JOURNAL
OF THE
BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

Vol. II. No. 12 June, 1936

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Notices	185
Earth Radiation and Radiation from Subterranean Water Currents	186
Water Divining at Shepton Mallet	193
Experiences and Results in Water Divining	194
A Convincing Test H. de MONTMORENCY	199
The Divining Rod	201
Notes and News	202
Correspondence — Protection against Lightning—The Mohmand Operations	205
Reviews	209

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BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

(*a*) To encourage the study of all matters connected with the perception of radiation by the human organism with or without an instrument.

(*b*) To spread information amongst members, by means of a journal, lectures and other means, about the use of dowsing for geophysical, medical and agricultural and other purposes and for tracing objects animate or inanimate.

(*c*) To keep a register of dowsers for water, minerals, oil, and for other purposes.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

I.—Membership.

The Society is open to all persons interested in radiation-perception.

The Council has power to appoint honorary members.

II.—Subscription.

The subscription is five shillings per annum, or three guineas for a life member.

III.—Management.

The Society will be managed by a Council consisting of a President, who will act as Chairman, and five members, one of whom will act as Treasurer and Secretary.

The President and members will be replaced as necessary by the Council, appointments being confirmed at a General Meeting.

All questions regarding the publication of the journal, lectures, meetings, etc., will be settled by the Council.

Decisions of the Council will be arrived at by correspondence if necessary, the facts being recorded in the Minute Book.

Decisions will be decided by a majority vote, the Chairman having a casting vote.

The Council has power to co-opt other members for special purposes.

IV.— Accounts.

The financial year will be from July 1st to June 30th.

Accounts will be published annually within two months after the end of the financial year.

Accounts will be audited privately.

V.—General Meeting.

A General Meeting will be held annually, and other meetings when considered necessary by the Council.

JOURNAL OF THE
BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS
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NOTICES

A lecture was given at 74 Grosvenor Street, on February 18th, by Dr. Oscar Brunler, D.Sc., on "Radiation from the Earth and from Subterranean Water Currents."

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A lecture was given by Captain W. H. Trinder, on April 23rd, on "Some Dowsing Experiences in India."

* * * * *

On page 182 of the last journal, No. 11, in lines 2 and 6 the words "hydrogen content" should read "hydrogen ion concentration."

* * * * *

We have received the first number (January-February, 1936) of *La Radiesthésie Scientifique*, the official organ of *L' Association Scientifique Francaise de Radiesthésie*. It is produced at 7 Rue de la Boule-Rouge, Paris, IX^{e}.

* * * * *

We have received the May catalogue of the Maison de la Radiesthésie, 16 Rue Saint-Roch, Paris I. It contains an extensive list of books on radiesthésie and of dowsing appliances.

* * * * *

M. Christophe has invented a new pendulum consisting of a metal sphere which can be unscrewed from a pointed metal bob. It is thus suitable for ordinary dowsing and for dowsing on maps.

* * * * *

Angle rods with a swivel handle can be obtained from Messrs. Windley Bros., Crown Works, Chelmsford, for 6s. 6d., post free to any address in England.

* * * * *

Messrs. Devine and Co., St. Stephen's Road, Old Ford, London, E.3, supply pendulums of whale ivory with central suspension and cavity for sample at the price of 6s. They also supply whalebone for rods, cut to size.

* * * * *

Pendulums of rosewood can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary at 3s. each.

* * * * *

Communications for the Editor and enquiries should be sent to Colonel A. H. Bell, Backwoods, Lindfield, Sussex.

EARTH RADIATION AND RADIATION FROM SUBTERRANEAN WATER CURRENTS

(Address to the British Society of Dowsers, read on February 18th by Dr. Oscar Brunler, D.Sc.).

In to-day's lecture I am dealing with the radiation from the earth and the radiation from subterranean water currents.

Since ancient times it was known that certain people can detect subterranean water currents by means of a divining rod. We know results, but we know very little about the scientific reasons underlying the effect. My studies of this subject were prompted by the worries of suffering mankind—my fellow men dying from cancer. I am not a water diviner, although I have used divining rods and have been successful. My investigations of the cause of cancer, however, have led me to the extraordinary observations which one encounters in nature when one considers from a physicist's point of view the tumour formations in trees—such as oak trees.

Careful studies led me to the conclusion that the cause of cancer is the radiation of the earth. If this is the case, I said to myself, then we must be able to find conditions in nature where strong radiations from the soil create tumours on trees or plants. If trees are affected, then human beings must react in some form or another to intense radiation from the earth. It is evident that one turns one's thoughts immediately to the divining rod in order to find places where strong earth radiations can be easily detected. We all know that the divining rod works where subterranean water currents are present. Have the latter any influence on the normal radiation of the earth? Everything on earth radiates; our body, our brain radiate in a peculiar manner, as described in my books; plants, trees, minerals—in short, the whole earth radiates. The subsoil conditions on earth vary, and the radiation from the earth surface varies accordingly. Water divining is a physical reaction to certain earth radiations, and the human body plus divining rod is the indicator for water currents below the earth surface. In order to be able to explain the subject matter of my lecture, I must deal with various points in physics.

The atoms are minute solar systems—similar to our solar system—having a central sun around which travel the planets. This central sun—or, as we call it in physics, the nucleus—has electrons rotating around it. Due to the vibrations of the electrons and the vibrations of the atoms and molecules

electromagnetic waves are generated. These waves have a varying wavelength from 1/100,000 millimetres to 1/10 millimetre. These waves are noticed by our sense of vision as light of different colours ranging from ultra-violet to infra-red. Light is the outcome of vibrations of the smallest particles of matter, namely, the electrons and nuclei, whilst the earth rays are vibrations emitted from molecules and their combinations. Beyond these short waves which we notice as light are the Hertzian waves, which have a wavelength up to $\frac{1}{2}$ metre. In between the light rays and the Hertzian waves are the earth rays about which we know so little.

From the experiments and investigations of Heinrich Hertz it is known that the rays named after him behave and have the same properties as light rays or light waves, *i.e.*, they obey the same laws regarding polarisation, etc.

In order to get nearer our subject, let me give you a short survey of the various wavelengths and their use.

The longest waves are those used in wireless telegraphy and telephony. These waves have a length from 30,000 metres (= 33,000 yards) to 100 metres (= 110 yards). There follow the short waves with a wavelength from 100 metres to 10 metres. Next to these are the so-called ultra short waves from 10 metres to 10 centimetres, approximately 3-8th inch wavelength. Now follows the unexplored region of waves with a wavelength from 10 centimetres, approximately 3-8th inch to 0.343 millimetres, and beyond these rays or waves we get into the region of the infra-red light with its waves which vary from 0.343 millimetres to 0.0008 millimetres in length.

The ultra short rays of less than half-metre wavelength hardly penetrate fog, whilst those rays below 10 centimetre in wavelength cannot do so. The velocity of all these rays I have mentioned is the same. The only difference is the nature of the rays and the variation of the frequency of vibration or the wavelength.

The following table gives the rays as classified according to our present day knowledge :—

Wireless Telegraphy and Radio	30,000 metres to 100 metres
Electric short waves	100 metres to 10 metres
Ultra short waves	10 metres to 10 centimetres
Unexplored waves	10 centimetres to 0.343 millimetres
Infra-red	0.343 to 0.0008 millimetres
Visible Light	0.0008 to 0.0004 millimetres
Ultra-violet rays	0.0004 to 0.00001 millimetres
X-rays	0.00001 to 0.00000005 millimetres
Gamma rays	0.00000005 to 0.00000000001 millimetres

When an electron vibrates 400 billion times per second our senses register this vibration as red light—our eye is the registrar which transmits these vibrations along the nerves to our brain. Electromagnetic waves of less than 400 billion vibrations per second cannot be seen, but our skin registers them as heat rays. The electromagnetic waves of the unexplored range of vibrations emanate from matter, and are registered by highly sensitive persons as they react on the nerve and muscle tissue. It is a known fact that certain highly sensitive people develop fits similar to epileptic fits when they sleep over or are exposed for a longer period to the vibrations radiating from subterranean water currents. You may say, is it possible to prove that such or any water currents send forth vibrations of a certain wavelength ?

