

NOTICE CONCERNING LORD DUNRAVEN'S
"EXPERIENCES IN SPIRITUALISM WITH D. D. HOME."

LORD Dunraven's personal record of his experiences with the well-known medium D. D. Home, which were printed—for private circulation only—some fifty years ago, will shortly be published as a Part of our *Proceedings*, and simultaneously in a cloth bound edition for sale to the general public at 7s. 6d.

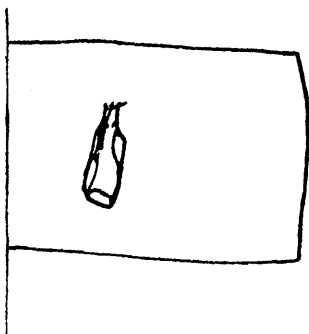
Since it will evidently be convenient, having regard to the cloth edition, that this Part of *Proceedings* should begin at page 1, it will constitute Part XCIII. Vol. XXXV. We hope to publish Parts XCI. and XCII. (to complete Vol. XXXIV.) in the course of this year.

AN EXPERIMENT WITH THE POLISH MEDIUM
STEPHAN OSSOWIECKI.

BY E. J. DINGWALL.

THE following experiment with the medium Ossowiecki took place at Warsaw during the Second Congress in the autumn of 1923. Prior to leaving for Poland I had prepared a test for this medium on August 22, 1923. No one was present at the operation and no one was informed what I had written and drawn upon the paper within the envelopes. The paper measured approximately 17·5 cm. by 11 cm. The following words were written at the top of the paper before placing it within the first envelope: "Les vignobles du Rhin, de la Moselle et de la Bourgogne donnent un vin excellent." On the lower half I drew an exceedingly rough design which was meant to convey the *idea* of a bottle without actually being a picture of one (Fig. 1). This I enclosed within three lines, the fourth being supplied by the left hand edge of the paper. Near the bottom right hand corner I then wrote [Aug. 22, 1923]. The slip of paper was then folded with the writing outwards and placed in an opaque red paper envelope, the external measurements of which were about 11·5 cm. by 9 cm. The slip was placed so that the writing was facing the plain side of the envelope and the drawing the flap side. The flap being left unsealed,

this red envelope was then inserted flap end first into an opaque dull black envelope, into which it fitted closely. This envelope, again unsealed, was then inserted flap end first into a brown paper envelope, into which it again fitted closely. The flap of this envelope was then pasted down and a single seal affixed to the lowest part of the flap where it adhered to the envelope. Four pinholes were then pricked at the four



[Aug. 22. 1923]

FIG. 1.

corners of the envelope, and the packet put away until taken to Warsaw. There it was left either locked up in my suit-case or carried inside the breast pocket of my jacket inside my passport.

Towards 1.15 p.m. on August 30, 1923, I met Baron von Schrenck-Notzing outside the University of Warsaw. He told me that as there might be a sitting with Ossowiecki that evening it would be advisable to present a sealed letter if I had one ready prepared. In that case he would himself take it to the séance at which I should not assist, it being thought that through some telepathic process the medium might gain knowledge of the contents of the packet by reading my mind.

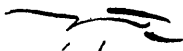
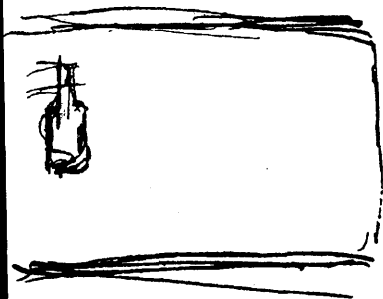
The sitting took place in Ossowiecki's flat in Warsaw the same evening at 9 p.m. Three documents had been prepared: two were made up at the Hôtel de l'Europe the same evening, and the third was my own brought by Baron von Schrenck. (The account which follows is partly derived from that pub-

lished in the *Revue Métapsychique* (Sept.-Oct. 1923, 317-320) by Dr. Geley, who, with M. Sudre, Mme. Ossowiecki and Professor A. Vehab and Baron von Schrenck-Notzing were present at the sitting.)

M. Ossowiecki took the three letters and, turning them over in his hands, selected the one in the brown envelope brought by Baron von Schrenck-Notzing and prepared by myself. The two other envelopes were white.

