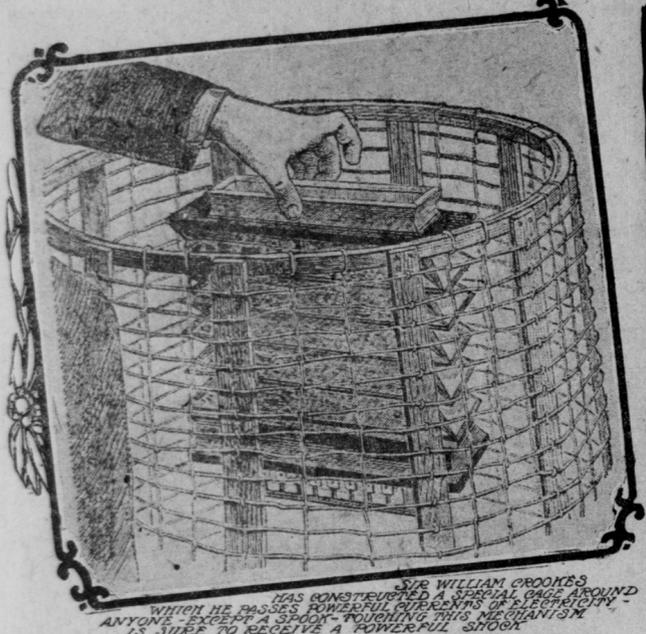
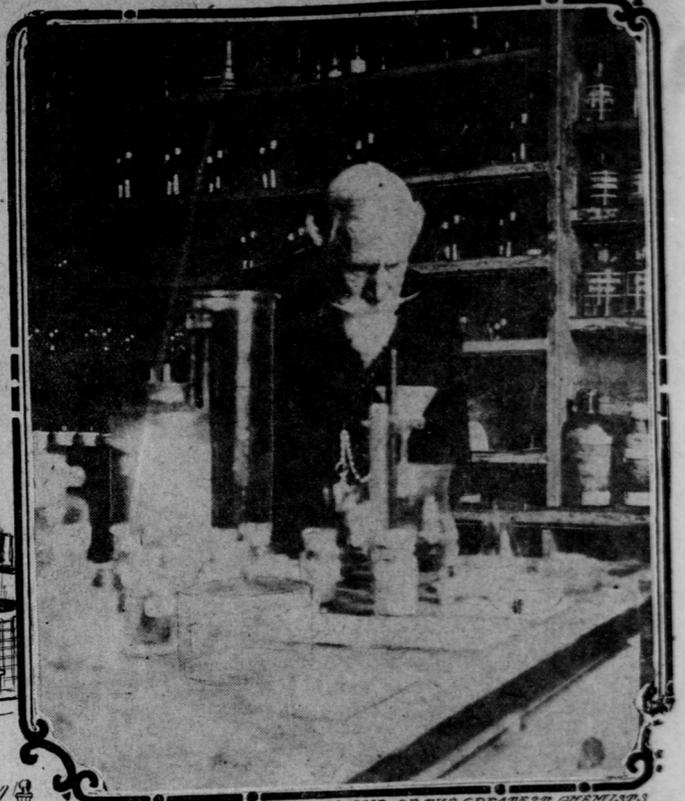


Sir William Crookes Sees Spooks



SIR WILLIAM CROOKES HAS CONSTRUCTED A SPECIAL CAGE AROUND WHICH HE PASSES POWERFUL CURRENTS OF ELECTRICITY. ANYONE—EXCEPT A SPOOK—TOUCHING THIS MECHANISM IS SURE TO RECEIVE A POWERFUL SHOCK.



SIR WILLIAM CROOKES IS ONE OF THE GREATEST CHEMISTS IN THE WORLD—HIS DISCOVERY OF THE ELEMENT THALLIUM WON HIM FAME.