Theoretical calculations have shown that currents of moving water, as well as magnets, emit electromagnetic waves from 0.3 millimetres to 10 centimetres length. The researches of the physicist, Dr. Dobler, have thrown new light on this unexplored field of radiation, as he proved and photographed the rays from subterranean water currents by means of magnesium and aluminium strips placed over a photographic plate. Polished aluminium acts like a condenser for the rays from water currents below the earth's surface. The proof positive that water radiates or sends forth radiations can be obtained in the following way. A strip of aluminium, the edges of which have been polished, is placed on a photographic plate, and the latter is packed in black paper to prevent the light affecting the plate. The most suitable thickness for the aluminium strip is 1.5 millimetres. After detecting the water current by means of the divining rod, place the photographic plate with the aluminium strip as mentioned before on the ground and leave it there for 10 hours or so. During this time of exposure of the plate to the radiation from the water below the earth's surface the aluminium strip acting like a condenser throws the rays on to the plate, and on developing this you will find two clearly visible lines on the light-sensitive film of the plate. This discolouration proves that the rays emitted from the water can be detected, and thus we have advanced one step further towards the scientific solution of the problem of water divining and earth radiation. Water divining remains, therefore, not any more in the sphere of physical reactions of the body due to earth rays where the human body is the indicator, but it becomes a problem for the physicist, who can build up his investigations on provable and measurable facts. The rays from subterranean water currents produce changes in the electric field above the earth's surface, and ionisation of the air takes place.

It may be interesting to mention in connection with the ionisation of the air above water currents that the former has a powerful influence on plants as well as on animals and human beings. The air and our atmosphere has as a rule an excess of particles with a positive electric charge. The conductivity of the air permits a flow of positive particles from the atmosphere towards the negatively charge delectrons on the earth's surface. The average quantity of electric energy of a positive charge passing from the atmosphere towards our earth amounts to approximately 2.10^{-16} ampère/centimetres, whilst an equal quantity of negative charge flows in the opposite direction, namely, from our earth surface towards the atmosphere.

Investigations which have been carried out by the University of Frankfurt in connection with ionised air have shown that air with an increased positive electric charge of ionised air increases the blood pressure and affects the heart in a detrimental manner. The rays emanating from the earth's surface above water currents produce an increased discharge of positive electric particles from the earth's surface, and must therefore react on the system in a destructive manner. If we investigate the conditions of trees and plants above subterranean water currents we shall find that the trees do not grow to the same height or strength as trees further away from the water currents, and the leaves of these trees fall off long before the other trees lose their leaves. Oak trees growing above water currents develop bulbous growth similar to tumours, whilst pine trees die when planted in places where the dowser's instruments show results.

From the aforementioned facts it appears that subterranean water currents disturb the harmonious exchange of positive and negative particles which takes place between our atmosphere and the earth's surface. Rhythm and harmony—motion, incessant motion—fill space and time. I say intentionally time, because the infinite space has no rhythm.

From the various observations which have been made with regard to the effect of the radiation from water currents on plants, animals and men it appears that the rays sent forth disturb the rhythm—the harmonious rhythm—which governs our life on earth.

The more I study the problem of radiation and the influence of vibrations the more I am convinced that our five senses are not the only receiving stations registering the various vibrations. The dowser has a sixth sense, namely, that of registering vibrations of a higher order. Our sense of hearing registers a range of vibrations, our sense of vision registers another range of vibra-

tions, and so forth. Our five senses transmit to our brain the rhythm of vibrations of varying wavelength ; but we have another if not several other senses which are still unknown to us and which deal with the vibrations or the range of waves which destroy or support our life. According to Isaac Newton's law of motion, " to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction " ; so there must be in the unknown sense or the still undiscovered senses of the human being a resonator which registers and readjusts the disturbances produced by the rays from the earth in the molecules of our system. When this resonator, or call it the rhythm disturbance readjuster, ceases to function, our cells break down and our vitality decreases or tumours begin to form.

Just as we have to change our conception of matter, in a similar way must we slowly change our old conception of having only five senses. Matter has not three states—the solid, liquid and gaseous—but it has four states. We have to add to the three known states of matter the fourth, namely, that of radiation, which, in fact, should be the first one, as matter is nothing else than condensation or crystallisation of radiation.

When we begin to study the problem of radiation from the earth we come face to face with so many varied and complex questions which we cannot explain that one feels amazed at our lack of knowledge. Is there a law underlying the radiation from the earth ? Are there certain laws which govern our life on earth ? Do we know these laws, and can we bring proof that certain laws rule our life and influence the radiation of our body ? In spite of science and philosophy, man has remained a wanderer upon earth, coming he knows not whence, going he knows not whither, and tied in his solitude to an unknown self. The great mystery—the greatest mystery still to be solved—is that of the radiation of the human body and our earth. The dowser, the expert water diviner, can help science, and should help science, for he has the gift of being able to throw light on so many seemingly inexplicable problems. Although I am not a water diviner—as I have already pointed out at the beginning of my lecture—yet I have made use of this art in many ways in my life. How much the diviners would help the medical profession—if the latter would be more open minded—in diagnosing disease. We know that our body radiates and that a dowser can detect the diseased organs in our body or in those of animals.

The researches of Professor Gurvich, of the Institute of Experimental Medicine in Leningrad, have shown that our blood emanates rays, and highly sensitive instruments show that these rays have a wavelength of ultra-violet light, *i.e.*, approximately 2,000

Angströms (one Angström is equal to 0.0000001 millimetre). During my own researches I found that the blood of people suffering from cancer does not radiate, whilst the blood of all other men radiates, no matter what the ailment. The cancerous tumours, however, send forth intense bundles of rays.

From these observations I came to the conclusion that the radiation from the earth may be the cause of the destruction of radiation in our body. You may say, why should the radiation from the earth be the cause? Well, if we study the number of cancer cases in various parts of the country and the geological maps, we find that in certain parts cancerous cases are more numerous than in others, and from the geological maps and with the help of the divining rod you can determine the areas where cancer is rampant. It stands to reason, therefore, that the radiation from the subsoil must have an influence on our body or on the electromagnetic fields in the cells. The latter may be thrown out of balance by the rays from the earth and produce fits similar to epilepsy in the case where the radiation from subterranean water currents is the cause.

The question arises, do these water currents act like condensers —similar to the Hertz Resonator—or do water currents produce a radiation about which we know practically nothing? The researches of Dr. Dobler showed that running water produces electromagnetic waves whose frequency of vibration lies in the unexplored region of radiation, namely, between infra-red and shortest Hertzian waves. We know that the atoms and molecules are electrical and produce electromagnetic fields. Our whole nerve system—the cells of our body—are electrical and cause electromagnetic fields of the most marvellous and most intricate design. Any change in radiation from the soil must react on the nerve tissue as well as on the cells, and must produce a change of state of the electromagnetic field, and these changes are registered in the case of water diviners by the still unknown sixth sense.

The investigations of Professor Dr. R. Sommer have shown that changes in the electromagnetic field of the nerves are first of all registered in the ulnaris, and muscle tensions take place. It appears that the radiation from water currents produces positive ions in the atmosphere; and these disturb the normal exchange of positive and negative charges which takes place on earth. That the ions in the air have an important bearing on life is known, and you will remember that I mentioned before the investigations of the University of Frankfurt, showing an increase of the blood pressure when patients inhale ionised air.

I am afraid to raise further points on this most intricate subject

of radiation. If I continue to delve into the great riddles which face us when we consider our earth, the forces, currents of vibrations, rays and changes of state, we get so amazed, so bewildered and so perplexed that we wish to retire from this great study and say: Oh, how little do we know. Are we not incredibly ignorant of all that takes place around us unseen to our eyes?

There are zones of radiant energy around our earth very much like the rings around the planet Saturn. The densest of these rings of radiation interpenetrates our atmosphere and may be the cause of the continuous flow of the positively charged ions towards our earth surface forcing the latter to send forth a negative charge at the rate mentioned before. From the East to the West move currents of rays of a vitalising nature, whilst from the West towards the East move rays of a devitalising nature. From below the earth emanate currents of radiation which are partly life-supporting and partly antagonistic to plant, animal and human life. Minerals—deposits as well as fluids—radiate from below the soil. Our body radiates—in short, we are surrounded by a maze of radiation of varying frequency of vibration.

And what do we know? We have started to classify the various types of rays—we know how to utilise certain rays—but the greatest of all the mysteries remains unsolved, namely, can we utilise certain rays to prolong our life on earth—to retain perfect health, and to avoid that dreaded disease, cancer? The dowsers and their investigations can help the physicists, the physicists can help the medical profession. Just as in nature we find a permanent flow and exchange of forces, similarly there should be a continuous and harmonious exchange of knowledge between the various professions. Motion—rhythm—exchange—govern nature. There is no static state in the Universe, but often it appears to me that mankind, and especially the various branches of science, forget the greatest of all principles in science as well as in nature, namely, exchange of forces. How much further we would advance if we would get out of the static state—our narrow-mindedness—and make all the various branches of science work together as a harmonious whole for the benefit of mankind.

[The Chairman introduced the lecturer in the following words:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in introducing Dr. Brunler, who has kindly undertaken to lecture to us on "Radiation from the Earth and from Subterranean Water Currents."

Dr. Brunler is of mixed Swedish and French descent, his father being the late Oscar Brunler, Count of Alsen.

