March / April 2003 - #39

PSYCHOGRAPHY*

D.Villela

A psychographic medium** is one who writes under the influence of disincarnated spirits. Usually one does not observe any sensible alterations in the mediums while they write the messages, as even their calligraphy generally remains unaltered. How, then, can we attribute such writings to other personalities?

Superficial critics have gone as far as labeling the process as psychopathic, meaning that the entities who composed those pages would be simple creations of the medium's mind who, imagining to transmit other's messages, would be only exhibiting sick fragmentations of his/hers own conscience.

When he dealt with the Spiritist phenomena at around 1855, Prof. Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail did so with the objectivity and rationality that were his trademarks: he assumed that every effect has a cause; and that intelligent effects come from intelligent causes, even when not detectable by our senses.

Prof. Rivail —who would later adopt the penname Allan Kardec—came to these simple but decisive conclusions based on experiences of our daily life. For instance, when we see on the ground the imprint of a certain animal we know that it wandered through that path even if we did not see it come through. The same when a bird falls from the sky stricken by a gunshot: even without seeing it, we know that a skilled hunter was responsible for it.

In reality, manifestations of physical nature—the turning tables— were the first to call our attention to the interchange with the invisible world. Soon after, however, as suggested by the spirits themselves, writing became the method of choice through which messages were received, sometimes extensive, thus further establishing dialogues with the spirit communicators.

With mediumship educated and put to use according to the Spiritist principles, regular communications between the two worlds were initiated, with psychography being seen as the most adequate method for the delivery of longer messages. It was through this process that the works of the Codification were composed, as well as numerous others, which to this date continue to bring the Spiritist revelation.

It is opportune to mention that although mediums cannot be totally excluded —he/she always participates in this interchange, and not rarely giving it his/her own personal tone— the external origin of the concepts they bring to light is verifiable in different ways: sometimes it is the style of a certain writer that proves unmistakable, while in other instances it is certain expressions, or other details of their lives that irrefutably confirm the authors of such texts.

Nowadays, this activity proceeds with the same characteristics established by Kardec: mediumistic attribution and a signature at the end of the page are not enough. It is indispensable to examine it rationally, verifying the coherence of the concepts and its compatibility with what is known of the author. Only after this procedure can we accept the authenticity of a message.

This without any doubt is a precaution we all need to apply, but especially those who have responsibilities in the area of dissemination, working with our publishing houses, periodicals, as well as the Spiritist institutions.

 \Diamond

The Mediums' Book (Second Part, Ch. XV).

Translator's Notes:

*Psychography: Involuntary or unconscious writing, as by a medium. Funk&Wagnalls New Comprehensive International Dictionary of the English Language, Encyclopedic Edition.

**Psychographic Mediums: Those who have the faculty of writing under spirit influence. ("Varieties of Writing Mediums" - *The Mediums' Book*, Part Second, Ch. XVI, Item 191, Second Edition, FEB.)

REMEMBERING FIGNER

A person of distinction in the Spiritist ranks at the turn of the 19th century, Frederico Figner, or simply Fred Figner, as he was known, left his mark also as a public person in the annals of the history of Brazil. Considered a visionary, his entrepreneurial character was responsible for profound transformations in his days, a time when he brought to the country many novelties, among them the phonograph, the gramophone, and music records.

The name Figner reveals Jewish origins. He was born in the former Czechoslovakia on December 2, 1866, in a humble household. At 13, he left the house in search of work. That was the beginning of his long journey, which would include several countries.

Possessing a singular commercial adroitness, Figner rapidly made his fortune. He founded the famous "Casa Edison" in downtown Rio de Janeiro, a city where he lived from 1892 until his disincarnation on January 19, 1947, at 81 years of age. He also created Odeon, the first recording company of Brazilian music. His life as a Spiritist started in 1903, "taken there" by his friend Pedro Sayão, father of the opera singer Bidu Sayão.

Important facts of Figner's life were rescued in a recent exhibit titled "Mansão Figner – O Rio na Belle Époque" [Figner Mansion — The Rio of the Belle Epoque], shown at his own residence, the Figner Mansion. Located at Rua Marquês de Abrantes 99, Flamengo, the mansion was acquired by the "Serviço Social do Comércio" [Commerce Social Services] of Rio de Janeiro, who restored the estate.

