

FIVE EXPERIMENTS WITH MISS KATE GOLIGHER

BY MR. S. G. DONALDSON

These notes on experiments with the infra red ray differ from Dr. Osty's classical experiments in Par's in that they do not represent a purely mechanical procedure. Mechanical substantiation of the perfect *bona fides* of the experimenters may now be left out of account. But the experiments are of interest because they deal with the visible form of ectoplasm which has been photographed by several experimenters, notably Dr. Geley, Dr. von Schrenck-Notzing, Dr. Glen Hamilton and others. At present they disclose nothing new or sensational and merely confirm much that has already been done: but they may lead to fresh discoveries on ectoplasm, of which Dr. Osty has demonstrated the invisible form.

The photographs call for more notice than is given in the text. Plate 1 is the lighting unit for producing infra-red rays. Plate 2 is an enlargement of the gauzy ectoplasm. Plate 3 was taken on April 3rd 1933; it is remarkable as showing a tendency to form a human head. Plate 4 was taken April 11th, as detailed in the Report, and plate 5 on the 12th; they show totally different forms of ectoplasm. Plates 7 and 8 are enlargements from plates 4 and 6. Plate 6 was taken March 27th, 1933; it shows the amorphous ectoplasm proceeding from the medium's body.

Most of the readers of PSYCHIC SCIENCE will doubtless remember the experiments of the late Dr. Crawford of Belfast with Miss K. Goligher, and later those by Dr. Fournier D'Albe who gave an adverse report. Since her marriage to the writer eight years ago, Miss Goligher has sat intermittently owing to her time being occupied with the nursing and care of two daughters.

On the introduction, commercially, of the infra-red plate by Messrs. Ilford, Ltd., it occurred to the writer that this method of illumination might provide a means of obtaining photographic records at seances without the apparent drawbacks of the ordinary flashlight. After a visit to the works of Messrs. Ilford, and from information given by them, I had an apparatus made to provide the infra-red illumination. Since that time, the apparatus has been altered on their advice to diffuse the rays and avoid the heavy shadows. Lately they have introduced infra-red plates, three times faster than the original. These latter were used for the following experiments.

DESCRIPTION OF LIGHTING UNIT

A 1500 watt lamp is housed in a box 18 in. high and 15 in. by 15 in. The two sides each have the special Ilford Infra-Red

Screen. The light is thrown out at the sides and thrown forward by two diffusing wings of artificial silk. Owing to the great heat generated inside such a small box, provision is made for cooling by the introduction of the nozzle of a hairdresser's fan at the back ; a light-tight chimney is affixed to the top of box to allow proper circulation when the fan is in use. Switches, top of the box, control both fan and lighting. Photograph No. 1 shows the instrument.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTROL UNIT

A panel is screwed to the wainscoting behind the medium, having mounted thereon four plugs and sockets. These are wired up in conjunction with four lampholders and sockets on a separate panel. Each plug is fitted with a loop of flex, and acts as a switch. The medium's four limbs are tied to the loop on plug, allowing of backward movement, but forward movement of the feet, or forward or downward movement of the arms would pull sockets from the plugs and be detected by the light on the second panel being extinguished. Current was supplied from a car accumulator. Panel, with the lampholders and sockets, is enclosed in light-tight box with another infra red screen acting as lid, and making visible the 6 volt lamps in sockets. To ensure a straight pull out, the cord, affixed to arms, is taken from plug flex under the cross bar of chair, up and over the cross bar at back of chair to arms. These cross bars act as "pulleys." To prevent hurting the medium's limbs the cord is tied round over corrugated paper and sealed to same with surgeons tape. All knots are treated in a similar manner.

SEANCE ROOM

All the sittings took place in a top room of my house, used as a day nursery. Medium sits with her back to a small door which leads to the space under the roof, that space being utilised for water tanks. Apart from the entrance door to the room there is another door to a cupboard in which I store plates, apparatus, etc.

SEANCE 27TH MARCH, 1933

Present : Mr. M'Carthy Stephenson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Goligher and self. Medium sat with back to tank-space door, Mr.

Stephenson to her right, Mr. Smith to her left, myself 8 ft. in front of her, behind lighting unit and Mr. Goligher behind me.

