

What Has Become of the Ghosts?

GHOSTS are no longer fashionable. The spook of our fathers is out of date. No longer is the ghastly, shivery thing in white allowed entrance into our best circles. The ghost as a popular institution in the world of affairs is a back number.

Where a few years ago spiritual apparitions of all kinds were seen and noted extensively among all classes and manners of people, the rich and the poor, the ignorant and the learned, the all doors are closed to them, and it is only with the Society of Psychical Research that they are received with open arms. Here, because it is a matter of faith with the psychists to believe in and enthuse over the supernatural, ghosts, or "spiritual apparitions," are still seen. But even here ghosts are not allowed to go with the same "one thought thrills and tremors to one's ears, but are recorded as real, although immaterial, actualities." So it can be safely said that ghosts, the old, reliable brand of ghosts, are completely out of style.

The decline and fall of the spook has not been what might be termed rapid. For long years, in fact since the writings and signs of men reach back, the apparition has had a place in the world, and yet not of the world. There is the writing on the wall, of centuries ago, and the spiritualists of the day might have all the wall writing they cared for; Caesar came to speak to Brutus on the eve of Philippi; and it is at the present writing possible to secure an interview with the departed for the low sum of \$1. But these are not ghosts, these affairs are a modern day. They are simply manifestations, and it is seldom now one hears of a ghost or mesmerist with any one who is strongly interested in them. And once the person who had not been at least one good, decent sized ghost was decidedly out of drop.

Belief in Occult Growing.

"The decrease in the number of apparitions and recorded does not mean there has been any decrease in the number of people who are ready, and even anxious, to believe they see a ghost when the occasion offers," said Dr. J. G. Klerman, in speaking of the decreasing number of ghost stories. "On the contrary, there may be said to be an actual increase in the number of persons who are willing to give credence to the supernatural and occult. Where a few years ago any one who thought they saw what they were pleased to term a ghost went forthwith and labeled it as such, now these things are all made regular matters of record and observation by the Society of Psychical Research. This society is a large one. Its branches may be found in every English speaking country in the world, and here in our United States there are approximately 2,000,000 people who belong to it or who believe in its teachings. The tendency of the day to systematize everything is shown by the manner in which even the ghosts are being systematized into sects.

"The psychists are constantly adding to their number. That is possibly the reason why so few ghost stories are told nowadays. Instead of relating his or her spiritual experiences, the person who has seen an 'apparition' now goes to a psychical meeting and there relates and discusses 'experiences.' The reason for an increase in the number of persons with these beliefs may be laid originally to the natural inclination of many towards the occult, the supernatural. The belief in ghosts is only a survival of the ancient savage belief that every thing possessed a soul. This belief was firmly rooted in primitive man, and apparently there are many persons who are still primitive in this respect.

Hysterical Easily Deluded by Sensory Hypnotism.

With this belief firmly implanted, and with the young person's education from the beginning tending to instruct only in facts, without logic, it is not strange the belief in the 'spiritual' is so prevalent. However, it will be generally found that the person who is so inclined is of the extremely nervous, hysterical type. To this class of person sensory hypnotism, converting the subjective impression of that which seems to exist into a seeming perception of that which is, is easy.

"Ghosts as the term is generally used, are invariably the result directly of a fallacy of the perception. Few persons are gifted with the proper faculties of perception and observation. They cannot see things which are to be seen and can see many things which seem to, but do not, exist.

"With this equipment of fallacious perception and with a real desire and anxiety to have a spiritual 'experience,' it is quite possible for the psychist to see what they want to see, to make the impossible visible, to themselves at least, and so go through life firmly convinced they have seen apparitions. They might be said to force themselves to see ghosts. The percentage of people who have a yearning for that which they cannot understand is surprisingly large.

Supernatural Explanation Only a Theory.

