

JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

Vol. II. No. 13

September, 1936

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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.

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NOTICES

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the year 1936-37 are now due.

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An account of the Summer Meeting is printed in this number.

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We have received a pamphlet of 15 pages, *Radiesthésie Agricole*, by M. Le Vicomte de France, price 3 francs.

* * * * *

We are informed by the General Secretary of *L' Association Francaise et Internationale des Amis de la Radiesthésie* of the recent publication of the following books :

La Radiesthésie domestique et agricole by Hector Mellin, 20 francs.

Le Cancer, sa cause, troubles et maladies qui le précèdent, by Henri Chrétien, 15 francs.

La nature et ses merveilles, by Lakhovsky, 15 francs.

They are on sale at the Librairie de la Radiesthésie, 105 Boulevard de Magenta, Paris, 10e, as are also the chief works on radiesthésie published to date, and various apparatus for prospecting, rods, pendulums, &c.

Information will be furnished on demand. A discount of 5 per cent. is allowed to members of *L' Association*.

* * * * *

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.

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

THE SUMMER MEETING

By the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Budgett, the meeting this year was held at Kirtlington Park, near Bicester, on Saturday, May 23rd. The day started wet, but fortunately the weather had cleared sufficiently by twelve o'clock to allow of tests being carried out in the open air.

The tests had been arranged to include both the physical and psychical side of divining as now practised, and every care had been taken to avoid as far as possible a plea of impracticable conditions on the part of any individual dowser.

Printed cards had been prepared on which dowsers were to write their results, and a supervisor had been appointed for each test who collected the card from each dowser when he had finished. None of the supervisors knew the answers to the various tests. There were eight tests in all:

A.—Eighty inverted flower pots were arranged in 20 rows on a lawn at intervals of 12 feet. Each flower pot was secured by means of a wooden peg driven through the hole in the pot into the ground. Under one pot had been placed an ingot of gold weighing 1lb. Troy, under another 2½lb. (Avoirdupois) of silver coins, and under a third 2½lb. (Avoirdupois) of bronze coins.

It may be remarked that our modern silver coinage is only 50 per cent. silver, whilst our bronze coins are 95 per cent. copper.

Dowsers had to locate the flowerpots under which the gold ingot, the silver and bronze coins had been placed, using their own samples.

The odds against the successful location and naming of all three, any two, and any one of the three different concealed objects from a choice of eighty are about 493,000 to one, 2,130 to one, and 27 to one respectively.

Nineteen dowsers took part in this, of which one (Major de Montmorency) correctly located the copper, and one stated that the silver was under the flower pot where the copper was.

B.—This test consisted in gauging the depth and volume of flow of three streams which were being utilised for water supply, in two cases by bore holes and in one case by an open well.

Two wells (1) and (2) were situated near the lodge gate at an entrance to Kirtlington Park, and the third was near the house itself.

The depths and volumes of the streams are:

- (1) 194 feet, bore hole, 3,000 gallons per hour (minimum).
- (2) 6 feet, open well, 95 gallons per hour.
- (3) 152 feet, bore hole, 500 gallons per hour.

The centre of the stream was marked by a notice board, but the position of the actual wells was concealed.

Thirteen dowers took part in this test. The best results with regard to volume were those of Mr. S. A. S. Smith and Mr. L. A. Wheel, who gave 3,000 to 4,000 gallons per hour for No. 1, and 1,000 to 2,000 gallons per hour for No. 3.

The best depths were those of the Rev. C. R. Hall, who gave 200 feet for No. 1 and 140 feet for No. 3.

C.—Two large copper sheets, 4ft. by 2ft. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. had been buried on March 11th in the ground, one sheet flat and the other on edge, about 18 inches below the surface. An area about 40 yards square containing the sheets was surrounded by hurdles and was marked out in 64 squares each of 5 yards side.

Sixteen dowers took part in this test, two of whom (Mrs. Pogson and Mr. C. Franklin) each designated correctly a square in which a sheet was buried, but one said the sheet was flat whereas it was on edge, and the other that the sheet was on edge whereas it was flat.

D.—Starting from a spot near the house a boy had, during the morning, concealed himself in a hollow oak tree about 300 yards away from the starting point in a S.S.E. direction. He did not go directly to the tree, but moved off in a northerly direction and proceeded in a right-handed circle until he reached his hiding place.

The boy had cut up a shirt which he had been wearing for a week and placed the pieces in a cardboard box.

Dowers took a portion of the shirt from the box, which the supervisor of this test guarded at the place from which the boy had started.

Six dowers handed in results. None of them located the boy's hiding place, though two indicated a S.E. direction.

E.—The diagnosis of the position of possible injuries in three subjects.

This test was carried out indoors. Only two results were handed in, one of which was correct as regards one of the subjects.

F.—These tests also were carried out indoors.

(a) Maps of two localities on a scale of 1/2,500 were available. Objects existing but not shown on the maps were:

In one map a canal in an underground tunnel.

In the other, two iron gasometers, a house, ponds, rivers and streams.

Only two attempts were made, neither of which was successful. It is understood that one lady who had never previously tried dowsing on maps was partially successful regarding the second map, but she did not record her results.

(b) Eighteen covers of black paper, six containing photographs of males, six of females, and six blank cardboard, had been prepared.

The dowser had to tell the sex of the original and whether he or she was alive or dead.

Seven results were sent in; the best out of a possible score of thirty was one of 10 (Rev. Fitzgerald) and two of nine (Mrs. Waller and Miss Cuppage).

G.—Determination of sex.

This test was arranged under cover in the stikké court outside the house. A subject stood in a passage at the end of the court, out of view of the dowser, and thrust an arm into a wooden box projecting into the court. The dowser could dowse over the box or stand in a gallery vertically over the subject.

Each dowser had eighteen chances, but in six cases there was no subject, so the answer in these cases should have been a blank. The odds were two to one against a successful set of answers.

Eight cards were handed in. The best (Mrs. Higgin) showed eight correct answers and 10 wrong, and the four next best showed seven correct and 11 wrong.

A result in accordance with the odds would have been six correct and 12 wrong.

H.—This test was also arranged in the stikké court.

Seven bottles in closed cardboard boxes had been placed on their sides on low wooden stands about 6ft. apart. There were light barriers between the stands.

The bottles contained, respectively, olive oil, beer, vinegar, water, whisky, and turpentine, and one was empty.

A number of "samples" of the contents of each bottle were provided.

Fifteen cards were handed in. The two best contained three correct and four incorrect answers, that of Colonel Bremner (oil, vinegar and whisky) and that of Major de Montmorency (oil, beer and whisky).

Neither of these gentlemen had ever previously tried an experiment of this kind. They both used pendulums.

The bottle containing vinegar was correctly located by six people, and two other bottles by three people.

The odds against getting a complete set of correct answers was about 5,040 to one, and of getting three correct answers 15 to one. As 15 people entered, it was an even chance that one of them would get three correct answers.

The results of the tests were decidedly discouraging, especially of test B. It seems to be a general rule that whenever dowers have to work in the presence of numerous spectators their skill seems to fail them.

However disappointing the meeting may have been as a technical exhibition, there can be no doubt that from the social point of view it was an unqualified success. In addition to making most elaborate and careful arrangements for the tests, Mr. and Mrs. Budgett very kindly entertained to lunch and tea the members of the Society and their friends who assembled from all parts of England to the number of well over a hundred. No one who was there can have failed to appreciate the kindness of their hosts and the divine beauty of surroundings in which the meeting was held.

In addition to many kind letters of thanks from those who attended the meeting, Mr. H. M. Budgett has received a large amount of correspondence dealing with special points of the various tests. Mr. Budgett takes this opportunity of thanking members for their letters, but regrets that he is unable to answer all the queries owing to pressure of other work.

SOME DOWSING EXPERIENCES IN INDIA

(ADDRESS TO THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS, READ ON APRIL 23RD, 1936, BY CAPTAIN W. H. TRINDER).

I have been asked to give you an address about my recent trip to India in search of buried treasure. Actually, as far as treasure was concerned, the trip was a failure, but we learn from our failures, and I hope that you may learn something useful from the experiences of which I am going to tell you.

I found that one of the great difficulties with which I had to contend was that in some States they seemed to be quite sure that treasure had been buried in a certain place because one or two coins had been picked up in the vicinity. But some of the places were amongst the ruins of old cities which had had populations of several thousand inhabitants, and had been the seats of several generations of rulers who were always either attacking or being attacked, so that you can imagine that a few stray coins were quite likely to be lying about without necessarily being evidence of a treasure hoard. Once I had found this out I did not take very much notice of anything told me in that way, and if I had adopted this principle at first I should have saved a great deal of time and trouble.