Entrance door locked on inside, other doors sealed with tape and initialled by Mr. Stephenson, who also inspected medium's legs and arms after connection to control panel. Mr. Stephenson in charge of control lights No. 1. Camera focussed on floor (downwards) at medium's feet. No. 2 camera 6 ft. to the left of medium, at right angles, and operated by Mr. Smith. No. 3 camera 2 ft. to side of lighting unit (which is directly in front of medium at 7 ft. distance) and 7 ft. 6 in. from medium.

All cameras at f.8 stop, and previously focussed on space where ectoplasm is expected.

Lighting unit raised 16 in. from ground and tilted downwards and forwards. I operated lights and also No. 3 camera.

About 15 minutes after lights were extinguished Mr. Stephenson reported that control-lights were dimming and shortly afterwards went out, owing to failure of battery. In another 10 minutes, by means of raps, operators stated they were ready for exposure. An exposure of 10 seconds given. Asked operators if they wished a second exposure and they, again by raps, answered in the negative. After the sitting all plugs were in position, seals, etc., intact. Result reproduced is that obtained by No. 3 camera. No. 2 camera gave same result at different angle. No. 1 camera blank as ectoplasm did not come within its range. **These photographs are not given here.**

SEANCE 3RD APRIL, 1933

Present: Mr. Warrick (London), Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Goligher and self. Control as at previous seance; Mr. Warrick initialling seals on doors, inspected control of medium and held key of entrance door in pocket. Self in charge of lighting unit and camera No. 1 7 ft. from medium. Mr. Smith to left of medium in charge of camera No. 2 which was 5 ft. 2 in. from medium. Mr. Smith also controlled camera No. 3 which was focussed down on the floor in front of medium's feet, 14 in. from front of chair to point immediately under lens and 25 in. from lens to floor. Mr. Stephenson as before. Mr. Warrick controlled camera No. 4 to the right of medium and 5 ft. 6 in. from her at an angle of 40 degrees. Mr. Goligher sat two feet behind the lighting unit.

After sitting about 15 minutes operators asked for a trial exposure—this was given the same duration as intended for the photograph. Instructed all to prepare cameras. Told operators I would expose plates in five seconds. After counting, gave an exposure of 10 seconds. All cameras at f.8 stop. Plates in camera were then changed and I asked for permission to expose another set. No reply. In three minutes permission given and second exposure of 10 seconds was given.

We had a conversation, by raps, with operators, who expressed pleasure at Mr. Warrick's presence.

Mr. Stephenson reported all lights as remaining on during seance; Mr. Warrick inspected seals, etc., and declared everything in order. Result reproduced is by camera No. 2, first exposure (Plate 3). Other cameras show same results from different angles.

SEANCE 6TH APRIL, 1933

Present self and medium only. Medium had a bad cold. Lighting unit as before 7 ft. directly in front of medium. Camera No. 1 to side of this and also 7 ft. distant. Camera No. 2 two feet in front of medium, focussed on floor, and 35 in. from lens to floor. Arms only controlled. Control lights brought nearer to me and propped up to give me sight of the two lamps burning.

After light conversation, operators gave signal to expose plates. I gave 10 seconds, both cameras at f.8 stop. Operators signalled to close sitting. Lights remained lighted, and seals on medium's arms intact after sitting. Result reproduced is by Camera No. 2. This camera covered a field of 19 in by 26 in.

SEANCE 11TH APRIL, 1933

Present self and medium. No control. (Plate 4).

Lighting unit as before. Camera No 1 5 ft. 6 in. to left of medium at right angles to her. Camera No. 2 two feet to front of medium, focussed on floor, 35 in. from lens to floor.

After permission to expose, I gave a 10 seconds exposure, cameras stopped down to f.8.

By raps I held the following conversation with the operators.

Are you aware that in the photograph obtained at the last sitting loose "threads" and a tear are apparent in the ectoplasm? Yes.

Could you have avoided that? Yes.

Were you aware of the tear after the ectoplasm was placed in position? In answer to this they gave a rasping sound indicating that "Yes" or "No" would not answer the question adequately and to put the question in another form.

Were you first aware of the tear etc., when ectoplasm was on the floor? No.

Before it left the body? Yes.

Then you can view the ectoplasm while it is yet in the body of the medium? Yes.

As it was nearing Easter and we had agreed to have six seances before then, I asked the operators if we could sit very late the following night as I had a previous engagement. They agreed, and I suggested that as it was the last of these series, it would be better to have a control on. They replied, Yes.