AFTER UNIQUE EXPERIMENTS, THE GREAT ENGLISH SCIENTIST JOINS WITH W. T. STEAD IN VOICING POSITIVE CONVICTIONS

LONDON, July 31.—Spiritualism is attracting a lot of attention in England just now. W. T. Stead, the famous editor of the Review of Reviews, has abandoned his editorial offices and converted them into a sort of spiritualistic telephone exchange, where the living may call up and communicate with the so-called dead. The exchange is under the spiritual guidance of a disembodied personality named "Julia," who for many years has been Stead's mentor in things ghostly. While Mr. Stead is conducting his investigations in a somewhat journalistic style, other seekers are peering into the darkness of the unknown by means of scientific searchlights. Among these are Sir William Crookes, the famous British savant; Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, codiscoverer of the Darwinian theory; Sir Oliver Lodge, Professor Richet of Paris; Camille Flammarion, the great astronomer; Marconi, and others. Foremost among these scientific investigators is Sir William Crookes. He is the inventor of the Crookes tube, which made the X-rays demonstrable. He also discovered the new element, thallium, and has to his credit other great scientific achievements. Sir William Crookes is one of the most conservative men of science in the world. He never makes a statement without being able to corroborate every word; he is the personification of patient research. He has been in turn the president of nearly all the great English learned bodies of repute. To catalogue his title to distinction would occupy almost a couple of columns by itself.

known outside the immediate circle of his acquaintances. Of course, any man who boldly announces such daring theories as have been set forth by Sir William must be prepared for an avalanche of skeptical opposition. But the same statement applies to any pioneer in the field of human endeavor whose vision into the future carries him farther than the vista outlined in the ordinary perspective. When Sir William Crookes announced his remarkable theory that matter existed in the ultragaseous, or radiant form, the scientific world laughed him to scorn. When he further stated that matter and force appeared to merge into each other, another howl of derision went up from the learned elite. The discovery of radium and the wonderful action of the X-rays have, however, turned the tables on these scoffers, and now Sir William Crookes enjoys his triumph in the general approbation, not only of his fellow scientists, but of the world at large. What is it, then, that brought Sir William Crookes to his firm convictions on spiritualism? Mainly, the series of remarkable investigations which he conducted a few years ago and which he has continued in recent times. His early investigations took the form of a series of scientific experiments conducted with various mediums, notable among whom was D. D. Home. It has been said time and again that Home proved a fraud, and that Sir William was deceived by clever legerdemain. As a matter of fact, however, Sir William Crookes subjected Home to some of the most rigid scientific tests imaginable. One of these tests consisted in suspending an accordion in a cage consisting of hoops forming a drum receptacle, around which were wrapped 50 yards of copper wire. The cage was so high that it just fitted under Sir William's dining room table, so close, in fact, that no one could put his hand in over the top. The wires of the cage were connected up to powerful batteries, so that any one attempting to manipulate the mechanism would receive a shock quite capable of suspending spiritualistic phenomena of the "trick" variety. Into this cage the scientist introduced the accordion. Sir William describes this experiment in his own words as follows: "Very soon the accordion was seen by those on each side to be waving about in a somewhat curious manner; then sounds came from it and finally several notes were played in succession. While this was going on, my assistant went under the table and reported that the accordion was expanding and contracting. Presently the accordion was seen by those on the other side to move about, oscillating, going round and round the cage and playing at the same time."

When Sir William passed a powerful electric current around the cage it seemed to add to the phenomena rather than to retard it. "I and two of the others present," said Sir William, further describing this incident, "saw the accordion distinctly floating about inside the cage with no visible support. This was repeated a second time after a short interval." Another remarkable phenomenon manifested under strict test conditions was the disturbance of a balance carefully adjusted by Sir William Crookes himself. A board was arranged perfectly horizontal and the medium's hands were placed one and a half inches from the extremity. Without his touching this board it was made to move, showing a weight of 140 pounds. The medium's hands and feet were kept under control by Sir William and