The first place I visited on a search was at Maheswar, where I went with the Maharajah of Indore and his A.D.C., Major Namli. I had showed the Maharajah several places on the

map and these I confirmed on the ground. The best of these was under an old temple in the Fort, and I also indicated a passage running from the temple to the outer wall of the Fort, and afterwards H.H. told me that they had already had both the places indicated for treasure and the passage mentioned to them by a medium.

These mediums and their methods are rather curious. The medium must be a man who was born feet first. He mixes up a sort of paste composed of raw cotton with the eyes of a cobra, the eyes of a kingfisher, and, sometimes, the eyes of an owl. These are burnt together; the soot is mixed with some sort of oil (probably linseed); the paste is smeared on the palm of the left hand and one spot is put in the centre of the forehead. The first finger is then put on this spot with the palm of the hand towards the face and the medium then sees the treasure reflected in the palm of his hand and describes the spot where it is. Whether he and I are right in this case I cannot say, as the temple was so holy that until some special dispensation is given no digging can be done. This also applies to a spot in the priests' quarters, where their spare vessels are kept. There I marked a spot about 5ft. underground. Both these spots reacted to a gold sample.

Whether I was right or wrong, this gave me an opportunity of seeing the innermost precincts of the temple, and I should say that I am the only European who has ever been in there.

There was a spot just outside another temple in the city where we dug without finding anything, but at that time I was not aware of the existence of a stone known to geologists as Deccan Trap, which makes dowsing for metals in Central India one of the most difficult things I have ever tried. This stone is full of tiny crystals and also contains a bastard form of garnet and a certain amount of hornblende. The trouble about it is that it is not every stone which affects the reaction. I have called the reaction radio-activity, and it is probably due to the radio-active action of the hornblende.

To give an example of the difficulty of finding any way of overcoming this: At Kilchipur there is a vast expanse of rolling downs which are covered with stones about the size of a baby's head or larger. I spent some time in testing these stones and taking their reactions, and found that, although, if broken, they all look alike inside, the imitative reaction is only given by about one in 200. I call it imitative reaction because it responds to every test I know, both for gold and silver, and also for other metals, even responding to their serial numbers.

As I said before, I had not, at this time, realized this, and did not go over the heap of soil thrown out at the temple to see if

I could find the stone causing the reaction, but I have no doubt that I should have found that the same sort of stone caused the failure.

After returning to Indore I was asked to try over the ruins of Mandhu in Dhar State. Mandhu was known as the City of Joy and was built about 1000 A.D. At the height of its prosperity it must have been one of the most beautiful places in India; but it was deserted and left to be overrun by the jungle, and is now only inhabited by a few Bhils, the local aborigines, monkeys, snakes and panthers.

The late Lord Curzon, when Viceroy, gave a grant for restoring it, and a great deal has been, and is still being, done to save the wonderful palaces and tombs, but many are ruined beyond repair by the trees which have sown themselves in crevices and, in growing, have literally pushed the walls apart.

There are all sorts of legends about buried treasure there, as there are about all ruins in India, but although I tried every device I could think of, I always had the same result at the places where I was able to dig, which was that, having dug, or made a hole in a wall or pillar, I would suddenly get no further reaction, but on going over the heap of excavated material, I would be able to pick out the stones which had given me the reaction. There certainly was one spot about which I felt sanguine, and that was in Darya Khan's tomb, where the only reaction which I got was right over the centre of the marble sarcophagus which covered the tomb, and of course it was quite impossible to interfere in any way with the tomb, so that I could not check my reactions there.

While I was doing this work at Mandhu I was staying at Dhar, about 20 miles away, where a large party of us were being entertained by the young Maharajah at his guest house. Amongst the party were two Colonels whom I had taught to dowse for water, and one day I showed them how to dowse from a car when streams crossed the road. Always after that they each borrowed one of my rods when we were driving to Mandhu, and had a sort of competition as to which got the most reactions. I hardly wonder that the English have the reputation of being mad when I think of those two senior officers using the most horrible language at each other because one had claimed to register two more streams than the other. There were also two R.E. officers there whom I taught, and I think that these, with their Mess, have since become members of the Society.

At Dhar the native method of finding water is by listening for it. The dowser lies on the ground and puts his ear to the earth

and claims to be able to hear any stream there is in the vicinity. From what I could gather by the siting of the local wells their method seems to be quite successful, but there are very few who practise it. I also found that the assistant engineer of Dhar State was quite a sensitive dowser. I gave him some instruction and hope to have him as a Member, as dowsing will no doubt be useful in his work in the State.

On returning to Indore I went out with Major Namli to a spot in the jungle where I had located gold on the map. I confirmed the position on the ground, but again found that the Trap had been too much for me. The head Shikari was watching and asked if I could find water, as he was sinking a well not far away. We went there and found he had already chosen the position from a conjecture that, as there was a well on the other side of the road he would find water. I went all round his spot but could find nothing there and neither could Major Namli. I then picked up the stream at the well and followed it up, and showed him the nearest spot where he would get water for the house he was about to build. This was about 70 yards from where he had marked the spot for his well. He was very grateful and said: "If you are showing me this trick I am highly obliged." I tried him with the rod, but it would not work for him at all.

My next job was in the State of Dewas, where I was asked to go and see about their water supplies. I went to a number of their existing wells and found them to be so well sited that I asked how they were discovered in the first instance. The Chairman of the Council, with whom I was going round, told me that they had people who were called "water diviners," but they were rapidly dying out. They walked about and "sensed" the water. I do not quite know what this means, as I never saw any of them at work, but I presume that they were so sensitive that they picked up the reactions without the use of any rod, or pendulum, but they were very accurate as, in every instance but one, the well was absolutely over the centre of the stream.

He then took me to a village about four miles out in the jungle where they were very short of water. I managed to locate a good stream near the village, but it was not easy, as the whole village followed me wherever I went. After having marked the course of this stream we had to wait for our car, and the headman produced what I expect was the only chair in the village. The seat had originally been formed of five wooden slats, but there were only two left. This was placed on a small mound and I was made to sit on it while the villagers grouped themselves round me and the headman hung garlands of flowers round my

neck. The only drawback was that there was no other European there to enjoy the sight, as I must have looked rather like a sacrificial cow!

The Chairman then asked me to go to Sarangpur, where there was a ruined city, and he suspected buried treasure. I think that his only reason was that coins had been picked up there, and he produced a most interesting old man who had made a collection of them and had what I should suppose to be some of the oldest coins in India. While looking through them I found a blank piece of metal which he said was silver. I tried the pendulum over it and found that it gave me the serial number 6, which for me is zinc. Other people were then fetched and gave it as their opinion that it was zinc and not silver. This showed the use of the serial numbers and impressed the Council very much.

Then we went off to some ruins about five miles out in the jungle. The Chairman took me to a deep ravine which was full of thick jungle and asked me to try if there was anything in it. I asked if he were coming down with me and he said he would stay at the top, so I climbed down and managed to get well into the thick part at the bottom. Then I heard him calling, and asked what he wanted. His reply was: "Will you please be careful, there are tigers in this place." As I did not think that a whalebone rod was very adequate protection against a tiger disturbed during his afternoon nap I climbed out as quickly as I could and said I could find nothing there.

My next visit was to Datia, where I had rather a curious experience when going over an old house near the Jain temples. I got a very strong reaction in the wall of the house, and on making a hole in the wall got no further reaction. After trying over the excavated rubble I found that the walls, which were brick, were not put together with mortar, but with clay, and it was obviously some radio-activity in the clay which I was getting as I got no reaction at all over the bricks.

I then tried at the summer palace of Urmu Chittoria, which is on the top of a very steep conical hill, and is reached by an almost perpendicular flight of 360 steps. There I got a good reaction for gold, silver and copper, but as I only got it under one corner of the building I believe it was caused by the coins put into the foundation stone when the palace was built. It is only a small place, with the most marvellous views extending for miles on each side.

I also got good reactions for gold and silver at the Sirol Palace and Chandewa Palace. Both of these are ruined palaces in the jungle, but I have not heard if they have dug there.

After this I went to Panna State to look for diamonds but, as my experiences there have already been published in the Magazine, I will not waste time on them now, but will go on to Narsinghar State.

About five miles from there I visited a temple where treasure was supposed to be. We dug on the spot I found, and I am sorry to say that the result was the same as at the other places, except that the stone which gave the reactions was a really big one, far bigger than any other I saw of that variety. In this case, as in all the others, the depth and position were correct, but this same sort of stone was found instead of the gold indicated. I also got good reactions from a distance at other spots in the vicinity, but on going there I fortunately found the stone on the surface, which saved trouble.

