

SAYS HE CAN 'FAKE' LODGE AND HYSLOP

**"Ghost Breaker" Rinn Asserts
Scientists Are Fooled by
"Mere Child's Play."**

PROPOSED TESTS RIDICULED

**"Public Has No Sense," Comments
Dr. Hyslop, Advising Mediums
Be "Let Alone."**

Joseph C. Rinn, the "ghost breaker," whose offer to forfeit \$5,000 if Sir Oliver Lodge, Dr. James H. Hyslop or anybody else can produce a medium who cannot be exposed as a fraud, said yesterday he had anticipated the scoffing with which his proposal had been received by Sir Oliver and Dr. Hyslop.

"They take refuge in excuses that won't stand examination for a minute," he said. "I would make conditions which would be the easiest in the world if the mediums were not fakes. I want to take five blindfolded strangers before the 'strongest' medium living, and if she, or he, can produce a single bit of information about them with the earmarks of coming from the other world they will get the \$5,000. I understand the Society for Psychical Research is seeking a million dollar endowment. If they will accept my offer and prove their case publicly they will be able to get a billion. All that I am looking for is a chance to prove to the world that these men are absolutely without ability to pass on the tricks of these swindling mediums. I can fake these men, just as the mediums do, in abnormal psychology and the dual personality business. I can prove they are being fooled with mere child's play and getting the public to share with them in the deception."

Calls Proposed Tests Ridiculous.

Dr. James H. Hyslop, Secretary of the Society for Physical Research, refused yesterday to discuss Mr. Rinn and his series of challenges. Mr. Rinn, who is the head of a wholesale produce business, is also one of the most expert amateur conjurers. Dr. Hyslop said the subject of spirit messages was entirely one of abnormal psychology and that conjurers knew no more of this subject "than street gamins." The tests proposed were ridiculous, he said, because mediums sometimes fail under the best of conditions and were almost sure to fail when they were excited and nervous by reason of appearing before the public. He said there was no simple fashion in which proof of supernatural communication could be produced, under scientific conditions, to establish fact of intercourse between the other world and this one. In his own case, Dr. Hyslop said, it had required twenty years of study and a mass of cumulative evidence to convince him.

Regarding the proposal that \$5,000 should be forfeited if any medium could bring the spirit of the late Dr. Richard Hodgson to tell the contents of a letter which Dr. Hodgson had written seven hours before he died, Dr. Hyslop said that the idea was preposterous, for two reasons.

Verbatim Messages Rare.

The first was that no living man could remember for any length of time what he had written in a letter, and that no better memory could be expected in a spirit. The second was that mediums are seldom capable of reproducing any message verbatim. The medium, he said, receives words, pictures or intimations from a ghost, which the medium must render in his own language.

The spirit of his own father, through Mrs. Smead, a well-known medium, had given a password in another language, Dr. Hyslop said, which was to indicate to the living man in future communications that his father's spirit was talking. He said that, although he had never divulged the foreign phrase so used, it had been repeated several times by different mediums. One of these, he said, was the wife of an orthodox clergyman, while most of the others were private persons who had never commercialized their psychic powers.

Proof of communication from the other world, Dr. Hyslop asserted, could be established in only one way, by the multitude of proofs of personal identity. He said the general public was entirely incapable of forming conclusions of any value on the subject. He added:

"The public has no sense. I advise them to let mediums alone and simply help the scientific men to study them."

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