In the interior of the house, a great panel shows in chronological order important facts of Figner's life, alongside other important events of that period. In one of the rooms of the mansion, different items he sold in his store can be seen, such as a beautiful gramophone.

A book on Figner's life is also available for sale at his former mansion. Titled "A Mansão Figner – O ecletismo e a casa burguesa no início do século XX" ["The Figner Mansion: Eclecticism and a

Bourgeois House at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century"], it is based on detailed research by architect Marcos Moraes de Sá. The book consists of documented information, with dozens of photographs, on the diversity of artistic styles found in the house, as well as insights on the life of the proprietor: "... the abnegation and charity towards others become a constant in the life of Fred Figner. He was part of the "Federação Espírita Brasileira" as vice president, treasurer and member of the Auditing Counsel, and divulged the doctrine of religion [sic] in a column in the newspaper 'Correio da Manhã,' which he wrote until his death. ... His participation, however, was not carried out at a distance. Every day, before going to work, he would help around at the "Federação" and would later return after four o'clock in the afternoon. His charity was so open that in 1918, during the epidemic of the Spanish flu —which not rarely ended in death—he housed 14 people sick with the flu in his own house, while he himself was feeling ill and feverish. Asked by singer and actress Pepa Delgado, Mr. Figner donated a lot he owned in Jacarepaguá for the construction of the "Retiro dos Artistas" [Nursing Home for Artists]... He never let his material possessions impede him of seeing and supporting the poor and needy that crossed his path.'

We should note that Frederico Figner, through the mediumship of our now deeply missed Francisco Cândido Xavier, brought us the book "Voltei" ["I am Back"], published by the "Federação Espírita Brasileira." In this book, signed by him with the pseudonym Irmão Jacob [Brother Jacob], he relates, among other facts, his entry into the spiritual realm where he was received by the spirit Dr. Bezerra de Menezes, as well as his reunion with other friends in the spirit world.

 \Diamond

Accept failure as the basis of a new beginning.

Emmanuel



THE SPIRITIST INFORMATION SERVICE
A bimonthly periodical by
Lar Fabiano de Cristo
Editor in Chief:
Cesar Soares dos Reis
Editors:
Danilo Carvalho Villela
Eloy Carvalho Villela
Production Offices:
Rua dos Inválidos, 34 – 7º andar
Centro - BR 20231-040
Rio de Janeiro - RJ
Tel (21) 2242-8872
Fax (21) 3806-8649
Brazil

AROUND THE WORLD

• ARGENTINA

The "Confederación Espiritista Argentina" (Sanchez de Bustamante 463 – 1173 Buenos Aires – Argentina – Internet: ceaespiritista@ciudad.com.ar) started the Systematic Study of the Spiritist Doctrine. The number of attendees has been increasing for the meetings conducted on Mondays, at 7PM.

The "Asociación Providencia de Cultura Cristiana" celebrates its 103rd anniversary of uninterrupted activities. Located at 15 de Noviembre 1.490 – 1130 ABH Buenos Aires – Argentina, it offers the public various doctrinal studies, one of them on Sundays, at 5:30 PM.

• AUSTRALIA

The Australian Spiritist institutions are preparing for the visit in July of the medium and lecturer Divaldo Pereira Franco. The "Foundation of Joana de Cusa" (7 The Strand – Rockdale 2216 NSW – Sydney, Australia – Internet: ggcoelho @ihug.com.au), one of the sponsors of the event, estimates Divaldo's stay from July 16 to 22, during which time he will deliver several lecturers at no charge, on topics relating to "Life and Survival," "Behavioral Perturbations and Obsessions," "Reincarnation and Life," "Vices and Conditionings," and "Cure and Self-cure."

• AUSTRIA

The complete list of doctrinal activities of the "Verein für Espiritistische Studien Allan Kardec" ("Allan Kardec Society for Spiritist Studies") is available in the Internet, at: http://perso.wanadoo.fr/charles.kempf/isc/2_adresses/austria.htm. The organization, located at Spengerstrasse 10/3 – Jahngasse, 28 – A1050 Viena – Austria, is headed by our fellow Josef Jackulack.