The next day we went to another hill with an old fort on the top of it. This place was called Beogarh, meaning "God's Fort." There I got a good reaction for space outside the fort and on the steep bank. There was a village near by, so we got coolies and started digging and soon came to a large flat rock. We dug all along the edge of this and eventually found that there was a cavity under the rock, but that it was a natural one caused by the sinking of the soft earth. This cannot have been as satisfactory to the Maharajah as a treasure hunter as it was to me as a dowser.

From there I went to Kilchipur, where, as I mentioned earlier, the ground is strewn with this Deccan Trap, and eventually, after again getting false reactions, I told the Rajah that I was really wasting time in looking for gold as I could not overcome the influence of the stone. We therefore concentrated on water, and went off to a village where the State were sinking a well, haphazard as to choice of position, and so far as they had got, not successful.

In spite of there being no road to this place we went by car, and, on the way, picked up a villager to act as guide. The guide sat on the running board of the car and held on to the door, and we proceeded across country till we came to a dry watercourse full of boulders, which we proceeded to cross. This was where our guide fell off for the first time. He was not hurt, so he scrambled on again, and we went on till he suddenly told the driver to turn sharp left. The driver obeyed orders so promptly that the guide was quite unable to follow suit and took his second toss, also without damage.

We reached the well workings without further incident, and I found that they had missed an underground stream, quite a good one, by about 25 yards, which effectually proved the futility of

promiscuous digging. We then started back again. Our guide, by this time, was clinging like a limpet, and all went well until we were slowing up for him to get down near his village, when he unfortunately saw a friend, whom we had just passed, and proceeded to step off the car in his direction. I suppose he had never heard of the laws of momentum, but I am quite sure that he knows the results. He turned two complete back somersaults and finished up in a prickly-pear cactus, but he was a good sportsman and said he was not really hurt. We left him picking out the prickles he could reach while his friend attended to the others.

On our return to the guest house the Rajah asked me to try whether whisky or brandy were better for him. I found the whisky was good and brandy was definitely bad for him, and he told me that his doctors had forbidden him brandy as he was suffering from diabetes. My test was, of course, by getting the pendulum to gyrate over the whisky and then holding it over his hand, when the gyrations increased in the same direction. I then did the same with the brandy, but when I put it over his hand the gyrations ceased and then commenced clockwise instead of anti-clockwise.

He also had samples of water brought from 10 different wells to see if I could tell the degrees of purity by my use of colours. This was really useful to me, as they had the analyses of the water, and, although I cannot say I was absolutely correct as to their potability, my diagnosis agreed with the comparative purities as shown by the analyses.

When staying at Bhopal my host was troubled by porcupines, who were damaging his garden. One day we found quills where a porcupine had been, so I took a quill in my hand, with the rod, and managed to trace where the beast had been in the garden and also to find out where he had got over the stone wall to get out. His marks were distinct on the wall exactly at the point to which my rod took me, and we also verified that my findings were right by footmarks. These were very faint, and we could only see one occasionally, but always on my line.

There is one story in connection with Panna State which I did not mention in the article which appeared in the Magazine. During the Mutiny the present Maharajah's grandfather, who was one of the most loyal princes at that time, was afraid that his State might be attacked by the mutineers. He had a summer palace in the jungle, and he and his doctor took a quantity of valuables out there and buried them with their own hands so that no one should know where they were. They were living there by themselves, and one day the Maharajah was taken ill. The doctor, by mistake, gave him the wrong medicine and poisoned him. He

was so overcome by his mistake that he shot himself and actually died before the Maharajah, so that all trace of the treasure was lost. I only heard about this the day before I was leaving, but I went out there to see if I could get any reactions in the vicinity. I got one spot which proved to be the usual false stone, but I really had no chance of going to any places which might have been more likely, as the jungle there was very thick and it was getting dark. Also an important guest was coming, for whom they had tied up a goat to attract a panther, and they did not want the jungle disturbed. We actually heard the panther moving about in what I considered the most likely place for me to try, and as I left about five o'clock the next morning I had to be content with hoping for some chance of going there again in the near future. I was very disappointed, as this seemed to me to be a real chance of finding something.

Now as to the methods I used when working. I used a whale-bone rod nearly all the time, only using a pendulum when taking depth or getting the direction of anything. When looking for water I used a small bottle of distilled water as a sample, and for other things I used a sample of whatever I was looking for. For example, when looking for gold I used a gold sample and when looking for silver I used a silver sample. The only time I varied this was when looking for diamonds. I had only one small diamond as a sample, which I was afraid of dropping and losing in the rough ground. So I tried on the Mager rosette and found that the colour to which diamonds responded was a sort of dull orange. I then used a piece of ribbon of that colour and found that it worked very well. After I had got a piece of *mudda* in which they are found I used that as a sample.

After all I have told you about getting these false reactions from the stone you will, perhaps, have wondered why I did not try some method of cutting out the reaction from it.

I was continually experimenting, but I have not mentioned the experiments before as I thought it would be better to give you my experiments all together instead of giving them as they occurred. I took many samples of the stone as I found it and I have sent some to Cambridge to be tested for radio-activity.

I first experimented by trying the stone on the colours of the Mager rosette and found that I got reactions for all the colours, on the S side of the rosette and no reactions for those on the N side. I then tried putting the Stone on the ground and walking over it with the rod with colour, held in my hand. I found that all colours on the S side of the rosette react when walking over the Stone from S to N but not from N to S. The reactions of the colours on the N side of the rosette are reversed, occurring from N to S instead of from S to N. With what I called the equatorial

colours, black and green, which overlap the equator of the rosette, I got the reaction each way (S to N and N to S), but holding grey or white (the adjacent colours to black) with black, and with the grey or white nearer the point of the rod, I got no reaction at all, and with green I got no reaction if I held blue or yellow with it but further from the point of the rod, so that these colours here were again reversed.

The trouble was, when dowsing in old ruins which were in many cases covered with creepers and thorns, to be able to walk in the direction required; so this information was not really very much use and I had to try to get another method. I then thought of trying the result of colours over a bar magnet, and found that, with the bar magnet set N to N the diamagnetic colours (those on the N side of the rosette) react when going from S to N and from E to W, whilst the paramagnetic colours (those on the S side of the rosette) react when going from N to S and from W to E. The same results are got if the magnet is set E and W instead of N and S.

Again, the black and green are exceptions. These react over the magnet in any direction, but if one of the adjacent colours (blue or yellow) is taken, with green, the reaction only occurs when going from S to N and W to E, whereas, with black, together with an adjacent colour (white or grey) the reaction takes place when going from N to S or E to W. In either case the major colour (black or green) should be held nearer the point of the rod than the minor colour.

I then tried with a bar magnet in my hand with the rod and found that, with the N point away from the point of the rod, the rod reacted over gold but with the S point away from the point of the rod, the rod reacted over the stone.

I then tried putting stone and gold, separately, on the ground and walking round them with a rod to try and find their compass points. I found that, walking round the stone, the rod lifted at about N.W. whether the sample in the hand was stone, gold, or no sample at all. Going round the gold the rod lifted at S with a gold sample, or no sample, but at N.W. with a stone sample. These results seem to show that the reaction from the stone is far the strongest and always at N.W. I walked round the objects clockwise but, on trying anti-clockwise I got no result at all.

I tried other experiments but got no results which were useful or which would be of interest to you, and I am afraid I must have overlooked some important factor as the results of the experiments of which I have told you did not check out when applied in the ruins, but this may be explained in some measure if the tests show the stone to be radio-active; also the fact of

being buried in the earth may cause a different reaction to when the stone is exposed to the air.

Still, from what I have told you about the results of the few experiments I have made, someone may be able to evolve some method of cutting out these reactions and if that is so the time spent on them will not have been quite wasted.

There is one other thing which interested me very much which I found out by putting colours on the ground and then walking round them, with the rod, to see if I could get their compass points.

Mager, in "Water Diviners and their Methods," explains how he first evolved the Mager Rosette. This was by taking the coloured sectors separately and trying them in various positions until he got the results which led him to stabilise the colours in the positions which they now hold in the rosette.

I found that the compass points given by the various colours exactly corresponded with the positions of those colours in the rosette. I have often wondered what the reason was for their specific positions and this gives us the reason. Had Mager known of the compass points of colours he could have placed the sectors correctly without the tedious method of trial and error, but it was instructive to see the two methods arriving at the same results.

You may like to know the attitude of the Indian people to dowsing. I found no sceptics amongst them. Even when the people who were watching me could not dowse themselves they saw nothing impossible in it, and asked the most intelligent questions on the subject and took it quite as a matter of course that it could be done. But with the English I am afraid that there were more sceptics than believers. This may be due to the official mind always wanting a precedent for everything.

Amongst the country people I found that whilst fully believing that dowsing could be done, they could not dissociate it from magic, and although they were always ready to help in making piles of stones to mark streams, &c., for me, the one thing they always avoided was to get in line with where the point of the rod was pointing. Although they have forms of dowsing they use no instruments.

