

DOWSING FOR THE CAUSE OF CERTAIN ILLNESSES

By Herbert Douglas

It started with the building of a house in 1950. We were beyond the town water supply and had to find our own water source. The contractor said: "Get a dowser". I was a greenhorn from the city so what in the world was a dowser?

I wrote to the University of Vermont, "We need a water supply. Is there any merit to dowsing?" The reply came back, "Dowsing has no scientific basis but it seems to work". The answer today would be no different. There is still no scientific basis but it still works.

Years later I learned how to dowse in Danville, Vermont at the yearly September convention of the American Society of Dowsers. Books available on dowsing all came from England. There seemed to be two main themes. One was how to find water with a dowsing rod and the other was the recurrent statement that sleeping over underground water may be harmful.

All the books pinpointed arthritis, rheumatism, bursitis and similar illnesses. Reading this again and again made one wonder. Can this be true or are they simply repeating some age old myth?

But I was a dowser now and one day, visiting a friend in Bristol, Vermont who had arthritis, I gathered enough courage to ask him if I could walk around his bed. And sure enough the dowsing rod went down signifying that there was flowing water below. My reaction was that this was just coincidence. So at another opportunity in Arlington, Vermont I checked the bed of another arthritic. Sure enough I found veins again. This quest went on for years and every person who had arthritis became a source of wonder. Are there veins under his or her bed too? And 74 times over a period of 15 years, I've been walking around the beds of people with arthritis and 74 times I've found at least two veins crossing under the bed . . . and the point of the crossing has always been directly under the part or parts of the body that has been hurting the person who was ill.

Twenty years ago the belief had been that some people are born with the ability to dowse and that only one person in ten or 20 seemed to have this faculty. I started to teach people who showed an interest and found that with a little coaching nine out of ten could use the rod successfully. I gave a course in Bennington to 25 people and at the end of five sessions all 25 were able to dowse.

More and more I noticed foreign reports that people with cancer

were likewise sleeping over underground water. I didn't take much stock in these reports. The whole world was looking for the cause of cancer so how could it be something under your bed? But I was up to see a relative of mine in Braintree, Vermont in May, 1972 but he had come down with stomach cancer and was in hospital. I went to see his wife. I was in his bedroom and looked at his bed and simply wondered — does that bed have veins under it? We were in the kitchen now and his wife pointed out his favourite chair where he sat several hours a day. And the thought kept going through my mind — can these foreign reports be true, can there be water veins under that bed or that favourite chair? I went out to the car and fetched my nylon dowsing rod and walked round the bed and the chair. The bed had several intersections of water veins. The chair had so many dowsing lines, I couldn't count them.

From that time in May, 1972 I have checked 40 cancer cases. In every case the ill person has been spending several hours during the day or night over several dowsing reaction lines, which were reflecting the water veins intersecting several feet down in the ground below them.

For many years I could not figure out one difference in these arthritic and cancer cases. Why were there fewer dowsing reaction lines or crossings in the arthritic cases than in the cancer cases? In the arthritic cases there were two or three or four crossings on these lines. In the cancer cases there were five or ten or fifteen. How could there be so many separate veins of water under such a small area?

One day I received a letter from Yves Rocard, internationally known physicist, formerly professor of physics at the University of Paris, France. He wrote that when lightning strikes the earth it may magnetize the metallic substances in the ledge and rock permanently. This would cause the dowsing rod to dip just as it dips for underground water. Thus within the area that has been struck by lightning the rod would go down for underground water and also for the magnetized rock.

I wondered how that would work out in practice so I advertised for places struck by lightning and was able to check 19 places — trees, huge rock, shed, chimney, houses. In each case the dowsing rod went down continually in an area with a diameter of about 50 feet. Beyond that the rod would dip just for the water veins, but within that 50 feet diameter area, the rod dipped for the water veins and also for the lines created by the lightning strikes. One might call this a 'saturated' area for the rod went down continually all over it.

And this is the same type of reaction a dowser receives when he walks around the bed of a cancer patient. This explained to me why there could be so many dowsing reaction lines around such a small area as a cancer bed.

One day a doctor said to me: "You've checked over 100 people with illness and these people all seem to be spending much time over these places where you get these dowsing reactions. But how about healthy people? Have you checked their beds and places where they spend time? Perhaps they are also sleeping in places where there are dowsing reactions and if they are, just as the sick people are, then this theory has no validity and no merit."

