An over-handed devil
Is this “prince of the power of the air”;
Working without man’s mean disguise.
An honest devil is he—as devils go;
Seeming to be what he really is:
Noisy, rough, capricious, remorseless:
A prince, indeed,
Of limitless wantonness.
— A prince for that man
Who bends the knee
To all gods of pretense:
A prince to fawn to
As worthy of Satan’s crown.

DR. OTTO PFLEIDERER.

With deep regret we learn from a cablegram of the death of Dr. Otto Pfleiderer which took place on July 20. As The Open Court goes to press nothing is yet known of the details of his illness. Professor Pfleiderer was one of the leading theologians of Germany, and combined deep personal piety with the spirit of fearless research. In fact he has been one of the leaders in investigations with regard to the history of the primitive Church and the origins of Christianity. He has written important books on philosophical topics, but his three latest publications have been on the origin and development of Christianity, Die Entstehung des Christentums, Religion und Religionen, and Die Entwicklung des Christentums. A translation of the Introduction to his last work on “The Evolution of Christianity,” which is really a condensation of Professor Pfleiderer’s whole position, appeared in The Monist, of October, 1907. Another important article by Professor Pfleiderer appeared in the same magazine in the last two numbers of 1904, under the title “The Christ of Primitive Christian Faith in the Light of Religio-Historical Criticism.” Dr. Pfleiderer has many friends among students of religion in America and was a prominent figure at the Congress of Liberal Religions held at Boston last summer.

SISTER SANGHAMITTA’S EXPERIENCE WITH VOICES.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

After reading in The Open Court an article entitled “The History of a Strange Case,” I am prompted to tell you something that I have never told any one before. I too have heard voices in my own ears. When I was a child and until recently, I have heard voices coming from within my brain, similar to those emanating from the head of Mrs. Blake; however with this difference: I never heard what is commonly supposed to be communications from the dead. Sometimes these voices annoy me; it is as though I was in a crowd of people all talking at once, and being obliged to listen, I become weary.

Only in three instances has anything of importance been communicated to me through these voices; the first time was when a voice in my ear told me in clear loud tones of an accident that had happened to my mother. At this time I was in California and my mother in Mexico, and the voice told me of the accident on the same day it happened. Another time was on the occasion of
the death of a friend living in another state; this communication was made at
the hour of her death. The third occurrence was recently: this last voice
told me that a man who was sick in my house at the time, would die on such
a day and hour;—and he passed out exactly on the day and hour mentioned.

Sometimes the voices I hear are confused murmurs, other times distinct
words. I have oftentimes heard a sob followed by a mirthful laugh, and then
terrible oaths, etc.

I offer no further explanation than the belief that in some abnormally
formed brains sound reservoirs exist and act upon the sensory organs of
the head as the wind plays upon an aeolian harp. However, I would like to hear
some scientific explanation of this fact.

Sr. Sanghamitta.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

In reply to Sister Sanghamitta's information I will briefly state that the
experience of hearing voices is not uncommon, although it must be regarded
as abnormal. The interesting part of her report consists solely in the fact
that some communications through these internal voices were verified even in
the detail of the exact time.

Internal voices originate through noises in the ear and are assumed to be
due to an abnormal condition in the blood circulation. Since no investigation
can be made with a living brain, while post mortem examinations are of no
avail, nothing particular is known as to the definite seat and mode of operation
of these phenomena, but it is natural that in persons of lively imagination,
these rumors may assume the sound of words that are heard with more or
less precision. They fall within the same category as visual hallucinations,
and so far as I know the larger part are coincidences. If any information
communicated by such internal voices proves to be not true, they are regarded
as hallucinations and forgotten. A small part turns out to be more or less
true, and if true at all it is not uncommon that some auto-suggestion which
is natural even to clear-headed persons renders it definite in every detail even
to a determination of time to the very minute.

Auditory and visual hallucinations are very important factors in the his-
tory of prophecy and seance. We may assume that many stories reported to
have been extremely puzzling to critical observers, may very well be literally
true. They are, however, easily explained through our better knowledge of the
physiological operations of the nervous system.

The case of Mrs. Blake, however, is somewhat different. The phenomena
investigated by Mr. Abbott do not concern internal voices which she heard, but
external voices which she was able to produce in some way or another, and
which came from her ear, thus suggesting to Mr. Abbott the theory that her
Eustachian tube connecting the innermost ear with the throat must be ab-
normally large so as to enable sound-waves to pass through it and be audible
although her lips remain unmoved and closed.

NEW MARVELS IN MAGIC.

BY DAVID P. ABBOTT.

Of late there has been considerable publication of the secrets of magicians,
which has reached the public at large. There has also been a certain amount
of exposing, conducted from the stage, by persons who could not earn their