That is a summary of my dowsing experiences in India, and I am afraid that, with the exception of water and diamonds, it is a record of failures. I hope, however, that from even this succession of failures good may come. It may be that we shall discover that many failures in the past were due to some form of stone such as that which has defeated me, and in any case I would, personally, rather hear of failures when the method employed was explained, than of successes where the method was not disclosed.

A RECORD FLOW

In the *Local Government Chronicle* of May 2nd it was stated that the Cirencester U.D.C. had been able to secure the safety of its water supply by a successful experimental boring at Baunton, which was delivering over 200,000 gallons per hour—an exceptional artesian flow; and that a water diviner “walking over the site of the borehole” had predicted a yield of 15,000 gallons per hour at a depth of 300 to 350 feet.

Having heard this quoted, one of our members went to Baunton to investigate. He found an underground river flowing North to South, about 60ft. wide and several feet thick, rough pacing gave the depth from 27 to 30 yards. The flow was unbroken from bank to bank, but varied considerably in intensity from point to point across the stream; over most of the band the water seemed to be moving quite slowly. One capped borehole was in the centre of this river, though not over a peak of flow; another, 20ft. W of the first, was 10ft. inside the edge of the stream, the flow there was a little stronger, with the second best peak some 7ft. E.

Subsequent enquiry revealed the following. The rough site, the flat grass field between the main road and the river Churn, was chosen by Mr. L. Richardson, the geologist who wrote the Survey Memoirs for the 1in. Geological sheets—Cirencester and Moreton in Marsh. Some Members of the Council wished to have the opinion of a water diviner on the site, so a local man was called in. He pegged two points in this field, stating that 15,000 gallons per hour would be got below the E. peg at 300-350ft., and 12,000 gallons per hour at a similar depth below the second peg, which was some 25 yards W. of the other.

A contract for two 21in. bore-holes to 135ft. was made, the first being started on the E. peg. Water was struck about 80ft. down under such pressure that it blew several feet of limestone core out of the hole, and overflowed at the rate of 5-6 million gallons per day. The other peg was therefore abandoned, and the second borehole started 20ft. W. of the first. Precautions against another blow-out were taken, an even bigger gusher was got, and the pressure at the first borehole was undiminished while the second was flowing.

The water comes from the Inferior Oolite, estimated on the 1in. map as “up to 193ft.” thick, and covered there by 50-60ft. of Fullers Earth.

This case is of particular interest in that the existence and position of this huge underground flow could not have been predicted on geological grounds. The general site was chosen by a geologist whose knowledge of the Cotswolds is perhaps unrivalled, and it

was hoped that two 21in. bore-holes to 135ft. in the selected field would provide an effective supplement to the town supply, which in 1921 averaged 120,000 gallons per day. Owing to the unexpected and very large volumes of artesian water obtained, the rates of flow could not be measured with complete accuracy; so the claim of "over 11 million gallons per day" made by the sinkers, Messrs. Stow and Co., may not fully represent the yield.

At Bourne, where the geological structure is very similar, an artesian flow of "over five million gallons per day" was got from the Lincolnshire Limestone with a 13in. borehole in 1893. A 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. boring near Constantine in Algeria discharges just over six millions. The "greatest yield in the United Kingdom" is claimed by the sinkers for two large boreholes for the Gravesend Corporation, both of which have been tested to seven millions per day, but these do not overflow. Conditions there are exceptionally favourable. South of the town some eight miles of Upper Chalk, dipping gently north with little cover, form an admirable gathering ground.

DOWSING

By Major A. J. EDNEY, R.E.

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Much has been written in the daily Press during the past few years on the subject of water divining. Since this art covers more than the search for water only, the term now generally accepted to cover the whole field is "dowsing." Until recent times methods of dowsing have been a jealously-guarded secret, mainly because most of the possessors of knowledge on the subject have made their living thereby. Nowadays, however, there are a number of books available on dowsing and many societies exist to probe into its possibilities.

HISTORY.

The Biblical account of Moses striking the rock in order to produce water for the Israelites has been explained by some as due to the fact that Moses must have been a dowser. The use of a dowsing rod in his hands would undoubtedly have given the appearance of striking the rock. This, however, can only be a matter of conjecture. It is known that the monks in England in early times were well acquainted with methods of dowsing. Many old monasteries still standing in remote country districts draw their water supplies from a good underground flow and often the wells are sited where two underground springs meet. Dowsers were brought over from the Continent in mediæval times to locate tin lodes in the Cornish mines.

Naturally, dowsing in those times was regarded as a form of witchcraft, and as such was roundly denounced by Luther. There is no record, however, of a dowser having been burnt at the stake. In America, the land of apt phraseology, the term "water witch" is still in common use. An old print shows a representation of the devil dancing over a stream with a dowsing rod in his hands.

In 1578, in France, the Baron de Beausoleil attracted notice by dowsing for metals and, after a somewhat chequered career, was appointed by the King to be Commissary-General for Mines in Hungary.

On 5th July, 1692, an incident happened in the south of France which was carefully recorded. A man and his wife were murdered at Lyons. Jacques Aymar, a peasant, claimed that he could discover the murderer by means of his dowsing rod. He first got his rod to react over the dead bodies and then set forth on his search. After a short distance, he entered a garden and his rod turned over a child who was playing there. She told him that three villainous-looking men had called at the house for wine. Thereupon the City Fathers of Lyons took heart and provided Aymar with an escort of five archers. The chase began. The rod reacted over glasses at various inns. Finally Aymar arrived at Beaucaire and went straight to the prison. Here his rod turned over a prisoner who had recently been arrested for theft. The latter swore he was innocent of the murder, but the archers took him back to Lyons the way they had come. Their prisoner was recognized at all the inns *en route*, and finally confessed. He was tried and executed.

An Englishman, Linden, wrote a book on dowsing for minerals, in 1750. It is interesting to note that he advocated holding a piece of zinc in the hand together with the mineral being sought, thereby setting up a very small electrical field. This was before the days of Galvani and Volta, who developed the theory of the electric cell.

Gerboin, in 1798, discovered that more exact results could be obtained by observing the behaviour of a pendulum oscillating over given samples. The time-honoured instrument until then had been the rod.

About 1850, various dowsing machines appeared on the market, and their inventors claimed that the presence of underground water and other substances would be detected by their use. Machines are still available, but the experiences of the users of many of them have not been very satisfactory.

In 1913, a conference on dowsing was held in France by M. Mager. That, together with the work of the late Sir William

Barrett and Theodore Besterman, represented the first co-ordinated attempt to put the investigation of the phenomenon on a proper scientific footing. At the present time, societies for the study of dowsing exist in all European countries. In England the work is carried out by the British Society of Dowzers. In Paris recently the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine was conferred on a veterinary surgeon in recognition of a thesis on diagnosis of animal disease by dowsing. He also carried out a practical demonstration by successfully pointing out cows in a herd that was infected by tuberculosis. In 1933 the first Congress was held in England under the auspices of the British Society of Dowzers.

THE ACTION OF THE ROD AND PENDULUM.

Firstly, it must be stated that a very large proportion of the population could be made to feel some reaction when holding a dowsing rod over running water. Subjects must be prepared to believe that they are able to dowse and must carry out an honest test. Having obtained a reaction, it is possible for a person, by practice and training, to develop the power.

THE ROD.

The rod of history is the fork-shaped piece of hazel, the wood being about the thickness of the little finger and the branches of the fork about 12 inches long.

A more convenient rod may be made by taking two pieces of black whalebone, each 14 inches long and 7 mm. x 2 mm. cross-section. These should be bound together at one end by a piece of black adhesive tape. To try this instrument, hold it over running water—for instance, a garden hose with the tap turned on. The rod will then lift or dip, the movement varying for different persons. The rod should be held firmly in each hand but the muscles of the forearm must be allowed to relax. Whalebone rods already cut to size may be obtained from Devine and Co., Ltd., St. Stephens Road, Old Ford, London, for 1s. 6d. per pair. If no reaction can be obtained over running water, then ask someone who is known to be a dowser to hold your wrists, and try again. Reaction is increased if an open safety-pin, points outwards, is held between the thumb and first finger while holding the rod.

A single rod about three feet long and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter is used by some dowzers. Hold the rod in the right hand and approach running water, at the same time giving the far end of the rod an up-and-down movement. On passing over the water, the movement of the end of the rod passes from oscillation to rotation.

A further method is to use the hands only. Extend the arms in front of the body with the fists closed and the backs of the hands uppermost. Approach running water, quickly moving

the fists together and six inches apart again continuously. In this case, on passing over the water, one hand will be drawn slightly in front of the other.

