

## WATER DIVINING AND MORE

BY G. CARSON

In 1936 I was for a short time staying with Dr. and Mrs. Robertson of the Scottish Mission Society. Dr. Robertson was a Lecturer (English and Classics, I think) of the Hyslop College, Nagpur, India. He had the most amazing powers of divining water, with a rod, forked stick or any other suitable instrument. He used this gift to find water for natives or Missions all over India, when they were proposing to buy land or their usual water supply failed. As far as I know Dr. Robertson never had any failures at all, and offered his services to the Government of India when he retired.

I occasionally helped him with this work, which I understand was carried out rather differently from the work of other water diviners. He would first of all get himself a *fresh* forked and pliable twig, the necessity for a fresh stick will become apparent when I explain *all* his work. He then traversed the field systematically in parallel lines. I followed, carrying a bag of stones; at every spot where the stick reacted I put down stones, if there was any water there the shape of a stream would soon become apparent. But Dr. Robertson maintained it was not enough to say there is water here—dig for it. He studied the geology of the land and could tell them about how deep they would have to dig.

But there were many more fascinating demonstrations of the power Dr. Robertson could wield with a stick in his hands. If he held the fork firmly and pressed the nose on to anything, such as wood, metal or material, the waves of the particular object upon which he pressed the fork appeared to enter the stick; for instance, if he pressed it against an oak desk the stick would respond for some time to *oak* only. If he pressed it against linen or cotton or tussore it would respond to linen or cotton or tussore respectively. The quickest reaction of the stick was caused by an electric fan. I had this power to a certain extent, and if I held the stick too tightly when under the fan it was liable to rub the skin of the palm raw, as it sometimes turned right over. Dr. Robertson used to confound door-to-door vendors with his stick if they tried to sell him brass that was not brass, or linen that was cotton!

I was demonstrating to some friends one day, having pressed the stick on to rosewood. I went round the room testing their furniture. At one table the stick vibrated to the top but not the legs! The friends all laughed and we all agreed it was my amateur efforts which denied the legs, as they said the table was all rosewood. Nevertheless, when the table had to be repaired some time later, the man mending it said to the owner: "Memsahib, this table has teak legs, not so good, Memsahib."

But the most interesting of all demonstrations to me was the power of the stick in what I might call sleuthing people. For instance Mr. Robertson would hold the forked stick in two hands and I would hold on to the nose of the fork for a few seconds, then the stick would only react in following me or where I had stood or sat for any length of time; it would *not* react to minerals, materials or anyone else.

One day Dr. Robertson got an Indian scientist friend of his in to demonstrate this to him. He asked the Indian to hold the nose of the stick for a few seconds, Dr. Robertson holding the other two arms of it. He then left the room with the stick and the Indian walked about, sat down and stood in certain spots. The audience tried to remember exactly what he had done. The room had a stone-flagged floor and was about 25ft. by 18ft. We then recalled Dr. Robertson, who rapidly followed where his friend had been by the vibrations of the stick, and by the intensity or otherwise he could tell where he had stood still, and where he had sat down and what objects he had touched.

Once, when Dr. Robertson had been away for a week, I picked up a stick he had used a lot for divining, and it still vibrated over his chair or near objects he had used a lot. I could not water-divine at all when using a stick he had used, as all it would do would be to follow him! On the other hand, when I cut a fresh one I had a certain amount of success.

Dr. Robertson maintained that many failures were caused by demonstrators not understanding the subject well enough. For instance, they might try and use a stick permeated with some other wave, or they might have a strong reaction over some spot which was not water at all. Dr. Robertson maintained that bones, or lumps of metal near the surface would vibrate the stick. He was once exploring a field to try to find a fresh supply of water where a certain Mission wished to extend their buildings. The stick reacted in a most peculiar manner—though it went down in many places none of these would connect like a running stream. Finally, it was decided to dig one of the these spots, and there they found human bones. They then mapped out the other spots by marking stones and decided it had been a cemetery, which proved to be correct. It was an old leper cemetery, unrecorded and unknown to the Missioners at that time.

Though everyone has not the power to use the stick: for instance, it did not react with his wife even under the fan. We could follow her with the stick when she had held the nose of it, and everyone else with whom he tried this experiment reacted in the same way. That is, all other power left the stick and one could only react with them, *unless* they were wearing a gold ring, or one inadvertently went under the electric fan—when switched on, of course.