• BOLIVIA

The "Centro Espírita Amalia Domingo Soler" (Av. Ayacucho 492 – Norte – Cochabamba – Bolivia), headed by Leda Vargas, celebrates its ninth anniversary of continued activity for the dissemination of the Spiritist Doctrine and the practice of charity.

The institution conducts regular study and public meetings on the basic works of the Codification, as well as carrying out the "Campanha Auta de Souza," which tends to the needy population of the region through weekly distribution of soup, breakfast, and clothes.

Δ

Each person you meet is a page in the book you are writing with your own life.

Emmanuel

• FRANCE

In a celebration that brought together various French Spiritist institutions, the "Association Parisienne d'Études Spirites" (22, Rue des Laitières – 94300 Vincennes – France) commemorated the tenth anniversary of its creation and doctrinal and charitable activities.

The "Union Spirite Française et Francophone" (Bôite Postale 2707 – 37027 Tours – France) is offering via Internet a list of Spiritist works published in French. Among them, books by Allan Kardec and Léon Denis. For requests, please visit http://perso.wanadoo.fr/union.spirite.

• ITALY

The book "Grazie, Don Angelo" (Thanks, Don Angelo) by Franco Predieri, has recently been launched in Italy. It portrays the life of Angelo Fantoni, a priest who dedicated his mediumship to heal and cure. Mr. Predieri's admiration for Don Angelo started after he was cured of a serious illness.

Moreover, Mr. Predieri, currently responsible for an institution that studies and practices mediumship, serves as a medium to the priest who disincarnated in 1992. In a passage of the book, the following story is related: "This phenomena did not go undetected by the Medical Association of Arezzo, who sued the priest, accusing him of the illegal practice of medicine, with two prosecutors assigned to the case. But then something unexpected happened: Don Angelo reveals to one of the prosecutors that he is suffering from a certain illness, a fact that that prosecutor was hiding from his family so as not to worry them. Don Angelo proceeds to put his hands on the part of the prosecutor's body where the lump was located and it immediately disappears." The book goes on describing the public's outcry in defense of the priest, especially the neediest segment of the population, a fact that contributed a great deal in the withdrawal of the lawsuit.

"Grazie, Don Angelo" can be obtained free of charge by sending requests to "Associazione Grazie Mio Dio" (Via delle Lenze, 167 – Pisa – 56122 Toscana – Italy).

The book is only available in Italian.

• PORTUGAL

The new 2003-2004 board of directors of the "Federação Espírita Portuguesa" (FEP) has been elected in a meeting where 44 associated federations participated. Our fellow Arnaldo Costeira, from the "Associação Cultural Espiritualista de Viseu" will continue to head the FEP. More information can be obtained in the recent issue of the "Jornal Espírita" (Rua Allan Kardec 1 – Bairro da Amizade – Rio da Loba – 3500-762 Viseu – Portugal).

• SPAIN

"What is Hell?" and "Who Are the Dead?" are titles of some of the articles of the new 32-page monthly issue of the magazine "La Hora de la Verdad" (Avda. Andalucía 130 – 18340 Fuente Vaqueros – Granada – Spain). It is published by the "Asociación Benéfico-Social Los Pastoreros," which distributes the magazine to several other countries. The magazine can be visited at the institution's Website at: www.pastoreros.org.

• UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To get acquainted with the activities of the "Centro Espírita Fraternidade e Amor" (1150 Normandy Drive #4 – Miami Beach, FL 33141 – USA) visit its Website at: www.cefamiami.com.

Along with information on Spiritism, it posts a list of U.S. and worldwide Spiritist organizations. It also offers news and books launchings, videos and tapes in the English language, and a virtual course of Esperanto.

BOOK REVIEW

CHILD OF GOD

Child of God, part of a collection of works with enlightening and consoling messages by the spirit author Joanna de Ângelis, offers one more invitation for reflection. Obtained through the mediumship of Divaldo Pereira Franco, it is published by "Livraria Espírita Alvorada Editora."

In 1995, the bookstore "Livraria Alvorada," in an effort to expand the reach of the Spiritist word, launched the English version of the book, translated by Ely J. Donato.

Printed in special paper with a suggestive cover and photographs preceding each text, the 128-page book contains 30 messages for meditation, search of peace, and healthy thoughts and actions. The chapter "Light of God" is an example of the book's content, as follows:

"A stained-glass window is illumined when the sun shines through, and its brilliant colours glow in a magic dance of light.

