

## RANDOM NOTES.

The case of Grocer's Assistant Hoffman, who when taken to Bellevue Hospital, was found to have forgotten his own name and his former condition in life, is to receive the attention of several eminent psychologists in Detroit, one of them being Dr. Robert A. Robertson, the compiler and annotator of the remarkable manuscript left by the late D. P. Jamieson, of Detroit, a man who from boyhood until the time of his death possessed two distinct mental organizations. There is some little similarity between his experiences and those of the grocery clerk's.

Hoffman, as his name was subsequently learned to be, was found wandering about on the East side in a dazed condition. He was taken to the hospital, where he was unable to tell his own name or where he lived. He spoke like an educated man, and talked rationally on all subjects save his own individuality. He had a vague remembrance of a grocery store, which was located near green fields, and he could dimly recall a crowded street in which there were many tall tenements. The experiment of driving him about the city to see if he would recognize any familiar objects was attempted, and he was taken through the East side and then out to Kingsbridge, Highbridge and over the river to Jersey. Occasionally he would see a building that seemed familiar, but when the people in it were approached they could not recognize their visitor.

While in this condition, Hoffman was able to play the piano, and displayed a sensitive ear for musical harmony. This faculty seemed to fade as the struggle between the man as he was and his alter ego proceeded. His voice and expression changed, and when he left the hospital he was altogether a different looking man from the man who entered it.

Jamieson's case as related by Dr. Robertson, was more wonderful than that of Hoffman's. The subject was rather precocious as a child, and had mastered the elementary principles of mechanical philosophy and chemistry at the age of 12. He was apprenticed to a chemist at the age of 17, and by that time had gone deeply in philosophical research and the occult sciences. One day while visiting his parents he was suddenly stricken with what appeared to be catalepsy. He lost the power of speech and motion, and for four months remained in a semi-lethargic state. Then he became able to articulate a few unmeaning sounds, and gradually to learn to speak. He had forgotten absolutely everything of his past life and had to be taught the alphabet like a child of 3 or 4 years. He continued to receive instruction for fifteen years, when, while eating a meal he became unconscious and fell from his chair. When his senses returned, in about half an hour, he was the precocious youth of fifteen years before. He was amazed at the aged appearance of his father and mother, and did not recognize at all the twin children born about four years before.

In the manuscript bequeathed to Dr. Robertson, all this is related, and then the writer goes on to tell of an experience which shows him to have been possessed of at least an amazingly fertile imagination. He passed from the second mental state, he says, to another, in which his soul seemed to leave his body and soar upward. He was seized while in a telegraph office and describes his sensations thus:

"In my ascent from the earth, a desire to take a final survey of the sphere of former existence seized me, and looking backwards, I discovered that I had just emerged from the atmosphere, and had thus, in a moment, as it were soared fifty miles!

I once noticed a very strange phe-

nomenon, viz. The atmosphere arose from the earth like an immense cone, with its apex toward the moon. This set me to cogitating upon what I had previously been taught to believe concerning lunar attraction being the principal cause of the tidal wave. From the appearance which now presented itself to me, I was led to imagine that this attraction was first exerted upon our atmosphere, which, being more mobile than water, became first drawn from the ocean, thereby diminishing the pressure upon the general surface. This theory, if correct, would more rationally account for the rise of the tidal wave upon both hemispheres at the same time than the present accepted opinion upon that subject.

"In nearing the lunar surface, I perceived a hazy appearance, as if from the presence of an atmosphere, which seemed 12 miles in depth, and in color a pale green. In another moment I found myself upon the surface—a silent, solitary spectator of a world upon which, presumably, no other human being had ever trodden! The sight which presented itself was that of blank desolation. Not a blade of grass, a tree, shrub, or vestige of anything pertaining to either vegetable or animal life was anywhere visible; while the most appalling sounds filled the surrounding atmosphere. Long, irregular ranges of huge mountains arose in the dim distance, many of which appeared fully fifteen miles in height. Between the most extensive ranges were deep, dark valleys, while perpendicular cliffs presented a repellent but sublime aspect. Deeply serrated projections, several thousand yards in depth, of hard, dull and scorched appearance, were seen at intervals, while sharp peaks, like immense chimney stacks, towered aloft—many of them at angles which threatened to hurl them into the yawning abysses, ten thousand yards beneath!"

But this ambitious Ego was not content with a trip to such a nearby satellite as the moon. It must get further away, and, regardless of what might happen to the rigid body in the telegraph office, made a dead set for the planet Venus.

"In descending upon this planet," he said, "I discovered an extensive atmosphere, probably sixty miles in depth, of considerable density, and in color a light green. But how great the contrast as compared with the lunar phenomena which I had just before witnessed! A gentle breeze floated over the surface, unaccompanied by any unnatural sounds or disagreeable effects. The surface indeed presented a broken and rugged aspect; but beautiful plains and valleys spread out into the far distance. While majestic mountains, some of which were fully twelve miles in height, arose at regular intervals—not abrupt, dark and frowning, but descending in easy gradations into immense plateaus, a thousand miles in area.

"The lower ranges sparkled with various colors, as if from gems set in polished brass, and the brilliant display of tints presented a panorama widely different from anything known to my previous experience. But the most remarkable feature observed was the total absence of vegetation—not a trace of which was anywhere visible. The general surface, however, was comparatively smooth, as if from the action of water, at no remote period. The rocky crust, too, appeared rounded, of an iron gray color, though in many places a light straw—rarely white.

"Minerals were plentifully distributed and in their combinations produced much of the beautiful colorings everywhere present—especially on the projecting slopes facing the sun. Metallic bodies were not so common, or so diversified, though sufficiently so to impart variety to the general brilliant effect.

"By this time I began to observe a

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number of very strange looking beings totally different from anything I had noticed hitherto. These creatures were fitting to and fro in the atmosphere."

The description of the inhabitants of the planet is a remarkable specimen of morbid imagination. Dr. Quincy's opium eater in his wildest delirium moments never conjured up such shapes as these:

"The creature under consideration is about eighteen inches in length and furnished with three wing-shaped paddles, which are attached to the upper third of the body, and at points equidistant upon

a plane perpendicular to the longer axis. These are the locomotor organs and are eleven inches in length, flexible, muscular and freely movable in all horizontal directions. They are firmly attached to a cartilaginous collar of elastic substance.

"The head is placed above and in the center of the locomotor arrangement, and is four inches in diameter, the long anterior-posterior exceed the lateral by one inch. Upon the upper forehead is an oval prominence or orbit slightly different in color and structure from the surrounding parts, this is an eye. Lat-