Would I invite Mr. Smith, or some third person, to be present and have them hold the medium's hands during the seance? No.

(I made this suggestion as they had previously told me that tying the medium handicapped them.)

Would that be a worse handicap? Yes.

If a good control could be evolved, without tying, would that be better? Yes.

You will do your best to-morrow anyway? Yes.

Results of this seance reproduced is by Cameras No. 1 and No. 2. (Plate 4).

SEANCE 12TH APRIL, 1933

Present: Mr. Smith and self.

Full control. Lighting unit as before. Camera No. 1 on top of lighting unit stopped to f.11. Camera No. 2, 5 ft. 6 in. to the left and at right angles to medium and placed on box 16 in. high. Camera No. 3 two feet in front of medium, focussed on floor, 37 in. from lens to floor.

Mr. Smith in charge of No. 2 and 3 cameras. Self in charge of lighting unit, No. 1 camera, and control lights. Latter in full view all time.

After 10 minutes conversation I reported a light out (we could hear the plug falling on floor) corresponding to the left foot control. I asked permission to replace. In about 3 minutes

this was given and Mr. Smith reinserted plug. Further 20 minutes; raps given denoting they were ready for exposure. I gave a 12 seconds exposure. Asked if I may give another. No. Result reproduced is by camera No. 2. (Plate 5).

The foregoing is a concise report taken from notes made after each sitting. Previous to these particular sittings I had experimented with the lighting unit and found that by using the Infra Red Screens in double and treble thicknesses I could obtain photographs in what could be termed "darkness." This necessitated longer exposures, so I gradually reduced the number of screens until the rays cast a red glow over the end of the room utilised. Sitters have seen the ectoplasm while the "light" was on, but I have not, as I was always the furthest away, behind the lighting unit.

Another slight difficulty is that as the cameras have to be focussed previous to the actual sitting, and on a spot where the ectoplasm is expected; it often results in the image of the ectoplasm being out of focus. I always developed the plates immediately after the sitting by "time and temperature" method, in absolute darkness.

I had hoped to obtain pictures of the suspension of articles in the air but the operators state that the action of the infra red rays prevents, (at present) the "energising" of the ectoplasm. However, they state that they might, in time, be able to overcome this.

At the commencement of the infra red experiments the medium felt reaction somewhat similar to that which occurs after a flash but not so severe. As time went on this disappeared a great deal: now it is very slight except when there is a long exposure and a large amount of ectoplasm in view. After every sitting, where the control was used, medium complained of soreness in legs which gradually left her during the following day.

I am aware that the results of the sittings recorded disclose nothing new or sensational. However when we resume sitting again something might be discovered that will be useful in the study of the phenomena.