"Then of course there is the ghost which is of this earth, generally some young fool with a sheet over his or her head, which is sometimes seen, scaring some one nearly to death. Of this class there are ghosts without number. So many of them have been caught and exposed by the people whom they sought to deceive it would seem the sensible, material view of all such apparitions should be accepted even by the most hysterical. The material hypothesis is obvious in all these cases. Any satisfactory explanation must be such as to eliminate all possible of any other hypothesis. The supernatural explanation is at the best only a theory, and still allows of the material hypothesis. The haunted house is one form which these 'material' apparitions take, and nine out of ten 'haunted' houses are found to be haunted

because of thieves or other depredators, and the cause of the other one is generally some one with a penchant for scaring others.

"There was, not many years ago, a haunted house in this city. The owner was away, and in his absence the house was empty. Soon after his departure the residence began to bear all the earmarks of the regular haunted house. Strange, uncanny lights were seen at the windows, moaning noises were heard frequently, and even ghostly figures were said to appear. The reputation of the house grew to be such that no one could be found to occupy it, and it fell into the disuse common to all houses that own to a 'haunt.' No one cared to investigate the cause until the owner returned. Then it was found that the house was just as it had been left, except that the lead pipe and other plumbing fixtures had been removed. It was quite simple to connect the 'spirits' with their disappearance.

Belief in Supernatural Makes Easy Victim.

"The most typical instance of the ghost whose mission on earth was to frighten that ever came under my observa-

Sweden saw an apparition which was never satisfactorily explained. Later Lord Lytton had dreams that resulted in the appearance of ghostly figures.

Mark Twain's Visitor a Mystery.

"Of comparatively recent days Mark Twain and Rudyard Kipling have been among the notables to have spiritual experiences. No one could with any degree of success accuse

the humorous Mark with having any suspicion of being a delver into occultism, and yet Mark saw a real ghost. Said ghost was seen one afternoon boldly walking up the front steps of Twain's residence. He entered, according to Mark, as if he were accustomed to entering there. Twain followed as swiftly as he could. At the doorway his reliable butler met him.

"Where is he?" queried Mark breathlessly.

"Who, sir? asked the astonished butler.

"The thing that just entered."

"There has nobody entered here this afternoon, sir," replied the faithful servant. A search of the house was made, but no traces of any one or anything were found. Twain has never solved the 'mystery' to his satisfaction to this day.

Kipling Fooled by Sensory Hypnotism.

"Kipling, when he made India his home, had been writing other people's ghost stories with great success. 'The Phantom Rickshaw' and 'The Strange Ride of Morrowbie Jukes' had come from his pen, but never had Kipling had a real ghost experience himself until he ran across his 'Own True Ghost Story.' His experiences in this instance substantiate materially the hypothesis of sensory hypnotism in regard to matters spiritual.

"Mr. Kipling was spending a night in an old dilapidated building with only the old caretaker for company. It happened that the caretaker was gifted with the powers of story telling, as Mr. Kipling heard how the building wherein he stopped had once been an officers' club, and how the officers had died there of fever. At night he woke up and began to hear things. He heard billiard balls clacking and rolling in the room, heard laughs and tinkle of glasses, horses neighing in the compound and the jangle of spurs as ghostly booted feet trod across the floor. It was a most satisfactory experience, but in the end it was spoiled, as are all good ghost stories, by the discovery that the old caretaker's tale of the officers' club was only a fantastic piece of imagery, that the building had never in its existence housed a company of officers. The billiard balls were a couple of scurrying mice, the tinkling glass a rattling window pane. It was really too bad."

Expectation Conjures a Ghost.

India seems to be prolific in ghosts, haunts, and apparitions of many kinds. A case which long was believed to be wonderful in its authenticity and which was hailed with delight by the Psychical Society was that of two young English officers of a native cavalry regiment. The two were seated at a table one night and suddenly by their sides appeared the figure of a man. Gradually the figure became more visible and finally they made it out to be the brother of one of them, an officer who was stationed with his regiment at Gibraltar.

"It's Don," said the living brother. "I'll bet a horse he's dead."

"He had a blooming fine hat, whoever he was," commented the other officer when the apparition had disappeared. "If he's dead I wish I had asked him for it; he'll not need it any more."

