

A COUNTRY DOWSER AND SELF AID

BY M. WILSON.

The opening sentence of Mrs. Barraclough's lecture in the last *Journal* has given me the necessary courage to write about a country Dowsers experience, and his use of self-aid. I have wondered are there many like myself who have had to do so much alone and for such a long time. I was for 20 years without meeting another dowser, and also without any reading matter on the subject.

Almost 30 years ago my brother saw a rod being used by a young man, who was using it mainly for amusement, and not divining for any special purpose. My brother discovered he also could use the rod. A few days later I saw him using it, and I, to my joy and surprise, found I could dowse. I became very enthusiastic and experimented, but confess to an inferiority complex, which took years to overcome.

My first experiment was similar to Mrs. Barraclough's gum book test. I tried also, by sitting in a motorcar with four large tyres taking the place of the gum boots. I could still react to the water as we passed over it, but with a time lag, due to the progress of the car. My next question was, could I find the North. I held the rod with point to the earth and turned slowly around. I did feel the rod rise to a horizontal position when I faced the North. I had an idea of the geographic North position, but I was satisfied the rod reacted. This was something achieved.

Soon after this I made another discovery. It was the fact that my mind was a very important factor in dowsing. I knew there was a water main in the road in front of my house. I got my rod and crossed the road and found the position of the main. I returned to my starting point and again crossed in the same position, concentrating on dowsing for coal, and noticed the rod did not move when I passed over the water main. This convinced me the mind could help towards accuracy and error. Finding the North was helped by previous knowledge and, as an experiment was only proof that the rod could be moved by other things than those underground. These experiences gave me a confidence which has been a wonderful help in the years following.

My first achievement was not, as might be expected, having a well dug and water found. It was finding an iron pipe under a street. This pipe was expected to be in a particular position, coming from a house with an area. It was exposed in the area and from there was expected to go direct to a main in the road. When the road was opened, there was no sign of a pipe. I got a rod, and after some trouble I discovered it turned at right angles to its course and followed under the footway to join a similar pipe at the house adjoining, and from there went on to the main. When the ground was opened out this was proved correct.

Notwithstanding these experiences, I was very slow to agree to anyone going to the expense of well-sinking on my findings. I did, however, in about my fifth year of experimentation, consent. The result was very good. I have been divining water since. This branch of dowsing does not give me the same satisfaction as the unusual things.

Hardly a day passes now without some request to find some person or some property—I do not mean the requests to locate people are as frequent as those for finding lost property, but they are frequent. Some I refuse to do, as the requests come from people who have no moral right to know the answer. The convincing results are those I have done by map dowsing, and of these the more convincing are bodies located after drowning, when there was no suggestion or reason to think of such a result, in comparison with those who left some clue behind them. In one of these cases a man had travelled 10 miles before entering the sea, he was found where I indicated two days later. I have indicated five positions of drowned persons from maps in my own house, four being correct; the fifth occurred this present week and the proof is not to hand at time of writing. I mention these cases because of the reference by Mrs. Barraclough to enterprise. If Dowsters would try the more unusual things they would find their work more varied and therefore more interesting and help the future of dowsing.

There is another reason for mention of cases done on maps. It is because of a discussion I had with a friend who is a university professor. In the course of our discussion I was very disappointed when he said "if you tell me there is water at 30 feet below the lawn, and we dig down and get water there, you have not eliminated the possibility of chance." I could have asked where chance entered in the location of a missing person, of which I had positive proof after divining from a map.

As a point of interest I would like to say, the pendulum I use is copper, suspended by a short length of nylon fishing line—something in this nature was suggested by Mrs. Barraclough in her lecture.

I mentioned early in these experiences my acceptance of the part mind plays in dowsing. One demonstration I give when talking of dowsing is: I have a length of piano wire four feet long, with two pieces of copper tube soldered to it as handles. I hold it in a horizontal position and after a short time I get the wire to rise up to touch my head without apparent movement of hands or fingers. Further, I can get the side held in either hand to lead in this rise, that is, I can nominate the right or left side to rise in advance of the other side. In considering this I notice that the wire is more active after being held for some time than when it is taken in the hands at first. This is very interesting as it leads me to believe that our indicators in dowsing

absorb our body emanations and in consequence become as it were flexible parts of our bodies, and as such indicate where the rays of our bodies are travelling to, through the influence of our minds, or our minds' reception of rays which are picked out by concentration. It is not easy for me to put this in writing in a simple way. Suppose we return to the wire. I say I can get one side to lead in the rise from the horizontal or get the mid section to rise. I am not dowsing for anything, except to have the wire move. I have tested non-dowsers to get this result but they all fail. Another deduction from this experiment is, if the dowser's mind is wishing for a result, or a suggestion is given to him, before or while dowsing for something, his indicator is influenced, in a similar way to the influence on the wire—therefore the result is wrong.

