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### THE HENDERSON GOLD LEAF-THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1906.

## "Psycological Phenomena of the Subliminal Mind."

### Paper Read by Dr. G. A. Coggeshall Before the Contemporary Club of Henderson, Monday Night, April 30th, 1906r

the Latin words "sub" meaning "under" and "limen" meaning "threshold." means, therefore, strictly, "under the threshold." As used by the psychologist, however, it has the specific meaning of that which is just beneath the thresh old of consciousness." or the subconscious mind

Within a comparatively recent period the fact has become established of a mental duality-that there is a conscious mind and a subconscious mind-and it is to the psychological phenomena of the subconscious, or subliminal mind that I will ask your attention this evening.

Through all ages, certain mysterious phenomena have caused wonder and perplexity to men-such as apparitions or ghosts, the warnings, premonitions and disclosures received in dreams-the power of certain individuals to see and describe things that were beyond the physical vision of the relator-the accurate prognostications of sevies and prophets, the miraculous heat of the sick, the reputed manifesta 1.4 of discarnate spirits by a system of rappings, table tipping and other manifestations, the wonders of planch-tte, invisible slate

writing, crystal gazing, etc. For a long time the world of science looked askance or with cold disdain upon all these phenomena discrediting their reality, and regarding them as fables and ballucinations. But as the manifestations increased in volume and the testimony of men o mark and uadoubted veracity was added, and particularly after the development of the cult of spiritualism, the scientific world felt obliged to study closely such pheeffaceable nomena, and to strive to discover how

much was really true and how much was

Accordingly, a number of men in the highest walks of science were moved to them organize in 1882, the Society for Psychological Research. The first[President of the Society was the late Professor Henry Sedgwick, the very eminent logician of Cambridge University, England. Among the Vice-presidents, were Mr. Arthur Balfour, now Prime Minister of England. Mr. Richard H. Hutton, editor of the London Spectator, Mr. Hensleigh Wedgewood, the brother-in-law of Chas. Darwin. Among other distinguished members were the late F. W. H. Myers, one of the ablest of latter day investigators, Sir William Crookes, the laventor of the Crookes tube used in X ray work, Dr. Richard Hodgson, the present secretary of the Society's American Branch, Prof. William James, of Harvard University, the late Prof. S. P. Langlev of the Smithsonian Institute. Washington, D. C., Lord Raleigh, the Marguis of Bute, the Bishop of Ripon and Prof. Max Desoir of the University of Berlin The object of the Society is explained

Subliminal" is a word composed of p visited the town and examined the case on the spot. Sheets full of her ravings were taken down from her own mouth. and were found to consist of sentences coherent and intelligible each for itself. but with little or no connection with each other:

Of the Hebrew, a small portion only could be traced to the Bible; the remainder seemed to be in the Rabbinical dialect All trick or conspiracy was out of the juestion. Not only had the young woman been ever a harmless, simple creature, but she was evidently laboring under a nervous fever. On tracing care-

fully the young girl's past life, the young physician found that when she was nine years old she had been charitably taken by an old pastor and had remained with him some years till the old man's death. On inquiry into the pastor's habits, it appeared that it had been the old man's custom for years, to walk up and down a passage of his house into which the kitchen door opened and to read to himself with a loud voice, out of his favorite books. Among these books were found a collection of Rabbinical writings together with several of the Greek and Latin fathers; and the physician succeed ed in identifying so many passages with those taken down at the young woman's bedside, that no doubt could remain in

any rational mind concerning the true origin of the impression on her nervous system.

mind must have been superficial and lecting to the last degree, but the result emonstrated that the record upon the tablet of the subconscious mind was in-

that it is a common assertion of those

The conscious mind, is the materialissuggestions which are not based on reason, positive knowledge, or the evidence.

afforded by the five senses The subliminal mind on the contrary is unqualifiedly and constantly amenable to the power of suggestion; and this, at a very early period, long before the conscions mind becomes intelligently active. There is in fact little question that even prenatal influences are indelibly stamped upon the subliminal mind. forming marked characteristics both of the mental and bodily make up of the human being to be ushed into the world. Character, in fact, is largely due to the subliminal mind through all stages of the sake of special treatment."

the process asked me if I thought there

in the following language: "It has been widely felt that the pres

ent is an opportune time for making an organized and systematic attempt to investigate that large group of debatable phenomena designated by such terms as mesmeric, psychical and spiritualistic.

"From the recorded testimony of many competent witnesses, past and present. including observation- recently made by scientific men of emisence in various countries, there appears to be, amidst much illusion and deception, an important body of remarkable phenomena. which are prima facie inexplicable on any recognized hypothesis, and which, if in-contestably established, would be of the highest value

The special subjects of investigation are stated as follows:

1st. An examination of the nature and extent of any influence which may be exerted by one mind upon another. apart from any generally recognized mode of perception.

