

spot where the junction occurred, which, incidentally, no one but a dowser could possibly do, and, instead of getting only 5,000 galls. per hour, which was the normal yield in that area, my well, 59½ ft. down, produced over 10,000 galls. per hour!

The R.E. officer in a 'chit', which I possess, calls this 'a quite exceptional yield for a comparatively shallow well in chalk formation', and adds, 'The above is, I think, of scientific interest, showing the valid assistance Water Divining can give to the geologist'.

Case No. 3. Some six years ago, in Scotland, I was asked by a Welsh mining engineer if I could check his assumed 'strike' of manganese ore, extending for about a mile along a hillside.

The mine expert watched me from a distance and said not a word. I worked in loops of about one hundred yards, and whenever the rod turned to the ore, a sample of which I held in my left hand, I gave him a sign. At one spot I told him that the pull was exceptionally strong, and he found under long grass a chunk of manganese, turned up evidently by the plough.

Then came a strong impression on me that we should go 40 yds. or so, higher up the hill. He said his 'strike' agreed with my line so far, but that he was almost sure that there was no ore near the surface above where we stood. 'Well,' I said, 'it will not take more than three or four minutes to try there, anyway'. So we went up, and found quite a big patch of it, to the surprise of both of us.

These cases suggest perhaps, that dowsers after locating water, minerals or metals, might orientate to all points of the compass with the rod held high. Possibly some might thereby avoid missing something else of value in the neighbourhood, of a similar nature to what they are searching for.

This, however, is merely a suggestion.

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## THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF WATER FINDING BY THE DIVINING ROD

By B. TOMPKINS

THE art or gift of discovering springs of water and metals (gold and silver) concealed in the bowels of the earth by a direct inherent preconception of their existence was known in ancient times. The divining rod—or dowsing rod, as it is sometimes called—is simply a forked stick or twig of natural growth from 18 to 20 in. long and from  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in thickness,

of two or three years' growth, either of whitethorn, hazel, ash, oak or withy, or, in fact, almost any kind of wood except blackthorn, witch-elm, or maple. I usually use whitethorn when



available, as it was through this particular kind of wood I discovered I possessed the gift to discover springs of water; at the same time, a hazel twig or rod is equally good, and I find in practice these two woods are the most reliable in estimating the depth and field of water to be obtained, which are of vital

importance. The action of an ash twig is too quick in its movements over the spring head, whereas the oak twig is too slow, consequently the ash overrates and the oak underrates the depths of a spring, so in practice they are not to be depended upon to give as true results as either the whitethorn or hazel. The withy is of too soft a nature ; it will not stand the pressure and soon breaks and becomes useless.

The proper method of holding the rod is between the third and fourth fingers of each hand and under the thumb and gripping the rod fairly tightly with the apex downward. With the rod held in this position, it is absolutely impossible for any one to cause that twig to move or revolve unless some unseen power is brought into contact with the twig operating through the body of the water finder or the person using it. With the rod in position, I commence to walk over the land in sections, so as not to miss any part of the property. I continue my search until an underground stream is found, and as soon as I come across, or over, a subterranean course of water, the rod I am using commences to rise and point with its apex in the direction in which the water is running towards the 'spring head'. Sometimes the water is flowing in an opposite direction to that I am walking in, then the rod reverses its action from rising in front of me and points backwards : I at once follow this direction. I have found this reversing action saves me a tremendous amount of walking, for now, by crossing a property in sections, I am able to determine whether a spring head exists and so start the important part of the search and survey without unnecessary fatigue.

In reviewing the past thirty years of my experience as an expert water finder all over the United Kingdom and South Africa, I look back with satisfaction on the concrete results of my efforts in providing nearly four hundred towns, districts and parish councils, Waterworks Companies, Corporations, Crown Land Commissioners, Manufacturers, Breweries and Dairy Companies and land-owners with one of the most vital necessities of life—pure spring water. On several occasions I have discovered springs of water yielding from 10,000 galls. to 50,000 galls. per hour, even where it appeared on the surface an impossibility for water to exist, and in some cases water has overflowed the top of a 12-in. bore at the rate of 40,000 galls. of water per hour at a depth of 325 ft. deep.