Dr. Brunler was educated in France, Belgium, Holland and England. He studied Physics in Paris, Engineering and Chemistry at King's College, London, and Medicine at Breslau University. He spent ten years in chemical

and engineering research, chiefly in connection with the burning of open flames submerged in liquids, and is the inventor of the Brunler flame, which burns unprotected under water.

For several years he investigated the influence of colours on body and mind, and has devoted the last three years to the treatment of disease by means of coloured light rays, with outstanding success. He has recently published a book of lectures on this and other matters.

In his spare time Dr. Brunler has studied philosophy and has carried out investigations in connection with radiation from the soil.]

WATER DIVINING AT SHEPTON MALLET

By J. P. LE GRAND, A.M.Inst.C.E., F.G.S.

Some two years ago Messrs. Le Grand, Sutcliff and Gell Ltd. were called upon with a view to finding water at one of the numerous bacon factories owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. The site in question was at Shepton Mallet.

Upon making investigations from a geological point of view the site appeared to be a very poor one and the chances of finding an adequate supply of water not by any means hopeful.

However, a shaft was sunk to a depth of about 120 feet, and an exploratory borehole also drilled to a total depth of 198ft. Little or no water was obtained, and as the matter appeared to be so hopeless it was decided as a last resort to employ a Water Diviner, and Major C. A. Pogson was called in.

He gave his opinion that water should be met with in close proximity to the shaft, his report stating that there were two converging underground streams, one of which was situated about 25ft. from the shaft and the other about 50ft. away, and also that there was a connecting fissure which appeared to run between these two streams.

It was, however, claimed to be difficult to ascertain the exact alignment of this fissure owing to surface obstructions. (See diagram).

Major Pogson expressed the opinion that by driving an adit to either of the underground streams (which he estimated were at a depth of about 180ft.) a supply of water would be obtained. He was, however, unable to state what quantity would be found, as he was unfamiliar with the strata and had not worked in this district before.

It should be mentioned that shale was met with down to about 70ft., and hard Mendip Limestone beneath this for the full distance drilled.

Accordingly, an adit was driven at a depth of 178ft. below surface in the direction of the nearest stream A, but the result was disappointing, as a supply of only 250 gallons per hour was obtained from a small fissure. Upon reviewing the matter another adit was driven for a distance of over 90ft. at a depth of about 64ft. 6in. below surface, but no water at all was obtained. This was done on advice obtained from local information.

Major Pogson then expressed the opinion that possibly in his diagnosis he had overstated the question of depth, and that the supply might be somewhat higher up. It was therefore decided to drive some small drill holes in the roof of the lower adit.

One of these drill holes—which was only 2in. in diameter—suddenly gave a yield of 3,000 gallons per hour when it had been driven upwards for about 11ft. above the top of the adit: in other words, water was struck at about 160ft. below surface.

It was therefore decided to drive a third adit at the 161ft. level, and the result was that a yield of over 5,000 gallons per hour was obtained, the water rising to 46ft. below surface, and when pumping at the rate of 5,000 gallons per hour the water could only be lowered to 139ft. below surface. By taking measurements it was found that the water supply was struck almost immediately below the line of stream A.

The above remarks go to show how important it is to be able to locate not only the exact spot on the surface of the ground but also the correct depth below surface where heading work is concerned. The same result might have been obtained by drilling a fresh borehole down to the depth indicated, but adits give the additional advantage of storage.

It is a little strange, however, that no sign of the connecting stream mentioned above was discovered, and here again possibly an error in locating the depth below surface may have been the cause of its non-discovery.

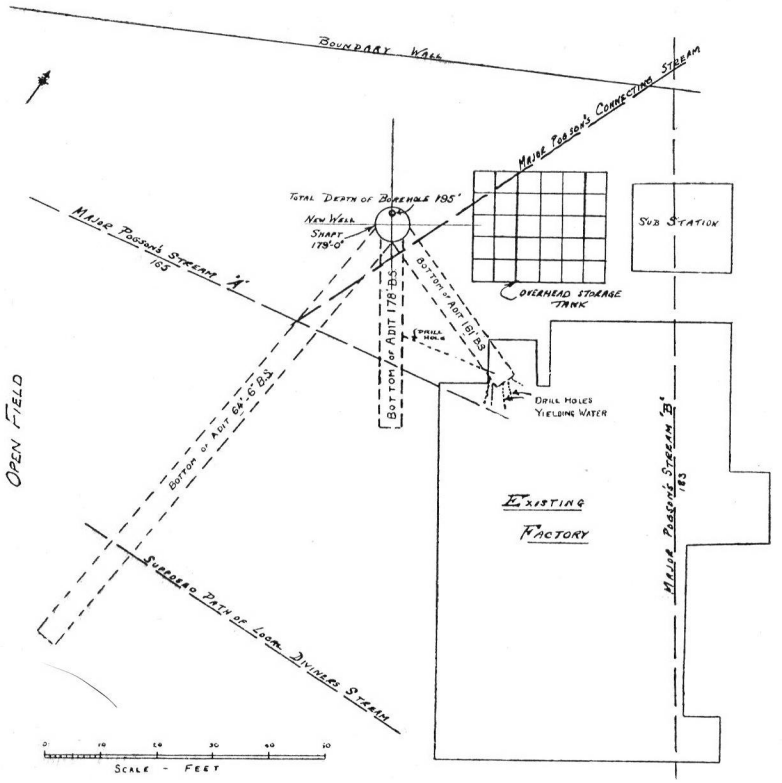
The water proved to be of excellent quality, and naturally the Co-operative Wholesale Society were very pleased with the result. The work had been carried out to the instructions of Mr. A. A. Scott, Chief Engineer.

EXPERIENCES & RESULTS IN WATER DIVINING

By ELEANOR PEELE

For many years I practised water divining privately; then, on being asked, took it up as a profession. I first found water in 1907 when walking round our farm at Hethersett; a twig I

Messrs. C.W.S. Ltd. Bacon Factory, Shepton Mallet.



carried suddenly turned in my hand, and a spring of water existed at no great depth below the ground where this happened. Although practically any kind of stick, or twig, will indicate to me the presence of water underground, I generally use a forked hazel stick shaped like the letter V, but when standing over an underground spring it breaks into many pieces, and often cuts my fingers by the sudden action ; so now I find a whalebone divining rod best to use, and find it very sensitive when over water. I can also locate water with my two thumbs, hands stretched out and thumbs two feet apart : when over water they are then drawn together and I can then "feel" underground water. Many clients have tried to keep my thumbs apart when I demonstrate before sceptics.

Springs Diverted by Nature.

In four cases I was asked to advise upon last year, the water had diverted ; in one case, an old well was opened and cleaned out to 70 feet. The well-sinker told me the bricks, being fan-shaped, were 100 years old ; there was no water in it, but within six yards a good supply at 40 feet. Another client ; the well dry, and after advising to have the well condemned, I found a good strong spring under a hut, which I had removed, eight yards off the old well ; my client was delighted with the result. Another well made some years ago went short of water, and again I detected a strong spring a few yards away with success.

An Attleborough man bought land, built a house, dug for water deeply in two places : no result. He asked me if I could help him. I said I would if he promised me to take out the bricks and fill in the wells. I walked over his land, and quickly located an underground spring. A well was subsequently sunk at the spot indicated, and a plentiful supply of water found.

Discovering Blindfolded.

A farmer at Banham required several hundred gallons of water daily, for grade A milk, and asked me to advise him where to sink. I found an abundant supply, 2,000 gallons per day, at 35 feet. He asked me if I would permit myself to be blindfolded, taken a distance away, and after being turned round a few times, start again. I agreed, and to the astonishment of the onlookers eventually stopped at the spot indicated in the first place ; but that venture affected me to the verge of collapse. It was a severe test ; for some reason I must have my sense of sight for mental concentration and perceptive power.

Results Achieved.

A houseboat owner on the Norfolk Broads asked me to find

water for him at Acle to supply thirteen houseboats, as he had to get his water from Yarmouth. I found a strong supply at 70 feet, but when analysed it was too salt for domestic purposes. Then a solicitor bought seven acres of land at West Runton, and asked me to locate water. I walked over the land in a dense fog, and found a strong supply at 80 feet on a very high hill.

A Rector having a new rectory built required me to find water on two sites; found at 35 feet and 40 feet. The Managing Director of a garage, who owns an acre of ground in Gorleston, engaged me to go there. I walked through the gardens, garages and engine rooms, tracing with my rod, as it gave indications, the presence of water, and found the head of the spring. I judged it to be 50 feet down. He has a garage for 100 cars and 64 private lock-up garages. Just lately I received a splendid testimonial from him, pleased and delighted with abundance of water, only 45 feet and concrete cylinders 4 feet 6 inches.