2nd. "The study of hypnotism and the forms of so-called mesmeric trance. with its alleged insensibility to pain; clairvoyance, and other allied phenomesuggestion.

der at will.

is:

posed agent.

3rd. "A careful investigation of any reports resting on strong testimony regarding apparitions at the moment of death or otherwise, or regarding the disturbances in houses reputed to be hau it-

4th. "An inquiry into the various psychical phenomena commonly called Spiritualism; with an attempt to discov er their cause and general laws.

5th. "The collection and collation of existing materials bearing on the history of these subjects."

As the result of the investigations of this Society, which have embraced an immense mass of testimony, there became clearly defined the fact of the duaiity of the human mind, the conscious and the subconscious elements.

Hudson gives the following classification in his book entitled. The Law of Psychic Phenomena: "The conscious mind takes cognizance of the objective world. Its media of observation, are the five physical senses. It is the outgrowth of man's physical necessities. It is his guide in his struggle with his material environment. Its highest function is that of reasoning

The subconscious, or subliminal mind takes cognizance of its cuvironment by means independent of the physical senses. It perceives by intuition. It is the seat of the emotions, and the store-house of memory. It performs its highest functions when the objective senses are in abeyance. It is that intelligence which is specially manifested in the hypnotic subject, when in a state of somnambu-

"In this state many of the most wonderful feats of the subconscious mind are performed. It sees without the use of the natural organs of vision; and in this as in many other grades or degrees of the hypnotic state it can be made apparently to leave the body and travel to distant lands, and bring back intelligence. oftimes of the most exact and truthful character. It also has the power to read the thoughts of others, even to the minutest detail; to read the contents of sealed envelopes and of closed books. In | short, it is the subliminal mind that possesses what is popularly designated as port. clairvoyant power, and the ability to apprehend the thoughts of others without the aid of the ordinary, objective means of communication.

"In point of fact," continues Hudson, "that which for convenience, I have chosen to designate as the subconscious | well she could climb the hills, and how mind, appears to be a separate and distinct entity; and the real distinctive difference between the two minds, seems to consist in the fact that the conscious mind is merely the function of the physical brain, while the subconscious mind is a distinct entity, possessing independent powers and functions, having a mental organization of its own, and being capable of sustaining an existence independently of the body. In other words it is the soul. 1 will now give some examples recorded of the phenomena of the subconscious mind, or subliminal self. One of the striking properties of the subconscious mind, is its perfect memory, Coleridge. in his Biographia Literaria, gives the following interesting case: "A young woman of four or five and twenty, who could neither read nor write, was seized with a nervous fever. during which according to the asserveroh Mama ations of those around her, she became possessed, as it appeared of a very learned devil. She continued incessantly talking Latin, Greek, and Hebrew in very pompous tones, and with most distinct enunciation. Voltaire, humorously advises the devil to decline all acquaintance with medical men; and it would have been more to his reputation, if he had taken the advice in the present instance. The case had attracted the attention of a young physician, and by his | scarlet fever.' There was no more sleep statement, many eminent physiologists for me that night. My husband tried to

These instances of dream app man's development. How therefore, that this fact should be realto indicate the power of the subliminal zed and recognized in the training of children from earliest infancy upward. Especially in sleep and under hypnotic and places to whom they were specially attached when in the body. affuences is the power of suggestion ac-

tive and the subconscious mind ready to accept without question or doubt what ever statement is made to it, no matter how absurd, or incongruous, or contrary a man of the world and given to no suto the ordinary experience of the individ ual. If in hypnotic sleep a subject is told perstitious fears or haducinations. In arrating the incident, he says: that there are butterflies in the room We set out for Gothenburg, determinand that he must catch them, he will see d to make Norway. About one in the the suggested butterflies and make all the motions of striving to catch them: morning, arriving at a decent inn we decided to stop for the night. Tired with f handed a broomstick, and told that the cold of yesterday I was glad to take the broomstick is a lovely young lady, it will be to him the young lady and he advantage of a hot bath before I turned n-and here a most remarkable thing will be as polite and devoted to it as if appened-so remarkable that I must it were the young hady suggested; he may ell the story from the beginning. be thrown into a state of intoxication Mter I left the high school, I went by being caused to drink a glass of water inder the impression that it is a glass of

with G, my first intimate friend to atwhiskey, or he may be restored to sobritend classes in the University. There was no Divinity class, but we frequently ety by the administration of brandy unin our walks, discussed and speculated der the guise of an antidote to drunkenupon many grave topics; among others. ness. He may be made to see, hear, feel, on the immortality of the soul, and on a smell and taste anything in obedience to future state. The question and the pos-

