this that on one occasion only Bobbie wished to take another boy with him into this garden. The owner, however, did not allow him to do so, as she felt, quite naturally, that if she allowed one she might be expected to allow more, and the garden would be overrun. This other boy did not go into the garden, but only to the gate, while Bobbie tried to obtain permission to have him in. On no other occasion did Bobbie bring a boy with him while in that garden, nor did any other boy friend of the family go there. The owner of the garden herself told me this."

In order to make sure that the above account was accurate in every detail it was submitted to the " tall lady " who owns the garden, with the request that she would correct it where necessary. It was returned unaltered and with her signature appended in testimony to its complete agreement with fact.

*Sitting continued.*

(146) C. D. T. : Do you know the name of the people who lived there ?

FEDA : I am seeing the letter ' C ' again, I think that is the name of somebody living there. The letter ' C ' comes up very big. Co—, I must not guess as to whether it has got anything to do with it, but it sounds like Ke—, Ce—, Co— .

C. D. T. : What about spelling it ?

FEDA : I don't think he can give any more, he is going back a bit now.

[This is not recognised.]

## ELEVENTH SITTING.

*Abbreviations used.*

R : Right.

F : Fair.

W : Wrong.

Classed as—

- M : F. Description of photograph to be shown me (132).  
 M : F. Description of an object connected with above photo (133).  
 O : F. His mother and a pyramidal tree (134).  
 O : F. His mother will see the Captain (135).  
 M : R. Swings at this time of year, disliked by his mother (136).  
 M : R. Dangerous racing track and accident there (137).  
 M : R. Home is in hilly district (138).  
 M : F. Steep and awkward place about which complaints made (139).  
 M : R. Place near the above with name like Cattle (140).  
 O : R. His mother's throat trouble (141).  
 M : R. Names indicated by initials (142).  
 M : R. Possible allusion to grandmother (143).  
 M : R. Reply to question about cycling in a garden (144).  
 M : R. Another boy with him there (145).  
 M : W. Attempted name (146).

Result of the above analysis—

*Bobbie's  
memory.*

R 8.

F 3.

W 1.

*Bobbie's opinion or  
observation since passing.*

R 1.

F 2.

A full analysis of Successes and Failures will be found in Part III.

## PART II

*The outstanding feature of the foregoing record is the story of "The Pipes".*

*For convenience of reference I have gathered together the scattered statements and placed them in order. This is prefaced by an abbreviated outline of the course of events from the first mention of the pipes to their final discovery.*

## BOBBIE NEWLOVE

## THE PROBLEM OF THE PIPES

*(Abbreviated outline.)*

THE story opens with a letter of appeal from Mr Hatch in which he informed me of the recent loss of a boy aged ten. The cause of death was diphtheria. In a further letter the boy's name, Bobbie Newlove, was given. Beyond this, and the address of the boy's home, I knew nothing of the facts which subsequently emerged at my sittings with Mrs Leonard.

On the 2nd December, 1932, my father, while speaking about Bobbie, expressed the opinion that there had been some cause which facilitated his taking diphtheria.

He then added that this predisposition might be traced to something which happened *nine weeks before the boy's death*, and he asked my special attention to this fact. I quote one of his sentences verbatim: "If it had happened to anyone connected with you, you would have immediately connected up the two happenings, nine weeks before his passing and his actual passing."

It may be that I saw in this some challenge to my intelligence; for I resolved to discover what was implied in those remarks.

When I asked to be told exactly what it was which the above assertion hinted, the reply came, "pipes—pipes, he just says this—pipes. That word should be sufficient." This seemed to suggest infection from defective drainage, and I expected that the family would acquiesce in this. But they refused to accept any suggestion of the kind, and replied that they could not trace the matter at all. The word "pipes" conveyed nothing to them.

We must now trace the indications given in successive sittings which finally led us to discover what was meant by "the pipes". It was not until three months after this first mention of pipes that the family learnt of the exact place where Bobbie and his friend had played; but even this left them without any clue as to why pipes

had been mentioned, and it was not until my visit on July 1, 1933, that one pipe was discovered there. The second pipe, which justified the use of the plural word, was not found until later.

At the sitting in January 1933 Bobbie repeated the assertion that his trouble was traceable to the pipes, and when I replied that his people failed to find any connection between his illness and pipes Feda merely remarked that she considered Bobbie a very clear-minded and intelligent boy. I therefore asked the family if they thought it probable that Bobbie might have heard diphtheria spoken of in connection with bad drains. The reply was: "We do not know. It is very unlikely that Bobbie had heard of anyone catching the disease from pipes."

The subject was resumed at a sitting later, in January 1933, and the further information was then given that the pipes were not in a place to which he went regularly, nor to which he went direct from home, but that he had gone to them when in a second place. Clues to this second place were then given, and included a reference to animals, which my father asked me to note particularly because, "his people may say when they first read it that Bobbie never went to a place where there were such things. But he did." Among further descriptions of the place was reference to a barn, having one side nearly or entirely open, more like a place of shelter, and containing bundles of straw. Another boy was said to have been there with Bobbie and to have been the reason for Bobbie's going. Although these clues eventually led us to the right spot they were of no help at this early stage because the family were not familiar with the locality in question.

During a sitting in February 1933 I expressed a wish that some definite name might be given in order to assist the search. Feda then said that she was being given a name like "Bentley", and then, after some struggles and uncertainty as to the word intended, she pronounced "Stock" and proceeded to describe a town and certain streets. In fact, a route was described and, as I learnt afterwards, quite correctly, which started from Bobbie's home, taking a loop round the railway station near by, and then going up hill past Bentley Street (in which Bobbie's school was situated) and leading onward towards the old Stocks. The latter stand at the entrance to the Churchyard. Now that we know where the pipes are, it is easy to see that Bobbie's description led us three-quarters of the way to the place. *These descriptions make it perfectly clear that the intelligence giving them was intimately acquainted with Bobbie's home and its surroundings.* I should add here that I knew nothing whatever about it, and that Mrs Leonard was never told that the town in question had become of interest to me. In subsequent sittings

additional touches were given which, while they gave us no help at the time, are significant because ultimately found to be correct.

At a sitting in the middle of May 1933 a further description was given which eventually led us to the place itself,—“A place with an address on ‘B’ . . . he went to this ‘B’ place at certain times.” I say it led us eventually to the place itself. It is easy to see this now that one knows the facts, but at the time it only puzzled us.

It was not unnatural that ‘B’ should suggest the Baths, and I inquired whether the family had heard of any infection in connexion with pipes at the Baths. This, however, was a false scent, and led to nothing. In the same sitting the actual locality was indicated by the letter ‘H’, but this, like the previous letter ‘B’, failed to convey anything to us at the time.

It is now obvious that ‘H’ meant “the Heights”, and ‘B’ the name of Brierfield, the locality in which the Heights are situated.

Guided by the clues given in reply to my inquiries the pipes were finally discovered. Water issued from the ground through iron pipes! It was there that Bobbie had so often played during the weeks preceding his death. Infection from the water may have caused a condition of blood which weakened the boy’s system before the oncoming of diphtheria. Justification for the Communicator’s opinion that the boy’s death might be attributed to his playing there is found in a statement by the Medical Officer of Health for the district. His letter will be quoted in full.

Let us now take the sittings seriatim.

## THE PROBLEM OF THE PIPES.

*Second Sitting, November 18, 1932.*

FEDA: Did you tell Bobbie’s people anything I felt about him here? (Hand touches medium’s throat.)

C. D. T.: Yes, that was right, throat trouble, he died from diphtheria.

FEDA: I got it very strongly, that feeling, it is the same one that Gladys had (*i.e.* Mrs Leonard, who once had diphtheria). Etta says everything was done for him that could be done, he evidently couldn’t be kept here.

C. D. T.: So sad for them.

FEDA: Oh, what does she mean? She says he passed over with it. Explain that, Etta, will you? Oh, all right—Etta says, yes, she feels he had diphtheria, but was his heart not strong? Because (14) it seemed to her that it was not just the throat trouble that killed him, it seemed to her there was something which affected his heart apart from the diphtheria.

C. D. T.: I have an idea that the two things sometimes go together.

FEDA : Etta says, I don't think it was quite that. I wonder if he had had something apart from the diphtheria, perhaps before the diphtheria, that had been rather a strain on his heart, weakened his heart in some way, so that the diphtheria was too much for it. Perhaps you can find that out. If it had not been for this condition of heart the diphtheria would not have been too much for him. There was something that weakened his system before ; she got a very strong feeling about that.

[Mr Hatch writes : " Yes, the illness started with tonsilitis, turned to quinsy, and no doubt these weakened the heart."

Apparently Etta meant more than this.]

*Third Sitting, December 2, 1932.*

(37) FEDA : Mr John says again he knows he is right about what he said, that the people on earth might have put down about Bobbie's throat and the diphtheria causing his passing, but there was something behind that, and, Mr John says, he feels certain he is right. There was something behind that condition ; he would not have passed over with that condition alone, there was something before that.

[Mr Hatch writes : " We know of nothing except the tonsilitis and quinsy which I have mentioned before "

*Note.* In later sittings this elusive cause of a predisposition to infection is insisted upon and becomes an intriguing problem. Its final solution was reached during my visit to the house in the summer of 1933, as will be seen when we come to my account of that visit.]

(38) FEDA : Will you ask if there is anything they can trace to nine weeks before, something that at the time might not have seemed important ? Now, must be careful about this, nine weeks before Bobbie passed over there was something that ought to have been very significant in the face of his passing, something that, in a sense, led up to his passing, but not the weakening process that they spoke of before ; it was not the something that weakened him, but nine weeks before Bobbie passed over there was something happening, something very significant that had a link with his passing. Well, if it had happened to anyone connected with you, you would have immediately linked up the two happenings—nine weeks before his passing and his actual passing.

