

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04434-9 - True History of the Ghost: And All About Metempsychosis

John Henry Pepper

Frontmatter

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### **True History of the Ghost**

Chemist and illusionist John Henry Pepper (1821–1900) lectured at the Royal Polytechnic Institution in London, and incorporated experiments, illusions and magic lanterns into his popular science lectures. In 1862 he developed a stage-show illusion called ‘the ghost’. This involved using strategically placed pieces of glass and specific lighting in order to create the illusion of ghostly figures on stage. The illusion was immensely popular in the second half of the nineteenth century – it was visited by royalty, and Pepper’s show toured to America, Canada and Australia. In this book, first published in 1890, Pepper details the history of ‘the ghost’ and the process of carrying out the illusion. ‘Pepper’s Ghost’ is considered to be a precursor to cinema, and this book will be of interest to those studying the development of popular nineteenth-century culture, the ‘entertainment industry’, and the origins of cinema.

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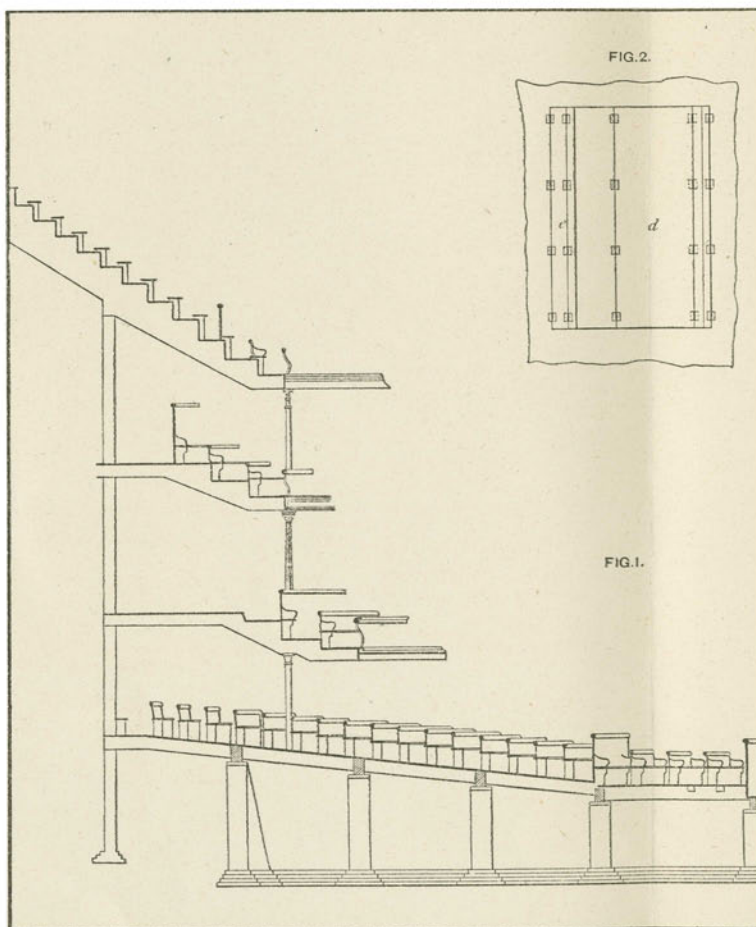
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DIAGRAMS ILLUSTRATING THE  
(From a drawing by Mr.



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*ALL ABOUT METEMPSYCHOSIS.*

BY

PROFESSOR PEPPER,

AUTHOR OF "CYCLOPÆDIC SCIENCE SIMPLIFIED," "THE PLAYBOOK  
OF METALS," AND "BOY'S PLAYBOOK OF SCIENCE," ETC. ETC.



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POLYTECHNIC,  
309, Regent Street, London, W.,  
*Christmas, 1889.*

To WALTER HUGHES, Esq.,  
Messrs. Hughes, Masterman, & Rew,  
59, New Broad Street.

MY DEAR SIR,

Will you allow me to dedicate this little work to you, as some small recognition of the patience, care, and legal knowledge you displayed in bringing to a successful issue the difficult proceedings before the Attorney-General, Sir Roundell Palmer (now Lord Selborne), and also those in Chancery, connected with the sealing of my Ghost Patent by order of the late Lord Chancellor Westbury, in September, 1863?

With a grateful sense of the personal kindness and attention I have received from yourself and the other members of your Firm,

I am, my dear Sir,

Your old Client and sincere Friend,

THE AUTHOR.

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