An indicator which seems to act readily with people who are only slightly sensitive consists of a straight rod with one end bent at right angles. The rods can be of 10 gauge iron or copper wire, the long arm being about 18in. in length and the short arm 6in. To use these rods, hold them out to the front and parallel. On traversing underground water both rods will swing inwards and cross.

THE PENDULUM.

First procure a black solid rubber ball about 1½in. diameter, a yard of black thread, a small stick, 4in. long and ¼in. diameter, and a match. Bore a hole ½in. deep in the ball and, using a piece of the match as a plug, fix one end of the thread into the ball. Tie the other end of the thread to the centre of the small stick and wind the thread thereon. Now stand over water running in a hose pipe, hold the thread of the pendulum between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, stretching out the remaining fingers. Give the pendulum an oscillating movement, at the same time slowly allow the thread to unwind. When the pendulum is a certain length the movement will change from oscillation to gyration. Carry out this test several times and the length of pendulum required for the detection of water is then known. This length is not necessarily the same for everybody. The main difficulty in working with a pendulum is to prevent movement by auto-suggestion.

DOWSING FOR WATER.

When searching for underground water, it is desirable that, having located a supply, the depth, quantity and quality should be known.

LOCATION.

It may here be pointed out that a knowledge of geology is invaluable to the dowser since in many cases it narrows the field of search. Again, there are many facts of everyday life which give clues as to the existence of underground water. A large solitary tree standing in the middle of a seemingly waterless plain will be found to have its roots in hidden water. Ancient buildings away from villages and towns usually depend on some local underground water supply. Moles must drink once a day or they die. Fields with molehills should therefore attract the attention of the dowser. A cursory glance at the ground's configuration, on the other hand, may often lead one astray.

Personally, I once discovered that, while a 60ft. bore in a likely looking valley yielded nothing, water was disclosed by the rod at the top of a neighbouring hill at a depth of six feet.

It would be well to consider here the manner in which water flows underground. One hears much loose talk of underground streams and rivers. Such things do undoubtedly exist, but it is unusual to come across a rushing underground torrent. Normally, the source of supply consists of a stratum of saturated soil through which the water slowly moves. Through a fissure in chalk or rock the movement may be rapid; through gravel, noticeable; but through fine sand, almost imperceptible. In the latter case, extraction calls for special strainers and some skill on the part of the well-borer.

To survey completely an area for subterranean water by dowsing is tiring and usually unnecessary.

Assuming that water is required in a certain area, then one should proceed as follows: Go to the centre of the area and hold the rod in the position of readiness. Slowly turn the body clockwise. If the operator is reasonably sensitive and water exists the rod will lift or dip when it is pointing towards a supply and at right angles to the direction of flow. Move off in this direction, grasping the rod firmly. Sooner or later, the rod will react smartly. Mark this place with the heel and continue in the same direction for about 50 yards. Now turn about and go back towards your heel mark still holding the rod. Another reaction will be registered. Mark this place. Halfway between the two marks is usually above the centre of the water. The line of flow is at right angles to the line between the two marks. Test your self by repeating the operation several times. The pendulum can be used to confirm the direction of water given by the rod. Set the pendulum to the required length for detecting water. Hold it in the right hand and cause it to oscillate. Point with the left arm. When pointing in the direction of water, the pendulum passes from oscillation to gyration.

DEPTH.

I have found that a light hold on the rod will give a reaction over water which is near the surface. The deeper the water the more strongly must one grasp the rod to obtain a reaction. By operating over water of known depth, it is possible to standardise one's grip. This appears to be a clumsy and inaccurate method, but it works—with practice.

Another system is to lay out a 100ft. metallic tape at right angles to the direction of flow, with one end of the tape above the centre of the stream. Stand at the end of the tape which is over the water and face the other end of the tape. Hold the rod in the normal manner and walk in the direction you are facing. After proceeding two or three yards a reaction is felt on the rod. Ignore this, and continue walking. When a second reaction is felt, stop and note the distance on the tape. This

measurement is equal to the depth of the water. This should be checked two or three times on both sides of the flow.

A third means for gauging depth is as follows. Stand over the place where you have located water. Raise the rod to the level of the top of the head. If a reaction is obtained with the rod in this position the water is very near the surface. The deeper the water the more the rod must be lowered to obtain a reaction. I have found that when the rod has been brought down to waist level then the water is about 300 feet deep.

It must be pointed out that results vary with different people, and therefore some form of personal calibration is necessary.

Several methods exist for the determination of quantity and quality of water, but successful results can only be obtained after much practice. The methods employed can be read in many of the standard books on dowsing.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.

My first experiences in dowsing happened purely by coincidence. With another officer in the Corps I went down to Dorset some years ago to prepare a water-supply scheme for manœuvre camps. A calculation of supplies available from the local river showed us that sufficient water was unobtainable from that source. It so happened that an article on dowsing appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* on that day and that a supply of rods was to hand in a near hazel hedge. We each tried our luck at dowsing, and my rod reacted very strongly after going a few yards. The War Office called in a professional dowser, who confirmed the result of my experiment.

The next phase began in India. A well-boring engineer happened to tell me in the club that he had sunk a number of bores in a tea estate and obtained no water. He was working on the "No water, no pay" principle, and was losing money. I mentioned that I had been able to dowse for water in England, with the result that I obtained leave to accompany him to the tea gardens. In all, five sites were selected where I considered water would be found. The first bore was made, but only yielded 1,500 gallons an hour. The company were sufficiently encouraged to try a second site. This yielded 30,000 gallons an hour, and no further bores were required.

Soon after this trouble was being experienced on a Government Experimental Farm in an Indian Province. Much money had been spent in sinking a tube well for irrigation purposes, but no water had been obtained. I selected a site for a fresh bore within fifty yards of the original bore and gave the probable depth of the water as 120 feet. The water-bearing stratum was struck at 119 feet! I would have felt quite satisfied if the water had been anywhere between 90 and 160 feet.

The yield here was 8,000 gallons an hour. I later received a letter saying that the supply had seriously diminished, but there was a bad crack in the pump casing and that might have something to do with it! Some leave was sacrificed for this task and a benevolent Government allowed the bare fare for travelling and deducted eight annas because Civil Allowance rules only allowed taxi fares from the station to Government House and not to one's quarters.

On a new railway alignment in East Bengal, boring operations had been carried out without success over the previous twenty years at a site selected for engine-sheds. A point to drill was indicated by dowsing where 4,000 gallons an hour were obtained within 20 yards of a previous bore.

An interesting experience was gained in Ganjam District, where a reconnaissance was made to discover water for a camp site. The point selected was a short distance from the sea shore in sandy soil. Good drinking water was obtained by sinking a Norton tube well to a depth of 12 feet. This was below high-water mark.

Similarly, a copious supply of water was obtained in the Andaman Islands from a bore sunk to a depth of 60 feet on the sea shore below high-water mark. This water was free from sea salt, but contained a fair supply of other salts which gave it the flavour of Vichy water.

In response to a request from one of the Provincial Governments in India, I agreed to devote sixty days' leave to making a dowsing survey in part of the province.

The formulated task, when it reached me, consisted in travelling 900 miles across country and visiting 66 towns and villages! Needless to say, only a small portion of this work was carried out in the time available.

Altogether bores were made on about fifty different sites that were indicated by dowsing.

As far as I know, none of them failed completely to produce water. In a few cases the supply was rather meagre but better than nothing.

In England the problem is rather different from India, as one is often operating where many underground supplies exist. Dowsing for water is often made difficult by the fact that the area being prospected is in a town, where personal reactions are upset by the proximity of steel-framed buildings, piped water supplies, drains and electric power lines.

In 1934 my first real failure happened. This was at Porton, where the existing supplies were drying up. As far as I know, a bore sunk on a new site indicated yielded little result. I suspect

the near proximity of existing piped water supplies had something to do with the lack of success.

The only other practical work undertaken in that year was selection of two places to bore near London, one at a nursery ground near Staines and the other near Watford, where 120,000 gallons per hour were obtained.

The work on both these occasions was commented on by an independent observer in the *Journal of the British Society of Dowsers* (No. 7). As his remarks are of interest I quote his words :—

“ One diviner I met with claimed that he could approximately tell the depth by the height he held the twig above the ground. Thus, if he obtained the greatest pull when holding the rod (a whalebone one, by the way) above his head, then the stream was near the surface, the lower he held the twig the greater the depth to the stream. There certainly appears to be something in this, for he was correct in the three cases in which I tested him out.

“ In one case a bore-hole had been drilled in a nursery ground to the West of London. This bore had been carried to 600 feet, and was practically bone dry. This particular diviner selected another spot some 250 yards away, claiming that some 4,000-5,000 gallons an hour could be obtained at a depth of about 250 feet.