C. D. T. : I suppose you could not put in one word what this is ?

FEDA : I will see if I can put in a nutshell what I feel about it.

Wait a bit, " pipes, pipes " ; well, he says just this—" pipes ". That word should be sufficient. Leave it like that.

C. D. T. : Was it Bobbie who was telling you about this incident to do with pipes ?

FEDA : No, Mr John. He says, I asked Bobbie a few questions before the sitting that I thought might have a bearing on his earth life, and this was one of them.

[Mr Hatch writes : " We cannot trace this at all. Nine weeks before his passing I took him to Morecambe for a very short holiday, but nothing of importance happened that I know of. The word 'pipes' conveys nothing to us."]

In subsequent sittings this subject is repeatedly touched upon, and the word "pipes" became our term for it. Not until my visit to Nelson, in June 1933, did we find any justification for the word. It was then, on learning that Bobbie had kept a diary, that I asked to see it, and at once turned to the date nine weeks before his death in order to discover whether there might be anything relevant to the above. My search was successful. The date, June 13, 1932, contained the statement, "Had two ice creams"; and at June 15 were the words, "joined gang". The mention of ice creams suggested possible infection, and the second entry aroused curiosity. Nine weeks before the boy's death on August 12 would be June 10, which is but a few days from the date on which he joined the gang. I inquired what was meant by the "gang", and learnt that it was a secret society formed by Bobbie and one or two of his boy friends; they used to play at having adventures, and chose for the place a spot in the locality which I shall describe when giving an account of my visit to Nelson. It is called The Heights. This spot was decided upon in March and used for play during the summer. The visit to Morecambe, which was for three days at the end of June, would seem to have no bearing on our quest.

*Fourth Sitting, January 13, 1933.*

(70) FEDA : Bobbie thinks all the time that there was something that would be wrong with him first, that caused him to take it.

C. D. T. : I don't think his family know of that.

FEDA : There was.

C. D. T. : Is that what he thinks now ?

FEDA : He does : he had been told there was something in his case which was making it easy not only for him to get it, but not to be able to throw it off when he did get it.

[Mr Hatch : " His tonsils were unhealthy : this may have caused him to take it."]

FEDA : I don't know what you mean, Bobbie, you say you got yours from the pipes.

C. D. T. : That is curious, because my father said that previously and Bobbie's people can't find any connection with pipes.

FEDA : I think Bobbie is a very clear-minded boy, he seems very intelligent.

[Mr Hatch replied to this : " We don't know. I think it is very unlikely that Bobbie had heard of anyone catching the disease from pipes."]



*Fifth Sitting, January 27, 1933.*

C. D. T. : Etta, about the "pipes". Bobbie's people still can't trace them. If Bobbie could tell them anything about the pipes it would be very interesting.

- (80) FEDA : It was not in his home. It was not in a place where he was regularly. There was a place that he went to, not *from* his home, but while he was in a second place he went to a third one, and through these—what he calls pipes—he picked up the condition which was not the cause of the trouble in the first place, but it introduced a destructive element which resulted in diphtheria.
- (81) FEDA : You know I told you, didn't I, that there had been a wrong physical condition of Bobbie's for some time before, not a good condition at all ; but he went somewhere, you see, not straight from his home, to this other place ; while he was at the second place, outside his home, he went to a third place where the pipes were wrong, where he introduced into his system this poisonous condition—where he infected his system.

[Here I must anticipate by giving the interpretation which was only arrived at eight months later than the date of this sitting.

Mr Hatch wrote me on September 27, 1933, after we had discovered the first pipe : " He would go from the ruined hut, where we believe he played in the Delf, to the pipe which, as you will remember, was quite apart in the open space beyond the Delf." The Delf would be the second place from which he went to the pipes.]

C. D. T. : I wonder where they will be able to trace that place.

FEDA : He is trying to think. I think Bobbie is there. (Hand points.)

C. D. T. : There ? Oh, good, perhaps he can tell father.

- (82) FEDA : He is getting this from him. I get a feeling wherever this place was, of there being animals you call cattle. Mr John says, make a point of this. I am quite sure of this ; yet his people may say when they first read it that he never went to a place where there were such things. But he did. We know we are right in this matter, and that if inquiries are quietly persisted in, it may eventually come to light. Bobbie himself is wishful that this might be so, and two or three friends of his who have passed over are also helping, so that, sooner or later, the matter will be brought to light in what will appear to be an accidental and yet natural manner.
- (83) Either before or after Bobbie caught it there—we think after—there was something done to apparently improve matters with regard to those "pipes". There was something altered that probably now has improved the condition, made it safer ; it was certainly unsafe before.

"A place he went to . . . pipes." As I have found it necessary to introduce a reference to our final solution of the "pipes" problem, it may be well to give the complete story here. This was for long a puzzle to the family, as they knew of no place answering to this description. "Cattle . . . his people may say . . . he never went to a place where there were such things." "Before or after . . . there was something done to improve matters with regard to these pipes." "The matter will be brought to light in what will appear to be an accidental and yet natural manner."

Note how the above remarks fall into line with the following facts. On July 1, 1933, I visited "the Heights" in company with the family. First we inspected the lower portions of the ground, and then explored the disused and overgrown quarry, locally termed "the Delf". On leaving this I noticed a shed somewhat higher up the hill and near the road which bounds the area on its topmost side. On nearing this shed the ground showed marks of animals, and hay was visible in the shed. We therefore examined this shed and found that one end of it was used as a stable, and the other end had stores of hay and straw for bedding. One end was open, and this fact excited interest, since one of the clues was "an open end". Indeed, this shed answered in several particulars to descriptions given in the sittings, as also did the surroundings. (All these points will be found in later sittings.) While we stood there a woman approached. I made some remark about the fine view; she responded suitably, and we entered into conversation. With the puzzle of the "pipes" still revolving in my mind I inquired whether she knew if children came to play in the quarry. She replied that they did, and that they sometimes made mischief, that among other misdeeds they had "broken the pipe". The mention of a pipe in connexion with this spot to which Bobbie's descriptions had led us, and which we already knew answered in several ways to those descriptions, inspired hope that we were on the right track. Further inquiries elicited the information that there was a spring part-way down the hill, where water issued from a pipe. She added that they now had the town water laid on, and so were not dependent upon the pipe. I gathered that this alteration had been made some years before.

We then walked down the slope to see the spring. Water issued from the hillside by the side of the displaced pipe, an iron pipe several feet in length. Past this pipe the water trickled down the slope in a small channel of its own making.

We had discovered one pipe, and it was in the place to which the clues given in the sittings had led us. We saw no second pipe, and why the word was used in the plural we failed to guess. Our discovery of this pipe was entirely due to the meeting with our infor-

mant. It is unlikely that we should have seen the spring and its pipe but for her remark ; for we had visited the same locality a few days before and had not suspected its existence. The pipe is inconspicuously placed, and not visible until one goes quite near, being hidden by the formation of the ground.

A letter from Mr Hatch dated September 27, 1933, says : " Since your visit last June I have been to the Heights several times, and on one occasion I came across water running from another pipe in quite another direction from the first one, but nearly as close to the Delf—it was about three minutes' walk from it. This pipe protrudes over a kind of trough filled with water, and is tucked away at the end of a footpath. Mr Burrows and I made the discovery."

Thus was the term " the pipes ", used by the communicators ever since December 2, 1932, found, in the following September, to be justified by the discovery of two pipes situated in the immediate vicinity of the place frequented by Bobbie and his friend.

Having thus glanced at the end of the story, let us continue the January 1933 sitting.

(84) FEDA : The animals will be the best clue. He understands from Bobbie—he says Bobbie seems to suggest to him that his parents were not so familiar with this place, or did not go to it to the same extent that he did.

[“ Animals the best clue.” Yes, it was the sight of animal tracks which led us to examine the shed. “ Parents not familiar with this place ” ; they had not seen it. Bobbie once brought his mother to view the Heights from the lower road, but, finding it would be some distance, and the weather being inclement, they returned home.]

(85) FEDA : There was another boy mixed up in this, who went to this place and seemed to be the reason for Bobbie going.

[“ Another boy.” Yes, “ the gang ” comprised Bobbie and his friend Jack, and they had decided upon this place as their field of operations.

A letter dated November 8, 1933, from Mr Hatch says : “ Did I tell you that I questioned Jack about the pipe that we first found on the Heights and he admitted that he and Bobbie played with the water ? ” ]

C. D. T. : I wonder what sort of a place it was and where ?

(86) FEDA : Wait a minute, I am getting a feeling of it not being quite a country place.

[This is accurate.]

C. D. T. : I wonder what Bobbie did when he was there ?

(87) FEDA : They are showing me places like stables now ; you know what barns are, well, like barns and stables. I am getting straw in big bundles, I have got to call it a barn, with one side nearly, or all, open—more like a shelter place.



FIG. III.—Path to the Old Quarry, now protected by a railing.



FIG. IV.—The Shed.



FIG. V.—One of the Pipes.

(88) I don't seem to be quite in the country, there is so much building round that it hides what country there may be.

The shed is a stable at one end and a store, or small barn, at the other.

"One side nearly or all open, more like a shelter place": an exact description. (See Fig. IV.) "Building round hides what country there may be": there are buildings near which hide the view in two directions, yet there is an extensive view over Nelson and the country from the front of the barn. So the description is not strictly correct. One may hazard the guess, however, that Bobbie was giving his recollection of the prospect as seen from within the Delf. From that position one sees nothing of the surrounding country, because the sides of the quarry and the building bound the view all round.

*Sitting continued.*

(89) FEDA: I must not say this is anything to do with it, but I hear water running, as if big taps were turned on, and water trickling, as if it is running into a kind of gutter or drain. Like a swilling, they are trying to make me say the word "swilling".