The fact that with the existence of arthritis and cancer one always finds underground water is suggestive of a relationship. Yet, what if we did find that 'good health' likewise correlated with underground water? The point had to be checked.

So a letter was sent to the local newspaper, the Bennington Banner, asking people to contact me who were over 55 years of age, in relatively good health, free of arthritis and cancer and living in the same house for more than 10 years.

The accuracy of a dowser depends in part on a neutral, open-minded view of what he is trying to find out. He should not be predisposed toward any result and thus if he thinks there is water at a certain spot he increases the chances that the rod will go down when he crosses over that spot and thus increases the chances that he will be wrong. A good dowser thinks in these terms: 'I don't know if there is any water around here and if so, where it may be. So let us see if there is any here'.

And here I was in a position where both consciously and unconsciously I did not want to find water under the beds of these healthy people. I knew it was a problem and I was very aware of it and that helped me to keep a neutral mind. But I wanted still another safeguard. I'd have another dowser first check a bed and not tell me what he found. I would then check it and we would then see if we agreed.

It must be kept in mind that in the past 15 years, 74 arthritic and 40 cancer cases have been checked. Every one of them, with no exceptions, have been sleeping over two or more dowsing reaction lines which have crossed under their bed and generally under the particular part of the body that has been bothering them. To better understand the contrast between the 'healthy' bed and the 'unhealthy' bed, let me give you some examples of what these 'illness' beds look like after wood sticks have been placed over the areas where there are dowsing reaction lines (signifying veins of water, lightning strikes or some presently unknown factor).

Figure 1 shows the bed of a couple who phoned me after I had sent my letter to the Bennington Banner. They were not well and asked that I check their bed. They had lived in this house for 35 years and slept in this bed for 29 years. He has arthritis and in 1982 had a prostate cancer operation. His wife had an arthritic back and also a sciatica nerve. There are six dowsing reaction lines and 13 crossings on this bed.

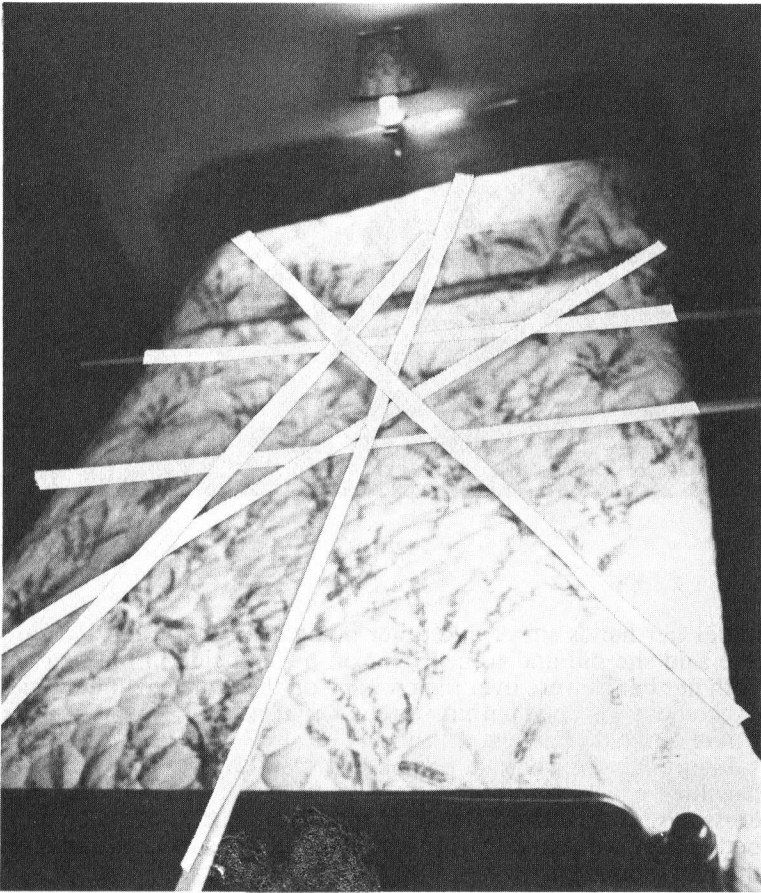


Figure 1

Figure 2 shows the bed of a lady in her 30's who told me she had arthritis but did not mention where in her body it was. After dowsing her bed and laying down wood sticks to mark the reaction lines, we asked her to lay on the bed in her favourite position. Her knees were directly over the crossings or intersections on the lines. At this point she mentioned that her arthritis was in her knees. She was then laying on her right side and she mentioned that her hands also had arthritis. By lying as she was, there were no crossings

