

A NOBLE PROFESSION

A Dialect backdrop by Nat Knight

Humanity is emerging from its long and ignorant dark age. New and essential professions appear for those who can penetrate nature's veil.

Professions such as ours.

Not everyone can master it, of course. It takes a keen mind, years of training, and a certain analytical disposition. If practised carelessly... well, the results aren't pretty. However, for those who make the cut, ours is a noble profession whose collegial embrace has lifted many a diligent soul from their humble station to one more prosperous.

As for those who grumble at our rates... Well, they can make do without our services, can't they?

ASPECT GENERATION QUESTIONS

- **The Occupation.** What service does the profession provide?
- **The Reputation.** Why is the profession insular?
- **Free Aspect.** The choice is yours.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- How are new members of the profession certified?
- How can you tell at a glance who is a member of the profession?
- When and where do members of the profession congregate?
- What rumours surround the profession?
- What are members of the profession called, formally or informally?

NAMES

John Walters, Percival Wilberforce, Hamish McTaggart, Felix Alderman, Beatrice Walters, Violet Secord, Elizabeth Evans, Mabel Stokes

AGE TRANSITIONS

Choose a Pathway (the *black left column* or the *red right column*) on entering Age 2. Continue down the same Pathway as you progress.

Entering Age 2. An event to foreshadow the end of the Isolation. It finds its way into all conversation and is impossible to ignore.

The authorities catch a rogue practitioner up North. They had been plying our trade for *years* without a license and even taken on apprentices before they were discovered. Who sympathizes with this charlatan?

An inventor claims to have built a machine that can do what we do, reducing the need for our services or replacing us entirely. What shortcoming does the machine have? Why does it not matter?

Entering Age 3. What was foreshadowed has come to pass. The end of the Isolation is near. There is no escaping it.

The government repeals our professional charter, allowing anybody to freely practice our craft without certification. Our profession predicts that this will be disastrous. What actually comes to pass?

The machine is demonstrated at the Universal Exposition, and difficult as it is to believe, its abilities seem genuine. What excuses do we make as to why this won't affect us?

Entering the Legacy. The last moments or the aftermath.

There are so few licensed practitioners left that we've had to disband the professional association. What was once an exclusive and collegial group is now a common occupation. Who continues to insist on certified professionals until the bitter end?

A few old-fashioned souls still hire our services, but by and large our work is done mechanically. A few of us still make a living on the margins, but the backbone of the profession is swept away. What do we do now that we've been supplanted?