I was asked in November to locate water on Gorleston Golf Links; there are over ninety acres, so I had a long walk, and found two strong springs to bore; they have lately increased the course to 18 holes. Then I had an engagement to find water for new houses at Ketteringham; well sunk 60 feet and 300 gallons per hour, on high ground. A large poultry farmer required water last year on two farms: I found him two places to bore, and have since heard that he has a good supply. One place I went to I located water under a rose terrace, had the roses taken up and a well sunk 25 feet.

How I Judge Depth.

Knowledge of depth is gained by years of practical experience. First I locate the spring, then put a peg, or stake, in the head of the spring, and as the whalebone divining rod goes up in my hand I then locate or "Strike Water," then make a circle of pegs round it. The approximate depth I then judge by the force on my rod, and many times have only been a few feet out of what I estimated.

One lady at Caister, near Yarmouth, bought land, and wanted a well sunk near a tree. I told her she would have to have a well sunk there 80 or 100 feet, but I found at 50 feet in extreme drought.

I do not *think* there is water at a certain spot. I *know* it is there; my rod does not lead me wrong when my foot is over the hidden water. Last September I went one day 75 miles; started at 10 o'clock for a large estate 22 miles away. The agent met

me to find water for a tenant ; he had had two pumps put down, but no water. I found a good supply at 25 feet. Then to a smallholder : located water on his place. Then on to Salhouse, and found water for a building site at 40 feet. One must keep fit, for it is a strain on the power of concentration to do so much.

Boring or Well Sinking.

Boring proves satisfactory if exactly on the head of the spring, in which I agree with Mr. Tompkins, for in July last year I found a strong spring for a farmer near Dereham, and as he did not have it bored until a month ago my pegs got moved. They went down 62 feet but found no water, so he came for me. I found they were two yards off the head of the spring and that made all the difference. But for a large supply I advise sinking a well with concrete cylinders ; more yield and cleaner. Several people I have told have done so.

Benefits to Agriculture.

On our farm of 400 acres at Attleborough the drought caused ponds and streams to dry up. I found two springs near one pond, had them dug out to 10 feet, then had large galvanized tanks sunk with the bottoms out ; they filled up quickly and gave a good supply for cows and stock. Another field my husband wanted under-drained. I traced the springs and had trenches dug ; afterwards there was a good crop of barley on that field. I located those springs in rubber boots and with only a walking stick in my hands. In one field where the horses used to sink in when ploughing, I had a spot opened out ; at 12 feet the water rose quickly. Drains were made to a dyke, and the land became dry. A market gardener had several glass-houses and land. He asked me where he could get water. I found an abundant supply at 14 feet to his entire satisfaction.

If a well is dug two or three yards distant from a vein of water it may percolate into it through the intervening earth, but the water will never be so fresh or good as when it comes from a spring which is constantly flowing and renewing the contents of the well. I often say, " Why bore haphazard ? " when the water supply is urgent. The scepticism that still prevails as to the existence of such a gift as divining is simply amazing in view of the numerous and undeniable proofs to the contrary of that valuable power, which is well-deserving of practical recognition.

These large water supply schemes do not help many country villages. Now in Attleborough there is to be spent £80,000, but it will not provide water in hundreds of places where it is sorely wanted, and medical officers are constantly protesting

that the wells are not suitable for drinking purposes and are a danger to public health. But in most parishes a proper supply could be got, at small cost, if the proper place for boring were selected. An idea is popularly entertained that water can be found anywhere almost if a well be sunk deep enough, but it is not the fact. I have known an engineer to bore for a fortnight and find no water, but 200 yards away an excellent supply at 30 feet existed. It follows therefore that the natural gift of the waterfinder is as valuable now as it has been throughout the ages.

Just the last week in March this year I was asked by an engineer to locate water at the Links Hotel, West Runton, near Cromer; the supply required was 1,000 gallons per hour, for Hotel and pumping plant to Golf Course. I found a sufficient supply and strong spring; the vein went through hotel, gardens, and grounds.

For divining gold the rod turns to me, but for water, or salt, up and away. When the note G is struck my rod is very sensitive, and gives strange revolutions, but for no other note. If I place two wine-glasses previously rubbed with a piece of silk 18 inches apart, my right hand is attracted with my rod towards one wine-glass and then towards the other continuously five times. If a stick of sealing-wax and a wine-glass, both previously rubbed, are placed 18 inches apart, the former to the left, my left hand is attracted towards the sealing-wax, repulsed half-way to the glass on the right, and then attracted towards the sealing-wax once more. I have been told water-finding suggests the old-time practice of witchcraft. What do our Members think? I think it is the magnetic attraction of the current of water travelling through the earth that I am susceptible to.

A CONVINCING TEST

By Major H. DE MONTMORENCY

In the summer of 1913 I leased a cottage from Professor William Barrett, F.R.S. The cottage is situated in the Rocky Valley, County Wicklow, one of the loveliest spots in the world: to the south rises the Sugar Loaf, a hill which has the imposing contours of a mountain; whilst to the west is Powerscourt, with its exquisite dells, woods, and streams.

As Sir William Barrett showed me over Carrigoona, the cottage which he had recently built, he pointed to a well with a pump in the garden.

"I could not find water here," he remarked, "until I called

in the assistance of the Dean of St. Patrick's, who is a water-diviner; he located that well for me."

"I am a dowser, too," I observed. "I possess the power very strongly."

The Professor told me that he was most interested in water-divining, and he proposed that we should carry out some experiments during the summer. A few days later, having cut a suitable twig, I found, to my astonishment, that the point of attraction for my wand was fully four yards distant from the pump. I tried again, and again, approaching the well from every point of the compass, but I was always drawn to the same spot, about thirteen feet from the well located by Dean Ovenden.

When next I met Professor Barrett, I said to him: "It is very strange, but I do not agree with the Dean in the location of your well; I am drawn to a point quite thirteen feet to the north-west of your pump."

Sir William laughed, and answered: "Don't say a word to a soul about it. I will bring the Dean and we will chaff him!"

A week later, the Professor, the Dean, and I met at Carrigoona, and Barrett remarked banteringly to the Dean: "You're a pretty water-diviner! I hear you located my well in the wrong place!"

"We'll soon settle that," retorted the Dean. "We've both got our wands here, and we'll try now."

First of all, having locked the Dean into my study on the far side of the house, I accompanied Sir William into the garden, and, as previously, I found the point of attraction to be some thirteen feet from the pump.

"Don't make a mark!" the Professor exclaimed, growing excited. "Let the Dean find out his own error."

When the Dean's turn came, I was imprisoned in the study.

The Dean was mystified: on going over the ground with his twig, he had been perplexed to find that, like me, he was attracted to the same spot as I—thirteen feet from the pump.

Then we all sat down together to discuss the results of our investigations. What was the explanation?

Sir William Barrett confessed. At the time when he had requested the Dean of St. Patrick's to mark a site for sinking a well, he had been in negotiations with another party to sell a portion of his land. Now, if this plot of ground had been sold, the spot selected by the Dean would have been outside Barrett's boundary—a most inconvenient situation for his well.

Sir William argued that, if water were obtainable on the site marked by the Dean, he would be pretty certain to strike it a few yards further down the hill; the necessity for drilling a few feet deeper being the worst which could happen. He accordingly shifted the pegs fixed in the ground by the Dean to a point some four yards away and well within his own boundary.

Professor Barrett told me that this experiment was the most convincing test of water-divining he had ever witnessed: because the Dean and I—but more especially the Dean—must have had the greatest temptation, through the force of suggestion, to "find" water at the pump; whereas we both resisted the temptation, and thereby proved that suggestion is not a factor in water-divining, as has been often alleged.

THE DIVINING ROD

BY A CONVERTED UNBELIEVER

I will give some of my personal experiences. I knew a farmer in the Transvaal who complained to me he was dependent upon his neighbours for water in dry seasons. Some year or two after, when visiting him, he showed me a well with an inexhaustible supply only about 60 feet deep, although he had previously sunk twice that depth unsuccessfully in other places. He told me the spot was shown to him by a "water vinder." I dismissed the matter from my mind then as childish nonsense. Some time later the "water vinder," or "dowser," had been sent for to the farm of a friend of mine where I was staying, and being asked if I would like to see the experiment, grumblingly consented, ridiculing the whole business. The "dowser" after walking about here and there came to a spot where the rod went down, later picking out other places in about the same line. He then stated that perhaps one of those present (there were six) might be susceptible and if so, when blindfolded and led to the spot, the rod would work with him. I contemptuously volunteered, and after being marched in different directions, was told to walk straight on, holding the rod as instructed by him; a short time afterwards I felt the rod twisting down with irresistible force; it was simply impossible to stop it. On the bandage being removed I found myself at one of the spots marked by him. I was very much nettled at the time, especially at his amused smile of satisfaction; but he consoled me by saying: "Never mind my laughing, I cannot laugh at everyone—and you have learned something." I *had!* Later, at odd times, I used to

practise at various places for amusement, sometimes obtaining indications and sometimes not.