At almost the commencement of my professional career, I carried out numerous experiments and tests for the discovery of springs of water, gold and silver for the late Sir William Barrett, Professor of Physics at the Royal College of Science, Dublin. Sir William

at the time was preparing a lecture on the so-called 'Divining Rod', for delivery at the Royal Albert Hall in connexion with the Psychological Research Society, to which Sir William invited me to assist him, and to give my experience.

The power of water finding does not affect the head in the least. It comes from the ground through the feet, legs and back, over the shoulders, down the arms, on to the twig. The negative and positive influence meeting at the apex causes the twig or rod to rise in the hands and revolve over and over, when over the 'head of the spring'. If rubber shoes be worn, or if one stands on insulators, or even if the rod or twig is split through the apex and severely bound with twine, the rod ceases to act over the same spot where before the rod had turned so violently in the hands of the operator. The water finder, possessing a nature very sensitive to the power, as he is searching an estate, comes across various subterranean watercourses. The moment he comes in contact he feels the current flow through his body; he becomes taut, as when a violin or harp is tuned, and his rod indicates at once by rising in his hands and pointing in the direction in which the water is flowing. He at once feels a pulling or constraining influence to follow that course in its zigzag direction, the rod continually rising in front of him until he arrives at the 'spring head', when it revolves over and over. If he holds it very tight and applies pressure to it, to try and prevent its turning, he will soon lose a lot of energy and become faint and exhausted, his hands being blistered and his twig twisted and fractured like a withe.

The acceptance of my theory as the most practical one has greatly increased since my explanation at the Royal Albert Hall and the three broadcast talks I have given, beside the three editions of my book, entitled, *Springs of Water and How to Discover Them*. Although my theory has been severely criticized, to me it is a very practical one, and no one has yet been able to overthrow it or replace it with anything better.

Springs of water are often connected to each other by subterranean watercourses coming from long distances underground. A very curious incident happened at one of our English towns situated in a valley in Buckinghamshire. The streets had been flooded for a considerable time. Previous to this flooding I had an engagement in the suburbs of the town to discover a water supply for a country residence and an open-air swimming bath, 15 yds. long, 6 yds. wide and 9 ft. deep. I was successful in discovering a strong spring of water estimated at 40 ft. deep and yielding 5,000 galls. of water per day at the foot of a plantation near a high hill. The spring also extended to a well-laid-

out tennis court and flower garden. It was decided to sink a well at the foot of the hill, so as not to interfere with the tennis courts. Water was struck at 30 ft., but to obtain the full supply, the sinking was continued to 40 ft. The swimming bath was constructed, and everything was in perfect order. Some little time elapsed before the arrival of the pump, when quite suddenly, to the surprise of everyone, the water completely disappeared. Having a second engagement in the neighbourhood, I was informed of this curious coincidence and asked to make a second test to ascertain, if possible, the cause of this disappearance. To my astonishment, where my rod had previously showed such unmistakable signs of a strong spring of water at the site chosen for the well and at the tennis courts, where the excavation had taken place, my rod was absolutely still and motionless. I was dumbfounded, disappointed and surprised. Never having had such an experience before, I determined to try and find the cause. After a very careful search, I found other supplies had vanished and wells gone dry on adjoining properties and that Nature, in one of her less kindly moods, had opened her safety valves and allowed the various springs to have their liberty by diverting the subterranean watercourses and flooding the streets; no doubt they will become normal again. Such cases are very rare, but they go to prove that at times the very best of us have to bow to Nature's supreme power.

There are facts in connexion with the subject of water finding that may be interesting and useful to mention. This art, or gift, is, as I have already said, apparently confined to only a few who possess a very sensitive nature, though I believe the number is by no means as limited as is supposed. I have tested hundreds of persons of various ages and positions in life, but only in two instances have I found any one outside my own family who possessed the gift with sufficient confidence to be able to utilize it with any degree of success. One of my sons was equally as successful as myself, but to my sorrow I lost him (as a despatch rider in the Royal Air Force during the war), from pleurisy and pneumonia. The other son possesses too strong a nature, consequently he has to subdue his strength to use the rod successfully, then he is too exhausted and fatigued to stand the strain the spring of water produces on him and collapses and is placed *hors de combat*.