[Mr Hatch did not understand this, but, assuming that it related in some way to the pipes, replied, "We still cannot trace this matter of the pipes. We will make further inquiries."]

These further inquiries were, however, fruitless.

It was not until three months after this sitting of January 13, *i.e.* in March 1933, that the family accidentally learnt the whereabouts of the gang's playground; but only on July 1, 1933, was the mystery solved by our discovering the first of the two pipes. It was then fine weather and the water was only "trickling", but after heavy rains the sound would certainly convey the idea of "swilling", for then the water comes out with a rush. It falls into a pool, which overflows into a kind of gutter which runs down the steep slope of the hill.

*Sixth Sitting, February 16, 1933.*

FEDA: Bobbie says he is very pleased with the result of his messages, but there has been something that rather puzzled him. He was puzzled because they could not make it out.

C. D. T.: Would he like to make it easier for them by giving clues?

FEDA: It was to do with what he calls "the pipes".

C. D. T.: I thought so. That is the most important point of all, and the one that has puzzled them most.

FEDA : He says, I know I am right about it ; and did he tell you before that the pipes were not at home ?

[Mr Hatch replied to this : " We are still very puzzled about the references to ' the pipes ' ."]

C. D. T. : Isn't it a pity, Fedra, that we can't get the name of the place ?

(Fedra's part of the following dialogue is reproduced in her characteristic diction.)

(96) FEDA : I am getting a funny name, it sounds to Fedra like Bentley. This is what he calls a clue to it.

(97) Bentley and Stoo, something, Stock, Stop, begins Stoo.

(98) FEDA : He is trying to show me—make me feel—a town, not a pretty town, it is full of streets, you know, streets full of ugly people that does not know anything about Fedra.

C. D. T. : You mean ugly streets and houses, not people.

FEDA : No, ugly people, not the streets ; you see they doesn't know anything about Fedra, or about this subject.

C. D. T. : " But knowledge to their eyes her ample page,  
Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll,  
Chill penury repressed their nobler rage,  
And froze the genial current of their soul."

FEDA : I should like to learn poetry. I don't think they have got many " spoils " of anything, and they all goes miserable and looking on the ground, and coughing and sneezing and being awful unhappy.

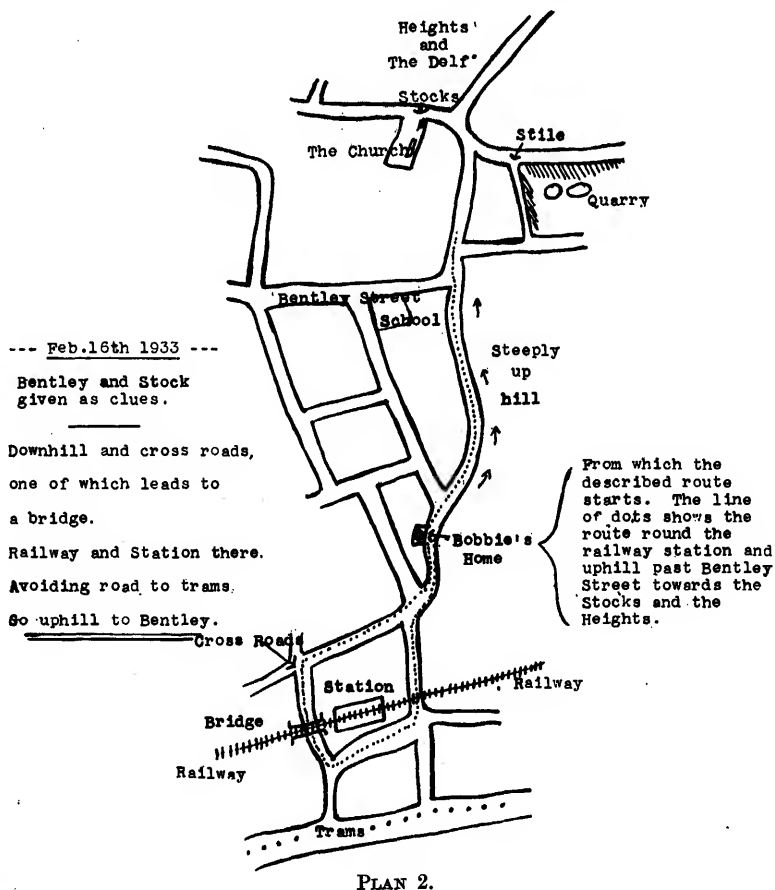
C. D. T. : Did Bobbie tell you this ?

FEDA : Yes, and they are going down hill where shops is and houses and they goes down this hill and they come to a cross road ; and I think there is a big station there ; because there is a bridge just down that turning.

One of the cross roads leads to a dark bridge where trains goes what you say " expectorating " like that, ch—ch—ch— and blowing out sparks and stuff. That is what a lady told me is right " spectorating ". And then if you does not turn down to where the trams is you go straight up a hill opposite you, and I see Bobbie going up that hill, and I am following him up it, and he is getting a little bit away from the town part, he is getting more towards houses and less shops and cleaner and less of the poor miserable people. It feels a bit brighter, you see, there. Oh, now I am getting the name again that sounds like Ben or Bentley.

Mr Hatch's comments are given below. Enclosed with them was a rough sketch which I have embodied in the lower part of the one here shown (Plan 2).

“ You will see by the enclosed sketch-map that the description of the town is quite a good one. The name Bentley is particularly good, as you will notice that there is a Bentley Street near our house and adjoining



Bobbie's School. In the Churchyard higher up, mentioned before in the sittings, are the Stocks used long ago for ill-doers. But we can see no connexion between these and the 'pipes'. It is true that it is cleaner and brighter as you go up the hill.

“ It seems from this sitting, and from a previous one, that Bobbie went from School to the place where the pipes were. But, so far as our knowledge goes, the only place answering to this description is the Baths, and this does not fit in with the account of a barn-like place, with hay, etc.”

The solution was reached at a much later date, namely, on July 1, 1933.

The effort for a name, Stoo, Stop, etc., once achieved "Stock", which is almost Stocks. The Stocks are just inside the entrance of the Churchyard previously mentioned.

I have marked the described route by a dotted line in the map. The description seems to start from Bobbie's home and, going down hill, takes left-hand turn to railway station and railway bridge; turning back from the tram lines, which would be reached if one should proceed some yards further, it goes uphill past his home again in the direction of the Church, passing one end of Bentley Street, which Bobbie would specially remember, as his School was there.

Mr Hatch wrote on March 17, 1933, "First with regard to the route which you have traced on the map: It certainly does agree with the description, and I agree that it seems to reveal an intimate knowledge of the locality. It is somewhat puzzling to understand why this particular route should have been described."

*Sixth Sitting continued.*

- (99) FEDA: There is somebody there called "Phil", it sounds to Fedas like Phil. Will you tell them that the name Phil is a clue?
- (100) FEDA: There was a boy called Peter who knew this place too. Bobbie is not quite sure whether his real name was Peter, but they called him Peter. And, wait a bit, and another boy whose name sounds like Eric or Alec.

Mr Hatch, in referring to the above, wrote, "We are trying to trace the names Peter, Alec or Eric, but have not succeeded yet, also Phil."

Bobbie often talked of his school companions, but the names of many of these are not remembered by the family.

In the above-quoted letter of March 17, 1933, Mr Hatch said: "With regard to references to the 'pipes' I may say that we seem at last to be on the track of what has been insisted upon so frequently. The references seem to point to a place which had been visited by Bobbie and a boy friend, and by them only. Neither his mother nor I had ever been there. Perhaps I had better not say more at present as some more information may come through. We cannot trace the names of his friends that were given. Do you think it will be possible to get any further information about Bobbie's visits to the place where the 'pipes' were?"

The family tell me that, in view of this possibility, they thought it better not to question Bobbie's friend Jack, but to see if Bobbie could solve the mystery himself.



*Eighth Sitting, March 24, 1933.*

(107) FEDA : Etta says I am perfectly certain that they will verify the evidence about the pipes.

C. D. T. : I would like you to give them all the help you can because it would be such a good point.

FEDA : She says, a very good evidential point indeed. And, bearing that in mind, will you write and ask them not to tell you anything they discover until we have given you a little more about it ? in case they should write and tell you something that we might be just waiting to give you.

*Ninth Sitting, April 10, 1933.*

(Early in the sitting came the following dialogue :)

C. D. T. : I want to ask about little Bobbie, have they heard anything more about him ?

FEDA : Would you like them to get any more about him ?

C. D. T. : Well, it was all very interesting, and I think it would be worth while getting more. I am eager that his people should find out about those pipes ; if I could help them to do that we might finish the case, but we can't really finish the case until they have found out about the pipes.

FEDA : Mr John thinks they are on the track.

(Later in this sitting the subject was continued thus :)

(108) FEDA : Something has just come to Mr John's mind about Bobbie, he wondered whether he had given it before. Has Bobbie ever said anything at the sittings about a brook or inland water ? It seems to be some special piece of water, and he would often go to a place situated close to this water, it almost feels like swampy to Fedra.

C. D. T. : That was mentioned once, but not a brook, merely a little place near a stile where water was. (See No. 45.)

FEDA : No, it is not to do with that either, another place altogether. It is rather important to him, as if he did something rather special there.

Mr Hatch replied to this, " The reference to a brook or inland water might mean a boating pool which he liked to visit, but the swampy condition is incorrect."

On my visit to Nelson in June 1933 it was explained that on this boating pool in Thompson's Park Bobbie used to row in the canoes. On July 1 I paid my second visit, during which we found the first of the pipes on Marsden Heights. It was when reconsidering this paragraph (108) after that visit that I noticed how perfectly it applied to the place where we saw water issuing from the pipe. (See Fig. V.) The water made a small pool and swampy area around

the spot where it issued from the hill. If this was a reference to the "pipe" place it would be specially relevant in view of my request early in this sitting, and conversation about Bobbie's people being on the track of the place. I incline, therefore, to think that this alludes to the place where "the gang" used to play and where we later discovered the pipe.

