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THE LUMINOUS WOMAN: THE MYSTERY OF ANNA MONARO.

From the Article by Signor GIOCONDO PROTTI, the Italian Physicist; Published in our Famous Contemporary "L'Illustrazione Italiana."



MRS. ANNA MONARO—THE LUMINOUS WOMAN.

AT Pirano last Lent, in the darkness of the night, luminous emanations were repeatedly observed coming from the body of Anna Monaro, an exceedingly religious woman of forty-two, of normal appearance. Upon being invited to collaborate in the study of this phenomenon by Drs. Sainbo, Parenzan, and Contorno, of Pirano, who were joined by Professor Sai, the neuropsychiatrist of Trieste, I proceeded to the spot, taking with me a number of modern instruments without which it would have been impossible to describe and to examine by rigorous methods a phenomenon which, though not new, is rare, and at present is exciting not only the keen interest of the Press in every country, but also that of the most authoritative scientific circles. As is well known, even the National Research Council sent Professor Fabio Vitali, the chief physician in the hospital of Venice, in order that he might satisfy himself as to the true facts of the case and report thereon.

Mrs. Monaro suffers from asthma, probably of a character connected with her environment, because the attacks do not come on if she sleeps away from home. When the weather is favourable, she secures relief by occasionally spending the nights at sea with her husband, engaged in fishing. When it is cold, on the other hand, she is taken into the spacious rooms of an institution, where from six to eight women sleep in each room; so

(never during profound sleep), with various characters and degrees of colour, intensity, and duration, and appears particularly during Lent, when the intensity of the prayers coincides with the prolongation of the fasts, which are sometimes complete. No crackling noise was heard; nor was any odour or heat observed.

We give here the graphs showing the approximate curve of the intensity of the image produced on the film obtained at 10.30 p.m. on April 11. Since, in the apparatus used, sixteen photographs are taken in one second, and as fifty-four photographs were obtained, it is proved that the phenomenon lasted three and three-fifths seconds. The graph also shows that the intensity curve reaches the maximum from the sixteenth to the thirty-eighth photograph. Above all, great importance attaches, *per se*, to the fact of the cinematograph image, because it proves that we are confronted not with an unknown and mysterious quantity, as was suspected by some, but with a true and genuine light.

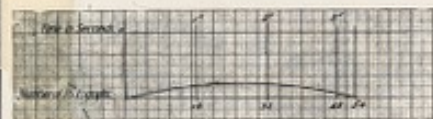
Another graph shows that the frequency of respiration, which in the case of Mrs. Monaro is normally twenty-four respirations per minute, increases to forty-eight after the luminous manifestation; and that the pulse, which was normally at a frequency of seventy beats per minute,

given off by Mrs. Monaro is not produced by an electrical cause; just as, for example, the light given off by a match, though of an electro-magnetic nature, does not arise from a real and genuine effect of electricity.

Despite the short time allowed for my experiments, carried out in the rough-and-ready laboratory I improvised at Pirano, I think I can, nevertheless, with certain reservations, draw a few reasonable conclusions which are justified by the facts observed. In the substantially normal brain of Mrs. Monaro there is, undoubtedly, an idea so dominating that it disturbs and upsets in the brain the harmony of the cerebral function, without, however, deranging her mind; this emotive-affective idea is, in the case of Mrs. Monaro, of a religious character, but it might also be of another order, provided it were



THE CINE-FILM RECORD OF THE LIGHT EMITTED BY THE LUMINOUS WOMAN, MRS. MONARO, DURING THE TEST MADE ON APRIL 11: THE FILM SHOWS THE VALUE OF THE LIGHT DURING THE PHENOMENAL OCCURRENCE, WHICH LASTED FOR THREE AND THREE-FIFTH SECONDS; WITH THE CINE-CAMERA EXPOSING AT THE USUAL RATE OF SIXTEEN PHOTOGRAPHS PER SECOND.



A GRAPH OF THE CINE-FILM; SHOWING SIXTEEN EXPOSURES EACH SECOND. AS FIFTY-FOUR PHOTOGRAPHS WERE RECORDED, IT FOLLOWS THAT THE EMISSION OF LIGHT CONTINUED FOR THREE AND THREE-FIFTH SECONDS; WITH THE GREATEST INTENSITY FROM THE SIXTEENTH TO THE THIRTY-EIGHTH PHOTOGRAPH.

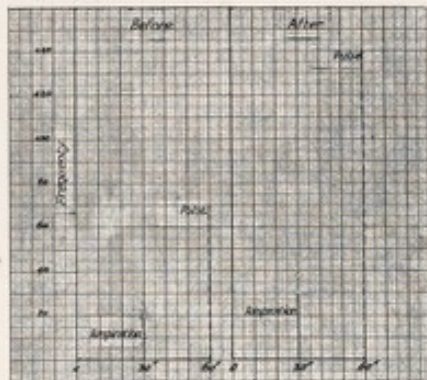
that, from time to time, one or another of them, lying awake, has observed this phenomenon of luminosity, which the husband and the other members of the family, who are accustomed to sleeping the deep sleep induced by the toil of the day, had failed to notice.