Once I was passing a place where the South African Constabulary were sinking for a well. After testing I told them the best water was some distance off. One of the troopers found the rod worked with him at the spot indicated by me, and at a depth of 10 feet they could get no deeper as they could not empty the well. Among other experiences I may mention one where the Government drill was sent to bore for water at a village in the Transvaal. The Government man picked out a certain spot, but those interested in the result asked another amateur and myself our opinion. We found better indications at another place some distance away, and at the suggestion of the local J.P. ! ! the engine and drill were shifted at night, which was never noticed as, naturally, work was not commenced for some weeks, being a Government undertaking. When water was struck at about 120 feet it rose 60 feet in the hole. The magistrate after inspection, was sounding the praises of the Government man to the J.P. when the J.P. laughed and told him, in confidence, the whole story.

Anyone who takes the divining rod in his hands can never mistake the feeling when it works, though it does not work in the same way with all. I have seen some cases where the arms jerk in almost the same way as those of an epileptic, the operator cannot hold them still.

[Written by Mr. W. H. Younger, about 1909, in London. He had spent about 30 years of his life in South Africa, principally in the Transvaal.]

NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. G. G. Fleming has sent us the following note in continuation of that published in the last Journal :—

[Copy.]

Rapid Creek Gold Mining Syndicate,
157 Powell Street,
Vancouver, B.C. *December 11th, 1935.*

Dear Mr. Fleming,

Under date of April 15th, 1935, I informed you that upon examination of the map of the property of the Rapid Creek Gold Mining Syndicate situated in the Cariboo District of British Columbia, I found that your Distant Prospection had verified our findings to date and had also indicated several veins of Ore

which we were doubtful of as to "Place" and "Continuity."

This past season we carefully prospected the property with the intent of proving or disproving the authenticity of your findings.

I am delighted to inform you that each and every vein of Ore, as indicated by your method of Distant Prospection was found in place and considerable continuity proven.

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate in having the benefit of your knowledge, as the amount of time and money saved is incalculable.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) F. B. WHITESIDE.

Witness. D. TODD LEES.

[COPY].

Vancouver, B.C.

December 11th, 1935.

I, Frederick B. Whiteside, of the City of Vancouver, B.C., do solemnly declare as follows :—

That the statements and facts contained in the attached letter, dated the 11th day of December, 1935, to Mr. Fleming, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Declared before me, at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 11th day of December, 1935.

D. TODD LEES,

A Notary Public for British Columbia.

(SEAL).

* * * * *

Mr. J. A. Clarke writes to us as follows :—

On March 1st I was asked by the Police to locate the body of a man believed to be in the River Leam, a coat and hat, together with a note, having been found by the bridge.

Taking the loop off the coat as a sample, and walking along with the rod held over the parapet of the bridge, my rod gave reactions at one spot. This I took to be the place where he went over, and the man who found the clothes said he picked

them up close by where I was standing.

Locating on the bridge, my rod indicated the S. side, and, taking the N. side, I walked along the bank until the rod reacted again, giving the cross section.

The drag was dropped in at this point on the S. side and pulled across to the N. bank, and had evidently hooked something, but when almost across the drag came off, the rod then indicating the spot near the N. side, where the drag had slipped.

Dragging was resumed the next day, and subsequently, but the drags failed to pick up anything, and the body eventually came up up a few yards from the spot where my rod had indicated its presence.

The rod also gave reactions at a spot lower down the river, caused, I believe, by something the man had on when he entered the water, as these reactions are still given at this point, although the body is no longer in the water.

* * * * *

Major C. A. Pogson is sending us a record of all authentic results obtained by the development of locations for water made by him, including details of the strata encountered in sinking shafts or boreholes.

Starting from January, 1934, the record includes 18 completed projects for water supplies ; for domestic purposes, farm, laundries, factories, a brewery, a nursery, and a district water company, involving yields varying from a few hundred to over two million gallons per day.

In 16 of these projects supplies up to or in excess of requirements were obtained, while in the remaining two projects the available discharge was less than was anticipated and fell short of stated requirements—in the one case 200 instead of 600 gallons per diem, and in the other about 5,000 instead of 6,000 gallons per hour.

* * * * *

As reported in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* of April 15th and numerous other papers, Mr. H. E. Scott, of Bradford, Yorks, gave valuable assistance to the Police by locating the bodies of two children, Freda and Norman Stokes, who were drowned in the Calder on Thursday, April 9th. The two children had left home with a brother aged six months in a perambulator. On Friday morning the perambulator was found by the river bank, but there was no sign of the other two children. Dragging operations were carried out without result. On Sunday Mr.

Scott, working from a child's footprint, located the position of one body, that of the little boy, which was recovered about five yards from the bank. On Monday the red beret worn by the little girl was found and on Tuesday Mr. Scott, using the beret as a sample, indicated the position of the girl's body, which was also recovered.

At the inquest Chief Inspector Wilkinson acknowledged the great assistance given by Mr. Scott.

* * * * *

According to the *Colchester Gazette* of March 4th Mr. Frank Darch, of Stratford St. Mary, located the body of Harry Buckles, a carpenter, of Dedham, in the River Stour, after four days' search by the Essex police. Dragging operations were carried out and the body recovered at the spot indicated.

* * * * *

There was an article entitled "Radiesthésie" by Dr. J. Braun, M.D. (Geneva), in the January-March No. of "Progress To-day," dealing with medical diagnosis; and an article by E. Christie in "Discovery" for April on "The Physics of the Divining Rod."

CORRESPONDENCE

Protection against Lightning as affected by Earth Rays from Subterranean Watercourses.

Ivy Lodge,
Thetford, Norfolk.
March 3rd, 1936.

Dear Sir,

The original idea of protection against lightning by means of a conductor appears to have been that a thunder cloud, charged with electricity, would be tapped by the lightning conductor and its charge be led harmlessly to earth. Having been for many years an expert water finder all over the United Kingdom and in South Africa, and one of the earliest members of the British Society of Dowsers (or Water Finders), I have been greatly interested in the article by Colonel F. A. Iles in the March issue of the Journal.

The remarks and experiences of Baron von Pohl on earth rays gave me much pleasure to read. Having written three books on the discovery of springs of water and proved the theory after

30 years of research work, I came to the conclusion I would like to prove whether this question was true to fact.

I have in my garden a back entrance roadway from the street. Along this roadside and the garden boundary I planted a row of gooseberry bushes, three apple and one pear trees, and in due course they bore fruit. Two years ago, after the blossoms had gone and the fruit had appeared, we had a heavy thunderstorm with lightning, and a few weeks after all the trees and bushes appeared scorched as by fire, the bark peeled off in scales and all but the pear tree died. In the autumn I had them dug up and planted other trees on the same site, but in different holes, but they do not appear to be making much progress in growth.

Being of a resourceful turn of mind and always wanting to penetrate the why and wherefore of things, and after reading such an interesting article as that of Colonel Iles, I got my divining rod and made a thorough search of my garden, in all about half an acre, to ascertain if possible why these trees should be struck and die whilst all the other trees in the garden remained strong and healthy.

To my surprise I discovered three subterranean watercourses—one coming from the East, another from the South-West and the third from the North-West. The second was the strongest, and flowed directly under the row of dead trees. The three converged to a strong spring head of water in the open yard, which I estimated to be 30 feet deep. The pear tree and a large plum tree were not touched because they were growing between two of the watercourses.

I have proved in my latest book that subterranean watercourses produce rays which no doubt account for the behaviour of lightning in their proximity.

It thus becomes of interest to all who possess land and contemplate building or the planting of gardens to have the sites thoroughly tested by a reliable water-finder, to ascertain whether any subterranean watercourses exist, and so avoid the possibility of their trees or buildings being struck by lightning.

I have many times seen lightning run along a grass or arable field for some distance in a zig-zag course like the line of a watercourse, but I never gave a thought that there might be a subterranean stream underneath.

Yours faithfully,

B. TOMPKINS.

Landi Kotal,
N.W.F.P.

Dear Colonel Bell,

Here is the promised account of the Water Divining which was done on the Mohmand Operations, September-October, 1935.

The area in which the operations took place had been visited previously by punitive expeditions in 1897, 1908 and 1933.

In 1897 the operations were in the autumn, and the force was watered almost entirely from village ponds containing collected rain-water. In 1908 many "springs" were found to be flowing (in April-May), and no difficulties over watering the force were encountered. In 1933, again in the autumn, the same troubles as in 1897 recurred.

For the first twenty miles or so after entering the hills, the line of advance of the force follows the Gandao-Khwar, a valley in which water flows all the year round. At the point where the road enters a wide open valley occurs the last series of leaks into the nullah bed, at Ghalanai. Here was sited a camp capable of accommodating the whole force of about 18,000 men and 10,000 animals. The valleys from Ghalanai forward are "alluvial deposits overlaying argillaceous metamorphosed shale," and the shale is inter-layered with very hard limestone, so that the strata in the hills which divide the valleys are at all angles and of varying thickness.