*Tenth Sitting, May 19, 1933.*

(115) FEDA : Now, look, he wanted to say that he thought that they were on the track of what he spoke about, the trouble he spoke about, that had a connexion with his passing.

C. D. T. : Can you help them any more about it ? I have not heard whether they have found it or not.

FEDA : Well, now, he says this, that they were on the right track, but there has been a difficulty, they have been held up in their investigations. Bobbie has been expecting this, and he is not disappointed about it, because he felt it was going to be difficult, he felt there would be obstacles in the way of proving it, or bringing it to light. You see, there are two different bodies of people to contend with. He says they know what I am talking about, two different bodies, and neither of them would make it easy, but one might make it easier than the other.

[Mr Hatch wrote : "Perhaps we had better leave this till we can talk it over with you ; there is a strange confusion with parts very correct."

The mystery might have been already solved by this time, for anything I knew to the contrary ; but Bobbie seems to have been aware of the progress of events.

"Two . . . to contend with", the family interpret this as meaning that they were divided as to the places meant, which was indeed the fact at the date of this sitting.]

(116) FEDA : "Underground", something to do with taking up ground, underground. I don't know what he means, but this is what he says ; he can't help them very much more about this just now.

[This is vague, but may possibly have been an endeavour to indicate the spot where we eventually found the pipe and a small stream issuing from the ground.]

(117) C. D. T. : Bobbie, I am going there in about a month's time ; if I wanted to go to the place where the pipes are, and wished to start from the Railway Station—do you know what I should do ? I should walk up the hill past your house ; and when past your house and a little uphill, what ought I to do then ? Is that the right direction ?

FEDA : Yes, and there is another way to it, past the school. He says, I should think past the house and keep straight on.

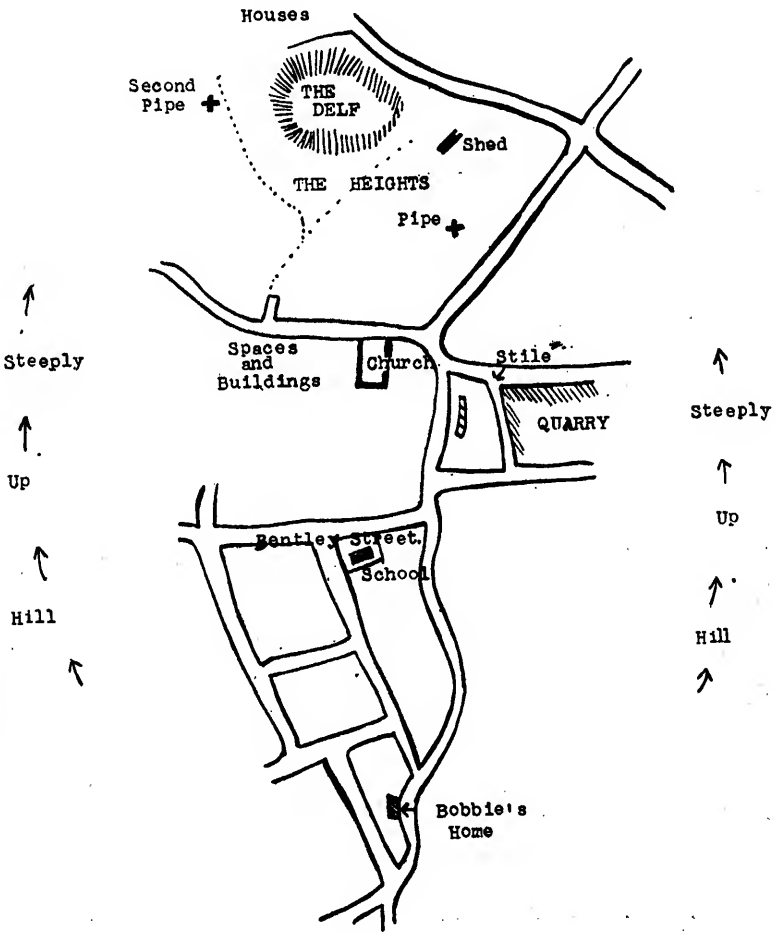
C. D. T. : Yes, and what am I to look out for ? Would the place be on the main road or should I have to turn somewhere ?

(118) FEDA : It seems to be on the right. I don't think it is very far from the main road, I think it is on it.

[My question was based upon the sketch map sent by Mr Hatch to illustrate a previous sitting. I aimed to provide Bobbie with a starting point from which he might describe the route to the pipes. It so happened that my suggested route was quite in order, for that is one way to Marsden Heights.

“ Another way past the school ” ; this is correct.

“ Turn right ” ; correct. One goes past the Church some distance and then turns up a short blind road on the right. A gate at its end opens on to the Heights. (Cf. Plan 3.)]



PLAN 3.

(119) FEDA : On that main road he shows me it goes uphill, all the way almost, not just a little bit of a hill. Now for a good distance is it more open on the left than right ? You see a main road, and yet I feel spaces. It is not all built on, there are lots of buildings, but lots of spaces as well. He says there are still some spaces. The whole of that main road is rather a mixture. This main road at one time was not much built on, and it has been much built on lately, like a mixture of space and new buildings.

C. D. T. : Then I go on up the hill and what do I come to ?

(120) FEDA : Is there a place with an address on ' B ' ? He is trying to write it up on a board. The place seemed to be close to a place where he went to. He went to this ' B ' place at certain times. I had better wait and see.

[“ Uphill ” is correct ; “ Spaces and buildings. ” also correct. In Bobbie's time it was still more open on the left-hand side than on the right. “ Place ' B ' ”, the Marsden Heights, in which the pipe was found, is in the Brierfield Urban District.

“ Went at certain times ” ; this locality was the chosen play place of “ the gang ”.]

C. D. T. : Don't you mean the Baths, Bobbie ?

FEDA : He does, it was connected with and mixed up with the baths somehow.

C. D. T. : Is it within the same walls, under the same roof ?

(121) FEDA : Isn't it a nuisance I can't quite get that ? Don't ask him that, I think there is something he is trying to get. I have got to be awful sure about this—the place that he would go in the doorway—because it is on the corner of the side road, and I get the feeling that often he would go a bit down the side road to get to the place where he went.

It seems clear now that, at this point, I introduced much confusion by assuming that the letter ' B ' stood for the Baths ; for Feda accepted my idea and referred to it as the Baths under the impression that Baths was the correct name.

My second question about being under a roof evidently puzzled and confused, and quite naturally so, if I am right in my surmise that the boy was describing an out-of-door place.

“ Doorway at corner of side road ” ; the gateway into the Heights is at the left corner at the top of the short, blind road. Bobbie would go through it to get to the gang's playing spot near the water pipe in the hill side.

*Sitting continued.*

C. D. T. : I want to ask him if he had been drinking the water at the Baths.

(122) FEDA : He knows what he had been told it is. He has been told that this was the cause of it. You know what he would call the baths—I am letting him say what he wants to, because you can see if he is accurate—He says he thinks what he remembers is that a part of this building is not quite the same. You puzzled him a bit asking whether it was near the building, because it was not all built at the same time, there was something that had to be built on afterwards. When it was thought to be all complete there was something added to it, quite a good big portion.

“ You know what he would call the baths ” ; here Feda accepts my term for the place in question and alludes to it as “ the baths ”. We must, however, keep in mind the probability that what Feda and I are terming “ the Baths ” is really the place which Bobbie and my communicators call “ the pipes ” or “ B ”. Let us see if what follows will apply to the latter place ; for it certainly does *not* apply to the Baths.

“ You puzzled him . . . something built on afterwards.” This addition to a building correctly describes the shed or barn by the Delf : this erection shows clear evidence of having been added to from time to time. It is a home-made structure of wood and corrugated iron put together as need arose. It is quite likely that an observant boy would have noticed these additions.

*Sitting continued.*

(123) FEDA : Is there a district there that begins with the letter ‘ H ’ near the baths, a longish name ? He calls it the district.

C. D. T. : I’ll inquire.

(124) FEDA : You see, he knew somebody living in the ‘ H ’ part that used to go to the same place.

[The Marsden Heights were always called by Bobbie “ The Heights ”. Who is meant by “ somebody ” is uncertain. There are alternative explanations.]

(125) FEDA : Look, you have been going up hill, haven’t you ; suppose you were to go down to the right, like a side way, when you have gone up a hill, you wouldn’t go very far to the right before you come to a place that was—There are no cliffs there, are there ?—he is trying to make me feel such a peculiar place, it feels to me almost like a drop, a kind of abrupt drop down, not an ordinary hill. And as if there is still some evidence of it being there, but not quite as it was.

The above correctly describes a road to the right, after one has come uphill from Bobbie’s house, and a walk by the quarry alluded to in a previous sitting (Cf. Nos. 41-44). “ Not quite as it was ” ;

in Bobbie's time a stile separated this walk by the quarry from the side road. The stile has since been removed, and protective railings now separate the path from the abrupt edge of the quarry. The sides of the quarry are like cliffs.

*Sitting continued.*

(126) FEDA : And you can get to that place by walking up the hill and turning to the right near the baths ; not, perhaps, the best way, but you could get so.

[This short paragraph summarises the foregoing and is perfectly correct if one substitutes "Brierfield Heights" for "the Baths".]

THE PIPES.

*Abbreviations used.*

R : Right.  
G : Good.  
F : Fair.  
P : Poor.  
D : Doubtful.

