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SARAH B. HARRIS, Editor

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OBSERVATIONS.

The Stotsenburg Fund.

Had Colonel Stotsenburg lived, there would have been no need of a Stotsenburg fund. No man in the army had a brighter or more assured future than Colonel Stotsenburg and when the war, which he entered as a captain, was over, he would have been a general. He would not have asked anything of Nebraska, but if he had come home with the First, in the gladness of the return of the volunteers and the rejoicing over their glorious record, their colonel would have received a hero's share of gratitude and fame, which would have had as immediate effect upon the war department as in the case of General Funston. But Colonel Stotsenburg did his duty first always. When he was ordered to take out from themen's pay enough to pay for the cook's services and for the stores stolen during the voyage across the ocean, he tried insofar as an inferior officer might, to alter the decision. Failing, he enforced the order as though he approved it. He realized that it would make him unpopular with the volunteers but he did his duty then, as, when standing under shelter behind the rice fields at Quingua where the Nebraska boys lay in the trenches he realized that the only way to get the soldiers out of the trap into which they had been led, was to order a

charge. He himself then advanced over the field where the men crouched in the rice ruts. As he leaped from hollow to hollow he was a conspicuous object, and besides the men cheered him. He fell with a bullet in his heart just as he reached the men and ordered a charge. He was late arriving. The attack was unexpected and Colonel Stotsenburg was off duty when the trouble occurred. When the men were once on their faces in that rice field the officers were uncertain as to how to get them out. A retreat would keep them in the line of fire longer than an advance but a retreat was about to be ordered when the Colonel of the First Nebraska reached the battle field. Without stopping he ordered up the big guns, glanced about, realized the greater loss of life should a retreat be ordered and, not crouching or stooping, ran on to the field himself. To save his own soldiers and to do his best as a soldier and an officer was all he thought of. It seems to me if the commonwealth of Nebraska fails to recognize the obligation that rests upon it because of this soldier's unhesitating, brave doing of his duty, we are lacking in the common, primary, virtues.

Mrs. Stotsenburg is an invalid. She has never recovered from the shock of her husband's death and from the strain of that long journey across the Pacific when she brought back to his country the man who had fought a good fight, who had been misunderstood and maligned but who fought just the same. Perhaps some who read these words may hesitate because of the participation in the early suspicions of Colonel Stotsenburg's just treatment of his troops. It is a long time now since those suspicions were proved unfounded. The man who suffered because of them is dead. As a state and as individuals we owe his widow and children support. We owe it to justice to right, as far as possible a wrong, and if we do not pay our debts we are bankrupt in conscience. No sum so small that it will not add to the Stotsenburg fund and to the number of contributors who thereby express gratitude and appreciation of a brave man's life and death.

The Scientist's Medium.

The Society for Psychical Research has monopolized the services for twelve years of Mrs. Piper who lives near Boston. All the sittings given by her are under the charge of Doctor Hodgson, whose detective genius has earned him the reputation of having exposed more mediumistic frauds than any other one man. He even journeyed, years ago, to India to investigate the alleged phenomena of Madame Blavatsky, which he soon discovered were fraudulent. The Society for S. R. has conducted its investigations through Professor Hyslop and he is very sure he has not

been deceived by Mrs. Piper. It is impossible to read his report of Mrs. Piper's trances and messages without being convinced that Professor Hyslop believes that his investigations have demonstrated the fact of personal identity after death, and that the rigid conditions of the investigation have absolutely excluded the hypothesis of fraud.

A curious fact about scholars and scientific men which everyone who has had opportunities of observation has noticed is their childlike simplicity and transparent truthfulness. In experimenting with chemicals, plants, machinery, the phenomena of energy, or animals, scientists record, the results of their experiments with absolute fidelity. Anima's, plants, machinery, chemicals, steam and electricity respond frankly to experiments and the investigator's mind is free to ponder upon the results and meaning of them. A human being whose business and profit it is to run a successful fake considers it a snap when he has only a professor to fool. The more profound his learning, the deeper his attachment to truth for truth's sake, the easier subject is he for the fakir. Mrs. Piper could easily have found out from Professor Hyslop himself and from members of his family the trivial incidents which her reference to while in a trance, has convinced him of her authenticity. But because she closes her eyes and lays her head on a pillow with her face turned away from the right hand which writes, and refers to trivial incidents which any clever woman can gather from conversations with intimates of the man whom she must convince of occult powers to earn a salary of several thousand dollars a year. A better man than Professor Hyslop or Dr. Hodgson to investigate frauds would be the manager of a theatre or of a vaudeville all-the-year-round house. Mrs. Piper and her family would probably protest against being subjected to the vulgar and penetrating scrutiny of such a person. Such a man however, is an adept and it takes an adept to understand an occult.

To the complaints of the trivial nature of the communications addressed through Mrs. Piper to Professor Hyslop, he replies by saying that he has demonstrated that the manner adopted by the communicators is the most natural way as well as the one by which practical results are most quickly obtained. He tried the same experiment with living subjects. He ordered a telephone wire to be stretched between two of the college buildings at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and not letting any one know his object, he asked a number of his colleagues at various times to station themselves at each end of the wire. A at one end knew who B was but B at the other end was totally ignorant of A's identity. A was therefore asked to try by what means

occurred to him to convince B as quickly as possible of his identity. In every instance the facts related were of a trivial character, very similar, in every respect, to those recorded in the reports of the Society for Psychical Research.

Professor Hyslop believes, however, that it is only permitted to scientists to investigate spiritistic phenomena. He says: "I must in the beginning enter a strong protest against private investigation of spiritistic phenomena. It does not tend to help on the great object of the society, and in most cases, it does the investigator more harm than good. After a bereavement it is the first impulse of many women to seek an interview with a medium in the hope of receiving some communication from the departed. This is the impulse of an unhealthy mind and should be promptly discouraged. That there are mediums who are frauds has been proven time and again, and if the public wishes to gain reliable information upon the subject, by far the best way is to read and study the reports of the society." In this last phrase is the true intolerance of the "original investigator." It is not given to you to use your own mind and your own observation coupled with your own opportunities of investigation, but listen to, and read the reports of a calf-eyed experimentalist in psychic phenomena, a man of the sort who buys gold bricks and considers humanity as so many reports or as so much steam with unretaliatory characteristics and passive devotion to science and the members of the Society for Psychical Research, F. R. S.

Mr. Thompson's Candidacy.

Judging from an article which appeared in these columns last week, both the friends and the opponents of Mr. Thompson concluded that The Courier was in favor of Mr. Thompson's candidacy. The Courier is unalterably opposed to the election of Mr. Thompson to the senate of the United States. Two years ago, when the delegation to the legislature was nominated it was vaguely suspected that Mr. Thompson had designs upon it. But the opposition of the men, who, after all, have fought the battles of republicanism in this county and state was not really aroused until the men who had pledged Mr. Thompson their votes, were seated and actually began to fulfill their obligations to their boss. The time has come again when active work by united leaders can easily defeat bossism. Unless conviction is opposed to persistency, unless unselfish devotion to principle is opposed to the most unscrupulous selfishness, unless the men who are a credit to the state and who would adequately represent it in congress, settle their personal jealousies and differences, and unite upon a leader