With the next mail there came a letter announcing the death of the brother and the hour of his death corresponded with the one of the apparition's appearance. This was a "sending" if there ever was sending on earth. As proof of the appearance of spirits it was held to be incontestable. Investigation, however, revealed the fact that the death of the brother had long been expected to occur and that the two young officers had sat down that evening to drown their prospective sorrows in drink.

Expecting a report of his demise every minute, they were able to easily hypnotize their faculties of perception into a condition which made that which ought to appear actually appear to them. This would have been possible without the aid of drinking, but one of the great aids for seeing ghosts is that which is commonly termed "a package."

mentor. A long, bony hand reached out from the folds of the sheet, caught the revolver, and waved it threateningly above its head. That was too much for the young man. He fainted, and for three months was the victim of confusional insanity, such as often appears under similar circumstances, but in the end he made a good recovery.

"And so, through the long list of famous specters of all ages, they all have been, or might have been, explained from the material standpoint. As Wilkes of London said, when the extraordinary occurs the only satisfactory hypothesis is the one which precludes all possibility of any other hypothesis."

Visual Apparitions Well Authenticated.

But in spite of the array of common sense Dr. Klerman brings to show the fallacy of all ghost belief there are many people far above the average in thought and logic who have a decided leaning toward the spiritual. Mr. Andrew Lang, the English writer, in a résumé of his book, "Hours with Ghosts," says: "I have been asked the question time and again by people whose position entitles them to be answered, 'Do you believe in ghosts?' To this I will say the popular definitions of the term 'ghost' are so numerous that to reply in a general manner would be unsatisfactory. But, assuming that 'ghost' is taken to mean a visual apparition, then it must be said that the evidences of sensory delusions resulting in well defined hallucinations are too numerous and too well attested to be ignored. If these apparitions are caused by a physical effect produced by the minds of the dead then they are distinctly supernatural.

"This hypothesis is firmly supported by the frequency with which these occurrences take place in rooms and houses where deaths have occurred, especially tragic deaths, prompting the assumption that the sensory delusions result from the ambiguity of the stimuli." Mr. Lang says in a sort of defense explanation of 400 pages of "experiences":

"These experiences cover a space of several hundred years and range from the wonderful to the ridiculous, the inexplicable to the simple tricks of a fool. Ben Jonson once upon a time went to investigate a ghost which had made a part of England famous. He found it to be a young girl who was wearing her hysterical disposition in appearing nightly in a sheet. Lord Brougham while on a visit to

tion occurred several years ago. A young countryman came to Chicago to work who was full of a fear of the hereafter, and who had a profound belief in all things supernatural. His belief took the form of active fear and constant expectation of the extraordinary happening. In addition to this, he heard much of the dangers of the city, and to protect himself he carried a large revolver. Under these circumstances it was extremely easy to play the conventional ghost trick on him.

"Several of the young people with whom he lived conspired to give him a treat of the spiritual. They carefully removed the cartridges from his revolver while he slept at night and loaded the weapon with blank cartridges. One of the young men, attired in a sheet and other ghostly paraphernalia, then went to the sleeper's bed. The young man was awakened with the aid of some ghostly music and upon

opening his eyes was treated to the sight of a terrible specter standing at the foot of his bed, waving his arms in the most orthodox ghost manner.

"Terror stricken, he reached for his revolver and fired, once, twice, and three times, right through the figure before him, and the figure never evidenced that it noticed. Rising in his bed, the man hurried his weapon straight at his tor-

Strange DUAL LIFE led by a THREE YEAR OLD BOY

THE strange dual life led by Howard Winham of 143 Brook Avenue, Borough of the Bronx, in New York City, is exciting the interest of students and professors of psychology in the universities and colleges of the east.

Howard Winham is only 3 1/2 years old and is one of twin boys. His twin brother, however, died within a few hours of his birth. From that hour little Howard seems to live in a strange world. In fact, he lives as if he were two boys.

The peculiar phenomenon of his life was not particularly noticeable until he was able to walk. That was some time after he was a year old.

Demands Duplicates of Gifts.