On arrival of the 1935 force, it was found that the Ghalanai flow in the nullah was much less than in 1933, some of the many "leaks" then used being almost dry.

The first problem, therefore, was to increase the 3,000 gallons per hour which was flowing on the earth and rubble filling in the nullah bed, which here had limestone walls about 20ft. high. Investigation with a twig showed that there was a series of streams in the limestone, three actually below the nullah bed, but that the underground streams flowed approximately against the fall of the nullah bed at this point. A quartzite fault in the limestone, which was the cause of the existing flow, was taken as a likely weak spot for the second underground stream, and by removing the earth from above the intersection the total flow was increased to about 5,000 g.p.h.

The third stream was then traced until a green grassy patch—an unusual occurrence in this district—was found on the line of the stream. Further twig exploration from this point indicated

that there was a flow back down the nullah bed from the grassy area, but that this back flow was dissipated in smaller streams lower down the bed. It was assumed, therefore, that this water was flowing in the deepest part of the limestone floor of the nullah.

A large hole was dug to cut off this stream before it split and the stream located in gravel as was expected. A clay wall downstream of this collecting tank, into which all three "leaks" were run, then acted as the suction pit for the pumps, and supplied over 8,000 gallons per hour for nearly two months.

Time did not permit these underground streams to be opened up. A hole over 12ft. deep was blasted in the hard limestone, but did not reach the stream, although the hole filled with water from cracks on the floor. The standing water level in this hole showed that the "head" in the streams was only about six inches at the surface of the nullah bed level, and was falling steadily at this season.

Forward of Ghalanai the only existing water sources were (*a*) open tanks with earth banks for rain water; (*b*) wells, the shallowest of which was 250ft., and which only produced a very limited quantity of water; (*c*) so-called "springs" in nullah beds and limestone fissures in the hillsides. These it was found only ran from December to June, and, from the twig, seemed to be overflow leaks from deep streams. Attempts were made to open up the rock pipes and get down to a flow, but although in two places "pipes" containing water and clean gravel were opened by blasting for 15ft. or so, water was not obtained in adequate quantity for the advanced force, and it was eventually necessary to pump from Ghalanai for over eight miles and over a pass against a head of 1,150 feet.

The system of streams which fed the 300ft. deep wells was investigated as far as military conditions permitted, but nothing was found which appeared likely to justify development in the short time—six weeks—available.

Most of these streams flowed across the valleys, and could be traced passing almost without deviation beneath hills 300-1,000 feet high dividing the valleys.

In such military operations speed is everything, and the estimate of depth is therefore of the greatest importance.

The R.E. Officer in charge of Water Supply used twigs of green wood or whalebone, but was not sufficiently experienced to venture an opinion as to depth in such conditions. A visiting dowser from A.H.Q. using a "Mayer" spring estimated the depth of one stream in an open valley at 60ft., but this, of course,

was far too deep to justify any attempt at verification (also it was only just inside the outermost piquet line).

The force consumed on the average over 1,000,000 gallons per diem (September was very hot), and an experienced dowser would always be of great value in similar country and conditions even if it were only in the saving of time in the development of areas known already to contain water.

Yours sincerely,

K. W. MERRYLEES.

MAJOR, R.E.

REVIEWS

WÜNSCHELRUTE, SIDERISCHES PENDEL, ERDSTRAHLEN.

By W. Freiherr von Rolshausen, *E. Piersons Verlag*, Dresden und Leipzig.

BEITRÄGE ZUR PHYSIK DER WÜNSCHELRUTENFRAGE.

By V. Fritsch and F. Jelinek, *Verlag Jos. C. Huber*, Diessen vor München.

It will be remembered that in the September number of this Journal Mr. W. W. Varvill contributed a paper in which he stated that "the diviner can expect no useful field for his art in the mining industry until he can produce a scientific explanation for the phenomena of dowsing."

Freiherr von Rolshausen's monograph does not supply this want, as the book is mainly interesting as a record of his experiences and views. He has thrown down the gage, and rides boldly against the windmills of official scepticism, well armed with his own experience. He is a dowser of great attainments, and hopes that the accounts of his observations may draw more into the ranks of the believers. He is not blind to the danger of auto-suggestion, and tries in all his work to take all precautions for its avoidance.

The first part of his book is concerned with an account of how he first found that he was a dowser and with certain theories of his own. He is very scornful of all claims to sensibility to photographs and the like.

After an account of the pendulum and depth determinations, he proceeds to try and refute suspicion against the value of the use of the divining rod. Here his chief opponent is the University

of Munich, which issued a report condemning dowsing. He thinks that their conclusions were based on too slender data. The main point made by him against them is that they took only three dowsers, and Herr von Rolshausen points out that the presence of three bad shots does not necessarily mean that the whole shoot is wrong.

He thinks that the power is limited to a very few, and would like to have a professional organisation, the members of which alone would have the right to call themselves dowsers. In the choosing of true dowsers from a regiment he found nine men who were really sensitive, and he says that their results always agreed.

He deals at length with the effect of earth rays on animals and plants, particularly as regards their effect on sleeplessness in human beings, and, in the discussion of the possibility of insulation from those rays, he says that he has found a material which is of great help. He thinks that he has shown that sleeplessness is frequently connected with these rays, and that cancer also is affected though not necessarily caused by them. These theories are, of course, well known. His contribution can, however, be considered of interest, as it provides further data.

Herren Fritsch and Jelinek have made some attempt to develop a physical explanation on the lines demanded by Mr. Varvill. The preface of the book explains its object. Herr Fritsch is not a dowser himself, and comes with no pre-conceived notions ; but as he thinks that there are many " Ayes " as well as " Noes," he wishes to examine the evidence.

Unlike the book of Freiherr von Rolshausen, a great part of this one is taken up by a discussion of the work of other people, and a colossal list of literature is given at the end. Five hundred and six books and papers are mentioned, which the authors have very carefully analysed to show their bearing on the subject.

Taking the standpoint that the rod reaction is an actual phenomenon, the authors proceed to a discussion of the possible causes of that phenomenon, and give a very good summary of their investigations on this point in section B of the book.

A good account is given of different methods of depth determination, and a number of opinions on the subject are also quoted. The authors also refer briefly to certain investigations of their own in this connection, particularly as regards susceptibility to lightning.

Considerable space is given to the discussion of the most important theories. Fritsch prefers the electromagnetic theory.

He deals with ionisation theories, and quotes Dr. Braun Fernwald as saying : " As proof of the existence of a type of ray as yet unknown we have, among other things, the fact that snow melts more quickly over subterranean waters and caves, and also that no dew is formed over such places." This fact is new to the reviewer, though a statement coming from such an authority as Dr. Braun Fernwald cannot be regarded as untrue.

Fritsch thinks that Dobler must publish much more work before he can decide that his theory is correct, and turns down Wüst and Wimmer's theory after a very careful, critical analysis. He is of opinion that the influence of all substances is indirect and not direct, and also that small quantities cannot produce a reaction (in this he differs from Herr von Rolshausen, who believes he can detect quite small masses). He wishes to find a radio-physical explanation, and starts by discussing the behaviour of the earth's surface as regards electric waves. He gives a précis of the results of experiments with wireless in mines, and then gives a very brief account of an apparatus designed to replace a dowser. This is a kind of wireless receiver, and he shows capacity curves obtained with its help. The description of this machine might have been amplified with advantage to the reader ; but his diagrams are very helpful in the explanation of his theory.

After a discussion of the theoretical material already to hand he gives a short account of his own experiments. He describes his method of work, and gives reasons for thinking it impossible for him to have influenced the dowser. He also gives his methods of checking the observations of the latter, and gives three typical examples to explain these methods.

He thinks that he has found confirmation of coincidence between electrical discontinuity and dowsing reactions ; but thinks that much more work will have to be done before the truth of the theory is proved.

Finally, after consideration of proposals for an efficient organisation for further research, the authors state their standpoint, which is that they are neither supporters nor antagonists of the diviner's rod, but merely enquirers.

C.S.T.

BULLETIN DE L'ASSOCIATION DES AMIS DE LA RADIESTHESIE.

(No. 35, December, 1935).

The General Meeting was held at Paris on December 10th, M. l'Abbé Mermet presiding. The General Secretary, M. Delattre, reviewed the activities of the Association, stating that during

the year the number of members had increased from 1,050 to 1,850, whilst the medical section comprised over 200 doctors and chemists. M. Gravez, the Treasurer, dealt with the accounts. The President then delivered a masterly speech, in which he recalled the origins of the Association and described its magnificent increase. As Abbé Mermet could not be persuaded to remain in office for another year, Dr. Foveau de Courmelles was, on the proposal of General Barbarin, elected president. The meeting was followed by a repast and then a lecture was given by M. Mellin on "Colours in Domestic Life." Finally Dr. Rambeaud, of Germany, exhibited a film dealing with underground water and faults.

