

Spiritualism is a question of evidence and evidence alone, and I have, I trust, clearly demonstrated the value of some of the evidence brought forward by spiritualists as affording indubitable proof of the Immortality of the Soul. I have shown that half the manifestations are the result of trickery, whilst an equal number may be placed to the credit of self-deception. Space forbids me at the present time going further into the subject, but on a future occasion it will afford me much pleasure to place before your readers further explanations of the methods employed by so-called mediums in imposing upon the senses and in corrupting the morals of their dupes.

In conclusion, I can only trust that my letters may be productive of good results.

Believe me to be,
Your obedient servant,
STUART C. CUMBERLAND.

May, 1881.

Obituary.

DR. BREWER.

Dr. Brewer, the respected Chairman of the Metropolitan Asylum Board, died, greatly regretted, at his residence, George Street, Hanover Square, on the 3rd of November, 1881. He occupied this post from the time the Board was formed. He was the Liberal M.P. for Chelmsford from 1868 to 1874. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and graduated at St. Andrews in 1834. He threw his whole mind into the work of the Metropolitan Board, and laboured unceasingly and conscientiously at the oar till his death from angina pectoris.

"From the beginning to the end he worked from the pure love of the work and for the great object he had at heart, without seeking or receiving any sort of remuneration for his services."—*British Medical Journal*.

Dr. Brewer was also Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works.

JOSEPH J. BROWN, M.B., F.R.C.P.E.

In the death of Dr. Joseph John Brown our Association has lost one of the most promising of its younger members. Dr. Brown was the son of the late Dr. J. Brown, of Wooler, and studied at Edinburgh University, where he earned high distinction as a student, and graduated with honours in 1871. After acting for some time as Resident Physician for the University Clinical Wards and the Fever Wards of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, he became Assistant Physician at Saughton Hall Asylum, and, under the guidance of Dr. J. Batty Tuke, devoted himself with characteristic energy to the study of the microscopical appearances of the brain in insanity. In 1874 he was appointed one of the Assistant Physicians in the Royal Edinburgh Asylum. His success here was so marked that when in 1878 the office of Medical Superintendent of the Fife and Kinross District Asylum became vacant, Dr. Brown was without competition unanimously appointed to it.

To natural abilities and professional acquirements of a very high order Dr. Brown added qualities of head and heart which eminently fitted him for the special work to which he devoted himself. He had great administrative

ability; and his three and a half years of office in the Fife and Kinross Asylum were years of solid and steadily increasing prosperity for the institution. Only the day before his death he had, at a meeting of the District Board of Lunacy, read the record of a year's work manfully carried out and crowned with more than the usual meed of success. Pleasant congratulations and more substantial rewards were crowding upon him, when a sad accident rudely cut him off, while still in the flower of his manhood and with apparently a career of increasing distinction and usefulness opening out before him.

Dr. Brown contributed several papers to the "Journal of Mental Science," two of which, viz., "*Two Cases of Apoplexy of the Pons Varolii*," July, 1875, and "*Case of Transient Alternating Hemiplegia*," July, 1877, bear evidence to his careful observation of symptoms and his thoroughness in tracing out the pathology of disease. But his published papers represent only a very small part of what he had done, for he was an indefatigable worker in the field of the morbid histology of the brain and spinal cord, and he has left behind a very valuable collection of microscopical preparations, among which are included specimens of a rare and hitherto undescribed form of brain lesion. His keen desire to do thoroughly well whatever he put his hand to made him slow to appear in print; but in his investigations into the pathology of insanity, some of which still remain to be published, he did work of real and abiding value.

Of his success in the practice of his special branch of the profession, his life, short as it has been, gave abundant proof; and had he lived, his riper years would without doubt have verified the high promise of his earlier career, and he would have won for himself a foremost place in the ranks of alienist physicians.

The social side of Dr. Brown's character was as admirable as the professional. He was eminently a sociable man, and was gifted with a vivid fancy and a keen sense of humour, the exuberant play of which, joined to real kindness of heart, made his companionship unfailingly bright and full of sunshine, without ever leaving a sting. In the words of one of his friends, Dr. Brown was "a man who had an eye for the world's flowers, and an ear for its music, and a ready hand for a friend." Among his acquaintances he has left none but sunny memories behind him; and to his more intimate friends his death comes as the loss of one whom they loved much, and whose place will not soon or easily be filled again. Dr. Brown possessed a special talent for acting, and had, when a student, appeared on the boards of the Edinburgh Theatre Royal as a member of the University Dramatic Society, his favourite parts being in broad comedy. In after-years he made this talent subserve his more serious work, and showed that he could minister to minds diseased not only as the physician proper, but also as one who took the liveliest interest in the welfare of his patients, and who spared himself no labour in providing those recreations and amusements which promote their health and happiness.

DR. GEOGHEGAN.

We regret to have to record the death in the prime of life of Dr. Geoghegan.

Ed. Geo. Geoghegan was the seventh son of Dr. T. Geoghegan, of Dublin. He was B.A., T.C.D., M.D. Strasburg; L.R.C.S.I., educated at Dublin, Edinburgh, and Strasburg Universities. He began his asylum career as Assistant Medical Officer at Morningside with Dr. Clouston, but left after a short stay to go to the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, as Clinical Clerk; afterwards he was appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer at Gloucester County Asylum, and resigned in July, 1880, on being appointed Assistant Medical Officer in the Portsmouth Borough Asylum, which post he held until his death. He was a