*Sittings.*

- 2 Nov. O : R. A previous weakening (14).  
3 Dec. O : R. Predisposing cause for Bobbie's illness (37).  
O : R. Event nine weeks before the death for which "pipes" will be the clue (38).  
4 Jan. O : G. Previous constitutional weakness and further reference to the "pipes" (70).  
5 Jan. M : R. Pipes not in house, reached via a second place (80).  
M : G. Connexion between pipes and infection (81).  
M : R. Animals there will be clue to pipes (82).  
O : D. An alteration has made the pipes less dangerous (83).  
M : R. Bobbie's people not familiar with the pipes place (84).  
M : R. Another boy went there with Bobbie (85).  
M : R. Not quite country where pipes are (86).  
M : R. Stables, straw. One side partly open (87).  
M : F. View of country hidden by buildings (88).  
M : P. Water trickling or swilling (89).  
6 Feb. M : R. Bentley is a clue to the pipes place (96).  
M : G. and Stock (97).  
M : R. A route given in detail (98).  
M : D. The name Phil is a clue (99).  
M : D. and other boys' names (100).  
8 Mar. O : R. Etta certain that the pipes will be discovered (107).  
9 Apl. M : F. Brook or inland water to which Bobbie went (108).  
10 May. O : F. His people's attitude respecting the pipes problem (115).

- M: D. Underground (116).  
 M: R. Pipes can be reached past the school (117).  
 M: R. A turning to the right (118).  
 M: R. Route uphill described (119).  
 M: R. Place 'B' (120).  
 M: R. Enter at corner of side road (121).  
 M: F. Building that was added to (122).  
 M: R. District there is 'H' (123).  
 M: D. Another living there went too (124).  
 M: R. Route near place with precipitous drop (125).  
 M: R. Can be reached by alternative routes (126).

Result of the above analysis—

<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>	<i>Bobbie's opinion.</i>	<i>John's opinion.</i>	<i>Etta's opinion.</i>
R 16.	G 1.	R 2.	R 2.
G 2.	F 1.	D 1.	
F 3.			
P 1.	Bobbie succeeds 23.	J. & E. succeed 4.	
D 4.	„ fails 5.	„ fail 1.	

## PART III

BEFORE proceeding to discuss the significance of the foregoing messages it may be convenient to notice in brief summary how the evidence accumulated month by month from November 1932 to May 1933.

In November, December and January we find Etta, John, and finally Bobbie himself *expressing the opinion* that Bobbie's illness could be traced to something connected with pipes. (14, 37, 38, 70.)

An event nine weeks before death will be a clue. (38.)

In January my request for further clues brought the information that these pipes were not at the boy's home ; that animals would be a guide to their position ; that Bobbie's people did not know of the place, but that he went there with another boy. As a further clue there was described a barn or stables. (80, 82, 84, 85, 87.)

In February the route leading to these pipes was described in part. (96, 98.)

In March Etta expressed certainty that the pipes would be discovered. (107.)

In May Bobbie gave directions pointing to the exact locality where the pipes were eventually found. (117, 118, 119, 120, 123, 126.)

In July the first of the two pipes was discovered and the second in September.

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No maps of Nelson were to be had, either in guide-book or local directory, and it was not until these sittings were over and the pipes found that I inspected ordnance survey maps, both the large scale and the small. I found springs indicated, but no mention of pipes.

My knowledge of Nelson was restricted to the fact of its being a manufacturing town, united with others in a valley, and that the surrounding country was hilly. Mrs Leonard was told nothing whatever about the subject of these sittings, nor did I mention the place to Fedá.

We have seen that the information given about the existence and whereabouts of these pipes was correct. Let us now consider whether there was justification for the opinion, so confidently expressed, that Bobbie's death might be attributed to the pipes.

The water issuing from the hillside is pure, but it falls into pools, one of which is on the open hillside where it would be visited by wild birds, poultry and animals.

At my request the Brierfield Medical Officer of Health, Dr J.



Strachan Wilson, M.B., C.M., visited the place. He afterwards sent me the following report :

TOWN HALL, BRIERFIELD,  
LANCASHIRE, February 21, 1934.

DEAR SIR,

Your letter of the 10th instant, *re* springs on Marsden Heights, to hand.

Mr Haigh, the Sanitary Inspector, and myself visited the two springs you mention. The water in both pools is obviously liable to contamination from surface water and is not fit for drinking purposes. Any person, child or adult, might develop a low or even an acute infection from the drinking of such water.

We have had samples of the water issuing from the hillside, in both cases, analysed, and the analysis shows that the water from both sources is suitable for drinking.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. WILSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

That verdict about the pools into which the pipe water falls is decisive. We are certain that Bobbie frequently played by this water during several weeks ; then came an illness which, beginning with tonsilitis, turned to quinsy and then to the diphtheria which overcame him.

The accompanying photograph of the pipe and pool nearest to the Delf shows how close is the surface of the water to the mouth of the pipe. The fall is only two inches. Bobbie's friend, Jack, says that they " played with the water ". A boy who was playing with water as it issued from the pipe could scarcely avoid wetting his hands in the contaminated pool below. Those wet hands might easily convey infection to the mouth, either by wiping on handkerchief or by cupping them for a mouthful of water from the pipe. Bobbie lived in a healthy part of Nelson and there were, as I am informed by the local Medical Officers of Health, only two other cases of diphtheria in Nelson at that time, and four in the Brierfield area.

There our definite information ends.

The communicators may or may not have been correct in concluding that Bobbie's death was caused directly or indirectly by his playing with this water. We cannot be certain, nor would the proved truth or error of their opinion affect the evidence that they were in possession of facts on which such a conjecture might reasonably be based. These facts were : the existence and locality of the pipes, the pool into which the water discharged, the frequenting of this place by the boys and their playing with the water. Anyone acquainted with these facts might have suspected that the throat affection

which followed was traceable to the contaminated water. *But no one on earth had the least suspicion of this* until it was stated in the course of these sittings.

What makes the incident really remarkable from the evidential point of view is that the members of Bobbie's family were entirely ignorant of the facts, and that the only person acquainted with them, besides Bobbie himself, was his companion Jack—certainly a most unpromising and unlikely source of telepathic information on the subject. Yet the existence of this water was asserted and reasserted during a period of six months, and the pipes were finally discovered by our following up the clues given.

Whence, then, came the knowledge so clearly displayed? Was it from minds on earth? Doubtless many persons were aware of those pipes on the Heights; yet it is certain that not one among them ever suspected that I was taking sittings on behalf of Bobbie's family. That fact was private to the few persons in Bobbie's group. The only others who knew, namely, my stenographer, my wife and I, were unaware of the existence of the Heights. No one person knew both facts, viz. that the pipes existed, and that I was inquiring about Bobbie. Whence, then, came the information? It is a problem which I commend to the attention of those who may hesitate to share my conviction that Bobbie Newlove and his friends in the Beyond gave the messages.

Telepathy from minds on earth is regarded by some as an alternative hypothesis to communication from the departed.

There is little to be said for it. We have no record of long and detailed messages being conveyed from one person to another by telepathy. Whether spontaneous or experimental, telepathy is always fragmentary.

Consider our story of the pipes. There were no people on earth who knew the two facts which are so emphatically and continuously interwoven in the sittings, viz. (1) that Bobbie played with the water on the Heights, and (2) that I was trying to get from him messages for his people. These two facts were, however, known to some very acute intelligence somewhere, who made use of them during a period of six months in face of incredulity by Bobbie's people and our failure to understand.

This knowledge about the pipes—which proved to be accurate—could not have come by telepathy from Bobbie's home circle, because no one there was aware of the existence of the pipes. Members of the "gang", on the other hand, would have no idea that Bobbie hurt himself by playing with the water, nor of the fact that I was seeking to obtain messages from him.

Critics who wish to apply the telepathic hypothesis to this case

will need to assume, without any justification for such an assumption, that thoughts pass between people who have not heard of each other and between whom there is no link save that they were interested in a person who died. And further, the selection must be assumed to act with unerring discretion, so that no facts are allowed to pass which do not relate to the inquiry in hand. In short, *everything must happen exactly as if* an intelligent supervisor were obtaining information from the deceased for the purposes of the inquiry.

#### EXAMINATION OF BOBBIE'S FAILURES.

##### *Abbreviations used.*

- N. Name difficulty.  
 I. Insufficiently described.  
 U. Some of his school friends unknown to his people.

##### MEMORY.

- POOR. 7. Special cooking. I.  
 23. Money put aside for him. I.  
 27. Like Joyce. U.  
 56. Something like a duck. I.  
 92. Water trickling or swilling. I.  
 105. Toy box described. I.
- DOUBTFUL. 22. Recent gift from gentleman. I.  
 68. Name like Euan. N.  
 95. Further activities in the attic. I.  
 99. The name Phil is a clue. N or U.  
 100. And names of other boys. N or U.  
 116. Underground. I.  
 124. Another who lived there went also. I.  
 131. Geoffrey or "G". N or U.
- WRONG. 47. Sw— name of place. N.  
 90. Changed doors at rink. (See below.)  
 146. Attempted name of garden. N.

##### OPINION.

128. Who wanted dressing gown. (See below.)
- Note. 90. I can find no explanation of this.  
 128. A mistaken inference.

We have examined Bobbie's failures and now turn to those of Feda, John and Etta.

- FEDA: 33. Wrong idea of Bobbie's complexion, obtained by "feeling" only.  
 2. Doubtful idea obtained when psychometrising Mr Hatch's letter.

ANALYSIS OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE  
IN THE WHOLE SERIES, AND INCLUDING "THE PIPES".

