

MIDNIGHT MUSINGS.

'Twas midnight; and the placid moon shone down
Upon the hills of this secluded vale,
Giving sweet lustre to the snow clad scene,
And charms found only in some fairy tale.
Methought, while thus I gazed upon the sight
So magnificently grand, and yet so fraught
With food for a reflecting mind, "Thank God!
From lands afar, to these I have been brought."

Yes, here amid these snow capped summits
My bosom swells with joy and gratitude
That I am favored thus to mingle 'mongst
The Saints of God, and ones both wise and good.
While thus I mused, and gazed on Nature's dome,
Bespangled with the orbs that roll in space,
The murmurs round me seem'd to whisper sweet,
"There beings live, in common with our race."

The Skeptic with his creed, "There is no God,"
Might stand aghast at such a sight as this
And ponder well the ill he works himself
To thus ignore the source of all his bliss.
The stars that glisten in the vault above,
The Sun and Moon, with grandeur in their course,
The fish that swim, and beasts that walk o'er earth,
With birds that fly, attest their common source.

Lo! Man, the noblest work of Deity,
With attributes befitting all his laws,
On whom is stamped Jehovah's duplicate,
Might well declare that all things have a cause.
Nay more—from whence have come these yearnings that
So often thrill my soul with anxious throes,
If not from God, the ever-living source?
Alas! the prospect's naught but bitter woes.

The tender herb, amid the forest glade
And mighty oak, that point the way to heaven;
The modest lily, blushing in some dank remote,
Might tell by whom their precious selves were given
When sleep, kind restorative's balmy wing,
Enfolds the forms of mortals, prostrate found
Our mechanism, by a power unseen,
To us unconscious, still performs its round.

Blest thought, that Man, though cast upon this Earth,
Is not an outcast from our Father's care;
But here to gain a knowledge of himself,
And for a grand and better sphere prepare.
To gain this end the gospel has been sent
On angels' lips, with truth and mercy stocked.
A few among the many have received
The key by which these treasures are unlocked.

J. A. L.

Phantasmium.

A NEW AND STARTLING USE OF THE SPECTROSCOPE.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., July 16, 1873.
—DOCTOR Ambrose Pennywick, a Baltimore chemist, well known for his beautiful studies of the spectro-scope, an instrument which he has made a specialty for some years, has been spending the summer in this beautiful country, in order at once to continue his experiments in quiet and to recuperate his health, which has been injured by exhaustive application. He has a cottage on the edge of the town, near the cemetery, and brought here his most delicate test instruments, wishing, if possible, to perfect the analysis he has undertaken of the supposed new metal, helium, which Mr. Lockyer detected in the solar spectrum.

Since he came here he has been much interested in the case of Miss Rachel Lindquist, a Swedish lady, far gone in a consumption, who has for some years been a music teacher here, and is a particular favorite with our citizens, by reason of her gentle manners and her remarkable talent for music. This young lady, of a morbidly nervous temperament—she is the frailest, most spiritual-looking being imaginable, apparently only a soul lightly imprisoned in an almost transparent case—has, ever since her health began to decline, been subject to distressing spectral illusions, as the doctors called them. She is familiarly known, as "the ghost-seer," and the illusions are so painful in their character that she does not dare to go near a graveyard at

night, for the sights she beholds in those localities always throw her into a nervous fever, from which it takes her several days to recover.

Miss Lindquist, who is a very modest, retiring person, has been so much pestered in regard to this matter by a small, but by no means choice tribe of "Spiritualists" of this region, that she is very reluctant to speak of her visions even to her medical advisers. Dr. Pennywick, however, has a way of winning the confidence of every one by honestly deserving it. He showed Miss Rachael that his interest in her was a human and kindly, not merely a scientific interest, and he was able to give her some palliatives that sensibly diminished her sufferings. Hence, when he heard of those illusions and questioned her about them, she readily told him all that she had seen, and described the visions to him as accurately as she could. These visions were not illusions, she said, for they did not visit her in her privacy, nor could she call them before her by an exercise of the will or an indulgence of the imagination. They were luminous appearances which she only saw as emanations over graves; they were more visible in dark nights, and more distinct over recent graves. These emissions of light had no motion from place to place; the focus of each emanation was the grave from which it streamed up; the emanations, however, were always in motion, flickering, quivering, pulsing, waning; now flaming up some yards in height, then shrinking down again to a mere dim, luminous hemisphere. The motions she described as most resembling those of certain brilliant appearances of the Aurora Borealis, which she had witnessed. The light of the apparitions was white, semi-transparent, but not flame-like; rather it resembled filmy, thin, grayish clouds, which, somehow, had a sort of cold, self-radiance. She was always afraid to go near one of these apparitions, which never approached her, but when she had done so, on two or three occasions, she had been conscious of a change—a sort of depressing atmosphere that chilled her to the heart.

