

of writing? She herself denies that her present writing is automatic, but to the average reader, and apparently to the scientist, it seems more automatic than anything else. In her report she said of this kind of writing:

"A phrase would get into the head and keep repeating itself at every opportunity, and hang over from day to day even. The stuff written was grammatical, and the words and phrases fitted together, all right, but there was not much connected thought. The unconsciousness was broken into every six or seven words by flashes of consciousness, so that one cannot be sure but what the slight element of connected thought which occasionally appeared was due to these flashes of consciousness. But the ability to write stuff that sounds all right, without consciousness, was fairly well demonstrated by the experiments."

Useful Knowledge

With this report of her own experiments in mind, you might like to re-read some of her writings like the sample from "Wherein the South Differs from the North" which appears in her book, "Useful Knowledge" published by Payson and Clarke, Ltd.

Count count count.
How many countries can you have counted.
How many countries have you counted in this count.
How many countries have you counted.
North by north.
Counted.
Lost it up lost is as up, lost it up, happily lost it as up and lost it as up. You don't say so.
Lost it up. Lost is as up. And happily lost it as up. Lost is up.
Lost it as up.
That is done.
One run. Say so.
One run that is done say so.
Say so that is done one run that is done.
Not not hot.
Not not as what.
Not and not.
Not as hot.
Not as what.
Not.
North.

South.
Plenty of time.
North and south as we say plenty of time.
Not north for nothing.
Not for nothing.
Not north and not for nothing.
Not north and not for nothing. North not for nothing.
For nothing.
South for nothing.
Not South.
Not for the South and not for nothing.

"Obviously, therefore," comments the editor of the medical journal, "the writing of Miss Gertrude Stein, such as appears in her plays, books and poems, is quite the same as she developed when experimenting with spontaneous automatic writing."

"Mr. Skinner points out that the ordinary reader cannot infer from this writing that the author possesses any consistent point of view, because there is seldom, if any, intelligent expression of opinion."

"Her writing seems to be the result of a stream of consciousness of a woman without a past."

"Stream of consciousness" is the name for a style of writing adopted by a number of modern authors. A notable example is the "Ulysses" of James Joyce. You may have found this and the other books written in this style difficult to follow, but probably not as hard to read as Miss Stein's works.

Second Personality

"Mr. Skinner," continues the medical editor, "it convinced that this spontaneous automatic writing by Miss Stein is that of a second personality successfully split off from her conscious self, and unfortunately a personality without any background, intellectual opinions or emotions."

"The mere fact that Miss Stein herself occasionally appears in the midst of the writings of this second personality would seem to be the proof of the opinion."

So if you have been bewildered by Miss Stein's writings and have won-

dered how she got that way and why, here is an explanation on a scientific basis—an explanation derived from her own scientific investigations.

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Science News Letter, March 2, 1935

PALEONTOLOGY

New Hampshire Was Under Sea in Devonian Epoch

CONCLUSIVE fossil evidence that an arm of the sea covered central New Hampshire for a period of from fifty to a hundred million years longer than geologists have previously believed, has been found by Prof. Marland P. Billings of Harvard University and Dr. Arthur B. Cleaves of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania.

Several hundred specimens of fifteen species of fossils positively identified as belonging to the lower Devonian epoch have been found by the two scientists in the vicinity of Littleton, northwest of the White Mountains and about ninety miles inland from the Atlantic coast. It had not been previously known that the sea in this period extended into New Hampshire, although its extension into other areas at that time had been ascertained.

Fossils of the Silurian period, believed to have begun about 400 million years ago and to have continued until the Devonian epoch, have previously been found in this area and told science that the sea was there at that time, but until the present discovery, no fossils satisfactorily identified as Devonian had been found in the region. Consequently the continuance of the sea in that area for fifty million additional years was unknown.

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NECK AND NECK

A snail race is here recorded by the camera of Miss Cornelia Clarke.