"The human soul, though made up of superior elements, will only reach fullness when permeated by divine clarity.

"Like a sparkling diamond, the human soul also becomes a shining star when perfected through suffering and dedication to the service of others.

"You must understand that your spiritual progress is of absolute importance, and you must not get entangled by the petty problems of everyday life lest you will slow down your evolution.

"The unexpected obstacles a traveler meets with along a road should make him think up ways to overcome them. But the traveler will thwart his pace if he allows the thorns and gravels which pave the way to hurt his feet.

"So, bathe yourself in the divine light, and let it illumine the dark corners of your life where jealousy, spite, envy, indolence, and other moral imperfections have found shelter.

"Created for stellar glory, you are a cosmos in miniature. Emerging from the fiery nebulae of human passions, strive to gravitate in harmony with divine thought and do not go astray. The irresistible attracting power of God's love will lead us all to Him.

"Plunge yourself in the light of Love so that the spirit in you may irradiate it, and then no shadows shall loom over your feelings. Your personal light will reach others, and shine in the world.

"The light of God will kindle the spark of spiritual wealth within you, bringing out all your dormant virtues, and this light of God shall shake them out to life."

Among others, some chapters in this book are titled "Peace in You" "Heir of God," "Your Renewal," "God Knows," "God Can," "God Wants," "Prayer in You," and "Give Thanks to God."

To get a copy of "Child of God" please contact "Livraria Alvorada" (Rua Jayme Vieira Lima 1 – Pau da Lima – Salvador-BA – CEP 41235-000 – Brazil – Telephone (71) 393-2855 – www.mansaodocaminho.com.br).

FROM OUR FELLOWS

FORGETTING THE PAST

Orson Peter Carrara

If we are all reincarnated, why don't we remember our past existences? This remains an intriguing question, one that casts long doubts for many people.

Forgetfulness of our past, —that is, our previous lives— indicates God's wisdom. Remembrances of episodes occurred in past lives would bring many inconveniences, not the least of them the following: a) a great humiliation due to unpleasant memories of our many moral missteps, especially if it involved third parties; b) the exaltation of our pride and self-importance due to high positions we might have occupied; c) damage to our social relations because by remembering our actions, we would certainly also remember actions of our path towards bliss and progress; and e) hate and vengeance that could undermine relationships and incite new aggravations.

On the other hand, among the plentiful advantages of forgetting our past —and we repeat, all fruit of the Divine Wisdom—we can find: a) opportunities for new beginnings without disturbing remembrances; b) that the progress we reached so far will allow us to take steps for new advancements; c) reconciliation with old foes without the embarrassment

of remembrances that could impede it; d) the overcoming of past traumas in renewed circumstances; e) new experiences and learning without the hindrance of a past that could interfere; f) and the acquisition of new experiences without any links with the past.

Those who do not know the process allege that forgetfulness would be an impediment for the rebuilt of our path, when in reality this "erasing of memories" brings true blessings. God benefits us with forgetfulness casting a veil so to say in our memory to prevent errors and equivocations from our past to turn into chains or weights that would impede us from building or rebuilding our own happiness.

However, if we still intend to find out what we were or what we did before our present life, it will suffice to observe attentively our tendencies, abilities, moral shortfalls, as well as ties that bond us to certain people, to get a sense of our conduct and behavior in previous lives. This close analysis will allow us to correct the direction of our current path.

To know more, dear reader, try to further read and reflect on questions 392 to 399 of the "Spirits' Book" by Allan Kardec. The issue surely is gripping, nevertheless the Spiritist Doctrine recommends discernment and avoidance of unnecessary curiosity. The essential point, in the end, is to adopt a good conduct now in order to construct a better future for later.

THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

• "LA GENEZO"

The Esperanto translation of the book "A Gênese" [The Genesis], by Allan Kardec, was recently launched at the headquarters of the "Cooperativa Cultural dos Esperantistas," in the state of Rio de Janeiro. On the occasion, our fellow Affonso Soares, responsible for the translation, gave a lecture on the book, titled "La Genezo" in Esperanto. It is published by the "Federação Espírita Brasileira" (Rua Souza Valente 17 – São Cristóvão – Rio de Janeiro-RJ – CEP 20941-040 – Brazil – Internet: www.febrasil.org.br).