Dr. Pennywick listened to her very attentively, and questioned her closely. "My dear," said he, "either, in the morbidly excited state of your system you are victimized by impressions to which more healthy persons are impervious, or else, your sensibilities being refined by disease, you see what is denied to the average eye. But, if you see an actual object, and that object is a luminous one, I may not be able to see it, but my little instrument here will enable me to measure and to test it; and I'll make the experiment. Come with me and point me out one of those graves that has its lumen, that I may bring the spectro-scope to bear upon it for the good of science."

In this way was the first step initiated towards what may turn out to be one of the greatest discoveries of modern science. Dr. Pennywick argued that the spectro-scope must tell him something in regard to a luminosity, no matter of what sort. He is fully advanced in the modern theories, and he is well acquainted with the, as yet, unbridged problems of animal magnetism. Reichenbach's idea of *odyle* and the *odic force* occurred to him at once, and he conceived that Reichenbach's experiments, if they had been conducted in a more genuinely scientific spirit, and with more suitable instruments, might have resulted very differently. Spirits Dr. Pennywick did not believe in, any more than he believed that light and heat could be evolved from the sun without the operation of force. Upon this basis, therefore, he has attempted to bring spectres within the ken of the spectro-scope.

This is not the place, nor am I at liberty to give the process resorted to by Dr. Pennywick. He is only upon the threshold of his discoveries, and he has barely permitted me, after much solicitation, to give in general terms some of the results to which he has so far attained with a remarkable degree of certainty. These results may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. What are called apparitions are but conditions of the force, which has been called animal magnetism.

2. These conditions seem to be subject to the influences of changes (molecular or other) in a subtle ether, which seems to be continually effluent from the bodies of men, and some other animals, and also plants. It is likewise present (statically) in certain minerals, and

in fluids at certain degrees of cohesion.

3. Some of these conditions of this ether (which Dr. Pennywick has provisionally named *lumen*) are capable of being detected by a particular adaptation of the spectro-scope which Dr. Pennywick has invented.

4. He has by this means discovered that the *lumen* is an ethereal substance or gas, produced by the volatilization of a new metal.

5. This metal, known to be such by its characteristic lines in the spectro-scope, is volatilized at an inconceivably low temperature. He calls it *Phantasmium*.

6. Its ethereality and tenuity are so great that it is, apparently, as much more imponderable than hydrogen, as hydrogen is more imponderable than lead.

7. It is consequently agitated by influences inconceivably more subtle than those which influence other substances.

8. Consequently, the greater part of its operations are entirely out of the range of human perception or instrumental tests, as instruments now are. Certain peculiarly organized temperaments, however, are vaguely conscious of their action upon it and its reciprocal action within them; and, moreover, certain other of its conditions are cumulative enough to impress themselves perceptibly upon delicate test instruments in a constant manner.

9. Dr. Pennywick is inclined to believe that nearly all the phenomena of what is called abnormal nervous action are to be traced to the varying conditions of this ethereal *lumen*.

10. He thinks it probable that its dynamic influences are the foundation of nearly everything in the human race which is vaguely grouped under the head of *idiosyncrasy*. To trace up and classify these dynamic influences will, therefore, be one of the most important objects of the science of the future.

11. These dynamic conditions, he thinks, can be regularly induced, and, when that is successfully performed, everything like individuality of temperament, and consequently, everything which is now known as suffering and pain, can be made to disappear from the inheritances of the human race.