“ A second bore-hole was subsequently drilled at the spot selected, to a depth of 600 feet, and water was met with in a thick bed of sand which was penetrated between 243 feet and 287 feet below the surface.

“ This particular bore-hole has not yet been fully tested ; it is quite certain that a yield of over 1,000 gallons an hour will be obtained.

“ It is worth while noting that this site was also selected by another diviner, who also claimed that water would be met with at the same depth.

“ It has always been a mystery to me how a diviner can compute the depth merely by the way he grips the rod, but judging from results obtained, one diviner I know certainly gets good results on the whole, so far as indicating the depth is concerned.

“ I am inclined to think that the velocity of the flow of the underground water may have a considerable effect upon the strength of the pull on the rod and that it is quite possible that a small quantity of water travelling at a comparatively high velocity may have an effect out of all proportion to the quantity.

“This theory seems to have been borne out in a case of water-divining not long ago. A shallow underground stream was located in a gravel bed. The quantity of water was computed by a water diviner and given as being about 25,000 gallons per hour. When the necessary excavations had been made and the pumps inserted, a prodigious quantity of water was met with. In fact, it was nothing less than a broad, slowly moving underground stream, not a fissure. The yield obtained was no less than 120,000 gallons per hour, and this quantity was pumped continuously day and night for three months. Had this water been flowing through a fissure I am inclined to think the diviner would have estimated a much larger yield.”

THE CAUSES OF THE REACTIONS OF DOWSING.

Many theories have been advanced from time to time as to the explanation of the reactions of dowsing. The question was taken up by the R.E. Board some time ago and the following is an extract from the correspondence which ensued :

“Mr. —, M.A., of the Cambridge Physiological Department, who has conducted extensive research work into the Magnetism and Electricity of the human body, states that he sees no difficulty in testing such mediums to ascertain what, if any, connection the divining power has with the physical property of the individual's body. For complete tests, however, the medium would have to be prepared to be punctured with needles.”

A willing medium for a “complete” test was not found.

The main argument as to the phenomena of dowsing centres mainly round the discussion as to whether it is psychic, physiological or physical.

Sir William Barrett, who spent many years studying the question, came to the conclusion that dowsing is a physical reaction, pure and simple.

An eminent German scientist thinks that the process of dowsing is the physical stimulus of the nervous system of the operator.

Again, the proved results obtained by some dowsers, such as prospection off a map, can only be grouped as what is at present termed psychic. With the present rapid advance of science, however, the “psychic” of to-day may be the “physical” of to-morrow.

The human nervous system is divided into the cerebro-spinal and involuntary (sympathetic) systems. The cerebro-spinal system supplies the muscles with nerves which convey only voluntary impulses. Since dowsing is involuntary in its action,

it is not superimposed on the cerebro-spinal system. It is, therefore, the involuntary nervous system, represented by the sympathetic nerves, that must be examined with reference to the phenomena of dowsing.

The best and most comprehensible explanation I have heard so far is that given by Dr. D. D'A. Wright in an article on the cause of the "Phenomena of Dowsing," published in the first number of the *Journal of the British Society of Dowzers*, and is as follows:—

"It is a physiological fact that every voluntary muscle of the body has a double nerve supply; one from the cerebro-spinal system which conveys voluntary impulses, and another from the sympathetic nerves through which the tone of the muscle is regulated, and it is to this varying tone or tension of the muscle that the movement of the dowser's rod may be attributed.

"It would be here well to quote other evidence connecting the sympathetic nervous system with processes associated with dowsing. It has been found that particularly sensitive persons sometimes experience faintness or show a marked pallor of the face on passing into the zone of radiation from water, minerals or other substances. This pallor is due to the contraction of the small blood vessels of the skin, which are controlled by the sympathetic system. Again, a sensitive person can be placed in a position facing the west and a bright light made to shine into the eye so as to contract the pupil. A phial containing a drug to which the person has previously been shown to be sensitive is now brought close up to the back of the neck, without the subject's knowledge. A brief but very discernible dilation of the pupil will then occur, and at the same time a slight acceleration of the pulse will often take place. These are reflex actions brought about through the sympathetic nervous system. These reactions are definitely physico-physiological and can partly be explained on the assumption that certain parts of the nervous system are concerned in their production.

"Evidence exists to show that the human body contains apparatus capable of receiving emanations from substances and transmitting the results to the muscles.

"There are in the brain, the spinal cord and especially in the sympathetic ganglia, certain large nerve cells which have a peculiar structure in that they possess at one end large branching processes much resembling the roots of trees and at the other end are prolonged into a nerve fibre which passes away into the spinal cord, or into the nerves of the body.

“The branches of one cell approach closely to, but do not actually touch, similar branches of a neighbouring cell. Moreover they are motile and capable of being retracted or extended under certain conditions. For instance, in the case of the brain, when sleep comes on it has been proved that these processes retract from one another so that the gap between them is much increased.

“This it is seen that cells which are good electrical conductors are interlaced with, but not touching, other similar cells. The insulating matter is a poor conductor. This produces something similar to the condenser of a wireless set and it is not unreasonable to assume a similar action in both cases, viz., that of ‘tuning in’ to different wave-lengths and frequencies through a variation of capacity.

“Further, in the nuclei of the cells of the body are microscopical structures capable of ‘inductance.’ These are called chromosomes. They consist of coiled tubular threads having an outer coat made of a fat-like insulating substance, containing a fluid with mineral salts in solution forming a liquid of high electrical conductivity. It has been asserted that these structures are electro-magnetic oscillators, and that since they vary in size and curvature they all differ in the length of wave to which they are capable of oscillating.

“In the body, then, are two distinct contrivances which are capable of varying degrees of inductance and capacity, both of which are in direct relationship with the nervous system. In physiological language, the whole is linked up in a reflex arc; which consists of a receiving apparatus—in this case, the skin; a centrally transmitting apparatus—the centripetally directed nerves from the skin; a central receiving station—the large nerve cells which are capable of ‘tuning-in’ to the various wave-lengths received; from this again the impulse is transmitted through the sympathetic nerves to the muscle fibres of the arm and fingers which hold the divining rod. Through this impulse, variations in the tension of the muscles are produced, and a turning of the detector thereby brought about.

“These activities are all of a subconscious nature. The brain itself takes no conscious part in the action. In certain cases, however, it would appear that the higher faculties of the brain take a share in the transaction, and it is here than a psychic factor appears. Among the expert dowzers on the Continent, it has been found possible, by an effort of concentration and will-power, to tune in the receptive system to the wave-length of particular substances.”

CONCLUSION.

Water supply is a constant worry in military operations in many parts of the world. The detection of underground supplies is then a matter of great importance. It is reasonable, therefore, that officers of the Corps, who are primarily responsible for water supplies, should know something of the practical side of dowsing. Further useful applications would be the detection of land mines and also of sub-soil water in regions where mining operations are proposed.

Much has been done in France in the application of dowsing to the study of medicine. A hospital exists in Nice where all diagnosis is carried out by means of the divining rod.

Machines have been produced containing thermionic valves, on which the emanations of substances in large quantities give deflections of a pointer.

In agriculture, the dowser's art has been used to discover the affinity of seeds for certain soil components.

In Paris I met an enthusiastic master of hounds who carried a hunting whip with a copper and zinc stock whereby he dowsed for his quarry when hounds failed to do their job. *Vive le sport!*

An interesting book has been produced in Germany concerning the detection of "Gamma" rays by dowsing. These rays are apparently produced in planes by faults in the earth's surface. Patients in a hospital, whose beds intersected a plane of "Gamma" rays, took longer to recover than the others.

However fantastic these notions may appear to some, it cannot be denied that men have found water through the ages by dowsing. It is, therefore, reasonable in these days of rapid progress that time should not be lost in reducing the art of dowsing to a science.

The following remarks of the managing director of a widely-known well-sinking firm, in a paper to the British Society of Dowsers, would seem to form an apt conclusion to this article:—

"To sum up, let us be fair to the diviner. He is up against a big problem. So many things conspire to put him off the track, such as the weather, the time of day, the nature of the soil, the diviner's own state of physical health, even the position of the sun may have more than a little to do with it. After all, we do not condemn the medical profession, merely because on many occasions they fail to diagnose diseases correctly. Let us always apply the same line of reasoning to the water diviner and give him his due."

THE GLAMOUR OF COCOS ISLAND

By GEORGE COOKNELL

Cocos Island—the two words in the English language which lend glamour and romance to any conversation, whether it be held on the heaving deck of a windjammer, in an hotel lounge or even in a prison cell.

