

threshold are more quickly aware of, or attentive, to their inner sensations than the average person; and if of the sensations produced by (say) early dental decay, why not of the sensations triggered off by (say) telepathy.

The second is the possibility that sufferers from migraine may show a particularly high capacity for extra-sensory perception. My own impression, based solely on personal observations, was reinforced some months ago by a west country psychiatrist; but I do not think any systematic work on the hypothesis has been done. I believe that an official investigation into migraine is planned within the next year or two; would it not be possible to ask those taking part in it to look into the incidence of paranormal cognition during their patients?

Would it not be useful to look into these two possibilities? It might at the very least show useful sources for experimental subjects.

RENÉE HAYNES

*W. J. Crawford and his Critics*

SIR,—Mr Batchelor's recent report (*Journal* 43, pp. 339-56) must commend itself to your readers both for its courage and for its attitude of caution and attention to detail. May I, nevertheless, take issue with him on a point which, though only incidental to his study, is likely to mislead?

Mr Batchelor describes Fournier d'Albe's criticism of Crawford as 'devastating' (p. 352, note 1). Yet Crawford's experiments were enthusiastically endorsed by a number of prominent eye-witnesses, among them Barrett and Whately Carington.<sup>1</sup> Lord Rayleigh, in a presidential address to our Society, said that 'It is difficult to understand what could have been her (Miss Goligher's) motive in continuing to deceive Crawford for the first three years, during which there was no pay.' (*Proc.* vol. xlv., p. 12).

While it may be objected that this opinion does not perhaps go beyond the expression of a prejudice against professional mediums (Miss Goligher being a non-professional) typical of a former generation, he also pointed out that 'no really valid reason seems to be known for doubting the candour and accuracy of . . . Crawford' (*ibid.*, p. 10); and further (p. 12), that 'Crawford's publications contain a complete answer to Fournier's general objections'; Rayleigh was, in fact, 'unfavourably impressed by Fournier's failure to see this'. In spite of these favourable verdicts, which

<sup>1</sup> Sir William Barrett in *Proc.*, vol. xxx, pp. 334-7. Whately Smith (= Whately Carington), *loc. cit.*, pp. 306-33.

seem more than to cancel out some possible doubt as to these rare phenomena, Dr Crawford has not failed to suffer the common fate of psychical researchers, however eminent and careful in their work, who have been rash enough to claim positive results in the 'physical' field: ridicule by their contemporaries, denigration and near oblivion by posterity. Our own generation has not been guiltless in this matter. This tragic situation was summed up long ago by Professor Richet:

'Our own conviction—the conviction of men who have seen—ought properly to convince other people; but, by a curious inversion of rôles, it is *their* conviction, the negative conviction of people who have *not* seen—and who ought not, one would think, to speak on the matter—which weakens and ultimately destroys our own conviction!' (*Proc.*, vol. xiv, p. 156)

MANFRED CASSIRER

## NOTES AND NOTICES

WE regret to announce the Death of Mr David Cohen, President of the Manchester Society for Psychical Research, and a member of our society since 1957. His recent book *Harry Price and his Spirit Child 'Rosalie'* was reviewed in this *Journal* for December 1965.

## ABSTRACT

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

### A NEW APPLICATION OF ELECTRO-PHYSIOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES TO THE STUDY OF EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION.<sup>1</sup>

The most urgent need in parapsychology is for a repeatable experiment. It is argued that the reason why this has not yet been achieved is because we do not yet know what are the *conditions* that favour ESP's occurrence. The hypothesis is put forward that the crucial condition is the psychological state of the subject at the

<sup>1</sup> Abstract of a paper delivered at the conference of the British Psychological Society, Swansea 31st March–4th April 1966; reprinted from the Proceedings of the conference by permission of the President.