

**[Newspaper cutting (The Times, 5 May 1934) about a "so-called "luminous woman" of Pirano whose body emits a luminous glow and Dr. Protti's report to the University of Padua].**

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## THE LUMINOUS WOMAN

### A DOCTOR'S THEORY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MILAN, MAY 4

Dr. Protti, one of the doctors who have been studying the case of the so-called "luminous woman" of Pirano, has read a report on the phenomenon at the University of Padua to the members of the Doctors' and Surgeons' Society.

On the evening of April 11, while he was watching the woman in company with five other medical men, Dr. Protti brought into action a cinematographic camera, which he had previously focused on the chest of the woman, and so obtained a cinematographic and chronometric record of the phenomenon in all its phases. The film which the doctor presented gives by means of 54 photograms (equivalent to the duration of 3-6/10th seconds) a clear idea of the light seen by the doctors.

After describing the various examinations of the woman, Dr. Protti says that she has a fixed idea of a religious character. These fixed ideas can, in particular subjects, produce profound changes in the vegetative life system. Fears which freeze a person, deep grief which kills, fright which suddenly turns the hair white, emotions which increase the heart beats, long suffering which disturbs the gastric secretions and those of the thyroid gland, and numerous other instances of this kind, all go to show what influence can be exercised by the stimuli which act on the brain in determining changes, even lasting, in the visceral functions. Now these disturbances of the vegetative life in the woman are evident. It is enough to recall that the frequency of her breathing and her heart beats are redoubled when the luminous phenomenon is manifested, after which a heavy perspiration is noted. This increased frequency is probably determined by sudden additions to the blood stream of glandular substances tending to excite these functions. The woman fasted very strictly during Lent, and Dr. Protti attaches much importance to this circumstance. The radiant power of her blood is three times the normal, as Dr. Protti was able to verify.

The doctor is, therefore, inclined to believe that, during fasting, conditions are established in the woman favourable to the production of an excess of sulphides, the presence of which is revealed usually by a dark mark left on the skin of those who wear a silver necklace. Sulphides have the property of becoming luminous when they are excited by ultra-violet radiations. As the radiant power of the blood is of an ultra-violet nature and as the woman possesses a very high radiant power, which rises still higher with the increase of the combustions produced by the acceleration of the heart beats, it seems possible to Dr. Protti that the ultra-violet radiation of the blood may excite the sulphides produced in the organism of the woman and thus bring about the periodical luminosity. Dr. Protti holds, therefore, that if it were possible to show that energies of equal intensity to the ultra-violet ones existed in the blood of the woman, it would be possible to believe that a plausible explanation of the luminous phenomenon had been found.