Actually the island itself, when first sighted from the deck of a vessel ploughing her way towards Chatham Bay (the main anchorage at the island), is shrouded in dense and almost perpetual rain squalls. The squalls give to Cocos Island an air of mystery which is difficult to define. Anchored in the bay and gazing at the small strip of sand, which is the only beach, one readily understands the reason for the popularity of the island among the old buccaneers of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The importance of Cocos Island to the old pirates is partly due to the generous supply of fresh water, which can easily be loaded into a dory. In Chatham Bay there are two main streams which cascade down the precipitous sides of the hills to the beach, where they lose themselves in the surge of the surf.

Then there are the coco-nut palms. To-day there are very few of these left, but there is abundant evidence that in the past their number was legion. To the scurvy-ridden crew of an old windjammer the fruit of the palms was indeed a godsend. With the added exercise of excursions ashore, the coco-nuts soon cleared the scurvy from the ship, and a stay of a few weeks worked wonders in recuperation.

Chatham Bay is the fisherman's paradise. The water abounds in all kinds of edible fish, although sharks of all kinds, large and small, appear to be in the majority. Incidentally, it is impossible to catch fish with rod and line from the shore owing to the heavy surf.

During my four months' lone stay on the island I managed to catch a few yellowtails and eels. This, however, was only possible during particularly high tides, when numbers of fish entered the mouth of the main stream to seek shelter. I was then able to wade into the stream and strike them with a machete, which is very much like a large sword. The eels were very hard to catch; even when completely cut in half, both halves would invariably make their way back to the sea.

There are numbers of wild pigs on the island. These were originally placed there by a Captain Vancouver, and have since

gone wild. They are in very poor condition generally, there being very little food for them to get at, and that in the form of roots. Although exceedingly difficult to shoot, owing to the density of the undergrowth, they undoubtedly provided the pirates with a very welcome change in diet, being very much preferable to salt horse.

I think I have now made quite clear the reasons which tended to make Cocos Island so popular with the old buccaneers: (1) Good safe anchorage; (2) bountiful supplies of fresh water; (3) coco-nuts to combat scurvy; (4) good exercise ashore for the men; (5) ample supply of easily-caught edible fish; and (6) an ever-ready supply of fresh meat.

Hence, one can readily understand that Cocos Island was a rendezvous popular to the old-time buccaneer, and a place where treasure may reasonably be supposed to have been hidden.

Having successfully attacked and looted a richly-laden galleon, what more reasonable procedure than to sail to Cocos Island, where they were assured of good anchorage, fresh water, &c., and there bury or otherwise hide the booty.

The Gulf of Panama and off the west coast of South America were the happy hunting grounds of the pirates of that day; Spanish galleons heavily laden with the gold and silver of the Incas and other Indian tribes offered easy pickings to the lighter and faster vessels of the pirates.

There are many islands in these waters, including the Galapagos group, but there is only one which possesses all the aforementioned attributes, and that is Cocos Island.

History tells us that there was no reason for anyone to carry huge sums of money or valuables in those not-so-far-off days. To do so would be merely to invite attack. The pirate captain himself would find it exceedingly difficult to spend much money in a bout ashore. His beer cost him very little, possibly a penny or two a pint.

Being beyond the pale of the law, the pirate captain would hesitate to take his ill-gotten plunder into any civilised port, yet aboard his vessel it constituted a continual source of danger. The obvious course would be to find a fairly safe hiding place and there cache it. Just how safe a hiding place the pirates found is adequately proved by the number of attempts to locate it, all of which, up to the time of writing, have failed.

Necessity would compel the pirate captain to find a hiding place near to a boat landing to obviate the hard toil of hauling

heavy weights any considerable distance from the beach. Personal experience has proved that it is impossible to sink a hole in the ground on Cocos Island to a greater depth than one foot without striking hard rock ; therefore it is safe to assume that the treasure was not buried in the earth.

Curiously enough, on Cocos Island there is a dearth of caves, the few in existence to-day being completely submerged at high tide. Incidentally, there are no signs of erosion, and, personally, I think the contours of the island are much the same as they were two or more centuries ago.

During the nineteenth century there were many haphazard attempts to locate the treasure, the existence of which is well authenticated by the British Foreign Office Handbooks 141 and 142. The present century has seen many scientifically organised attempts. They have all failed. We ask ourselves why, and look for the reason of these failures.

Many expeditions have visited the island with an abundance of optimism, much enthusiasm, and a reputedly old chart. The chart usually has an intriguing pedigree, and a large X, which is supposed to indicate the spot where the treasure lies. On one chart which I once had the pleasure of inspecting, the arms of the cross were more than half-a-mile in length, thus the X covered a considerable area.

The owners of the various charts, all supposedly genuine, overlook one fact : That the majority of pirates of that day were illiterate and could not even write their own names. If this were not the case and supposing a chart to have been made, to whom would the pirate captain hand the chart for safe keeping ? Their fellow pirates were just as likely to meet sudden death as they were themselves. All of them, with few exceptions, died in battle or went down with their ships. I think it is fairly safe to assume that any charts in existence are definitely fakes.

Another method, which is gaining popularity, is to take an expensive expedition to the island, equipped with scientific metal-locating instruments.

There is little to be said in favour of these instruments when used to locate a specific metal, especially when there are enormous deposits of natural base metals lying underground in profusion. The instruments will definitely locate metals, but unfortunately they will not differentiate ; consequently they locate the greatest deposit of metal in their vicinity, which on Cocos Island happens to be magnetic ore.

With the exception of myself, there has been only one other natural, or human, diviner on Cocos Island. He states that he was unable to differentiate, and continually located deposits of magnetic ore.

Using a twig and motorscope (a motorscope is a piece of wire bent in order to accentuate the action of the dowser's hands, the movements of which are otherwise imperceptible), I made a location which coincided with what is apparently the only feasible hiding place in the bay.

In Chatham Bay there are signs of only one cave ever having existed. The entrance to that cave is now concealed behind a huge heap of earth and broken rock which has apparently been shattered by explosion from the top of the cliff, at the base of which the cave is situated. From beneath the heap of rubble which hides the entrance to the cave a dry stream bed makes its way to the beach. This probably signifies a fresh water spring in the cave which only flows during the rainy season.

It was immediately over this spot, where there are indications of a cave, that my twig and motorscope indicated that gold and silver lay at about 20ft. from the existing surface. It was not, however, until some time later that my attention was drawn to the unnatural formation of the mound, which I believe to conceal the entrance to the cave.

Immediately on deciding upon the centre of the site, I commenced to sink a hole some six feet by five feet. The first four feet from the surface consisted of earth and comparatively small rocks. I then unearthed some larger rocks, too large to move single-handed. And here is the crux of the matter: Under the larger rocks there was no earth, merely an air vent, which I consider proves that the rocks were shattered from the top of the cliff, and, in falling, fell in such a manner that the earth did not fill in the spaces under them.

Should my location, discovered by divination, and to all intents and purposes proved by common-sense deduction, prove to be the actual hiding place of one of the many hoards of treasure believed to have been cached on Cocos Island, one month's work by ten men will undoubtedly clear the way to the cave.

I estimate the quantity of earth and rock which will require to be moved to clear a way to the cave at approximately 200 to 300 tons. Taking the larger figure as correct, and assuming that each man is capable of moving one ton per day, the above estimate of one month will prove to be very nearly correct.

It will not be necessary to move the earth and rock any great distance. Loaded into wheelbarrows and wheeled on planks to the beach, it will be washed away by the tide. Thus will our work be lightened to a great extent. At no time will it be necessary to wheel the earth more than 35 yards, as the cliff face is not more than that distance from the beach.

I must apologise to my readers for the apparent vagueness of the above information; however, I trust they will appreciate that I am not the only person interested in the Cocos Island treasure, and there is always the danger of an American expedition forestalling me.

Personally, I consider my chances of recovering the treasure to be very good. I am quite certain that the location in Chatham Bay will prove to be the hiding place of one hoard. I shall not, however, be satisfied with that. I have not attempted to find treasure in the other bay, Wafer Bay. There is a possibility of another crew of pirates having hidden treasure there.

I will end this short article with an account of an experience I had in London in 1934 (since my return from the island), at the Streatham Hill Theatre.

Miss Jean Dennis, the American clairvoyant, was topping the bill, and, although I treated the matter as a joke, I stood up and told her that I was going abroad, and asked would I be successful. She immediately answered: "You are going to an island in the Pacific; I see two reaches of water, and in one of these reaches I see two streams; I also see a compass bearing South by South-East. You will be successful. You will have financial difficulties before you get there."

Call it what you will, the information relative to the Island was so accurate as to cause me to think deeply. Firstly, Cocos Island is in the Pacific, there are only two bays, which Miss Dennis described as reaches of water. Wafer Bay has only one stream, Chatham Bay has two, hence it is fairly obvious that the compass-bearing alludes to the bay in which my location lies, *i.e.*, Chatham Bay.