Water finders are born, not made. It is a gift that cannot be acquired, or a profession that cannot be taught, although it may be developed by a person conscious of having the gift by practice and coaching through expert tuition.

A very common feature in connexion with this gift is the

discomfort when close to a dynamo or electric light station, unless one is properly insulated. The body is like a battery easily becoming charged with the current and the only thing to do is to take a long brisk walk for relief.

One mysterious fact that I have not yet been able to solve is why and by what cause the various subterranean courses of water coming from the various points of the compass underground should in nearly every case converge in their zigzag directions to a certain spot termed the 'head of the spring' where they meet. By tapping the spring at this spot the greatest volume of water can be obtained by one well or boring and often it proves to be the main spring of the neighbourhood.

In sinking a large well it has been proved that these various courses of water come into the well from the directions previously described during the search at various depths. In some cases they have come in at nearly the same level and met in the centre of the well.

Some years ago I advised for and carried out the contract for a new water supply for Lord Camoys at Stonor Park, near Reading. I discovered a spring head, which I estimated at 125 ft. deep on a hill. It was a condition in the contract that I should give a fortnight's pumping test before erecting the wind engine for supplying the house and estate. The village of Stonor, situated about two miles off, is supplied by wells 90 ft. deep and each of these wells decreased 10 ft. in their supply, but as soon as I stopped the pumping test, the water returned to the normal capacity, thus proving each of these wells had previously been sunk on some of the subterranean water-courses supplying the 'head of the spring'.

The question is often asked: How do you ascertain or estimate the depth and quantity of water at which a spring head exists?

The depth is estimated by the amount of pressure on the body at the 'head of the spring', similar in principle to the pressure indicated on a steam gauge from a boiler, and the quantity is estimated by the number and comparative width of the subterranean watercourses, whether of local origin or coming from a long distance converging to the 'head of the spring' and in many cases I have been exact or within a few feet of the depth and to a gallon of water in the yield at depths varying from 6 ft. to 1,000 ft. and in quantities from 3,000 galls. per day to 50,000 galls. per hour, and if necessary can give chapter and verse to prove these statements.

Not only is it possible to discover pure spring water, but I have been successful in finding a spring of pure soda water at 160 ft. deep at Milton, near Peterborough. So strong is this

spring that it rises 15 ft. above the surface through an artesian bore and the water is being distributed all over the country under the name of Hydrox. Mention may be made of the discovery of a sulphur spring and a pure spring of drinking water within 5 ft. of each other, at 20 ft. deep, in a grass field near an hotel at Llanwrtyd Wells. This engagement was to be of a secret nature and I was asked to defer my search until quite late and dark, with only a light tied to a gatepost as a guide in the field where I was searching. Both springs proved to be pure in their separate nature, with only five degrees of hardness. Another recent engagement was for the extensive tomato nurseries of Messrs. Luddington, at Tilney St. Lawrence, near King's Lynn. Several wells had been sunk to various depths at considerable cost, and although the local land water was obtained, it was salt and proved useless. I succeeded in discovering a 'spring head' in one of the large tomato houses, estimated at 20 ft. deep, 10,000 galls. per day. The spring was struck at 17 ft. and the water was analyzed and found to be absolutely pure and free from salt, thus proving the difference between a 'spring head' and ordinary land soakage water.

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## THE MIND AND THE ROD

By Canon H. J. F. TRINGHAM

MANY years ago I watched an old Wiltshire dowser seeking for a supply of water in my garden, and subsequently found that the rod seemed to become 'alive' in my own hands. Later on I experimented with coins and discovered that the mind governed the action of the rod. Thus, if I thought of water, the rod would not act for coins, and *vice versa*. I then experimented with coins of different metal, putting each coin in a separate envelope and mixing the envelopes together so that I had no knowledge whether any particular envelope contained a copper or a silver coin. Thinking of copper, the rod enabled me to pick out the corresponding envelope, and switching the mind over to silver I could find the silver.

I was not infallible, but when in the right mood my success was remarkable. I found that it would not do to place a silver coin in an envelope which had been used for a copper coin, or *vice versa*, for this led to confusion. Apparently metal of any kind leaves an influence behind it after the metal itself has been