his assistants and it was utterly impossible that any deception could have been practiced. These two incidents are only the first of a long series of similar experiments conducted by Sir William Crookes and his scientific helpers. He invented a number of electrical machines, recording instruments and clockwork mechanisms to assist him in keeping check on "the human element" which might have entered into his personal investigations. In all these experiments he never allowed his judgment to be carried away either by the novelty of the phenomena or the apparent unquestionableness of the results. Nothing was accepted without first subjecting it to the severest possible analysis. It has often been said that spirits are such strange folk they fight shy of cross examination and stand aloof when asked to subject themselves to scrutiny. Around Sir William Crookes, however, there seems to have gathered a band of particularly affable personalities from the world of the unseen. They responded readily to all of his suggestions and even seemed to take pleasure in carrying out his ideas. One of the most remarkable materializing instances described by Sir William Crookes took place in his own dining room. "A beautifully formed small hand rose up from an opening in the dining table and gave me a small flower," he says, describing this apparition. "It appeared, then disappeared three times at intervals, affording me ample opportunity of satisfying myself that it was as real in appearance as my own. This occurred in the light of my own room." "On another occasion," he continued, "a small hand and arm like a baby's appeared to play about a lady who was sitting next to me. It then passed to

me and patted my arm and pulled my coat several times. A hand has repeatedly been seen by myself and others playing the keys of an accordion. The hands and fingers did not always appear to me to be solid and lifelike. Sometimes, indeed, they presented more the appearance of a nebulous cloud partly condensed into the form of a hand. For instance, a flower or other small object is seen to move; one person present will see a luminous cloud hovering over it; another will detect a nebulous looking hand, while others will see nothing at all but the moving flower. I have more than once

seen the object move; then a luminous cloud appears to form about it, and lastly the cloud condenses into shape and become a perfectly formed hand. At this stage the hand is visible to all present. It is not always a mere form, but sometimes appears perfectly lifelike and graceful, the fingers moving and the flesh apparently as human as any in the room; at the wrist or arm it becomes hazy and fades off into a luminous cloud." On one occasion, when experimenting with a long rod, Sir William propounded the following question: "Can the intelligence governing the motion

outside, and to photograph anything also inside the cabinet when the curtain was drawn for the purpose. "Each evening," he continued, "there were three or four exposures of plates in five cameras, giving at least 16 separate pictures at each seance. Some of these were spoilt in the developing and some in regulating the amount of light. Altogether I have 44 negatives, some inferior, some indifferent, and some excellent." The precautions taken by Sir William Crookes to prevent any trickery were most elaborate; in the first place, he locked the doors leading into the portion of his library which he had arranged as a dark cabinet, placing all the keys in his own pocket. Most minute attention was paid to every detail, and his arrangement of lights in the room was so perfect that he secured extraordinary conditions almost equal to daylight. "Katie instructed all the sitters," continued Sir William, "to keep their seats and to keep conditions, but for some time past she had given me permission to do what I liked—to enter and leave the cabinet almost whenever I pleased. I frequently followed her into the cabinet and have sometimes seen her and her medium together. Katie's confidence in me gradually grew until she refused to give a seance unless I took charge of the arrangements. She always wanted me to keep close to her and near the cabinet, and I found that after this confidence was established and she was satisfied that I would not break any promise I made to her the phenomena increased greatly in power and tests were frequently given that would have been impossible had I approached the subject in another manner. "She often consulted me about persons present at the seance, and where they should be placed, for she had become very nervous in consequence of certain ill disposed suggestions that force should be employed as an adjunct to more scientific modes of research. "On several occasions she took my arm in walking and the impression conveyed to my mind that it was a living woman by my side instead of a visitor from the other world was so strong that the temptation to repeat a celebrated experiment became irresistible. Feeling, however, that if I had not a spirit I had at all events a lady close to me, I asked her permission to clasp her in my arms so as to be able to



LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF SIR WILLIAM CROOKES TAKEN RECENTLY AT HIS HOME IN LONDON WHERE HE CONDUCTS EXPERIMENTS



SIR WILLIAM CROOKES AT HIS DESK.