Sitting No.	<i>Bobbie's memory.</i>						<i>Bobbie's opinion.</i>						<i>Feda's opinion.</i>						<i>John's opinion.</i>						<i>Etta's opinion.</i>											
	R	G	F	P	D	W	R	G	F	P	D	W	R	G	F	P	D	W	R	G	F	P	D	W	R	G	F	P	D	W						
1	5			1			1		1				2	1	1		1	1																		
2	6	4	3	2	1													1							2											1
3	14	1	1			1	1												3																	
4	13	2	3	1	1		3	2																												
5	9	1	2	1	1	1																1														
6	2	1			2																															
7				1			1																		3											1
8-10	11		2		3		5		1			1	1												1											
11	8		3		1		1		2																											
	68	9	14	6	8	3	12	2	4	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2		2
	91			17			18			1			5			2			3			1			6			2								

Bobbie succeeds - 108.  
,, fails - 18.

F. J. E. succeed - 14.  
,, fail - 5.

Grand Total—Successes - 122.  
Failures - 23.

*N.B.*—In several instances the statement given in the sitting, and which I count as one, consists of several items. Were all such counted according to the number of definite items they contain, the above totals would be considerably greater. Those marked "right" would be over 150, and the total number of statements more than 200. As full information is given in the notes, readers will be able to make their own computations.

- JOHN : 83. Doubtful remark about the pipes having been rendered less dangerous than formerly.
- ETTA : 15. Wrong opinion about Bobbie's constitution being good.  
104. Wrong opinion as to Bobbie's ability for drawing.

It is of special interest that the communications contain several statements upon matters happening at the date of these sittings, *i.e.* many months after the boy's death.

Were there no evidence to the contrary, it might have been suggested that such information had come telepathically from the people at Nelson. The evidence of the "pipes", however, gives no encouragement to those favouring that hypothesis.

Other attempted alternatives, such as Universal Memory, or unlimited Clairvoyance, do not help us. I can think of no explanation which fits the facts save that of the boy's continued interest in, and minute observation of, the doings of his family circle.

9. F. Making something like stone—studying it—put together in lumps.
46. R. Bobbie was reminded of this place lately when his people went there.
65. G. Family going to place H— thinking of him.
66. R. Mother thinking about Rosemary.
106. R. Bobbie's people help an aged lady.
111. R. His mother thought of his cap.
112. R. She found his heart-shaped badge.
113. R. Four items *re* his mother visiting churchyard.
114. R. She thought of apples in connexion with him.
127. R. His mother wants new dressing gown.
129. R. Cardboard boxes brought him to his mother's mind.
134. F. His mother and a pyramidal tree.
141. R. His mother's throat trouble.

A boy of ten might be expected to mention toys, games and various exercises in which he had been interested. We find these communications contain many such references. They are as follows :

7. P. Special cooking.
24. G. Interested in a building.
29. R. Played with grooves and numbers after tea.
30. R. Coloured marbles on table.
39. R. Girl with a ball interested Bobbie.
49. R. Description of a strap about which Bobbie was warned.
54. G. Reference to the salt-sifter. A treasured object described.
56. P. References to the salt-sifter. Something like a duck.
61. R. References to the salt-sifter. Name "B" of toy or animal.
55. R. Building to picture-pattern, with point.

*References to the Rink :*

- 71. R. Carrying for his mother something swinging.
- 72. R. Manner of walking with his mother.
- 73. R. A purchase for the winter.
- 74. R. A frequented place described.
- 75. R. People met there, etc.
- 76. R. Discussion *re* footwear for the above place.
- 77. F. Something that floated in air.
- 78. R. Exercise in attic.
- 85. R. Another boy went there with Bobbie.
- 91. R. Celluloid article he was using which was disapproved of.
- 93. R. Shape, colour, etc., of articles in tissue paper.
- 95. R. Further activities in the attic.
- 105. P. Description of toy box changed, round label.
- 144. R. Reply to question about cycling in a garden.

Notice, similarly, how we find references to objects in which Bobbie had been interested :

- 31. R. Something yet incomplete making in the house.
- 32. F. Interested in rabbits.
- 34. R. Photograph with boards.
- 35. R. Cap without peak.
- 53. F. Interested in special plants.
- 57. G. Mice.
- 58. R. Apparatus fixed to wall.
- 132. F. Description of photograph to be shown me.
- 133. F. Description of an object connected with above photo.

It is known that Bobbie frequented the places and was familiar with the localities which are referred to in the following passages :

- 8. R. Town in provinces.
- 10. R. Largish town and important things.
- 11. R. Manufactories on canal or river.
- 40. R. Broken stile.
- 41. R. Footpath described.
- 42. R. Open view past stile from path.
- 43. R. Church with group of trees.
- 44. R. Dangerous place near stile.
- 45. R. Place sticky and wet there.
- 48. R. A collapsed building past stile.
- 86. R. Not quite country where "pipes" are.
- 87. R. Stables, straw. One side partly open.
- 96. R. Bentley is a clue to the "pipes" place.
- 97. G. And Stock.
- 98. R. A route given in detail.
- 109. R. Visited place like chemist's shop.
- 117. R. Pipes can be reached past the school.

118. R. A turning to the right.
119. R. Route up hill described.
120. R. Place "B".
121. R. Enter at corner of side road.
122. F. Building that was added to.
123. R. District there is H—.
125. R. Route near place with precipitous drop.
126. R. Can be reached by alternative routes.
136. R. Swings at this time of year, disliked by his mother.
137. R. Dangerous racing track and accident there.
138. R. Home is in hilly district.
139. F. Steep and awkward place about which complaints made.
140. R. Place near the above with name like Cattle.

The proportion of success banishes any doubt based upon the possibility of chance coincidence. Fraud or collusion is quite out of the question.

Much of the evidence given was exactly such as we should expect from a little boy ; it relates to his treasured possessions, his special interests in the home or elsewhere, his games, the local Gala and the annual Fair with its swings and racing track. It includes correct descriptions of streets and roads around his home, even mentioning the street which must have been specially familiar to him because his school was there.

The replies to questions sent by Bobbie's people show intimate knowledge of the boy's interests both within the house and elsewhere.

In response to my persistent inquiry as to the whereabouts of the pipes, there was given a mass of information which was finally found to be correct, although much of it was entirely unknown to Bobbie's relatives. Above all, there emerged in the course of the sittings *a suggestion which had never occurred to anyone*, and which related to the probable cause of the child's death. Investigations following up the clues given have shown the extreme probability that the communicators were right in their surmise, and that the boy's system was injuriously affected through his playing with contaminated water in a place of which his people knew nothing—and of the existence of which they remained sceptical for a period of six months. This is conclusive evidence that the messages did not emanate from minds on earth ; for no one who knew of those pipes had the least suspicion that I was receiving messages relating to Bobbie Newlove, or, indeed, of my existence. On the other hand, I had not the least knowledge of the Marsden Heights or that Bobbie had played at any place where there was contaminated water. My knowledge of Bobbie and his home was limited to what his people wrote in com-

menting upon each sitting as the records reached them. What they wrote has been stated under its respective dates, and it will be observed that I was told nothing which could have enabled me to elaborate the messages, even had I been sufficiently unprincipled to wish to do so.

We have, therefore, a feature which is probably unique in the records of psychical research. It is this surprising expression, definite, emphatic and repeated, of an opinion which had no existence in the thought of any person on earth previous to its emergence at these sittings. No clairvoyant inspection of the Marsden Heights would afford the medium information as to the reason why the boy's illness should have ended fatally; leakage from human minds and the supernormal acquisition of information by the medium's unaided faculty are both ruled out by the circumstances of the case.

Is there any alternative but to recognise the activity of extramundane intelligence, one which knew facts which were unknown to the family at Nelson, and which based on those facts a conclusion which is highly probable if not demonstrably correct?



## PART IV

THE *MODUS OPERANDI* AND INSIGHT INTO  
TELEPATHY

IN the foregoing series of trance messages we have found varying degrees of success and failure. We may profitably study a few of these with the hope of learning something about telepathic reception. The immediate receiver is the Leonard-Feda combination, and my view is that Feda first receives and then causes it to be voiced by Mrs Leonard's mind-brain-nerve-muscle mechanism. It is not necessary to hold that hypothesis; others may serve our immediate purposes, which is simply to note how the receiver "feels" when the information comes into consciousness. Some may like to think that the information has first arrived telepathically in the sitter's sub-conscious mind, and that Feda perceives it there; but, even so, Feda must receive or obtain it from the sitter. We want to know how information arrives.

Those who deem that a Control is but a secondary personality of the medium have the same problem to solve. How does the idea reach the medium's consciousness, whether the primary or the secondary consciousness? How is the thought received?

When Feda said, "Is there a place with an address on 'B'?" He is trying to write it up on a board" (see 120), what was actually happening? It may be guessed that someone changed the method, as if hoping thereby to convey the required idea; if the sense of sound did not respond, the sense of sight might do so. But how is that switching from sound to sight accomplished? Is it by effort of the communicator? or does Feda shift the mechanism of reception? We find her, at times, saying that they are *making her feel* so-and-so, or that what is being described *gives her the feeling* thus and thus: often she will seem to quote verbatim, then presently to fall back on paraphrase. Do these variations indicate different forms which the idea takes on reaching Feda's consciousness, or do they denote differences in the manner by which thought is *sent to her*? Is it Feda or the communicator who decides the form?

Naturally, I have asked Feda, and the reply is, in essence, that she tries one method and then another, but cannot use them simultaneously. That looks as if she can to some extent choose the form in which the ideas reach her consciousness, but I doubt if that is the whole secret.

The following dialogue with Feda bears upon this question.

C. D. T. : Sometimes for minutes on end you seem to get their very words. I wonder what it is that makes that possible.

FEDA : Mr John says, " We find at one sitting that we can go on the dictation method, and at another we have to make pictures without dictation, and these we transfer, or we assist Feda in transferring, to the brain of the medium. Whether we shall do the first method or the second method it is not in our power to determine. We have to accommodate ourselves to your conditions. I am inclined to think—and I have exchanged ideas with many serious investigators and we are all agreed—that it is nothing whatever to do with our ability to communicate ; except, as I once remarked to you, some of us have a temperament that fits us for communicating more than others."