If I had time and were permitted, I would tell you instances of this dynamic induction performed by Dr. Pennywick that make the most wonderful experiments of the pseudo-psychologists seem tame and trivial. He has already disposed of the spiritualists, by showing his ability to reproduce all their phenomena without the aid of spirits. But it would require a volume to give details of this remarkable discovery, and this volume Dr. Pennywick will himself write when his experiments have sufficiently advanced.

GREGARACH, M. D.

—New York Graphic.

Timely Words to Mothers.

Our Quaker friends in Philadelphia, always foremost with useful practical advice and help, have lately issued a pamphlet addressed to mothers on the subject of the terrible mortality of late years among children during the Summer months, and the means, aside from medical aid, of its prevention and cure. The directions are drawn up by a committee of the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia, and the names are those of men who stand highest in their profession in the treatment of children. Of course these directions are especially intended for the poorer classes of mothers who are unable to fly with their teething babies out of the foul air of town, or to keep them under the constant oversight of a skilled physician. The rules, like all those most effective in Hygiene, appear to an ordinary reader absurdly simple; yet it is after all disobedience to the simple rules of health and morality, for which, since the days of lamenting Jeremiah to the present time, the people are destroyed. When the Philadelphia doctors urge upon mothers in cities during the summer months, the absolute necessity of bathing the child by immersion in the morning in tepid water and sponging it at night, the rule appears so commonplace an exigency of decency that it is passed over with indifference, just as the Syrian leper scoffed at the prophet's orders to wash himself seven times. "If he had bidden thee do some great

thing would'st thou not have done it?" inquired his servant. We have a shrewd suspicion that the simple rules, even in regard to washing, are neither known to nor comprehended by the majority of mothers, or the wise old Quaker doctors would not have issued them thus authoritatively. We therefore make an abstract of them, anxious to do our part in averting the terrible doom of last summer from the little ones.

1. Perfect cleanliness is enjoined in every minute particular; the change of night and day clothing, clean with each change.

2. A bed or cot, apart from its mother, for the child.

3. Plenty of fresh air. The baby should be taken to the Park, the boats that ply up and down the rivers; the shady sides of broad streets or public squares; kept carefully out of the room where cooking or washing is going on, and given plenty of ice water to drink. (But very little at a time).

4. The house kept scrupulously clean. Walls whitewashed; slops and garbage promptly removed; and the air purified by carbolic acid or quicklime.

5. The child, if sick, must be kept to the mother's milk alone, or, if that prove insufficient, to goat's or cow's milk. There is no safe substitute for milk to infants who have not cut their front teeth. No child should be weaned, as a rule, until after its second summer. The food which Nature has provided will often save the life of a child when everything else fails.

6. Without the advice of a physician, no child should be given spirits, cordials, carminatives, or soothing syrups of any kind. Thousands of children, the physicians add, die every year from the use of these poisons.—N. Y. Tribune.

Change of Climate.

Mr. Adams's professional experience has enabled him to put on record valuable details touching the influence of a sub-frigid climate, like that of New Brunswick, upon European settlers at large as well as upon the troops under his medical charge. To the newly arriving from Northern Europe, there is something, he remarks, disappointing in the aspect of the middle-aged of both sexes. Instead of burly, well-nourished farmers in a land where the materials of good living so abound, sallow, weather-beaten countenances, and spare, sinewy frames predominate among men of forty, while the pallid faces of the women indicate often ten years in advance of their real age. Important causes in connection with habits of life, food and climate are here at work. Close stoves, salted provisions, ill-baked bread, even if not aided by alcoholic excess, combine with the natural vicissitudes of extreme and suddenly changing temperature to undermine the stamina of life. The most trying times of the year are the thaws of Spring and the setting in of the cold months, at the rapid transit which passes for Autumn. Consumption and other pulmonary diseases are most fatal at midsummer, after the variable weather. In Winter, pneumonia, the characteristic disease of the climate, is most prevalent.

