

first attempt and occasionally curative results followed with almost miraculous rapidity; but as a rule the time and trouble required bore a direct proportion to the severity and duration of the disease and the mental instability of the patient. In conclusion, Dr. Bramwell warmly acknowledged the services that Mr. Myers had rendered to hypnotism.

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CHARLES ALEXANDER LOCKHART ROBERTSON.

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Our Society has suffered a serious loss through the death, on the 18th ult., of the distinguished medico-psychological physician, Dr. Lockhart Robertson, who has for many years been a member of its Council. He studied medicine first at Edinburgh and St. Andrews; and then, after five years spent in the Army Medical Service, he entered on a fresh course of medical study at Cambridge, where he took the degree of M.D. After this he commenced practice in London, devoting—with characteristic energy—the time that he could spare from his profession to the work of the Medico-psychological Association; of which he was for some years Honorary Secretary, afterwards becoming joint Editor with Dr. Maudsley of its journal—the *Journal of Mental Science*. After filling most successfully the post of Medical Superintendent of the Haywards Heath Lunatic Asylum, he was appointed, in 1870, Chancery Visitor in Lunacy; which appointment he only resigned in January of last year, at the age of 70. He was a man of very active mind, who wrote much on subjects connected with the treatment of the insane, and showed an ever-fresh interest in new ideas and facts, and improvements of method. He was thoroughly fearless in the expression of his convictions; and long before the foundation of the S.P.R., having turned his attention to the phenomena of Spiritualism, he had publicly declared his opinion that the evidence for those phenomena was too strong to be rejected. He accordingly welcomed the formation of our Society, of which he was one of the original members, being also on the Council from the beginning; and he never ceased to take a keen interest in our work. No member of our Council was a more assiduous reader of the proofs forwarded to him of articles in the *Proceedings*; and I have received from him many letters relative to these articles, sometimes simply approving, sometimes containing criticisms or warnings, but all testifying to his eager sympathy with our inquiries and his resolute independence of judgment. The loss of so distinguished an alienist makes a gap in our ranks that it will be

difficult to fill: and no one who knew him in private life can fail to miss him as a friend, since he was one of those rare beings who seem privileged to maintain, in spite of the advance of years, a perennial youthfulness of heart and mind.—ED.

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SUPERNORMAL PHENOMENA OBSERVED DURING  
HYPNOTIC TREATMENT BY DR. ALFREDO BARCELLOS,  
OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

*Communicated to the Society for Psychical Research by their Corresponding  
Member in Brazil,*

PROFESSOR A. ALEXANDER.

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INTRODUCTION.

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The *Journal* for July, 1893, contains a case of thought-transference obtained through table-tilting (M. 56), to which one of the principal witnesses is Dr. Alfredo Barcellos, of Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro. He is therein described as a student of hypnotism; but it must now be added that in the treatment of patients he has applied hypnotic processes with much therapeutic success, and that in so doing he has met from time to time with spontaneous phenomena of considerable interest to psychical students. After some delay, I have succeeded in obtaining the evidence for these supernormal occurrences, which is here presented. My informants in the following cases are all reliable, and with regard to Dr. Barcellos himself, I can specially recommend him to confidence as an intelligent and trustworthy narrator of the facts of his experience. As, however, his object has always been the cure of disease, and not experimentation, he has in general omitted to take written notes of his observations. It is, therefore, important to premise that his memory is decidedly a faithful one; that it was much impressed by the occurrences witnessed, and that, in his references to facts observed by both of us, I have noticed no tendency on his part to exaggeration. This much to be regretted omission renders all the more necessary the corroborative statements made by other persons who were directly or indirectly concerned as witnesses in the cases given.

In 1888, the doctor, having contracted symptoms of beriberi, placed himself for treatment in the hands of a colleague, and was himself hypnotised. He was very susceptible to influence, so that the curative suggestions of the operator produced the desired results. He describes