In an article entitled "Le Rayon Fondamental," J. Cordebas, mining engineer, describes it as a ray which issues from every substance in a constant and characteristic direction. Its length is a function of its mass, and at every point of the ray are spirals which are also characteristic. He describes three experiments with magnets to show that the *rayon fondamental* of a body is a magnetic ray, "the principal line of force of the terrestrial magnetic field refracted by the body."

[If this ray is a truly objective phenomenon a difficulty exists in that the characteristic angle seems to vary with different operators. For instance, the author gives the angle for tin as 60 degrees S.W., *i.e.*, 210 degrees, whereas M. Voillaume gives it as 21 degrees and M. Lacroix-à-l'Henri as 50 degrees N.W., *i.e.*, 310 degrees.—Editor.]

M. L. Turenne describes some experiments with magnets and with colours.

There is the conclusion of the lecture by General de la Gontrie on "Radiesthésie Mentale."

In a timely article, "Gratuitous Statements," Ranoul Hannoyer deprecates some of the claims made by dowsers as being not proven or capable of explanation on an ordinary physical basis. He also regrets the use of the word "wave," preferring the word "effluence" in the absence of real proof of the electromagnetic origin of the radiation.

M. Armand Viré, in an article, "La Radiesthésie et La Chasse," quotes a letter from Dr. Marcel Baudouin describing how he was able to locate rabbits with the rod by concentration of thought. M. Viré then quotes Le Comte de la Bastide as a protagonist of the use of dowsing for locating game, and mentions Abbé Cuq, who uses radiesthésie for guiding his parishioners in the chase. He describes an experiment carried out by the late M. Louis Probst, who could indentify successfully different kinds of fish,

vegetables and minerals placed at one end of a copper wire by means of samples of the same nature used by him at the other end of the wire. An assistant kept a list at the one end, Probst recording his findings at his own end. There was usually a correspondence of 100 per cent. between the two lists.

(No. 36, January, 1936).

There is a note on the new and distinguished President, Dr. Foveau de Courmelles. He was born on July 19th, 1862. Licentiate in Physics, Natural Science and Law, Doyen of Radiologists of France, he is known throughout the world by his works and writings. He is the inventor of radiotherapy of the fibromas and of the *repas opaque*, which permits of the examination of the digestive tube by X-rays. He has taken part in all recent scientific developments, such as wireless. He is President of 21 medical, scientific and humanitarian societies, Laureate of the Institute (Academy of Sciences) and of the Academy of Medicine, and has received numerous honours. He is also a member of the Royal Society of Medicine of London and of several foreign Academies of Medicine. In April last year he paid his tribute to Science, being attacked by radio-dermitis, and had to undergo very serious operations.

In the report of the Medical Section of the A.A.R. is recorded the meeting of November 8th, the first after the holidays, the subject for discussion being "Injurious Rays." Dr. Besson instances a case of insomnia due to a large reservoir of hydro-carbons about 500 yards from the dwelling.

M. Guedard, Chemist, stated that in his opinion the injurious radiations were connected with the smell from the breath and perspiration of sick people.

Dr. Leprince said that the rays should be dealt with (1) by the neutralisation of the currents by means of apparatus such as those of Christophe, Larvaron, etc., (2) by re-establishing the acido-basic equilibrium of the organism, which can be done with metallotherapic bracelets.

Dr. Marty quoted the five radiations mentioned by Gustave Le Bon.

In "Radiesthetic Observations," Dr. Breffeil shows how the pendulum can be used to detect tuberculosis.

In connection with Mr. Shrapnell-Smith's lecture to the B.S.D. on February 7th, 1935, a member of the Association, F.D., quotes two striking cases showing that the detection of the death of the original of a photograph could not have been due to auto-suggestion.

M. Paul Boisnier describes his method of forecasting the weather by means of the pendulum.

(No. 37, February).

This number consists entirely of an account of the tour through the Central Plateau of France which was carried out in June, 1935, under the leadership of M. Armand Viré. Twenty-three people took part, including Dr. and Mrs. Papathanassiou, of Athens. There are many interesting illustrations.

A.H.B.

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR WÜNSCHELRUTENFORSCHUNG.

(January, February and March, 1936).

The *Zeitschrift* is now published monthly, instead of quarterly as before.

In the January number Joh. Meyer contributes a paper entitled "A Guide to the Acquisition of Reactive Power." He is convinced that everyone possesses this power.

Dr. R. B. F. contributes a note on a monograph by Dr. G. Aveline "Les Ondes Microbiennes" (Librairie Médicale, Marcel Vigné, Paris, 1935). Dr. Aveline gives an account of his personal experiences in a house in which previous tenants had been affected with various diseases, his attempts to insulate himself from harmful rays, the results, and his opinions. He believes that microbes send out rays, which are especially dangerous when they are accompanied and strengthened by the rays emitted by water currents.

Another medical contributor is Dr. B. v. Willmann of Planegg, near Munich, who attempts to put forward an explanation of the origin and character of "zones of influence." He gives an account of some interesting effects observed by him with the help of a looking-glass. He also contributes some observations on pathogenic "zones of influence," due to the presence of iodine.

Franz Jelinek writes on some observations over the courses of subterranean rivers; and Frau Hedwig Winzer contributes certain critical remarks.

February.—Dr. Wüst and Professor Wimmer give a short preliminary note on certain observations which they have made on the effects of fourteen different causes on the sensibility of the dowsing reaction. They are careful to point out that these observations must be regarded as only preliminary, and that they would require very much more work before they could be considered

to be confirmed. They may be summarised as follows :—

(1) Traces of certain organic vapours weakened sensibility.
(2) Rotating metal plates caused a reaction.
(3) Vibration of the walls of the room caused a reaction.
(4) Sound caused a reaction.
(5), (6), (7) and (8) deal with different effects obtained with direct and alternating currents.
(9) " Magnetic insulating surfaces " or silk, whether natural or artificial, inhibit reactions.
(11) A strong current of air deflected the position of strongest reaction.
(12) Reduction of pressure in the vessel containing the reacting object reduced the reaction.
(13) When the object was surrounded by nearly pure nitrogen the reaction was very feeble.
(14) Dry oxygen, free from carbon dioxide, strongly enhanced the reaction.

In these last three examples the dowser was quite unaware of the nature of the gas present.

Dr. Wüst himself then writes a paper entitled " What Form of Energy brings about the ' kick ' of the Rod," taking, in the main, the above observations as its basis, although he again emphasises the fact that they are merely preliminary.

He thinks that the form of energy which causes the " kick " of the diviner's rod is a state of vibration of the atmospheric oxygen caused by the so-called " W-rays " ; and proceeds to extend his theory, with frequent reference to a previous contribution with Wimmer (*Roux' Archiv*, 131, 389-482 ; 1934) in which he first used this term " W-rays," and in which he demanded a new form of energy, which he described as " magnetoid " (see *B.S.D.J.* II, 7, pp. 24-25).

It will be remembered that he believed that he had proved that the waves, which transmitted this energy, had a velocity of 43.9 metres per second. He now says that he has found this velocity to be 6.7 metres per second, and that the difference in magnitude was caused by sources of error, which have since been eliminated.

The paper is a fairly long one, and is mainly concerned with an endeavour to give a physical explanation of his theory in terms of the possible vibrational behaviour of the oxygen molecule. In his opinion " the magnetoid field of a person comes from low frequency vibrations of the atmospheric oxygen in its neigh-

bourhood, which (vibrations) are caused by the person, as an electromagnetic and mechanical vibrational system."

E. Hart writes of four examples of cases in which Abbé Mermet successfully traced lost persons, by means of maps. The Editor publishes this note with an explanation that although this type of work is really outside the scope of the *Zeitschrift*, which deals with purely physical and physiological problems, yet he publishes the account, in view of the great reputation of the Abbé.

March.—Dr. Kurt Osswald criticises a paper by Dr. Müller, who claims to have shown, experimentally, a connection between " earth rays " and plant growth. Dr. Osswald does not think that Dr. Müller's experiments have conclusively proved the point.

He attacks the paper from three standpoints, which are, briefly, as follows :

1. Dr. Müller carried out no chemical and biological tests on the soil.
2. The dowsing was done over the plants, which was almost sure to bring in auto-suggestion.
3. In the use of an instrument it is true that the instrument showed effects over the plants, whether dead, sick or well ; but though this showed the sensibility of the instrument, it by no means proved the existence of actual earth rays. The indications may have been due to the differences in state of the plants themselves.

In fact, while Dr. Osswald thinks that there is little doubt that there is a strong connection between earth rays, he does not think that Dr. Müller's work has removed all doubt from the subject.