The deterioration in physique so much remarked upon in the existing settlers is traced by our author in part to the fact, that the first immigrants and reclaimers of the woods were an exceptionally hardy and vigorous race, their successors feeling less demand upon their bodily energies; and in part also to sameness of food and the listlessness induced by extremes of climate. Closeness of intermarriage, especially among the French settlers, has brought about the most frightful of evils. Elephantiasis, or Greek leprosy, has become a settled plague among these poor creatures. In a valuable appendix Mr. Adams furnishes convincing proofs from the records of the lazaretto connecting this shocking malady with the consanguinity of the inmates.—Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.

Eighteen physicians of Cincinnati have declared that gymnastics in the public schools are hurtful to the health of children.

The Council Bluffs (Iowa) Shooting Club offers a reward of \$10 for the conviction of any person who kills prairie chickens previous to the 15th of August.

The Gallop and the Trot.

The races are the absorbing local event of the week. Before the end of the "meeting" we shall probably be overrun with guests from abroad. Let them come and enjoy themselves; Cleveland has ample accommodation for all her outside friends. Americans have acquired a settled appetite for the turf. It is easy to trace this taste to their English descent. It is the English blood in our veins which makes us all take so much delight in choice horses, especially when they are speeded upon the course. It has been reserved for the Americans, however, to vary the attractions of the turf by introducing a new gait, and consequently a new kind of contest. The trotting horse is purely a product of the New World. Here the idea first occurred to develop the trot as a fast gait; here the trotter made his debut as a racer; and for many years it was only here that he could be seen on the track. Within a few years trotters have been introduced into England to some extent; but the running races so entirely fill the public eye that the importation attracts little attention. Lately the taste for the running race has been undergoing a revival in this country. In the east, for the past two or three seasons, the racer seems to have supplanted the trotter in popularity. "Longfellow," "Harry Bassett," "Tom Bowling," and "Helmhold," created a turf sensation such as we had not had for years, perhaps not since the great "Fashion" race—the parties to which were the North and South—of long years ago.

The sport of horse-racing is of great antiquity, dating from the early Greeks and Romans. In more modern times the English have been the greatest lovers of it; and since the time of James I. the nicest care has been bestowed upon the breeding of the animals employed in it. Charles I. and Charles II. were patrons of the turf; so were William III. and Queen Ann. The modern English racer is taller and less stout than the earlier racer; but we do not know that he has gained much in speed. "Flying Childers," bred in 1715 by the Duke of Devonshire, on one occasion at Newmarket ran three miles and a half in six minutes and forty seconds, carrying nine stone! There is even a tradition that he once ran a mile in a minute! The pictures of "Flying Childers" represent a rather short-bodied, thick-set horse—as compared with modern-bred horses, more of a hunter than a racer.

If anything there is more pleasure in witnessing the performances of a running horse. This is because the racer exercises his natural gait, while the trotter's gait, as seen on the turf, is an artificial one. We are glad that our club managers recognize the growing taste for running racing and make ample arrangements for gratifying it.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

BLACKBERRIES.—At a late meeting of the Indiana Horticultural Society, Mr. Ohmer said he had been very successful in growing blackberries. He had been in the business fifteen years, and lost but two crops in ten seasons. Three acres had averaged him \$1,000 per year. His rows were eight feet apart and he sets his plants four feet apart in the rows. He planted posts three feet high, at intervals of thirty feet, and from nails in the top of the post he stretched wires from post to post, to which his vines were trained. He plowed once in the spring between the rows and then put in the cultivator or harrow. He did not seek to make large canes, as these do not produce the best crops. He pruned back when the vines are three or four feet high. Allow the old wood to remain among the vines from year to year, as a support to the young vines. The laterals he cut back two feet, or even less, if the vine was delicate. Did not allow them to grow too thick, and no plants were allowed between the rows. The Kittatinny was his favorite, and if he were to plant ten acres he would plant all of that variety. He marketed in half-bushel drawers. Raspberries pay better when sold in quart boxes. His soil was clay with a substratum of gravel. Did not manure at all.

Sebastian Mergy while drunk, was carrying his four-year-old boy in his arms in Cincinnati. He staggered, fell, and killed the child. Then remorse suggested the oath, "I will never drink another drop."