

Since the above was written there has appeared in the Guy's Hospital Gazette for June 24th, 1933, a most important article by Dr. Lintott entitled 'Some Observations on So-called Water Divining'. The article is based upon a series of experiments undertaken in the Physiological department of Guy's Hospital, and out in the country. In the former case an apparatus was constructed so that water might run in a pipe beneath a platform, but without the knowledge and sight of the observer. What adds particular value to this investigation is that, as Dr. Lintott emphasises, all the experiments were carried out in a strong spirit of scepticism and under critical observation, and, where possible, control experiments were made.

It is only possible to summarise the results. They are briefly as follows: It was found that whereas no person tested could detect the presence of still water, yet there were people who possessed sensitivity to moving water to a varying degree. These persons could be classified in three groups:

1. Those completely insensitive.
2. Those in whom the sensitivity was present but not marked, and in whom it varied from time to time, being most evident when they were in a state of physical well-being.
3. Those in whom marked sensitivity was constantly present.

The twig and rods simply act as indicators and also as the means whereby the correct state of muscular tension is achieved. Three factors are thought to be concerned in the production of the response—a stimulus, the nature of which is unknown and which emanates from running water; a receptive organ in the body, the sensitivity of which seems to be intimately connected with muscle tone; and, lastly, the motor force which results in movement of the indicator used, and this, it appears, is a change of tone in the muscles of the hands and forearms.

It is interesting to note that its author comes to the same conclusions as expressed in this article as to the movement of the rod being due to alterations in the tension of the dowser's muscles. A further proof that increased tension of probably all the muscles of the body is caused by the action of running water is given by the experiment of making the dowser hold a rubber bulb in his mouth, and bite it lightly so as to secure the necessary tension. The bulb was connected by means of a tube with a tracing needle and recording drum so that any alterations in the

tension would be registered by the tracing needle. As soon as the dowser walked over the pipe containing the running water a tracing was obtained which showed an increase of tension in the jaw muscles at the exact point that the dowser passed over the water. It was also proved that blindfolding made no difference to the manifestation of the phenomena of dowsing, but a considerable proportion of errors occurred when the attention of the dowser was distracted whilst he was operating. This points to some action of the higher cerebral centres and may be related to the function of 'tuning in' by a conscious selective action of the dowser such as has been referred to in an earlier page.

The article itself is full of interesting points raised by the experiments performed, and should be read by all who are interested in the subject.

It is a matter of supreme importance to the dowsing fraternity that the subject has now been investigated in a truly scientific way by a recognized authority, and that further investigations are to be made; and it is a matter of the greatest satisfaction that the main propositions of dowsers have been so far confirmed by the investigations.

* * * * *

Bibliography.

¹ Journal of the Society for Psychical Research No. 479, Vol. xxvii, Nov. 1931.

² *La Formation Néoplastique et les déséquilibre oscillatoire cellulaire*: S. Doin, Paris.

³ *The Divining Rod*, Sir William Barrett & Theodore Besterman: Methuen.

⁴ Published as *Diagnostic Radiesthésique en Médecine-Vétérinaire*: Librairie Le François, Paris.



A STREAM IN SAND

by ELVAN

SOME years ago my friend X bought a country house in Devon. The main water supply came from a 25-ft. well in a wood, some 300 yds. up the hill behind the house, the water being siphoned down by a pipeline. This well usually ran dry in May; during the summer a spring in the rock by the house gave a good supply, but this entailed pumping.

Hoping to improve matters X summoned an old dowser, who pegged a spot some 10 yds. above the well, and a new one was dug 45 ft. deep, but no stream was struck. Owing to the limitations of siphon lift, the end of the pipe was put 27 ft. down, so when the water fell to 18 ft. the well went out of action. Thus there was no improvement, but the level of the water