For book requests also contact the "Sociedade Editora Espírita F.V. Lorenz" (Rua dos Inválidos 34 – sala 903 – Centro – Rio de Janeiro-RJ – CEP 20231-040 Brazil – Internet: lorenzvendas@uol.com.br), which publishes Spiritist and Esperantist books.

• STATE OF AMAZONAS

An updated list of Spiritist institutions in Manaus and the interior of the state of Amazonas can be found at the website of the "Federação Espírita Amazonense" (Rua Pedro Teixeira 365 – Conjunto Dom Pedro I – CEP 69040-000 Manaus-AM – Brazil) at www.feamazonas.org.br. It also posts news on projects developed by the "Federação" related to the Spiritist dissemination and social services.

• MEDICINE AND SPIRITISM

Physicians and scientists will be meeting in the month of June in the city of São Paulo for two significant events. The first, from June 18-20, is the IV National Congress of the Association of Brazilian Spiritist Physicians, under the theme "Science and Spirituality in the Works of Chico Xavier and Emmanuel." The second event, on June 21st, will be the II International Encounter of Spiritist Physicians, under the theme "Complementarity and Integration."

The president of both the Brazilian and International Spiritist Physicians Associations, Dr. Marlene Nobre, and the president of the São Paulo chapter, Sérgio Felipe de Oliveira, will be among the lecturers who have confirmed participation. Also participating will be Dr. Amit Goswami, author of the best-seller "The Self-Aware Universe: How Consciousness Creates the Material World," who for 35 years was the chair of Quantum Physics of the University of Oregon (USA), as well as neuropsychiatrist Dr. Peter Fenwick, the leading clinic authority from Great Britain in Near Death Experience.

For more information, contact the "Associação Médico-Espírita do Brasil" (Avenida Pedro Severino 325 – Jabaquara – São Paulo-SP – CEP 04310-060 – Brazil – Internet: www.amebrasil.org.br).

• BOOKS IN ITALIAN

The books Mani Unite [United Hands], Messaggi dall'Aldilà [Messages from the Beyond], and e Noi [Us], by Emmanuel, and psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier, can now be found in Italian. It is an initiative of "Casas Fraternais O Nazareno" (Rua Doutor, Cesário Mota 41 – Centro – Santo André-SP - CEP 09010-100 - Brazil -Internet: www.casadelnazareno.com), also responsible for the translation of other well known books from the mediumistic production of Chico Xavier, such as Semaforo Verde [Green Signal], and Risposte della Vita [Answers from Life], by the spirit André Luiz, and Cuore e Vita [Heart and Life], by the spirit Maria Dolores.

• "LIFE: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS"

Divaldo Pereira Franco, Alberto de Almeida, Walter Borges, Alcione Albuquerque, Carlos Augusto Abranches, Leila Brandão and Taciana de Lima are some of the names who confirmed participation in the VI Spiritist Congress of the State of Espirito Santo.

The event, sponsored by the "Federação Espírita do Estado do Espirito Santo" (Rua Álvaro Sarlo 35 – Ilha de Santa Maria – CEP 29040-040 Vitória-ES – Brazil – Internet: feees@feees.org.br) will take place from 3-5 October, at the "Centro de Convenções de Vitória," under the title "Life, Challenges and Solutions."

• PERIODICAL "GAZETA ESPÍRITA"

The recent issue of "Gazeta Espírita" reads more like a truly historical register due to the presentation of memorable mementos in the Spiritist Movement. Among them: photographs of our fellow Edynardo Weyne in front of the "Centro Espírita Luz nas Trevas," founded by him in 1964 in a modest dwelling on the grounds of a construction area of the hydroelectric Boa Esperança, in the state of Piauí; photographs of Prof. Carlos Juliano Torres Pastorino, one of the founders of the Lar Fabiano de Cristo, during the 1976 VI Brazilian Congress of Spiritist Journalists and Writers, in Brasilia; a photograph depicting Milton Borges dos Santos cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Spiritist Book Club of Fortaleza, planned and launched in 1973 by Benvindo da Costa Melo, and which would become the principal distribution center for Spiritist works in the state of Ceara.