sibility.1 will not say of ghosts walking, Apart from hypnotism the subconbut of the dead appearing to the living. scious mind is particularly susceptible to were subjects of much speculation, and suggestion during *matural sleep*. we actually committed the folly of draw-These suggestions are manifested ing up an agreement written with our dreams. Much significance has in all

own blood, to the effect that whichever times been attributed to dreams, and the more primitive and savage the state of the people, the more are their lives inother, and thus solve the doubts we had entertained of the life after death. fluenced by dreams. Dream life to the After we had finished our classes at the savage, is a real life. In it the soul is

ollege, G. went to India, having got an supposed to leave the body, and to wanappointment there in the civil service. He seldom wrote to me,and after a lapse The New Zealanders, says Tyler in his Primitive Culture, considered the dreamof a few years I had almost forgotten ing soul to leave the body and hold conim; moreover his family having little verse with its friends. onnection with Edinburgh, I seldom saw or heard anything of them, so that all The Tagals of Luzon, P. L. object to his school-boy intimacy had died out and waking a sleeper, on account of the ab-

sence of his soul. The North Americaa | I had nearly forgotten his existence. I had Indians, allowed themselves the alternataken as I have said a warm bath, and while lying in it and enjoying the comtive of supposing a dream to be a visitfort of the heat after the late freezing 1 from the soul of the person or object dreamt of, or a sight seen by the rationhad undergone, I turned my head around algone out for an excursion, while the toward the chair upon which I had deposited my clothes, as I was about to sensitive soul remains in the body. To the Greeks of old, the dream soul get out the bath. On the chair sat G. oking calmly at me. How I got out of was what to the modern sayage, it still "Sleep, loosing cares of mind, fell on the bath I know not, but on recovering Achilles as he lay by the bounding sea, my senses I found myself sprawling on and there stood over him the soul of Pathe floor. The apparition, or whatever troculus, like to him altogether in it was that had taken the likeness of G. stature, and the beauteous eyes and the had disappeared. The apparition occurvoice, and the garments that wrapped | red on Dec. 19th, 1799, and soon after Lord Brougham arrived in Edinburgh on his skin-he spake, and Achilles stretched out to grasp him with loving hands. his return, a letter arrived from India but caught him not; and like a smoke the announcing the death of G, on the date soul sped twittering below the earth. mentioned

As time went on and the nature and Dr. Weir Mitchell reports an interestcauses of dreams became better known ng case in the experience of his father they lost much of the old time signifiwho was also a physician. His father cance. Pream exciting influences may had a patient in an Insane Asylum, who be intra-organic or extra-organic. But had occasionally lucid intervals. One there are instances in which dreams canmorning Dr. Mitchell went to the Asylum not be referred to either of these methods to inform the patient of the death of his of causation, and which point to a wife during the night. As he came in

causation that is super-normal, Such sight of the patient the man cried out: an one is the following incident taken | "You need not tell me my wife is dead, I from the journal of the Society for know it; she was here last night and told Psychical Research. The reporter is a me herself." Supposing that there was Mrs. Howieson, the experience being her | no foundation for this story, Dr. Mitchell own, and involving a distance of 200 | went to the manager of the Institution. miles between the percipient and the supand told him what had been said and that gentleman confirmed it by saying The incident occurred in June, 1883, that he had heard the man talking She narrates as follows: "My eldest in the night and went to see what was

daughter Kathleen, then a child nearly | the matter when the patient at once refive years old, was absent from home on proached him for disturbing him, and for a visit to my mother, who lived in Newdriving away his wife who, he said, was Monmouthshire, England. there and told him that she had just For some months previous to her died leaving home, she had been in a weak.

Dr. Minot Savage vouches for the folnervous state of health, but an absence lowing incident which he personally inof three months in that charming counvestigated: "In a neighboring city were New President of France. ty wrought wonders for her. My mother two little girls, Jennie and Edith, one wrote me from time to time, saying how about eight years old and the other but

(and many more might be quoted), seem | was any use in her trying to cure a bad case of strabismus (crosseves), her little self on dying, to convey itself to persons | niece about ten years of age, having been afflicted from her birth. I unhesitatingly assured her that there was no doubt I will next give instances of apparitions of her ability to effect a cure. Full of en by persons awake, and in full con- confidence she commenced the treatment. The first instance is that of and kept it up about three months, at Lord Brougham, who was thoroughly a the end of which time, the cure was complete". The method of this cure was by willing on going to sleep that the niece's

strabismus should be cured. I have collated these examples of the

phenomena of the subliminal self, in an endeavor to show what a wonderful reality the subliminal mind is.

