

the end of the operation the sponges were counted, and found correct, no one knew that the half sponge was left in the patient's abdomen.

We have known Sisters blamed for no fault of their own when mistakes have occurred, and they cannot too tenaciously claim their rights in waiting upon the surgeon.

When a life is at stake the care exercised cannot be too great, and severe censure, at least, should follow the occurrence of "mistakes" which should never happen if proper care is exercised.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

GIVE THE MOST INTERESTING REPORT OF SECOND SIGHT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED, OR OF WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss M. M. G. Bielby, Cranford, Middlesex.

PRIZE PAPER.

The following story of Second Sight, Clairvoyance or Astral Vision was related to me some years ago by a friend, whom I will call Miss E., shortly after it occurred:—

One bright morning Miss E., who was friend and private secretary of a famous man of affairs, whom I will refer to as Mr. X., accompanied the latter to the door of a certain Embassy in a long and quiet London street, when he told her to walk slowly up the street towards another house where he would join her, as his appointment would not detain him long. Miss E. had walked about two hundred yards when she heard footsteps running behind her, and turned to meet a hatless and breathless page. "The gentleman says you are to go back, Miss, he wants you," he told her. Wondering greatly, for this was quite unlike Mr. X.'s ways, Miss E. retraced her steps. At the Embassy there was no sign of Mr. X., and she waited there until he appeared.

On hearing the story of the boy's message he disclaimed all knowledge of it; he had been talking with the Ambassador all the time he was in the house. But the boy was positive that Mr. X. had come down into the hall and told him to run after the lady and bring her back. The mystery appeared insoluble.

However, Mr. X. and Miss E. proceeded on their way. A little beyond that point where Miss E. had turned back, a crowd had gathered round a motor-car on the pavement, wrecked by its collision with area railings. Had Miss E. not turned back when she did she would, so they calculated, have been just at the spot of the accident when it occurred. It should be explained that both Mr. X. and

Miss E. were highly developed psychics, accustomed to focus their Consciousnesses on that plane next above the physical plane, namely, the astral. But Miss E. had no premonition at all of threatening danger.

The solution of the mystery at which they arrived was that during his conversation at the Embassy, which involved the brain mind, the Consciousness or Ego of Mr. X., functioning in the astral body, perceived—as is possible with astral vision—the impending accident, and took action to save his friend from it. His appearance to the boy could easily be explained as that of a powerful thought-form, which would appear to anyone slightly clairvoyant as the real man. But there was the voice to be accounted for, as only by those who are clairaudient can the astral voice be heard. This fact presupposes a certain degree of materialisation from someone at hand who was mediumistic, probably the boy himself, the very essence of mediumship being the ready separability of the principles—astral, physical, &c.

Another possible theory is that the appearance of Mr. X. was taken for a moment by an *Invisible Helper* to whom the Ego of Mr. X. had communicated his anxiety concerning his friend's danger. There are many instances on record of this mode of manifestation; but where the voice is heard this, too, involves partial materialisation. The unusual feature of the incident was that no impression of the vision reached the brain mind, which was concentrated on a political matter.

As I know by personal experience, it is possible to be momentarily fully conscious and clairaudient on the astral and physical planes simultaneously, the sensation being that of extended vision—including one who has passed over—as of a door suddenly opening. From the numerous cases on record of this type of phenomena I cannot recall another instance where the Consciousness manifested exactly as described in this story, though a somewhat analogous condition exists in the mode by which an Ego in earth-life vivifies by his love the thought-forms his friends in the Heaven-world have made of him, receiving in his Consciousness a return of love without his brain mind having any knowledge of the transaction, although it conduces to his general happiness and greatly assists his evolution by developing his capacity for loving.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Anna M. Cameron, Mrs. G. Firth Scott, Miss M. Sanders.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)