but not enough to water the two paddocks which had no water ; this little stream always went dry in summer. I located a stream just where it was wanted, and told him the full supply was down 16 feet. He sunk a well and struck a small supply at eight feet. I told him to go deeper. I had a letter afterwards to say they had struck a very good supply of excellent water, but he omitted to say how deep he had to go for it.

The man who first brought divining to my notice had a peculiar gift. After I had found I had the power to divine moving water, I met him on Yorke Peninsula, where we were divining for oil. He said : " I will show you how I can stop underground water from running." He found out a stream and asked me to mark it out, which I did. He then got a flat stone and put it in the middle of the stream. He then took the hammer with which I had driven the pegs in, and knelt down, putting his left hand palm down on the ground. Then he began smartly striking the stone. After he had done this for about ten minutes he asked me to map out the stream below him. I found I could not feel the water for quite 20 feet, but beyond this point I felt the water as before. He kept on tapping the stone, and again feeling for the water I found it had receded another 10 feet. I then tried the stream above him, and felt it right up to where he was tapping. He then stopped striking the stone and told me to come away from the stream and sit down while he smoked a pipe. We sat talking for about 20 minutes, then he told me to examine the stream. I then found it had joined up again.

A friend of this man told me he had a good well which had gone dry, and he had got this man to try and find out where his supply had gone. He was told the stream had changed its course. " I will try and bring it back to the well," which he did by hammering a stone over the new course the stream had taken.

These two rods I have on the table have found over 300 successful wells and bores over 20 years ago. Since then they have found many hundreds more.

NOTES BY A DOWSER

It is not surprising that dowsing should be regarded with doubt in scientific circles ; the whole business is essentially fantastic, the tools appallingly crude ; some of the theories advanced to explain it are even cruder, but the final answer is that it works. In competent hands it can produce the correct answer time after time, and that when all is said and done cannot be disregarded ; the odds against become astronomical.

For the practising dowser theories are dangerous things. The dowser with a theory is apt to say to himself before he tries an experiment, "According to the theory I should get such a result," he confidently expects to get a certain result, so probably does, though perhaps he should not have done so. This is the first step into the morass from which it is not easy to emerge. In dowsing the mind has astonishing powers of interference, especially in the early stages, with those who are not particularly sensitive, and in trying delicate or difficult things. It is thus useless for the beginner to practise only over known answers; when the correct answer is known beforehand instruments work with most comforting precision. But on the other hand the learner must practise a great deal over known answers in order to find out what they feel like; he must accustom himself to a variety of known examples so that he may be able to recognise what they are when he finds them elsewhere. The difficulty of dowsing is not feeling the reactions, but correctly deciphering what they mean.

The most striking example I remember of this power of mental interference occurred with the most sensitive dowser I have ever met. He was supersensitive, used no instrument, but dowsed by spreading out his hands. For many years he had worked for a firm of well borers, who told me he had never made a mistake. Having watched him work and checked it over, I could well believe this. But he was firmly convinced that he could not dowse in rubber boots, so had to change into leather ones before he could show me. This curious insulation inhibition is over 150 years old and is complete rubbish. The car is a great timesaver, and dowsers even work in aeroplanes. Bléton, who believed in it, was tested by the French physicist Charles about 1782; mounted on a glass-legged stool he knew his rod would not move; whereupon Charles, who had secretly earthed him with a wire, denounced him as a charlatan.

So many tests of dowsers have been invalidated by tricks played upon them; suggestion produces belief and the deed is done. Perhaps the examiner is thinking in instrumental terms; a similar process would not affect a voltmeter.

The dowsing sense is commonly supposed to be rather rare; actually, the majority of people possess it to some extent. Given a really strong flow of water under a culvert, a light whalebone rod properly held, all the muscles alert but soft and relaxed, and a reaction will generally result if the flow is crossed briskly. Sometimes it is necessary to give them the feel of it first. If so, I stand beside them, our two outer hands hold the rod, our inner hands are clasped. We then walk across side by side, the rod rises gently as we approach the flow and turns over when we reach it. After this many who have failed before get

the reaction when they try again alone. Only a small percentage are quite " dead " and can feel nothing, but even with these the joint attempt never fails.

Some years ago I was asked to help with a two-day course for young R.E. officers. One of their Instructors was a very good dowser who had been most successful in India ; for some time he had unofficially tested for dowsing capacity batches of young officers in the intervals of more normal military instruction. The results were most encouraging, and a two-day course was authorised as an experiment. After a short talk, rods were made up and we drove out to the country to try, found a little stream in the chalk and tested them over it. Of the 24 only six could feel nothing, 12 could feel quite well, and two promised to be good. The attitude of most civil scepticism vanished at once ; they were as keen as mustard. On being told to find one themselves they were off like a pack of hounds. In two minutes they had got one, lined it out, and were certain it was right. It was, and only 18ft. down, so a Norton tube well was driven to get it. Ten minutes later they had six handkerchiefs out on the grass with a half-crown hidden under one of them. With the others doing everything they could to put him off, one of the best performers had found it correctly three times running, using another half-crown as a sample. The attempts to get the little streams failed, the flints proving too much for the tubes many feet before they reached them. Next day they tried to identify the metals contained in perhaps a dozen numbered envelopes, using samples of the metals for identification. The results were very good for a first attempt. The average standard of performance was unusually high, but they were young, very fit, and most intelligent.

EXPERIMENTS TO TRACE MUSCULAR REACTION TO ITS ORIGIN

By G. CUTHBERT SHERRIN

The aim of these experiments, which have been carried on from time to time for some years now, has by no means been achieved. None the less, the results obtained may prove of interest to some of the B.S.D. members.

About four years ago I had my first opportunity of watching a dowser. A hazel rod was used, and water was predicted in various parts of a field. As there were no means of verifying whether water existed or not I was naturally dissatisfied with