In addition to the usual clinical apparatus in ordinary use, I took with me a Boullitte electro cardiograph, to measure the electric currents of the heart; a Cesio photo-electric cell, and a needle galvanometer, capable of recording currents of one ten-millionth of an ampere, to record any luminosity of a certain intensity acting on the cell; a gold-leaf electro-scope, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there was any electricity in the woman herself or in the immediate surroundings (up to a certain point this instrument can also determine ionisations due to radioactivity); a Philips X-ray apparatus; a hamoradiometer for determining the radiating power of the blood; Hilger-Schumann photographic plates coated with fluorescent substance, in order to ascertain whether an image would be produced on them when placed in the vicinity of Mrs. Monaro's body at the time when the luminous phenomenon was not manifested; a cinematograph camera using supersensitive film; and a Faraday insulating cage, which was erected round Mrs. Monaro's bed to prevent the phenomenon being attributed to electric charges emanating from outside.

The phenomenon recurred on the night of April 11 last, when Professor Vitali was also present. I recorded it with the cinematograph camera, an unquestionable proof of its occurrence, of its course, and of its duration, which was three and three-fifths seconds; whilst the luminous intensity, low at first, gradually increased, afterwards fading away until it disappeared. In the unanimous opinion of the doctors present, and all the necessary checks having been rigorously carried out, deception and simulation were definitely excluded. On the other hand, the most significant proof that we were not dealing with a hoax carried out with the only possible means—that is, with an electric pocket-lamp—was furnished subsequently by the fact that the cinematograph film of the light revealed different intensities in the images produced.

It would have been desirable to observe the phenomenon on the body completely freed from bed-clothes and clothing, in order to see whether the strange light occurred in parts other than the thorax; but, owing to the exigencies of the case, we had to remain content with whatever appeared from the chest as it emerged between the bed-clothes, as happens in the usual and accidental positions adopted during sleep. At each luminous manifestation, Mrs. Monaro uttered moaning sounds and expressions. Before Feb. 1 no one had observed the phenomenon, which invariably occurs during the crepuscular period of sleep,

doubles in frequency after the occurrence of the phenomenon. The radiating power of the blood, which normally is on the average fifty, is usually very high in Mrs. Monaro's case, attaining the considerable figure of 1277, a figure which is only met with in the case of patients suffering from exophthalmic goitre or other sufferers in whom internal combustion has very greatly increased.



A DIAGRAM SHOWING THE RESPIRATIONS AND THE PULSE-RATE OF MRS. MONARO BEFORE AND AFTER THE EMISSION OF LIGHT. THE RESPIRATIONS ARE SHOWN BY THE SHORTER LINES, AND WERE COUNTED FOR THE HALF-MINUTE ONLY—TWELVE BEFORE THE LUMINOSITY AND TWENTY-FOUR AFTER IT. THE PULSE-RATE (LONGER LINES) WAS COUNTED FOR ONE MINUTE, AND SHOWED SEVENTY BEFORE THE EMANATIONS OCCURRED AND 140 AFTER.

As regards the dispersion of the electroscopic charge, it was found that there is practically no difference between what takes place beneath the Faraday cage under which the woman is lying and outside the cage at some distance away from the woman, or even in parts of Pirano a long way from the institution. Nor is Mrs. Monaro, when insulated, capable of charging the electro-scope. Apart from this, it is observed that no dispersion of electroscopic charge takes place during the manifestation of the phenomenon. The electro-cardiogram shows that there are no disturbances of the rhythm and that the heart functions normally.

These are the chief facts observed and, as we had proved that we were dealing with a demonstrated fact of light, they enabled us to conclude (against the most common assumption) that no element of electricity or radioactivity has a part in causing the phenomenon. In making this statement, I do not imply any doubt as to the electro-magnetic character of every luminous vibration, which, of course, includes that of Mrs. Monaro. I merely wish to maintain that the luminous electro-magnetic vibration

of equal intensity. When the harmony is upset, certain visceral functions may also undergo a change, owing to the relations which exist between the cerebral functions and the visceral innervations of the great sympathetic nerve.

Whilst there are individuals whose temperament is such that emotive-affective ideas, although intense, do not produce in them a disturbance and lack of balance, there are, on the other hand, others who, like Mrs. Monaro, are exceedingly sensitive, and in whom the influence of the cerebral disturbance on the visceral functions is tremendous; and this influence is accentuated to the maximum degree when exceptional causes intervene, such as, in this case, the greater fervour of prayer and the increased fasting during Lent.