From that time he never seemed to be alone. If he was given a stick of candy he invariably insisted on having two. This, at first, was attributed to his love for candy. But after awhile his parents noticed that he never ate but one piece of the candy. The other he laid aside. To test his peculiarity they would offer him three sticks of candy. Either he would take only two or would insist on having four. If given four he would cut two and lay the other two aside.

As the little boy grew older and could sit at the table in a high chair he would not eat unless an extra plate and an extra spoon were laid beside his own, and more than that he would cry until a vacant chair was placed beside his own. He would not touch the extra plate or spoon, but would not eat unless they were provided.

Little Howard was and is a precocious child. He could talk quite readily at 2 years and even at that age knew the purchasing powers and possibilities that lay in a penny—the universal gold of childhood. When given a penny that would insist on another one. "No, no, no, two, two, two," he would cry. If he could not have two pennies he would not take one. If given two he would run to the grocery store and spend one for candy, but would not spend the other one.

Howard's parents are poor and they cannot afford many pennies or many toys. His first toy was a hoop taken from a barrel, and would with bright colored cloth. His mother taught him how to roll the hoop along the sidewalk with a stick. As soon as he learned the joys of rolling the hoop he promptly demanded another hoop and refused to be comforted until it was made for him, but when he got it he laid

it aside and continued to play with his old one. It was the same way with his first top, his first ball. Everything has to be given him in duplicate, and yet he never plays with more than one.

The child, however, does not insist upon a double supply of wearing apparel. He is content with one cap, one pair of shoes.

Undeterred by Punishment.

For a long time his parents failed to fathom Howard's peculiar mental humor. At first they attributed his peculiarity to selfishness and to whimicality and they even punished him when he insisted on having duplicates of everything.

The child's extraordinary peculiarity finally became known in the neighborhood. It is generally believed by all who know and have observed the child that his life is intimately bound up with some unexplained knowledge of his twin brother. His parents, however, laugh at this theory, and his mother even spansks him in a vain effort to break him of what her neighbors call a "sympathy" for his dead brother.

Of course, little Howard does not know of the little twin brother that died. He is not old enough to realize what it means or would mean even if he were told.

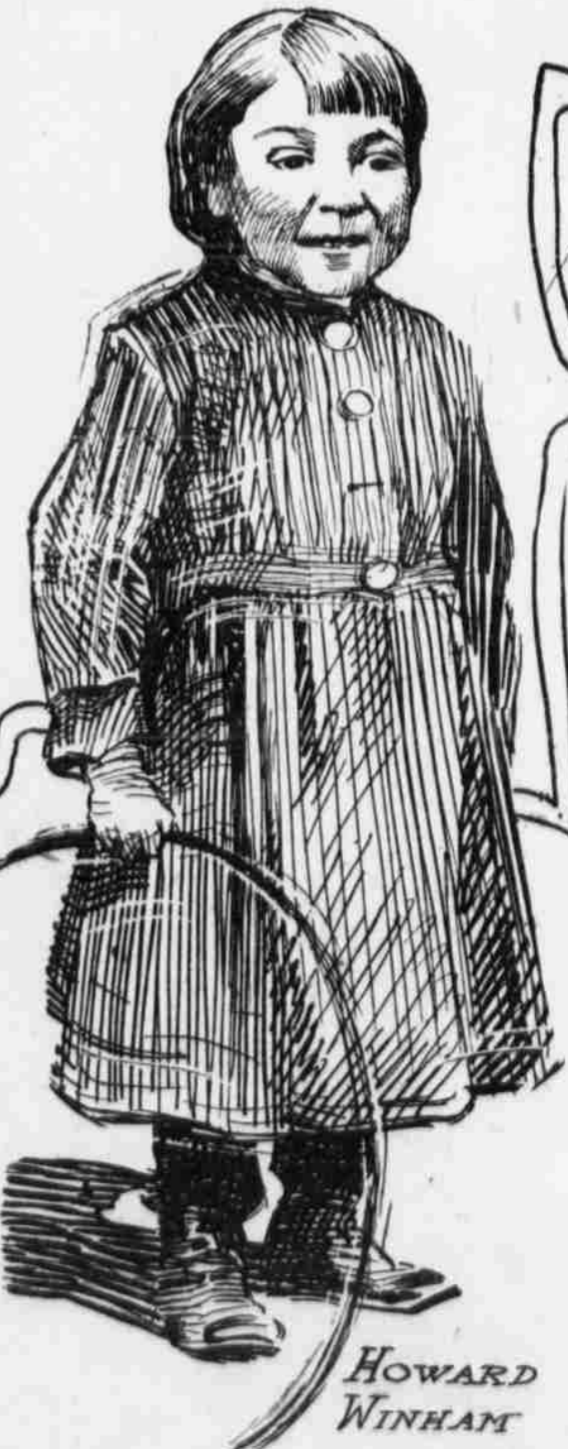
The mother has listened to the pleadings of her friends and neighbors to the extent of promising to keep the knowledge of his twin brother from him as the boy grows older. Even when he becomes old enough to be told and to understand he is to be kept in ignorance of the fact that he ever had a brother.