C. D. T. : That I can understand.

FEDA : Mr John says, " On many occasions I have come here prepared to dictate to Feda ; and I have thought, ' Now the material I have in hand to-day needs the dictation method ', but I find myself unable to dictate. I find a condition which makes it advisable to switch over to some other topic, unless the material I have in hand could be shown pictorially. It is limiting—it holds us up."

C. D. T. : Have you noticed, Feda, what previous condition is best for a sitting that is to have much dictation in it ?

FEDA : Yes, I have noticed. If Gladys (Mrs Leonard's name) has not been writing letters, or thinking about letters, or reading letters that the postman brought, and she has been just thinking of nothing at all that morning—especially to do with words—then I get the dictation well. But if she does letters she thinks all the time, " This person needs to know so-so, and even if I don't write now this person wants me to say so-so ". Now that isn't good for the conditions. She has worn herself out a bit about words, you see.

C. D. T. : Is it that you don't, then, hear the words plainly ?

FEDA : Well, I think it is that I can't get them, can't catch them in her mind because her mind is tired of them, her mind has already had enough of words.

C. D. T. : You don't find the dictated sentences are there for you ?

FEDA : No. Etta says I am convinced that an area of the conscious mind, or that part of the brain in which the conscious mind works, has over it a kind of sensitised material like—let us say—wax, and if it has been used for one thing it won't take another impression.

C. D. T. : Like the sensitised gelatine of a photographic plate ?

FEDA : Yes, but at the same time you can't very well make that into an analogy, because we sometimes can get something else on that is very good. The " wax " will take something else, but it won't take what it has already been used for. Now that is what Etta says, and she is right. If you take Gladys of a morning when she

hasn't been worried or done letters but is just ready for a trance, that's a very good dictation time.

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The reference to a broken stile, see No. 40, is peculiarly interesting because, although the broken stile was there during Bobbie's lifetime, it had been removed before the date of this sitting.

Clearly, then, the description was given from the memory of one who had known the place in Bobbie's lifetime, and not from any clairvoyance of medium or Control: the latter hypothesis would involve the difficulty of having to suggest how clairvoyance could be directed to the right town, and then be able to trace, amidst its many scores of streets and paths, the particular route which had been a favourite walk of the family.

There have been many occasions when proper names were pronounced easily and correctly. The conditions of which Fedá has been speaking were then, presumably, at their best; but I find that names usually present a difficulty.

An attempt to give the name *Catlow Bottoms* illustrates this. It was at the end of a description of the neighbourhood in which he had lived that Fedá, speaking for Bobbie, said:

(140) FEDÁ: "There is a place 'C' close by, a long name sounding like Catelnów, Castlenów. There seemed to be two or three syllables, like a Ca sound, cattle or castle something."

The family comment was: "The name given is like Catlow, a hamlet near here. Bobbie and I went there the day he was taken ill, the last occasion that he left the house." When studying Bobbie's diary I noticed that almost the very last entry read—"Went to Catlow Bottoms. Sore throat. Went to bed."

Remove two letters from Catelnów and we have Catlow.

Fedá can sometimes give a name without difficulty, but should there be any hitch, necessitating a second or third try, it is rarely she achieves success. Her explanation is that, even when she hears the name clearly, anxiety to get it voiced affects the medium's brain, causing a tension which hinders expression of the required word.

But often Fedá cannot hear the name distinctly.

On referring to section 19-20 we find three initials given in lieu of the full names. These initials were entirely appropriate to the context, but Fedá's ignorance of the names which they represented may be inferred from the remark, "Does the girl's name begin with 'J'?" Now the name was Jack; as Fedá was unaware of the sex it is evident that she had not heard the name clearly. This error reminds one of her remark, "Some of the things I have got for them

I don't understand, and just a little bit of a twist would give them a wrong meaning."

In this connexion we may refer to section 75, where Feda remarked " ' M ' I think that would be the man's name ". Whether that was a guess or an inference, it was wrong? Feda apparently did not catch the name itself, but only the initial. Yet there have been occasions when it was quite evident that the actual name was known, whether to Feda or to the communicator, and yet could not be pronounced by the medium.

Let us pass to a further point. It would appear that Feda is sometimes unaware that reference is being made to an object previously described. The following seem to be illustrations of this :

A few weeks before Bobbie's death he had a short holiday at Morecambe, where, at some children's sports, he won a salt-sifter of glazed earthenware shaped like a dog. It was usually kept on the corner of a shelf in the dining-room, and at dinner Bobbie had a habit of rolling it along the table and twisting and untwisting the cork at the bottom. In general appearance it is round, smooth and polished. Note how curiously the reference to this article is introduced.

(54) FEDA : " You must not take it off the shelf, you must leave it on the shelf near the corner." Leave it on the shelf where the others could see it and have it. He used to take it sometimes—I think I have got this right—there was something that used to be on the corner of the shelf, and sometimes Bobbie wanted it, and they used to say, " Leave it on the shelf in case the others want it ".—Something round and smooth and polished.

C. D. T. : I wonder what he did with it when he took it in his hands.

FEDA : Was it a watch ?

C. D. T. : Are you guessing, Feda ?

FEDA : I was only asking him, because it looked like a watch he was holding in the palm of his hand.

C. D. T. : What does he say ?

FEDA : He seems to be twisting something like you do a watch or a clock.

C. D. T. : Winding it ?

FEDA : Yes, winding something.

C. D. T. : Is it Bobbie showing this ?

FEDA : It is Bobbie giving it to me. It feels something like a watch.

C. D. T. : It looks like a selected bit of evidence, but it just lacks the definite indication. I could think of at least four things.

FEDA : You had better not guess. He rolls it or winds it. It was not a watch. They still have it. It is not in that place, it has been put somewhere else. Bobbie thinks it has been put in a

drawer instead of on the shelf. Is it on a plate? He is giving me the idea of a plate being near it.

The family recognised this as referring to the salt-sifter and informed me that it had been moved, but not into a drawer, and that it was now kept on a shelf just below the dinner *plates*.

At a later sitting this salt-sifter (if my supposition is correct) was again indicated.

(56) FEDA: Had Bobbie a duck? I will tell you what he is showing me; it looks something like a duck. Will you ask if he had a toy duck? I think that is right. I see it in his hand like as if he is pushing it towards me. I don't think its legs is very long, or else he is holding his legs up a bit, but ducks have not got very long legs. I think it must be a duck because of its legs.

Then Feda dropped the subject and, after some minutes of talk on other matters, suddenly commenced to speak again about what I believe to be the same object, although it is very doubtful whether Feda was aware that this was an attempt to make up for the previous failure.

(61) FEDA: Not the name Bobbie, but another name beginning with 'B' that was rather important in their house. I mustn't say sound because I am getting this by feeling. He gives 'B' by sound, but now I get the feeling that this would seem to be more like an animal's name, or the name of a toy. It is something in their house that he was very fond of, and he calls it a funny name beginning with 'B', not a long name. Wait a bit—Ber, Bunkey, Bussey. The name he is giving me sounds as if it began Bus or Bos.

Since it is said to be an animal's or toy's name which begins with 'B' it seems highly probable that Bobbie was trying to describe the salt-sifter which he won at Morecambe so shortly before his death and which he greatly prized, always calling it his Bow-wow. The name Bow-wow agrees with the description, "beginning with 'B' and not long". If this assumption be correct it further illustrates how unreliable Feda's clairaudience can be, for she said it sounded to her like Ber, or Bunkey, or Bussey, a name beginning Bus or Bos.

Bobbie had spoken of his mother and a cap of which she had been thinking, and went on to say (through Feda):

(112) "She came across something with a special badge on it. It is not a heart exactly, but the lower part is shaped rather like a heart, at the bottom it is heart-shaped. It is something like a straight line goes through the top of it and a little upstanding piece comes out of the top."

The reference to a cap may have been intended to lead up to a mention of his Jack of Hearts crown (Cf. 35), or it may perhaps have suddenly brought the latter to Bobbie's mind, but the phrasing confuses the heart with the crown on which it is fixed. "Not a heart exactly" would be true of the crown. The rest of the description is accurate as applied to the heart itself, but misleading on account of being preceded by the words, "the lower part is shaped rather like a heart." It is not surprising that the family reported they knew of no such badge.

On my visit to the house I asked if Bobbie had any badge on his sports jacket, or other kind of badge. They knew of none, and we marked this down as a failure. Later in the day I asked to see the Jack of Hearts boards and cap, as I wished to photograph them. When they were placed in position before the camera I noticed that the heart corresponded with the description of the badge. "Something like a straight line goes through the top of it, and a little up-standing piece comes out of the top."

This crown was part of Bobbie's Jack of Hearts' outfit, and if we study the way in which this had been first given (see 34 and 35), we may suppose that Feda was "shown" the boards, but that the cap was described to her *in words*. If that were so, it need not surprise us that, when this cap was again described, after an interval of five months, Feda did not recognise it.

If we read sections 24 and 31, comparing the messages with their verifications, we get the impression that Feda received the descriptions in so vague a form that she was unable to form a clear picture of the objects intended. The idea "building in a scullery" reached Feda's consciousness as "like building an outhouse." The second item, which referred to fitting up a gymnasium, was spoken in a way which suggests that it came in fragments. It is evident that reception was not pictorial, but rather a succession of nebulous ideas. And is not this exactly how telepathic impressions are usually received by experimenters, and often, also, in cases of spontaneous telepathic impressions? How often we find that a recipient becomes "aware of something wrong at home", yet is quite unable to say what the trouble may be.