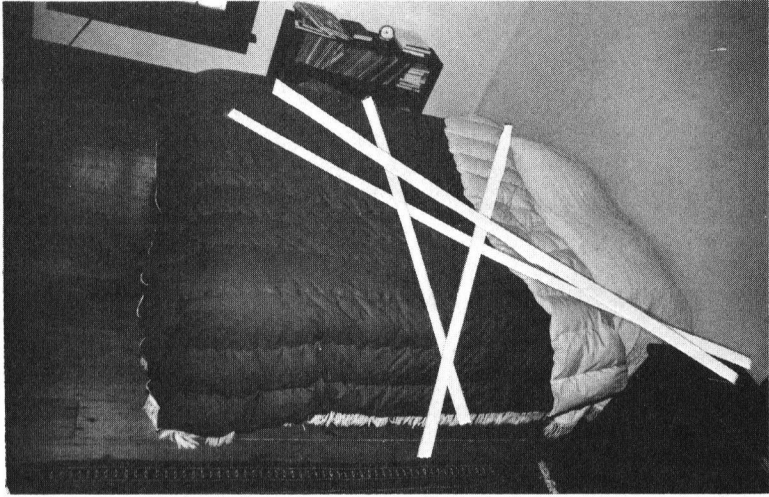


Figure 2

under her hands so we asked her if she ever lay on her left side. She said she did and turned over on her left side in the bed and both her hands were over the crossing on the upper right hand side of the bed! This bed with its three or four veins is typical of a bed where a person has just arthritis.

Figure 3 is the bed of a person who slept there for 24 years and had lung cancer. Here there are 10 veins or lines and about 35 crossings. (I have found that people with cancer are sleeping in beds where we generally find more than 5 veins or lines and more than 10 crossings).

The first 'relatively healthy' person who phoned me was smiling and spry as he opened the door for us. He had been living in this house since 1900 and was 87 years, though he looked like 65 and had slept in the same spot in this house for 23 years. Although he had a normal number of illnesses in the past 30 years, he said he felt in excellent health and he certainly looked and acted it. He had no arthritis or any kind of cancer. All the time we were visiting, I kept wondering about all those arthritic and cancer beds with all those dowsing reactions that each one of them had . . . and what we would find here. We dowsed his bed carefully and also his favourite chair near the window but we could not find a single dowsing reaction line.

Our next call was on a married couple. The wife had told us that she was in 'relatively good health' and that is why we went to see