In the meantime the peculiar mental traits of little Howard Winham attracted the attention of students of psychology at Columbia University and the University of New York. They give it the scientific name of "alternative personality." From their study of psychology they say that as little Howard grows older his tendency to all rative personality may diminish and disappear. In that event he will be of no further interest to psychological science.

If, on the other hand, the boy's tendency to alternative personality increases rather than diminishes he will present an instance of which there have been few in the history of "soul science."

Radical Change in Alternative Personality.

There are only a few well authenticated cases of alternative personality, but these few have excited the keen interest of students of psychology in all countries of the world. Among the more notable cases is that of Herr Strausmann of Alsace, who for years before his death lived unconsciously as two men. Like the little New York boy, Strausmann



had a twin brother who died at birth. There is no record of Strausmann's earlier years, and his peculiar mental characteristics was not recognized until he was 15 years old and at school in Strassbourg. He was a particularly headstrong, vicious boy, careless of dress and manners and indifferent to study. His tutors had almost reached the point where they intended to urge his expulsion from the school.

One day young Strausmann entered the classroom, neatly dressed, and with modest demeanor. He knew his lessons perfectly. His tutor was astonished and complimented the youth upon his marked improvement. The boy expressed unmistakable surprise and denied with unusual earnestness that he had ever been anything else than a diligent student. The tutor let the matter rest.

For six months Strausmann was the model boy of the school and bade fair to carry off the honors of his class. Then, the day fixed for the school examinations, he appeared in the classroom as unkempt, as insolent as ever. More than that, he was entirely ignorant of everything he had studied for six months.

Solved by Scientific Study.

Prof. Herzog, the principal of the school, divined that there was something mysterious in young Strausmann's

mentality and he proceeded to make a close study of the boy. He took him into his own family in order to be able to make closer observations.

At the end of three years of careful study Prof. Herzog revealed to the scientific world one of the strangest cases of alternative personality ever known. Young Strausmann vibrated unconsciously between two personalities. The changes in his character were irregular as well as involuntary. Strausmann the brutal, insolent, ignorant youth would become Strausmann the gentle, considerate, well learned, almost in an instant. In his better moods Strausmann was a musician, a linguist, a gentleman. In his opposite mood he was an ignorant lout.

In neither mood did Strausmann recognize himself in the other. In his later years he came to know of his own strange dual character. In his gentler mood he sought to study his other self, but while he realized that part of the time he had another existence he could not recall even for an instant any of the peculiarities of his other self. He never knew when his mood changed.

Phenomena Made Famous by Stevenson.

Alternative personality is by no means an unrecognized phenomena even by those who do not know it by that name. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote one of his most notable books with alternative personality as its motive and every theater-goer in the United States knows the book, for no play is of more common knowledge than "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Herr Strausmann of Alsace Lorraine was only the forerunner of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, and little Howard Winham of New York may live to supply fiction and the drama with another character equally strange and mysterious.