The following illustration merits being given in full, even if involving some repetition of what has been said previously. Note the vague and partially inaccurate way in which the ideas are expressed. I state the facts first, and then give Feda's wording.

One of Bobbie's special interests was roller skating. Among the people he met at the rink was a child named Marjorie, who held a semi-professional post there. She was an accomplished skater and frequently gave an exhibition before the commencement of the

hockey matches. Indeed, the home team termed her their Mascot and she would begin their competitions by an exhibition of skating, in which she finally drove a ball into the goal. She was a year or two older than Bobbie and they were great friends, as can be gathered from the fact elsewhere stated that once, while she was away on a visit, Bobbie said to his mother, "If I don't see Marjorie soon I shall go mad". This was but a month before his death. He often skated with Marjorie, and was familiar with this exhibition in which she played with the ball—indeed, it is probable that he sometimes joined her in playing with it.

And now, notice how this emerges in the sitting (39) :

FEDA : Did I tell you last time about a girl, a little older than Bobbie, that he was fond of. She seemed as if very kind to him, like giving up things to him and being very nice to him, and this girl has been—I can't get this quite—but it is something to do with this girl and doing something with a ball that belonged to Bobbie. I don't think this is much good—you see I am not getting this from Mr John now, I am getting it from Bobbie.—Something this girl has been doing about a ball that Bobbie was fond of when he was here, the girl has been doing something with it.

I think there is no doubt that this refers to Marjorie and her exhibition with the ball, but how vaguely expressed ! Does it not give the impression that Feda only heard a few words here and there, much as a deaf person catches the general trend of a discourse ? Or shall we say that, while receiving the ideas, there were breaks in the reception, and that in voicing the message Feda fills each break with the word 'something' ? One notices that she says, "It is *something* to do with this girl", and "doing *something* with a ball".

On another occasion, after Bobbie had been giving a considerable amount of information relating to the skating rink, I gathered that the subject was concluded, because Feda said, "He is losing it a bit, he is going back a bit".

I therefore sought to introduce a new subject by putting a question sent by the family. I said, "Bobbie, what did you keep in the bathroom cupboard ? Show a picture of it, think about it and let Feda see." (77.)

This is what followed. No reference was made to the bathroom cupboard ; but instead came what appears to be a further reference to the rink. It would seem that Bobbie either did not notice my question or that he chose to ignore it because, in the interval, he had recollected something further which he wished to say about the skating rink.

Confusion not infrequently follows the putting of a question, for

the communicator may disregard it and continue his previous line of thought. Feda naturally assumes that it is the question which is being answered, and the sitter may fail to realise that the communicator is calmly continuing just as if no question had been asked.

We have seen that the method of reception by the Feda-Leonard consciousness is not, as a rule, clairvoyance. I gather that Feda "sees", or "is shown", when the objects in question are such as can be easily pictured. An outstanding case of this clairvoyance for mental pictures is found in section 34. The description of the boy looking over his sandwich board is most striking when compared with its verification. It seems as if Feda "saw" what her words described. But apparently something went wrong with the latter half of the description, which contains the inaccuracies "sitting", "leaning a bit forward", "crouching position". Were these later touches due to Feda's imperfect perception of a mental picture? This seems probable. On the other hand, the inaccurate points added to the description may have been given by my father, who, after all, would have only received his idea of the picture at second-hand from Bobbie. There is, however, an alternative suggestion which is not without interest. It may have been an instance of a composite picture resulting from the communicator's marginal thought mingling with the main idea which he was trying to project. For it is known that a second photograph was taken by a Press photographer, and in it Bobbie with his boards was among other fancy-dress companions. Unfortunately, that negative was not used, and is lost or destroyed. Possibly Bobbie himself was adding to what had been said by my father and unintentionally gave Feda a generalised impression of his various attitudes while in the fancy dress.

Clairvoyance was certainly not used in item 91, where one might have expected that it would have been a simpler method of transmitting the idea. Reference is made to an article of celluloid which might flame or explode. The verification of this object is sufficiently certain. Why was it not "shown"? The verbal method failed to get through so difficult a word as cinematograph, whereas clairvoyance would, one supposes, have produced a visual impression of the toy which, if described to the sitter, could have been easily recognised for what it was. True, it would not have been sufficient, for clairvoyance could not have imparted the information that they "wanted him to stop using it; they thought it might make a flame or explosion". For that statement a definite thought had to be transmitted; a "feeling" or a picture would not have conveyed the idea.

And here it may be remarked that Feda uses the words "see" and "feel" with a certain amount of careful distinction, and will



always give me her exact impressions when I inquire by what means she is getting such and such a fact.

In these sittings we find numerous clearly-expressed and even long and intricate descriptions. This is never achieved telepathically, apart from mediumistic utterance. Telepathy, as we know it from spontaneous occurrence and from experiment, is chiefly *feeling*, rarely a transmission of clear-cut thought. Now we may ask, are the numerous clear-cut and accurate thoughts, which were expressed in the course of these sittings, sent by persons at Nelson or not? If they came from Nelson they would represent a triumph which places them in a class of telepathy about which psychical research knows nothing. But we have seen that the most outstanding feature of these sittings—the pipes problem—did *not* come from people at Nelson. Telepathy from earth was ruled out. Consequently, we may, in my opinion, confidently assume that the information, so copiously and so accurately given, came from Bobbie Newlove's mind and was transmitted to Leonard-Feda. In other words, it was not due to the telepathy which is familiar to psychical research, whether in experiment or observation, but is an instance of information imparted by one who had left the physical body behind at death. Let the reader turn to section 130 and note the boy's description of his attitude towards his mother. Much of it would be far from true of most boys, yet it is recognised as being "remarkably correct". Now that I have met Mrs Newlove I can vouch for its perfect relevancy. Notice, also, that it rings true to the boy's viewpoint, and is not the kind of description which would have been derived from his mother's thought about him. Such a message as this exceeds, in extent and in detail, anything known to have passed from mind to mind on earth by extra-sensory channels. When it is remembered that my only link with the family consisted of letters sent in acknowledgment of my report of sittings, that I knew nothing but what these told me, and that the family were most careful to give me no information likely to lessen the evidential value of subsequent messages—remembering all this, it would be difficult to maintain the supposition that the medium was reading my mind, or tapping the thought of unknown persons two hundred miles distant in an unnamed town.

It may be asked why telepathy in the presence of a medium should produce results so much better than does telepathy between agent and subject under non-mediumistic conditions. Is it that those between whom thought-transmission takes place during a mediumistic sitting are within a field of influence created by the medium? Such a field of influence might render possible a community or interpenetration of sensation and thought. (The hypnotic experi-

ments of M. Emile Boirac suggest this. See his *Psychic Science*, Rider 1918.)

I do not press this hypothesis, but offer it for consideration in view of the fact that mediumistic messages are incomparably superior in extent and accuracy to non-mediumistic telepathic messages.

The most puzzling question connected with the problem of the Pipes relates to the difficulty experienced by the communicators in telling what they knew. It is evident that they knew the facts during the six months which elapsed between their first hint and our final discovery. And there is no reason to doubt their wish to make it plain.

Why, then, could not the facts have been stated in one short sentence, such as, "Bobbie played by the pipes where springs issue on the Heights"? That is the question which I asked my father after the mystery had been solved. His reply, which opens up the whole subject of *modus operandi*, was, in substance, this—The difficulty lay in the necessity of fitting-in the information, of being able at the opportune moment to fit it upon the medium's brain, either personally or through Feda. The several parts of any message which we desire to give may be likened to the separate pieces of a puzzle. "I should wish", said he, "to start with that piece which will enable me to proceed methodically, but I may find that I cannot convey it to Feda, or that she cannot convey it to the medium. So I have to give just whatever happens to fit at the moment. Then, suddenly, while the medium's mental activity is running like a machine, I notice it bringing up something which harmonises with a different piece of the puzzle, and I hurriedly cast about to find the piece that will fit. Even when the opportune moment comes, I may be further embarrassed by failure to recall my prepared material. Hence it is necessary that I should provide clues, or association-links, with my own material, in order that I may recollect it instantly when it is required. That which I hope to give must harmonise, or associate with, what is uppermost in the medium's brain, or I shall fail to attach it and to fit it in so that it will be taken. All happens in accordance with the laws of association. The brain does not take that which is at the moment unsuited to it. I frequently wish to speak on a particular subject, but cannot. I may try to lead up to my desired topic, but that leading up to it is, in effect, 'padding'. Much of a sitting may consist of that, and while the communicator keeps the brain-machine revolving in the hope that it will bring round something suitable to his purpose, the chances are that the sitter, being unaware of this, grows listless and weary because, although words are being spoken, they do not convey anything that he wishes to hear. Did he fully realise what is going on he might

assist in giving us the opportunity for which we are waiting." Finally he added :

"Much depends upon the medium's condition at the time, but the sitter's attitude also exerts its influence : keen interest freed from anxiety is a great assistance, and although we dislike leading questions, yet suitable questions will sometimes help." That was the pith of the reply.

We are, I think, better able to perceive his meaning if we recall the difficulty sometimes felt by ourselves in speaking to others of things we deeply feel. Very sensitive persons become keenly aware of that difficulty : they feel, without realising how, that it is useless to mention some particular subject, because it would be incompatible with the other person's present state of mind. So we decide to wait a more suitable opportunity lest the seed fall upon ground too stony to receive it. It is the highly sensitive minds which feel this most strongly, and it is, I think, beyond question that the mind of a medium in trance is super-sensitive. I imagine that the mind of the communicator is vastly more so.

When psychology achieves a more complete understanding of the working of the average mind, and shows us the meaning of those puzzling differences which we often notice in ourselves between one time and another, it may help us to fathom the precise difficulties of those who, from life's further side, strive to express their thoughts to us by means of a stranger's brain.