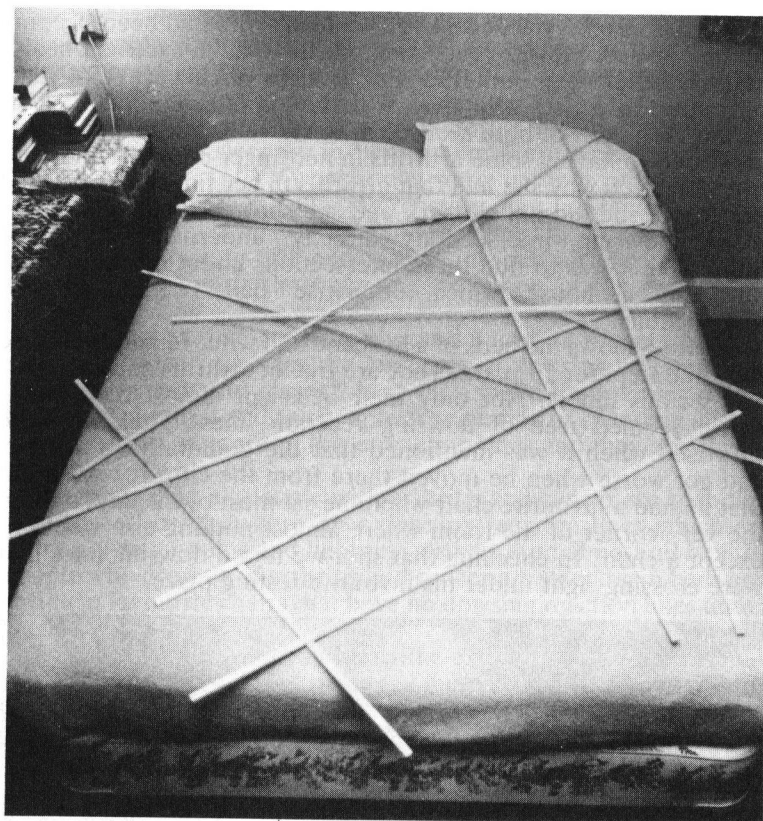


Figure 3

them. But as we questioned them, she mentioned that she had pains in her neck, almost constant headaches and sinus trouble and the doctors were unable to help her. Yet nothing seemed to bother the husband. Their ages were 57 and 62 and they had slept in a double bed in one room for the past 18 years. As a result of our questioning we considered him to be relatively healthy but did not place her in the same category. We found 6 dowsing reactions in their double bed and all 6 were on her side of the bed, 3 being under her pillow. He, the relatively healthy one, was on the side of the bed with no reaction lines. (We have found this situation quite frequently, where, in a double bed, one side is free of veins and the other side has several.)

We visited a very active 84-year-old lady who had been sleeping in the same spot for 22 years and appears to be in excellent health and has never been bothered with arthritis or cancer. A 74-year-old lady, an artist, who lives with her is likewise in excellent health. The beds of both are free of water veins but the artist lady confessed to having some arthritis in her finger on her right hand. We wondered why she had that arthritis in her finger so we asked her where she did her artwork and she showed us the chair. We found dowsing intersections directly underneath it. How impressive it was to find these intersections under her finger that hurt, in a house which otherwise had remarkably few intersections.

Figure 4 shows the beds of a husband and wife, 75 and 69, where they had slept for 10 years. They are free of arthritis and cancer or any serious illness. Not only their beds but almost their entire house seemed free of dowsing reaction lines. Thus we were surprised when it was mentioned that the grandfather's arthritis had got worse when he moved there from the city. It turned out that he had a favourite chair where he sat most of the day, right in the very corner of the room where almost nothing else would fit except a chair. In checking that spot we found dowsing lines that were crossing right under his favourite resting place.

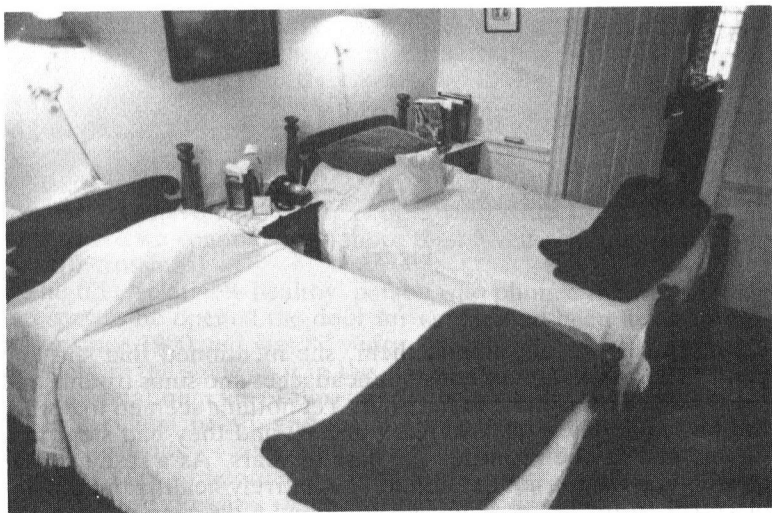


Figure 4

I have mentioned just five of the twenty-five cases of relatively healthy people whose beds we have checked. The balance of the

cases are as clear and unequivocal as the ones we have mentioned. These people who are free of arthritis and cancer simply have no veins of water or lightning strikes under their beds and with but few exceptions.

Let me give you the precise figures. Of these twenty-five, twenty-two were sleeping in beds where there were no dowsing reaction lines at all. Two people were in beds with just one dowsing reaction. (One dowsing reaction does not seem to bother people. There must be two lines and they must be crossing to cause trouble.) The twenty-fifth person slept in a bed with seven dowsing reactions and this is the only real exception of the twenty-five people.