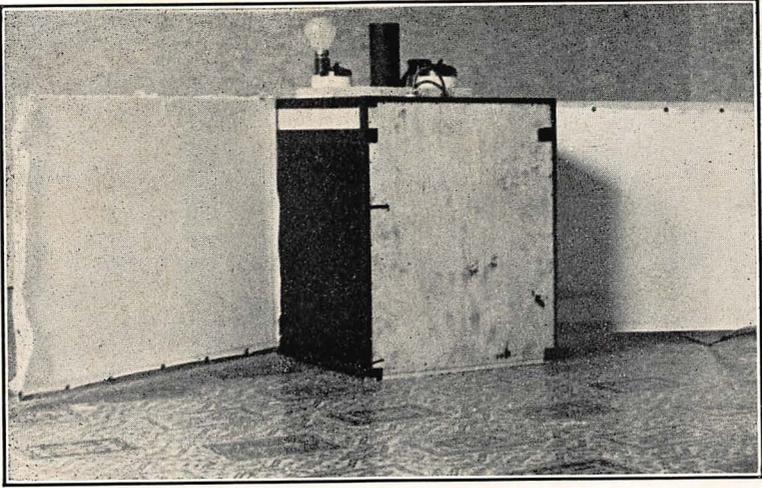


PLATE I. LIGHTING UNIT

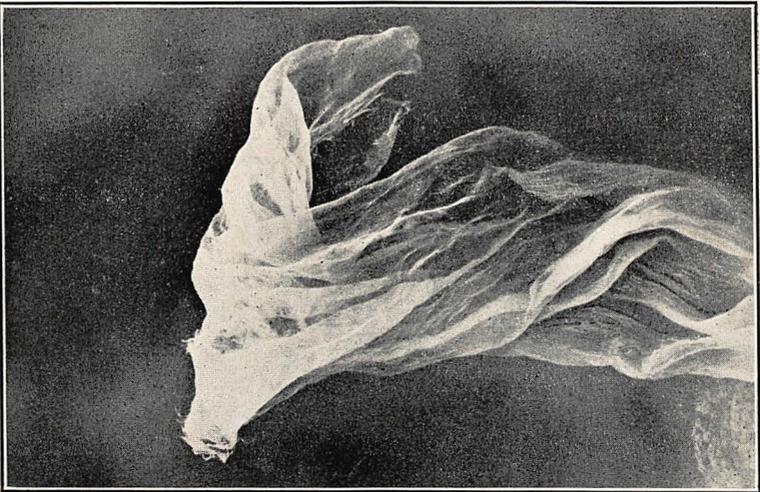


PLATE 2. GAUZY ECTOPLASM

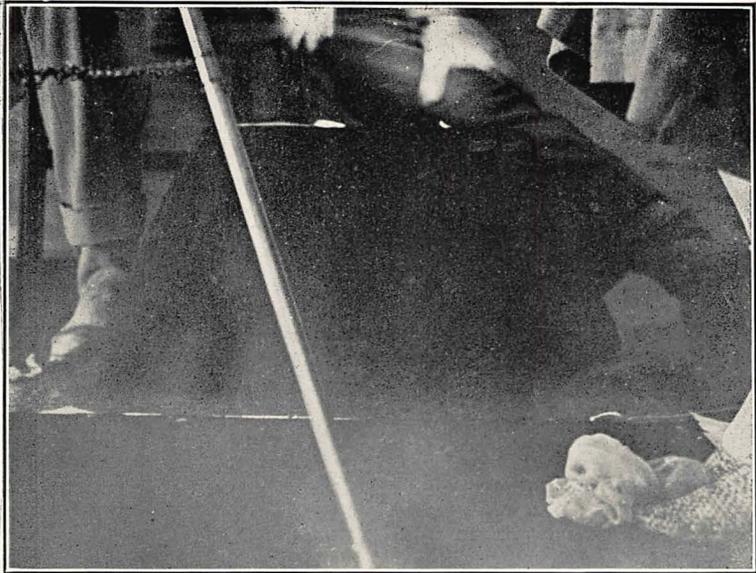


PLATE 3. TENDENCY TO ORGANISATION



PLATE 4. FIBROUS ECTOPLASM

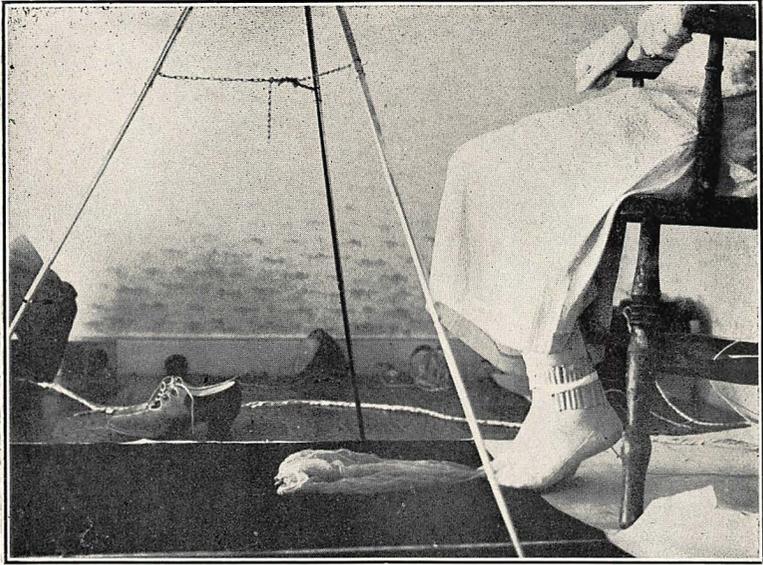