Herr Carl Piacenza, of Kempten-Thingers (Allgäu), has communicated some " Observations on Effects in Zones of Influence." The author believes that the rays in these zones cause great damage in cheese-making, and says that in certain cases he has been able to neutralise these effects with great benefit to the factory. He gives the following theoretical explanation for the development of " bacillus coli " (the harmful agent to the cheese) : " . . . . We know that colloidal fluids are coagulated by long action of short waved electric rays . . . . it is probable that such a thing happens in the case of milk and its products, as in the main they consist of such colloidal liquids. These coagulations conceivably form a favourable medium for special types of fermentative agents (B. coli) which adds to their virulence."

Herr Piacenza also believes that he has found a connection between the points of crossing of water veins and the firing of haystacks.

E. Hart concludes his communication with eight more examples of successful map working by Abbé Mermet.

In his foreign notes Dr. Braun Fernwald has devoted considerable space to an account of Mr. Budgett's lecture of the 19th November, 1935, which he describes as " of great importance." He mentions that a short account of this paper is also given in the *Bioklimatische Beiblätter* of the *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, 1935, part 4, in which is also published a paper by Prof. Dr. Franz Linke, who reviews the present position as regards the connection between " zones of influence " and electrical phenomena. Dr. Linke is of the opinion that there is no confirmation of the statement that the atmospheric electric field varies over the dowser's " zones of influence."

C.S.T.

RASSEGNA DI SCIENZE GEOFISICHE E RABDICHE

(July-December, 1935).

This issue is very important by reason of the article from the pen of Cav. de Vita. Seemingly he is not at all satisfied with the progress made by his countrymen in the study of radiesthésie at large and the exploitation of its phenomena in the interest of the country. We are bound to think that the effect of Cav. de Vita's article on some of the men responsible for universal research in the Italian Peninsula will indirectly benefit the cause of dowsers all over Europe.

D. Jemma, in " Earthquakes," discusses various theories of the causes of earthquake and describes the scientifically organised services mainly in Japan and South America, based on the assumption that the most striking of these phenomena are always preceded by quakes of minor degrees of intensity. In many countries by the careful study of these secondary phenomena forecasts of possible zones of activity can be made accurately less than 24 hours beforehand. Organisations for giving warning of earthquakes exist in Japan and Chile.

In " Human Radiations," E. K. Müller describes a simple apparatus for reproducing the experiences he describes. This article is notable material, as it proves in a scientific way the existence of the handicaps of which dowsers complain when prospecting under unusual climatic conditions. Here are some of the most interesting facts resulting from the tests carried out by the author :—

(1) A stick of wood or some cotton wool kept for some minutes between the hands shows even a stronger power than that emanating from the fingers.

(2) Leather, gelatine, collodion and glass, as also mica, are permeated by the radiations from the fingers as well as by the breath.

(3) While some organic substances retain the power only for a few seconds (wood, paper, ebonite, etc.), some crystals of chemical products retain the absorbed radiations for many minutes.

(4) The power emitted through the fingers is stronger when the body is warm and in healthy condition and when the hands are dry and warm. Muscular exercise, rubbing of the hands, and even concentrated mental effort, increase the emission of power.

Dr. Franz Wetzel in "Atmospheric Conductivity and Lightning," starting from the observations made by water diviners over a long period that there is a strict connection between lightning and the geological nature of the places where it strikes, describes experiments made by various means to determine the real nature of this connection.

G. Wiel was able to prove, by numerous observations on areas more frequently struck by lightning, that atmospheric conductivity in such places was greater than elsewhere, and that they corresponded to the position of geological faults or the crossing of subterranean streams.

Cavaliere A. de Vita, in " A Device for Prospecting the Subsoil with Alternating Electric Currents," begins by saying that without going too deeply into the question the A.C. apparatus possesses an initial advantage by reason of its handiness, simple construction and low price. Such an apparatus, first introduced by Laft and Williams, and perfected in 1919 by Lundberg and Nathorst by the introduction of a new kind of electrode, was employed by the author with certain other improvements, the frequency of the current being generally 500 cycles. The author found it advantageous to replace the generator by an oscillator and thermionic valve, capable of producing a current of 150-2,000 cycles. To eliminate disturbances caused by induced currents, the author devised certain other improvements, including the introduction of a " neutralisator," which he describes in detail.

F.S.

LA PROSPECTION À DISTANCE.

November.—Some months ago Commandant de la Bastide was asked by M. Wenz, one of our members, of Nanima, Forbes, N.S.W., to locate on a plan of his property the holes of the foxes which were devouring his lambs. After two months M. Wenz

received the plan with nine spots marked on it. Of these, two were outside his property and could not be verified. Two were exactly right. One was about a hundred metres from a hole which was occupied when M. Wenz verified it. Two were on the edge of the river, which was in flood, so that there were no foxes there. The two remaining spots were in fields of lucern which had been reaped since the location was made, and the foxes were no longer there. Thus out of seven places three were correct, and four might have been so at the time the location was made.

December.—A decision of importance has been pronounced by the Court of Aigle (Switzerland). Abbé Mermet was accused of the illegal practise of medicine in that he had given a letter to Mme. F.L. containing the result of his diagnosis, viz., cancerous ulceration of the left side of the uterus. The discussion lasted more than six hours. Five doctors of Vaud gave evidence against. M. P. Chavan, who was prosecuting, demanded a fine of 300 francs for infringement of the cantonal law of Vaud. M. Perrier, in a brilliant speech, demonstrated that Abbé Mermet's diagnosis with the pendulum was not an illegal act. After deliberating for more than an hour the Court acquitted Abbé Mermet amidst unanimous applause, stating *inter alia* that diagnosis with the pendulum did not constitute an illegal act.

January, 1936.—In a letter to M. Christophe, Abbé Paul Grimaud tells him that he owes his present excellent health, in spite of sixty years passed in the colonies, to the advice regarding diet contained in M. Christophe's book *Tu seras Sourcier.*

M. Henri Petelat relates how he, by means of *la poudre de sympathie* (see Chapter XII. of *Tu seras Sourcier*) succeeded in curing a cow which had been given up by the Vet.

February.—Mlle. Lembeye describes how she located on a map the position of the aeroplane "Gouverneur Renard," which fell between Lake Léopold II. and the Congo, 350 kilometres from Brazzaville, in March, 1935. Her statement is supported by M. Armand Viré.

March.—M. A. Fardet, Colonial Administrator of Dakar Senegal, relates how he sent to Commandant Retournard a plan of Dakar, his photo and that of one of his servants, requesting him to locate the position of his office on the map. This Commandant Retournard did with great exactness.

In January this year Madame Moreni received a letter from a family in Périgueux asking her to find a young man who had been missing for 15 days and was supposed to have fallen into the river Isle. Using a rod and pendulum, she first estab-

lished that the man was dead. Then on a plan she traced him to the edge of the river and along it as far as a point called Pont-Cassé. She then went to Périgueux, and after examination of the ground indicated a limited area within which the body would be found, stating that one of the lower limbs was broken. After some delay, due to the strong current, the body was found at the spot indicated, with the right leg broken.

April.—M. Henri Petelat, in a letter to M. Christophe, tells how by means of his pendulum he selected the correct remedy for a friend who had suddenly fallen ill, namely, an infusion of artemisia. The remedies left by the doctor reacted unfavourably to the pendulum.

M. André Biennier thanks M. Marius Arnaud in a letter for finding on a plan his daughter's skunk fur.

In January M. Toussaint Carriat, living at Saint-Priest-la-Feuille (Creuse) fell accidentally into the Gartempe, which was swollen by floods, and was drowned. During several weeks efforts were made in vain to recover the body. The family appealed to Madame Camille Planchon, who, using her pendulum with a cap of the deceased, indicated on a map the exact spot where the body was subsequently found.

LA CHRONIQUE DES SOURCIERS.

March.—M. de France announces an annual competition to take place at Versailles, probably in June, under the auspices of the *Comité de Radiesthésie Expérimentale*. These competitions will be of service not only for answering critics but for deciding which of the numerous instruments now on the market are the best.

A suggested programme of events is as follows :—

(1) Of several glasses of water one will contain sugar or salt, or a silver spoon will have been placed in it and withdrawn.
(2) In several small boxes such as match boxes, coins or other objects have been placed.
(3) A piece of bell wire, six metres long, is stretched between two supports. The competitor has to find, with a sample, the object at the other end.
(4) Dowsing with the eyes blindfold.
(5) *Electrical.*—To distinguish bits of glass, wax, etc., which have been rubbed from others which have not been rubbed. To see whether a current is flowing in a wire or not.
(6) *Magnetic.*—To pick out from others a box containing a magnet.

Each test must be repeated several times. The distance at which each competitor can perceive an object will be tried.

A.H.B.