

# HOW TO TRY REMARKABLE EXPERIMENTS AT HOME.

**I**NQUIRERS into the phenomena of Spiritualism should begin by forming circles in their own homes, with no Spiritualist or stranger to the family present.

The assertions of a few newspapers, conjurers, and men of science that the alleged phenomena are jugglery, are proved to be untrue by the fact that manifestations are readily obtainable by private families, with no stranger present, and without deception by any member of the family. At the present time there are only about half-a-dozen professional mediums for the physical phenomena in all Great Britain, consequently, if these were all tricksters (which they are not), they are so few in number as to be unable to bear out the imposture theory as the foundation of the great movement of modern Spiritualism. Readers should protect themselves against any impostors, who knowing to the contrary, may hereafter tell them that the phenomena are not real, by trying simple home experiments which cost nothing, thus learning how egregiously those are duped who trust in worthless authorities.

Conjurers and their scientific partners cannot produce their results in a house from which they are excluded, but private families commonly get the real thing with no strangers present, consequently those who say that the phenomena are imposture, do not tell the truth.

One or more persons possessing medial powers without knowing it, are to be found in nearly every household, and about one new circle in three, formed according to the following instructions, obtains the phenomena:—

1. Let arrangements be made that there shall be no interruption for one hour during the sitting of the circle.

2. Let the circle consist of four, five, or six individuals, about the same number of each sex. Sit in subdued light, but sufficient to allow everything to be seen clearly, round an uncovered wooden table, with all the palms of the hands

in contact with its top surface. Whether the hands touch each other or not is of no importance. Any table will do.

3. Belief or unbelief has no influence on the manifestations, but an acrid feeling against them is weakening.

4. Before the manifestations begin, it is well to engage in general conversation or in singing, and it is best that neither should be of a frivolous nature.

5. The first symptom of the invisible power at work is often a feeling like a cool wind sweeping over the hands. The first indications will probably be table tiltings or raps.

6. When motions of the table or sounds are produced freely, to avoid confusion let one person only speak; he should talk to the table as to an intelligent being. Let him tell the table that three tilts or raps mean "Yes," one means "No," and two mean "Doubtful," and ask whether the arrangement is understood. If three signals be given in answer, then say, "If I speak the letters of the alphabet slowly, will you signal every time I come to the letter you want, and spell us out a message?" Should three signals be given, set to work on the plan proposed, and from this time an intelligent system of communication is established.

7. Possibly symptoms of other forms of mediumship, such as trance or clairvoyance may develop; the better class of messages, as judged by their religious and philosophical merits, usually accompany such manifestations rather than the more objective phenomena. After the manifestations are obtained, the observers should not go to the other extreme and give way to an excess of credulity, but should believe no more about them or the contents of messages than they are forced to do by undeniable proof.

8. Should no results be obtained at the first two *séances* because no medium chances to be present, try again with other sitters. A medium is usually an impulsive individual very sensitive to mesmeric influences.

Some of the above instructions are quoted from *The Spiritualist* newspaper (Established 1869), price 2½d post free, published weekly by E. W. Allen, 11 Ave Maria Lane, London, E.C.