Physical science, has within a century brought to light new and wonderful knowledge of ions, electrons, X rays, N rays, the evolution of atoms, wireless telegraphy, etc., and so, metapsychical science, also, seems to have arrived at the dawn of a new light on the entity and the laws of the subliminal mindand as knowledge and research proceed hand in hand, we may be led to a life in the future transcending all that has vet been dreamed of—a life and knowledge of the powers that have hitherto been for the most part latent within us, that will with the faith of Christ our Master. enable us to make what are now consid ered miraculous cures of ills which flesh is heir to; which will enable men to communicate their thoughts to others, whatof us died the first, should appear to the ever be the distance that separates them, without even the use of wireless telegraphy. As the Spanlards say, "Quien sabe?" Who knows?

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### Everybody's Magazine for May.

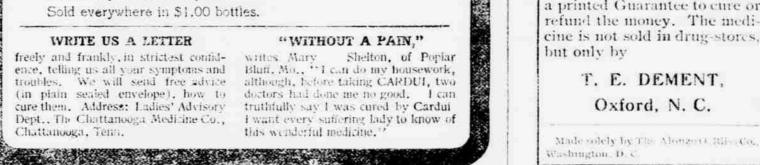
Most notable, perhaps, among several notable articles in the May Everybody's Magazine, is Lindsay Denison's "Making Good at Panama." Mr. Denison's is the first authoritive story of the work being dane on the canal. He went to Panama armed with a letter from President Roosevelt instructing all Government officers and employees to tell the bearer the whole truth "whether it hurts o "Making Good at Panama" will not. give you real impressions as if you were looking with your own eyes, and, best of all, the truth will not hurt; it will lis you up enthusiastically with the dent and Taft and Stevens.

"The Condemned-Meat Industry." ton Sinclair's trenchant reply to J. Ogden Armour's defense of the Beef Trust, backed up by documentary evidence, will require a deal of answering.

Part II of "The Coal Trust, the Labor 'rust, and the People Who Pay," by Hartly Davis, is particularly timely just now-more timely than most of us wish. Thomas W. Lawson recounts a recent experience with Heinze. Readers of Er erybady's will recall the chapter some months ago in which he described Heinze; but in spite of that marvelous skinning, Heinze bobs up a few months later with proposition that Mr. Lawson join orces with him to hornswoggle the public. He showed Mr. Lawson where they could both make millions. "Fools and Their Money" is the suggestive title of the article in which Mr. Lawson tells about it.

Vance Thompson draws a delightful word picture of Armand Fallieres in "The

The fiction in this number of Everybody's is well worthy of the rest of the der. They were schoolmates an



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tains 200 tablets for \$1.00 and

TWO TRAINS TWO TRAIN DAILY. DAIL

her nervousness had given place to intimate friends. In June, 1889, both ous glee, as she watched from a hill-top. were taken ill of diptheria. At noon the ships sailing in sunlight up and Wednesday, June 5th, Jennie died. Then down the Bristol Channel or the wonder the parents of Edith and her physician as ful fascinating sunset over Kit Barlum. well, all took pains to keep from her the which now she even dreams of. fact that her little playmate had died. "All my anxiety about her had vanish-They feared the effect of the knowledge ed, as, with my little baby, three weeks on her own condition. To prove that old beside me, I was quietly sleeping. they succeeded, and that she did not when suddenly I awaked, hearing Kathknow, it may be mentioned that on Satleen call me in a sharp, terrified voice, Mama, oh Mama.' Forgetting that the

urday, June 8th, at noon, just before she became unconscions of all that was passchild was away, I sat up in bed and calling about her, she selected two of her ed to my nurse. Do see, nurse, what ails photographs to be sent to Jennie, and Kathleen.' 'Why ma'am' she said you also told her attendants to bid her goodhave been dreaming, sure you know she's in Newport.' Thoroughly awake I bye. She died at half-past six on the evening of Saturday, June 8th. She had aroused and bidden her friends good-bye, laughed and lay down to sleep, but just as I was dozing off again, I was startled and was talking of dying and seemed to by hearing the child's voice down the have no fear. She appeared to see one stairs from the next floor, where she slept and another of her friends she bnew were when at home, the same words, Mama. dead. So far it was like the common

cases. But now, suddenly, and with "I simply screamed to the nurse, "Oh every appearance of great surprise, she nurse, I have heard her again, and there turned to her father and exclaimed, is something wrong with the child.' I Why, Papa, why, Papa, you did not tell trembled all over the thing was so real. me that Jennie was here,' and immediateand yet, so unlikely, that I allowed myly she reached out her arms as if in welself to be soothed and talked into silence. come, and said, 'Oh. Jennie, I am so glad No sooner had nurse settled herself comyou are here.

fortably in bed, and I,broad awake, was lying wondering about it, when Kathillustrate some of the phenomna of telepleen's cry broke on my ears again, a seream, Mama, oh Mama, I've got the thoughts to others independently of objective means of communication. The ex-

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