To support my idea of our indicators absorbing our emanations I have often got friends to take one side of my rod, while I hold the other, in order that they may experience the pull on the rod. I have found that these friends can dowse for a short time afterwards on their own, but before a half hour has passed they cannot use the rod. Is it the saturation of the rod by a dowser's emanations that gives this power for a short time, and when these are eliminated by the emanations of the non-dowser's emanations, the rod becomes dead?

Regarding any difference in dowsing on site or on map, is there really any? When we go to a site to dowse, our minds get the same sort of view as is conveyed to the mind by a map. On the site our vision does not penetrate the surface because we are looking on it. Nor do we ascertain the depth beneath the surface because we are on it. It is on account of some other cause. Then why a difference between the site and a map of it?

I have yet another experiment to relate. I have read of others getting similar results by a different method. I have a series of concentric circles on paper or on a card, somewhat like a target for a miniature rifle range, which I use to analyse people's ability. By suspending my pendulum over the centre or bull's eye, and concentrating on the average of the individual's abilities, the pendulum gyrates and will swing out and eventually keep on a radius which I note (the circles are numbered from the centre outwards). This circle I take as a standard for all the abilities of this particular individual. Suppose this to be the 7th circle—now to find the comparative figure to indicate his ability in, say, memory, it gyrates again and goes out to the 9th circle, this shows a plus ability as 9 is to 7. Music may show to the 5th circle, this being a minus ability as 5 is to 7, and so on. I demonstrated this to a friend of mine, one whom I dare not offend. One of his questions was, how can you do this without the person being present. I answered "it is sufficient to have the person's first and second names for mental concentration,

then, provided it is fact, not a catch question, the result should be correct." He then gave me a man's name, and asked for a demonstration of him. To my surprise, on getting the average or comparative figure, the indication was that of no ability, as shown by the pendulum's anti-clockwise gyration. A second trial was similar. I then said the result was that this person had no ability. My friend said would that mean he was an imbecile or a lunatic. I said "yes." "Then don't worry," he said, "he is a patient in a mental hospital." I have had success with this, but it is too soon to prove success in a large way. I would like others to try it and hear the result.

I have had two experiences worth mentioning in connection with medical diagnosis. The first was a lady who had lost most of her hair over a period of seven years. She asked through a mutual friend if I would try and diagnose the cause. I agreed. When I got a result I asked a medical doctor could I be correct, and if so, why others had not got the same answer. His reply was, there was nothing in the symptoms to lead to such a cause. I then asked him would he treat the lady on this indication. He said certainly. He did so. I have had letters from her after almost a year saying the hair has grown perfectly.

The second case is a lady who visited me looking for her daughter, who had left home. I gave her position in a city over 50 miles away. This proved correct, as she was subsequently seen there. The lady returned after a few months for an indication of her daughter's abode. On each of these occasions the lady declined to sit down. I asked her was there a cause. She told me she had not sat down for seven years. I then got an anatomical chart, and got an indication on the spine of the cause of her trouble; when I placed my finger on this position on her back, she said it was exactly there she gets the pain when she sits. Of course I could do nothing for her except to have it examined by a doctor. It looked as if the transference of weight from legs to spine made all the difference between comfort and pain.

This town has a population of approximately 8,000 people. I was requested to locate a lost ration book. I nominated a house which was second in a row about one mile away from the place where the owner of the ration book lived. The occupier of this house denied all knowledge of the book. A week later, on again being asked about the book, she handed it over to its owner. The interesting feature is there are 8,000 ration books in the town and the only one to be located was the one in or on the Dowser's mind though the paper, printing, &c., were similar over the 8,000.

I trust my experiences may be of interest to others who, like myself, had to depend on "self-aid, enterprise, enthusiasm, and experimentation" before knowing of the British Society of Dowsters and the writers of the articles in *Radio-Perception*.