

made to fit in with the circumstances in which the tests took place. In the cases in which I chose the book the selection was made entirely at random, and there was no "leading up" to such selection. Further, the passage was written in such circumstances as to exclude the possibility of memorising between the time of my selection and the time of writing. In the case of *Farwell on Powers*, selected by Mrs. Jackson, she was in my chambers, where the book is kept, for only a short time, and during the whole of that time I was in the room with her; she did not even touch the book, but merely remarked on the title as curious; and the writing was done partly the same evening at home, and partly in the tube next morning. I may add that Mrs. Jackson has little or no power of memorising, and that her general reading is strictly limited in range; such works as Sidgwick's *Methods of Ethics* lie entirely outside this range.

There is one further point. Mrs. Jackson's power of writing passages contained in a closed book may, I think, bear some analogy to her power of "seeing" the face of a card by looking only at the back of the card. I have observed her go through a pack in this way; on checking the cards afterwards with the description of them which she had written down, I have found the amount of error to be about 5 per cent.

"T. BROOK."

II. A NEGLECTED METHOD OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE S.P.R.

THE UNIVERSITY, BRISTOL.

DEAR MADAM,—It has struck me that we might with great advantage supplement our other methods of research by the use of the dictaphone in cases of alleged "direct control." We are told that in certain cases a medium will claim to be directly controlled by the spirit of a dead person, and that under these circumstances she will speak in tones and with an accent which distinctly recall those of the alleged communicator. (Cf. the paper by Miss Radclyffe-Hall and Lady Troubridge on Mrs. Leonard's mediumship in *S.P.R. Proceedings*, Part 84.)

It is clearly very desirable that a permanent record should be made of such voices, so that they may be studied at leisure and submitted to other friends of the deceased person beside the actual sitter. Otherwise it is very difficult to know what weight

to attach to the statement that the "direct" voices resemble those of the alleged communicators. Obviously the ideal case would be to have records (a) of a man's voice during his lifetime, (b) of the voice of the medium when she claims to be controlled by this man, (c) of the voice of the medium when under her normal control, and (d) of the voice of the medium when not in trance.

It ought not to be impossible for those who sit frequently (say) with Mrs. Leonard to arrange some such experiment with "Feda," and thus at least get records of the kinds (b), (c), and (d). As regards (a) might it not be worth while for some of us to deposit with the Society dictaphone records of our ordinary mode of speaking, so that if any medium professes to be controlled by us after our death a perfectly objective comparison of the voices could be made? This would at least supplement the "sealed letter" tests which past members of the Society have made with such lamentably negative results.

I do not know what conclusion if any about survival could be based on the success of a series of such experiments. But it would at least establish definitely a very interesting and possibly important fact which would be incapable of normal explanation.

C. D. BROAD.

REVIEW.

The Mystery of Existence and A Brief Study of the Sex Problem.
By C. W. ARMSTRONG. (Grant Richards, 6s. net.)

This book, which was first issued in 1909, has now been re-issued with considerable additions. It consists in the main of an exposition of the philosophical views of the author, who has been a member of this Society for many years; it has no direct bearing upon psychical research, except in so far as these views are the outcome of Mr. Armstrong's study of psychical phenomena and in particular of the work of Frederic Myers,

whose discovery of the *Subliminal Self* I must regard as almost more epoch-making than Darwin's discovery of the laws of Natural Selection.

The great importance I attach to this discovery will be better understood when, further on, I come to state the functions which I attribute to the subliminal self, functions greater and more far-reaching than Myers himself ever suggested.

"PSYCHIC" PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE Research Officer would be glad if those Members and Associates of the Society who have experiments in view with Mr. Hope, Mrs. Deane, or Mr. Vearncombe, would communicate with him before arranging their sittings.