

*Fruitless*  
*"psychical"*  
*adventures.* Mr. H. Addington Bruce con-  
tributes some further "Adven-  
turings in the Psychical"  
(Little, Brown & Co.) to the series of books  
of similar import and equal inconsequence  
already available. It is difficult to under-  
stand why further volumes repeating the  
familiar accounts of ghosts and telepathy and  
clairvoyance and mediums and singular cases  
of personally puzzling incidents continue to

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attract readers. Books of this kind are made on the basis of a dramatic interest which is well enough for a journalistic pen, but which seems quite out of place in book form. Mr. Bruce's mind is of that extremely tolerant kind that can entertain antagonistic explanations at the same time. If the familiar saying of Voltaire that incantations together with a sufficient amount of arsenic will undoubtedly kill your neighbor's sheep could be applied to the present volume, it would be indicated by saying that Mr. Bruce believes in both arsenic and incantations. When the one applies the other is unnecessary, and vice versa. On the whole, books of this type do a considerable harm in spreading the notion that the chief business of psychology is to investigate happenings of this order; and they do further harm in spreading the belief that many men of science are seriously concerned with this type of matter as evidence of the scientific principles that control thought.