And yet Sir William Crookes, with all his reserve, his incisive reasoning, cool calculation and scientific conservatism, has boldly announced himself a convinced believer in "spooks." The writer lately had the opportunity of discussing this subject at some length with the great English scientist. He stated that recent investigations which he has been conducting have brought him absolute certainty regarding the survival of human personality after death. The experiments carried out by the famous British scientist have not been conducted in the semidarkness of the usual spiritualistic seance cabinet, but in the strong flare of the electric light, and under conditions approaching daylight. Many who hear the name of Crookes mentioned in connection with spiritualistic investigations incline to the idea that the English scientist may have been "taken in" by the usual crew of sleight of hand artists who float about promiscuously in the domain of mediumship. It is easy enough to bamboozle the average man on the street. That an ordinary faker could succeed in deceiving Sir William Crookes is incredible to any one who has ever had occasion to come into contact with the matter of fact man of science in question. When Sir William Crookes first discovered the new element thallium, he spent two years of patient research simply on working out its atomic weight. Before announcing this discovery he tested his facts by a process of elimination which would have appalled most mortals. His investigations into spiritualism have been conducted with the same painstaking determination that characterized his application to scientific problems. He has neglected no detail; slurred no item of import; overlooked no essential. And yet, after years of patient endeavor, he announces himself absolutely convinced of spirit reality by scientific data which he has been enabled to acquire. The story of how Sir William Crookes attained his present knowledge of spiritualistic phenomena is little

verify the interesting observations when a solid experimentalist has recently somewhat verbosely recorded. Permission was graciously given, and I accordingly did—well—as any gentleman would do under the circumstances." In discussing subjects with the writer Sir William stated that he has lately made even more striking experiments than the ones described here. Under circumstances of illumination practically equal to daylight he has obtained wonderful results. All his experiments have been done with the scientific acumen for which he is so famous, and when his more recent investigations are published the world will be treated to a startling story. W. B. NORTHROP.

of this lath change the character of the movements and give me a telegraphic message from the Morse alphabet by taps on my hand? Immediately I said this," continued Sir William, "the character of the taps changed, and the message was continued in the way I had suggested. I heard sufficient to convince me there was a good Morse operator at the other end of the line— wherever that might be." But perhaps the most remarkable experience narrated by Sir William Crookes was his dealing with the spirit of Katie King.

of this lath change the character of the movements and give me a telegraphic message from the Morse alphabet by taps on my hand? Immediately I said this," continued Sir William, "the character of the taps changed, and the message was continued in the way I had suggested. I heard sufficient to convince me there was a good Morse operator at the other end of the line— wherever that might be." But perhaps the most remarkable experience narrated by Sir William Crookes was his dealing with the spirit of Katie King.

of this lath change the character of the movements and give me a telegraphic message from the Morse alphabet by taps on my hand? Immediately I said this," continued Sir William, "the character of the taps changed, and the message was continued in the way I had suggested. I heard sufficient to convince me there was a good Morse operator at the other end of the line— wherever that might be." But perhaps the most remarkable experience narrated by Sir William Crookes was his dealing with the spirit of Katie King.

of this lath change the character of the movements and give me a telegraphic message from the Morse alphabet by taps on my hand? Immediately I said this," continued Sir William, "the character of the taps changed, and the message was continued in the way I had suggested. I heard sufficient to convince me there was a good Morse operator at the other end of the line— wherever that might be." But perhaps the most remarkable experience narrated by Sir William Crookes was his dealing with the spirit of Katie King.

of this lath change the character of the movements and give me a telegraphic message from the Morse alphabet by taps on my hand? Immediately I said this," continued Sir William, "the character of the taps changed, and the message was continued in the way I had suggested. I heard sufficient to convince me there was a good Morse operator at the other end of the line— wherever that might be." But perhaps the most remarkable experience narrated by Sir William Crookes was his dealing with the spirit of Katie King.