The medium then began to concentrate, tightly holding the packet in his hands and walking about but without leaving the sight of the observers. Speaking in short phrases with long pauses between each sentence, Dr. Geley was able to note down what he was saying, which was as follows:

"I feel the restaurant . . . the Hôtel de l'Europe . . . it is not you (designating Dr. von Schrenck-Notzing) who have written. It is another man that I might be able to describe . . . The



19 2 23

FIG. 2.

letter that I am holding has several envelopes . . . It is a letter and yet it is not a letter . . . I see something greenish, in cardboard (*en carton*) . . . They are the other letters [*i.e.* the two in the white envelopes] which have come from the Hotel de l'Europe. . . . I see a stranger of from 34 to 35 years of age. He is

speaking a little and is a trifle stout. You have spoken with him . . . The letter that I am holding has been prepared for me . . . I cannot understand . . . I see red . . . something red . . . colours . . . a lady on one side . . . [Long pause.] I do not know why I see a little bottle . . . you have a very fine study; many old pictures; chairs upholstered in leather, with much wood in the room . . . the study is a little dark . . . It is not the man that I have just seen, the stout one, who has written the letter that I am holding . . . There is a drawing made by a man who is not an artist . . . something red with this bottle . . . There is without any doubt a second red envelope . . . There is a square drawn at the corner of the paper. The bottle is very badly drawn. I see it! I see it! (He draws: Fig. 2.) I see it! I see it! at the corner on the other side. In the middle something also is written, on the back . . . ”

At this juncture the company were asked to come into the dining-room for refreshments. The medium, still holding the envelope, stains it slightly whilst eating a sardine. He continues to speak:

“I see a man who resembles Mr. Vett. It is he who has written for me one of the two white letters. One of the two is from him. The other is the stout gentleman whom I have already described.”

Dr. von Schrenck-Notzing then took the opportunity of informing those present that this was correct. One of the letters was prepared by Mr. Vett and the other by Mr. Neumann, who is short and rather stout. The medium then continued:

“There is something else: something white and in the middle . . . I see before the year, there is a date or the name of the town . . . It is rather a feminine than a masculine hand.” Dr. von Schrenck then inquired in what language was it written? “In French,” M. Ossowiecki replied and he added, “The bottle is a little inclined to one side. It has no cork. It is made up of several fine lines. There is first a brown envelope outside; then a greenish envelope, and then a red envelope. Inside, a piece of white paper folded in two with the drawing inside. It is written on a single sheet.”

The following day I opened the packet at a meeting of the Congress and explained certain of the precautions which I had taken against tampering. The envelopes appeared to be wholly intact and no evidence whatever was discernible that the packet had been opened. I had no doubt that the test was valid and that the knowledge of the contents had been ascertained by M. Ossowiecki through channels not generally recognised. The opening of the packet created a sensation. M. Ossowiecki received an ovation and fell on the necks of the observers with tears in his eyes.

In discussing this case it is necessary to bear in mind that the result of the experiment showed, I think, quite definitely that coincidence can be wholly excluded. Either the knowledge was obtained in a normal manner or it was not. In order to discover the contents normally it would have been necessary to gain possession of the packet, open it skilfully, and with much laborious care reseal it after having discovered the tests and devised the best methods to be used in circumventing them. Now the packet was in my possession at Warsaw from the day that I arrived (9.15 a.m., Monday, August 27) until it was given to Dr. von Schrenck-Notzing on August 30 at about 1.15 p.m. To obtain possession of it would have meant (a) Having a duplicate key made to my suit-case or opening it in some other manner, or (b) obtaining possession of it from Dr. von Schrenck. Since it was on Dr. von Schrenck's person, this appears to me to be impossible and need not be considered. Now, as the sitting was held in the light and the packet was visible in the medium's hand during the reading, the knowledge, if gained normally, *must* have been so gained *before* the sitting, and this, as I have tried to show above, involves insuperable difficulties. This, together with other excellent evidence of the same faculty in Ossowiecki and other mediums, leaves us but little choice as to the proper interpretation to be put upon the experiment. The supernormal character of the incident seems to me quite clear and decisive.