"Gazeta Espírita" circulates bimonthly and is published by "Centro de Documentação Espírita do Ceará" (Rua Pedro de Queiroz 506 – Fortaleza-CE – CEP 60450-220 – Brazil – Internet: jornalgazetaespirita@yahoo.com.br).

• ON THE RADIO

Daily, from 6:20 to 6:30 AM, Radio Capibaribe – Jovem CAP (AM-1240 kHz) airs the program "O que é o Espiritismo" ["What is Spiritism"]. Although short in duration, it is attracting a large audience, as revealed by the correspondence the production receives. For the program, fellows from the Spiritist Movement are invited to comment on doctrinal topics.

This is an initiative of the Department of Doctrinal Dissemination of the "Federação Espírita Pernambucana" (Av. João de Barros 1.629 – Espinheiro – Recife-PE – CEP 52021-180 – Brazil – Internet: www.fespiritape.org.br).

• VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Spiritist works are more accessible to the visually impaired thanks to projects such as the one initiated by the "Sociedade Espírita Bezerra de Menezes," from Rio Grande do Sul. The institution created the "Fitoteca Circulante Bezerra de Menezes" [an audio library], which lends tapes of Spiritist works in Portuguese to visually impaired individuals from Brazil and worldwide. The "Fitoteca" currently offers 50 lectures and seminars by Divaldo Pereira Franco, as well as more than 260 books on tape, including works by Allan Kardec, psychographies by Francisco Cândido Xavier, and 180 other tapes from various authors.

Shipping is free, and delivery can be expected between 30 and 60 days. For more details contact Antônio de Souza Lima (Rua Altemar Dutra 1.156 - Apartment 201 – Salinas – Cidreira-RS – CEP 95595-000 – Brazil).

• BOOKS

The "Federação Espírita do Estado de Goiás" (Rua 1.113n- 40 – Setor Marista – Goiânia-GO – CEP 74180-050 – Brazil – Internet: www.feego.org.br) re-edited the books "Esclarecendo os Jovens" [Enlightening the Youth], and "Relacionamento entre Pais e Filhos" [Relationship between Parents and Children], by Umberto Ferreira. The first title covers world problems and how to deal with them according to the Spiritist teachings. The second covers the author's explanations on questions most frequently asked at lectures and seminars conducted by him.

• BOOKSTORE ALVORADA: NEW CATALOG

A new pricing list with books from the "Livraria Espírita Alvorada Editora" is being circulated. The 20-page list has hundreds of titles, including video and audio tapes, as well as books psychographed by Divaldo Pereira Franco. Requests can be sent to the "Mansão do Caminho" (where the bookstore is located) at Rua Jayme Vieira Lima 104 – Pau da Lima – BR-41235-000 Salvador-BA – Brazil – Internet: www.svn.com.br/mansao.

• SPIRITIST SOCIETY "HUMILDADE E CARIDADE"

The "Sociedade Espírita Humildade e Caridade" is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Located at Rua Flora Araújo, 433 – Andrade Araújo – Nova Iguaçu-RJ – CEP 26010-570 – Brazil, it was created in 1913 by José Luiz do Espírito Santo, Flora Souza Araújo, and Benigno Rodrigues Armada.

• LAUNCHINGS

The "Centro Espírita Léon Denis" (Abílio dos Santos 137 – Bento Ribeiro – BR-21331-290 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil – Internet: www.celd.com.br.) has launched its edition of "Obras Póstumas" [Posthumous Works], by Allan Kardec, translated from the original French by Maria Lúcia Alcântara de Carvalho. Containing 574 pages in a handsome graphic design, it includes photographs of the house and the tomb of the great Codifier.

Among other recent editions, they offer "O Projeto Divino – Considerações sobre o Livro A Caminho da Luz," by José Carlos Leal. As the title suggests, it is a 218-page study divided in eleven chapters of the well known book by Emmanuel, psychographed by Chico Xavier.

• 90th ANNIVERSARY

The "Sociedade Espírita Os Mensageiros da Paz" (Rua Engenheiros Rebouças, 2.519 – Rebouças – Curitiba-PR – CEP 80230-040 – Brazil) celebrates its 90th anniversary with an extensive program dedicated to the study of the Spiritist Doctrine.