In contrast to that, we have checked a total of seventy arthritic and forty cancer cases for the existence of dowsing reaction lines under their beds and places where they spend time. Every one of these one hundred and ten people are sleeping or spending a lot of time over two or more of these reaction lines and they are always crossing.

It appears that all people with arthritis and cancer are spending time in bed or elsewhere over dowsing reaction lines which are primarily water veins and lightning strikes. And almost all healthy people who are free of arthritis and cancer are sleeping in beds and sitting in favourite chairs that have no dowsing reaction lines under them.

We do not know what the scientific explanation for all this may be. All we can say is that these are the facts that we have found.

In looking through my dowsing file, I noticed that my first article on the correlation between illness and dowsing reaction lines and crossings was back in 1971, 12 years ago. That article was in the *Journal of the British Society of Dowsters* and in the *American Dowser*.

In 1971 this was considered a bit odd. The sole emphasis in dowsing, then, had been on 'finding water'. And when I first talked at the yearly meeting of the American Society in Danville, Vermont I mentioned my experiences about how, in nine consecutive cases, people with arthritis always seemed to be sleeping over dowsing reaction lines — now after 75 consecutive cases, I have stopped counting. By and large this was all taken with a grain of salt. I remember I had at least one believer, Ray Willey, a former president of the Society.

For many years now I have been writing to doctors and medical schools and radiation experts . . . anyone who showed a potential of possibly being interested in this close relationship of illness and

dowsing lines. I had been hoping that somewhere along the line I would find some retired doctor or physicist, some foundation, some engineering school, some medical school, some renowned nutritionist . . . someone with prestige and experimental 'know-how', who could take our experiments a bit further towards a point where they could become more believable.

And now after 12 years, in evaluating all the letters and the phone conversations I have had, the most significant perspective is embodied in the statement — "You need a double blind test".

What is this 'double blind test'? In essence, a doctor selects a group of perhaps 20 or 30 people, half of them sick and half of them well. A dowser checks the sick places and the well places at random without his having any idea of the subject he is checking. Are the places where the sick people are sleeping almost invariably over dowsing reaction lines?

John W. Gofman, Professor of Medical Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California, author of 'Radiation and Human Health':

21st December, 1982 — "I notice in your observations both concerning cancer and arthritis, you find a very high correlation between the dowsing findings with the particular diagnosis. But you do not show what is called in the medical research trade a 'Blind Comparison Group'. . . . This is called a controlled study."

Robert O. Becker, Professor of Surgery, Orthopaedic Research, Veterans Hospital, Syracuse, New York:

8th April, 1983 — Professor Becker says in a letter of this date that what has to be done is to have well prepared scientific double blind test. "I think that the results of such a study would be very interesting in that they would be accurate and scientific and I know I can get them published . . . in a scientific journal. . . . Such a study has not been done."

Professor Medeleins F. Barnothy, Professor of Physics, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, author of 'Biological Effects of Magnetic Fields', 2 volumes:

Professor Barnothy writes that you must first have a carefully planned double blind test. "If this protocol could be strictly enforced and in say 80% of the cases the persons who had arthritis were found to be sleeping over water vein crossings, then you have made your case."

Even if we were fortunate enough to find one or more definite physical or scientific factors that were present in these places where people became ill, we would still have a further step to go. For before any new medical approach will be accepted by the public, it must first meet the approval of the medical profession. So that even were we able to pin-point the exact scientific factor that exists under the bed or other place where these sick people

spend a lot of time, the medical profession may still not accept its validity or applicability until a double blind test proves it.

On this basis would it not seem wise to place more emphasis on laying the ground work for having a double blind test independently of the progress being made along the other fronts of research?

We have done wonders in the matter of finding water. But this very minute, while we read this, millions of people all over the world are sleeping over these dowsing reaction lines or so called 'noxious rays'. And they are getting arthritis and cancer and who knows what other illnesses. We are a group of hundreds of people and we may be the only ones, with our dowsing ability, capable of showing this suspected relationship between these illnesses and dowsing reaction lines or areas.

Let us find out once and for all whether arthritis and cancer are closely related with this unknown force, seemingly under our beds.

H. Douglas, Shaftsbury, Vermont 05262, U.S.A.
