

It also acts negatively, i.e., an area can be declared void of say underground streams; equally water potentialities on a site for a proposed house can be prospected without trespass and the site accepted or rejected if not considered suitable. It is useful too where time and distance precludes a visit to the area in question. Distance from a site it seems proves no bar to divination by pendulum, whether the site be in Surrey or South Africa.

## A DOWSER AND HER WORK

BY COUNTESS MARYLA DE CHRAPOWICKI

Members of the B.S.D. who have met Frau Anka von Knoblauch or who have heard of her work may like to know more about that gifted dowser. It was through the introduction of Dr. Dudley d'A. Wright that we met, and soon a real friendship grew between us. At first I knew her chiefly in the capacity of a Magnetic Healer and Health Specialist with rooms in Adderley Street, Cape Town, and a large practice which kept her busy from early morning often late into night. After I took up residence at Sea Point, which is quite close to Green Point where Frau Anka, for that is the name by which she is generally known, has her flat, we began to meet regularly several times a week, discussing many subjects of mutual interest and studying together some of the rare books which she has in her magnificent library. It was then that I began to know the real "FRAU ANKA," learning more about her gifts and methods of work, and it is some of those dowsing methods that I wish to describe to-day, (a) dowsing for water which she does professionally, visiting farms; (b) her special way of freeing houses and grounds of underground streams; and (c) her method of discovering radio-active minerals in the earth and changing barren and dry soil into a healthy and fertile ground.

### *Water Dowsing*

As a water diviner Frau Anka has a very high reputation and is well known not only in the Cape Province but in most parts of South Africa. In that country where water is often a problem of life and death a reliable dowser is as precious as gold. It is true that there are many water diviners claiming to find wells, it is also true that they find water but unfortunately after the tedious and costly process of boring has been accomplished the water often proves to be brackish and obviously quite useless. This is a complication which makes the water problem so much more acute. The reliability of Frau Anka in that respect is quite outstanding; not only does she locate *sweet water* but she also

gives exact information as to the depth of boring, and the quantity of water that will be obtained daily. I well remember one afternoon sitting in her flat and listening to repeated telephone calls from a desperate farmer failing to strike water and Frau Anka answering quite calmly, but in a positive way, urging him to continue boring until the foretold depth was reached, and finally a victory call announcing the successful result.

In her work Frau Anka does not use any tools, no rods or pendulums, but only her own hands, which she holds palm to palm, at first rather high almost touching her face, and gradually dropping them in slow jerks. She does not go through any bodily contortions or ridiculous motions but is completely calm, composed and concentrated, there is no spectacular activity attached to her dowsing and one always gets the impression of stability and reliability while watching her advance slowly from place to place. When she begins to feel water the hands begin to shake, pulling down, and the nearer she comes to the source the stronger becomes the pull and more pronounced the jerking, which culminates in a rapid trembling. The two snapshots may give some idea of the changes in the position of the hands as she comes nearer to her destination.

### *Diverting Streams*

This line of her work is most interesting and to many people very puzzling though even the incredulous are soon forced to admit that something does take place, even if they cannot find a satisfactory explanation.

The first steps consist in locating and tracing the course of an underground stream running under a house, a barn or in the garden and affecting the health of the inhabitants as well as their animals and even plants. Having located the most active point or points Frau Anka proceeds as follows: kneeling on the floor or ground she holds in her left hand a tool made of pure steel, designed by herself and made according to her instructions. It looks like a small hand *anvil* which she places on the ground over the place to be treated, holding it very firmly in position. In her right hand she holds an ordinary hammer, with which she strikes the anvil with all her strength with short staccato strokes. This activity continues until satisfactory results are obtained, that is until the contaminated region ceases to give undesirable reactions.

Frau Anka calls this operation "diverting a stream," an expression which has been often criticised and ridiculed and all sorts of explanations have been advanced though none has so far actually solved the mystery. Personally I can see no objection to the word "divert," because I think it is quite possible. To most people the word "stream" awakens at once the thought of a river—something very big flowing through a deep bed

which of course could never be diverted by tapping on a piece of metal placed over it, but, if we realise that the earth is simply percolated with minute streams, some no wider than a hair, the proposition takes on quite a different light. For example if such a thin thread of water were running over the surface of the ground it would be quite easy to divert its course by simply blocking it; why then could not a similar thing happen under the ground? Instead of blocking the stream with mud and dirt its course becomes diverted by tapping, which creates an electromagnetic disturbance in the whole field thereby deflecting a trickling stream or even a group of streams. Personally I believe that it is something of that sort that happens, but whatever the answer may be the fact remains that the method brings beneficial results and that habitations treated in that way become dry and healthy, and the inhabitants recover from all sorts of ailments.

### *Radio-active Soil Pollution*

The third line of work to which I wish to refer consists in reviving dead and arid soil. In this operation Frau Anka again uses her hands for testing. She begins in a similar way as in locating a stream and having found the most active radiations she takes a shovelful of the top earth, places it on a newspaper, and divides the earth into two heaps. She then retests each heap separately, discards the one which gives no reactions and retain the radio-active one. This last one is again divided into two lots and again tested in a similar way, the negative one being again discarded and the radio-active lot retained.

This dividing and subdividing continues until no more than a teaspoonful of the original earth is left. From that lot she picks out a few strongly radio-active grains, which are dropped into a small bottle, about two ounces in volume. The bottle is then filled with pure water and left to stand for twenty-four hours. Next day this radio-active water is carefully drained into a watering can containing ordinary water and the arid land is watered with it. The radio-active minerals are left in the little bottle which is again refilled and the process repeated day after day until a result is obtained. In my own garden at Sea Point one long and narrow strip of earth lay completely barren, nothing would grow, not even grass, and it looked like a real little Karoo desert. After Frau Anka found and extracted the radio-active bits of gravel I immediately put her instructions into operation and to my delight within three months the patch became fertile and flowers which I planted grew big and healthy.

This little account of the gifts and methods of work of my dear friend Anka brings this narrative to an end, of course a whole volume could be filled with innumerable descriptions of her healing and dowsing achievements and perhaps some day she will come to England and favour us with a personal talk and demonstration.



Frau Anka Dowsing with her hands only