PLATE 5. GAUZY ECTOPLASM

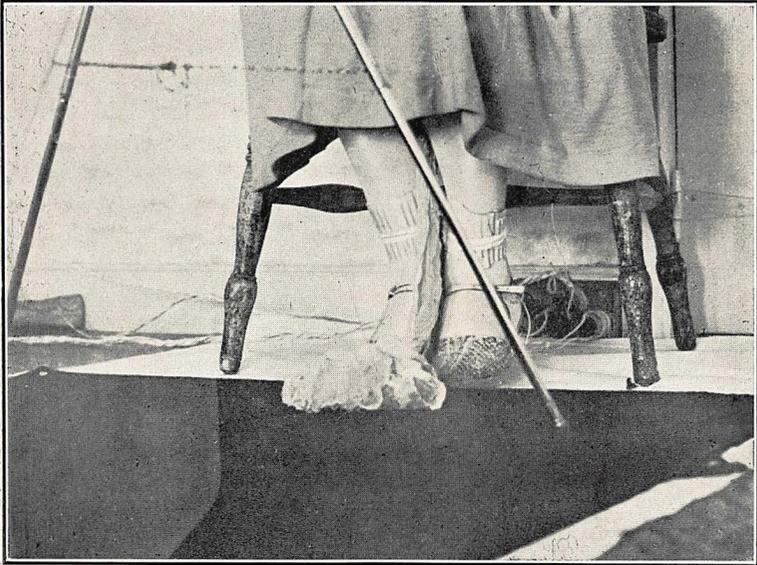


PLATE 6. ECTOPLASM FROM BODY

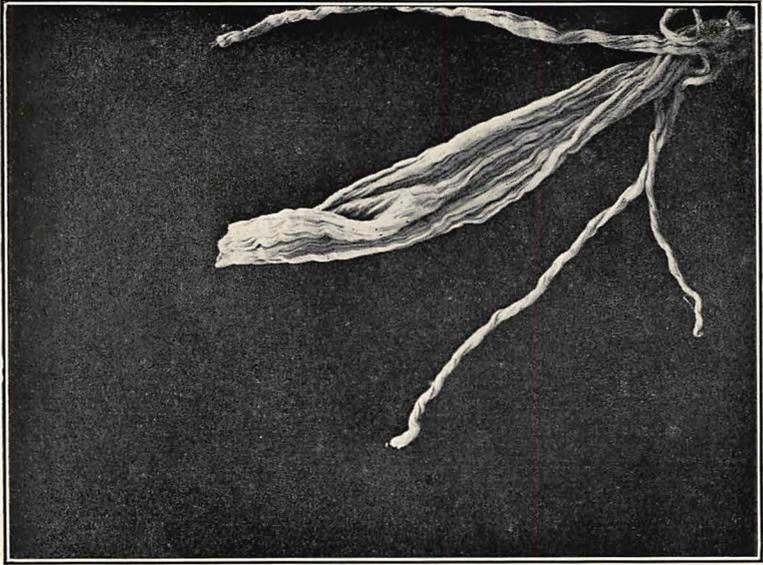


PLATE 7. ENLARGEMENT FROM PLATE 4

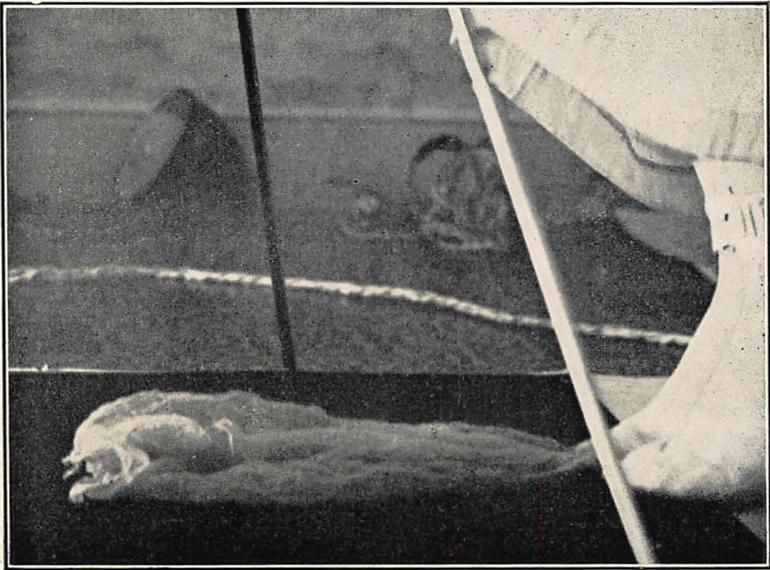


PLATE 8. ENLARGEMENT OF PLATE 5