We had material proof of the actual alteration in the visceral functions in the case of Mrs. Monaro by observing the increase of the heart-beats and respirations, the copious perspiration to which she is periodically subject, and other symptoms which it would be out of place to recall here, just as it is not necessary to record here by what mechanism these alterations in the visceral functions can be effected through a cerebral stimulus. Pathologists are agreed as to the possible existence of visceral disturbances in consequence of a cerebro-vago-sympathetic disequilibrium, and it would suffice in this connection to recall the fundamental works of Benedetto Schiassi, of Bologna, which were followed and confirmed by those of Harvey Cushing, of Boston. Combustion increases with the acceleration of the heart-beats and the respiration, and, in consequence, as is well known, the radiating power of the blood also increases.

It is not improbable that fasting also promotes in Mrs. Monaro the concentration of special substances (possibly sulphides) which, although normally opaque, become luminous when they are struck and excited by the more highly refractive radiations of the spectrum (ultra-violet radiations). And, as the radiating power of the blood is only ultra-violet radiation, this radiation may, at the moment of maximum intensification, perhaps be sufficient to render such substances luminous, and to create phenomena such as that observed in the case of Mrs. Monaro, which clearly come within the scope of biochemical facts; so that we finally arrive at the assumption that, given particularly propitious experimental conditions, the phenomenon might perhaps be reproduced artificially.



A DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING THE RADIATING POWER OF THE BLOOD: A A REPRESENTS THE INDUCTIVE POWER OF A NORMAL PERSON; AND B B THAT OF MRS. MONARO.

A HEAD-ON COLLISION AT SEA.



THE DESTROYER "WHIRLWIND" AND THE STEAMER "LUIMNEACH" INTERLOCKED AFTER THEIR HEAD-ON COLLISION OFF START POINT: A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM THE STEAMER WHILE THE VESSELS WERE TRYING TO GET APART.



THE LIMERICK STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S "LUIMNEACH" AT DARTMOUTH AFTER HER COLLISION WITH A DESTROYER; SHOWING THE GAFING HOLE IN HER BOW.



H.M.S. "WHIRLWIND," OF 1100 TONS, SAFELY AT DARTMOUTH AFTER HER COLLISION WITH AN IRISH STEAMER IN THE CHANNEL: THE SMASHED BOWS OF THE DESTROYER—AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH THERE WERE NO PERSONAL INJURIES.

On the morning of May 10 there was a head-on collision in foggy weather in the Channel, six miles south of Start Point, between a British destroyer and an Irish steamer. The destroyer was H.M.S. "Whirlwind," of 1100 tons displacement, going up-Channel to Chatham; and the steamer was the Limerick Steamship-Company's "Luimneach," of 1074 tons, bound with a cargo of coal from Amsterdam to Limerick. The vessels met head-on and remained interlocked for half an hour with engines astern. Finally they separated, and both, although badly damaged, made independently for Dartmouth. The destroyer had the whole of her bow stove in and a large piece was suspended by one buckled plate; while a big hole was made in the bow of the "Luimneach," the bunks were turned into masses of twisted iron, and splintered wood littered the fore-part of the ship. The "Whirlwind" carries a complement of 134. She was soon able

YOUNG TIGER

On the afternoon of May 9 the three young tigers born at Whipsnade nearly a year ago were introduced to their new enclosure. The Duke of Bedford and the members of the Whipsnade Committee watched their first careful and thorough exploration of their new home. The tigers had been caught and boated the night before, and early in the morning were put into the "catch-up" cages at the side of their new home. The tigers are being trained by the lure of food to enter these cages when it is necessary for keepers to go into the enclosure. Those who have known the cubs since their birth are delighted with the rate at which they have grown, and with the absence of rickets and other malformations common in young carnivores born in menageries. They now look very fine against the background of fresh turf in the new enclosure, and will assuredly delight the Whitsun crowds. Their mother, meanwhile, remains in the old tiger pit, and is clearly engaged in selecting a place in which to produce a new litter.



YOUNG TIGERS TRANSFERRED TO NEW QUARTERS AT WHIPSNADE: A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE METHOD OF TRANSFER FROM THE OLD PIT TO THE NEW ENCLOSURE.



EXPLORING THE NEW QUARTERS: TIGER CUBS, BORN AT WHIPSNADE NEARLY A YEAR AGO, STEALTHILY INVESTIGATING THEIR NEW DEN.



A CAREFUL EXPLORATION OF THE SHED IN THE FINE NEW TIGER ENCLOSURE AT WHIPSNADE—TO WHICH THE THREE YOUNG TIGERS WERE TRANSFERRED IN TIME FOR THE WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.