The phenomena cannot be attributed to telepathy, for the simple reason that the compass bearing is the exact bearing of my location in the Bay, yet until after the above incident, I had never considered the position of my location in relation to the compass.

Whether the reader believes or does not believe in clairvoyance the accuracy of the information given by Miss Dennis will cause him to ponder and consider that in addition to my own reasons for believing I know where the treasure lies, I have Miss Dennis's word that I will be successful.

TESTING FOOD IN RELATION TO OUR HEALTH

By Dr. ADOLPH SELIGE

It is a pertinent fact that perfect health is one of the most precious possessions of man. It is my desire to make this clear to every reader who happens to be a Dowsers, and also to others who have not yet made any effort to develop the faculty latent in them. Very few Dowsers seem to be aware of the fact that they are able to utilize their strange ability in the promotion of health as well as in other directions.

There is nothing I know of which has a greater bearing on our health than the foods we eat. There is a close relationship between them in health as well as in disease, but particularly so in the latter case. Indeed, errors in diet are the direct or indirect cause of the majority of human ills. It is true that we may be ignorant of the laws of nature and err without knowing, but we have to pay the price just the same.

The sick and the poor we have with us all the time. It has ever been thus, it seems. I wonder whether it had been the intention of our Creator to have His creatures go through so much suffering, for no purpose in particular that I can see. I do not think so. I do not believe it was the fault of Him, but of man, who, somehow, got off the right track, and has been unable to get back in line.

I say this because man has been equipped with an "apparatus" which he can use for self-protection when he faces health problems, as he can use it to solve other of his many problems. Call it a "sixth sense" if you will. It is the strange faculty which enables the Dowsers to locate water and minerals, &c., and can be used for many other things, too.

Primitive man was equipped by nature with this faculty for a definite purpose. To help him solve some of his simple problems of life. One of them was to locate water, which was a very important item then as it is now. He had the opportunity, and perhaps was compelled to develop this faculty of locating water underground, hidden from view. It appeared as though food being more easy to locate, he did not use this faculty in the search of foods as much as in the search for water, and finally lost sight of the fact that he possessed it at all. At any rate, no one seemed to remember anything about it, except the monkeys in the tropics.

Naturally men lived a very simple life in the early days of his existence and his dietary habits were in keeping with the rest of it. Man's habits of living have changed a great deal and his dietary habits also. I do not believe they have improved any; in fact, they are, to a great extent, the cause of the thousands and thousands of sick people who fill our hospitals and sick-beds at home.

What are we doing for the sick world? Medical science does all it can, but sickness is on the increase. And it is a very costly affair, too. It is one of the great problems of life we have not been able to solve, as yet. But I believe it is solvable, and the key of the situation is not to be found in medical clinics and laboratories, but within each individual, within ourselves.

You may not have realised that this is the case. It is not enough for you to be told that it can be done, that this problem can be solved and is being solved by a number of men and women who have taken up this branch of the work, but I want to urge you to make an effort to develop your own powers in this direction, to place your talent, a gift from above, in the service of humanity.

There are now plenty of men and women who are able to locate water and serve human needs in that way, but what we need now are men and women of the right calibre, of the highest character, morally and mentally sound, with high ideals, conscientious and industrious, to study, investigate and help solve these problems for themselves and for others. This requires serious attention, perseverance, patience; its reward is not so much in "cold cash" as in an inner satisfaction, to have accomplished something of use while here on this earth.

As for myself, I have spent about ten years in this work. I believe in it. I have met with great success and derived much satisfaction from my success, though not a great deal of money. However, money is not everything, anyway. I have convinced myself that it is possible to make a very satisfactory diagnosis by means of this instrument, which I call the "Radioscope," indicating that by it we are able to detect and locate certain kinds of "radiations" and discover their nature and relations.

You are probably familiar with this instrument, but under the name "Pendulum." The "Rod" is being used for the same purposes, but as I use the Radioscope-Pendulum exclusively I shall deal with this only.

I will say, for the benefit of any professional man who may read these lines, that I was compelled to change the name for a purpose. After having made a few attempts at diagnosing in

the usual manner, that is, in the presence of my patient, I noted the latter's mental reaction to the little "bob on a string." It looked so insignificant, and to some it looked farcical. One simple soul assured me she was a good catholic and had to see the priest first.

I have, since then, conducted all my research behind closed doors. I work with a "Contact" of some sort, instead of with the patient directly. It works very well and saves a lot of bother.

A considerable part of my work has been with foods. I have always considered them of the greatest importance. Well, healthy people should find out whether foods are "harmonious" or not. Many of us eat foods that are not suitable for us for one reason or another. Unless we discover this in good time, we may suffer serious consequences. I know of only one way by which it is possible to determine the proper foods for any individual, and that is by using the Radioscope-Pendulum.

When I deal with patients, or with healthy people for all of that, I have to consider them as "individuals." I do not know of very many rules in dietetics that apply to all people alike. "Individualized dietetics" is possible only when you use the Radioscope. Nothing else will equal it, as far as accuracy and speedy action is concerned. That is, after one has the necessary experience and practice.

I make it a point to request each patient to submit a list of the foods eaten at each meal and also between meals. This I scan carefully before I begin to ask questions about their mode of living and so on.

Coffee seems to be an almost universal breakfast beverage, and it generally heads the list of foods eaten at that meal. Indeed, it is, with some folks, the only kind of "nourishment" that is taken early in the day. I shall make this the subject of my discussion at this time, and I hope I shall have something to say that will interest my readers.

Coffee, as we all know, is a very popular drink with us. The question is, Is it a good drink, a healthy beverage or food, if you wish to call it that? I have heard of and met some folks personally who seem to be able to consume immense quantities of coffee and live. Some folks even get old with it. But there are a great many who do not fare so well. Drinking coffee at night keeps them awake. If they take it during the day they get nervous, even if they get some rest at night.

Some coffee drinkers suffer from indigestion; it seems to interfere with the digestive processes so that they become aware

of the ill effects of the coffee. That teaches them to be careful about indulging too freely. They, of course, are not aware of the effect it has on their kidneys. They find that out when it is too late, if ever.

These facts are, of course, well known to everybody. Knowing this I, like most other physicians, was very strict with my patients in regard to coffee. It was no drink for one in ill health. So it was **NO COFFEE** for my patients, without exception.

To go without their favourite drink was a hardship to many, which, of course, I regretted. But what was there to be done otherwise? This was before I was proficient enough with the Radioscope to go into the matter of food tests. Imagine my surprise when I discovered there were patients who appeared to be immune to coffee. There was the Radioscope and its reactions. I became curious and began to investigate the matter.

I soon discovered that there was quite a difference in the way people prepare their coffee. One puts the coffeepot on the stove, boils the coffee thoroughly, even for the sake of super-economy uses the grounds over and over again. Much of our restaurant coffee is of the well-cooked type and "well seasoned" by having it standing around for hours and even days.

Then there are those who use the "percolating" method. The coffee does not boil as long, but it is apt to stand around a long time, too. The third method is the "Drip" method. This is what makes the "French drip coffee." The boiling water is poured over the coffee grounds, but the coffee, slowly dripping through a fine screen, never comes to a boil.

I discovered that those whom I found "immune" to coffee were those who drank French drip coffee. That set me to thinking and investigating further. I now inquired into each patient's method of preparing their coffee. Then I tested them against drip coffee, and, as long as this was harmonious, I allowed them to continue to drink their coffee. However, I insisted on a carefully made coffee, and on it being served fresh and not too strong. I also warned against aluminium vessels and "hard" water.

I have followed this course for a great many years now, and I have found only a small minority of my patients whom I was compelled to forbid coffee. Then there was the question of milk or cream and sugar. I did not find that a little milk or

cream disturbed the otherwise existing harmony. It was different, though, with sugar. Adding sugar to coffee disturbed the harmony. It was not permissible with my patients.

Of course, I have made a study of many other foods besides coffee, but this will suffice for this article. Food tests are not difficult to make, that is, the simple kinds. Anyone who is proficient with the Pendulum or knows how to use the Rod for that purpose can make them.

Here is the way I teach my pupils. Place the food, say a cup of coffee in this instance, on the table. Place your left hand about six inches or so away from the coffee. Take the Pendulum in your right hand and suspend it midway between the coffee and your hand.

Get your mind "set" on what you are after doing. That is, "tune in" on the thought of "harmony." What you wish to know is whether the coffee is congenial, whether it and your body are in harmony. The answer will be forthcoming soon. It appears in form of a "code" message, or a "gram" executed by the movements of the Pendulum.

In my own case, when there is harmony between the food and the patient, I find the Pendulum to get into motion and describe a circle which reaches out over both the hand and the coffee. This sign indicates that the coffee is congenial. If, however, the Pendulum refuses to move, or, as it does in my own case, describes a straight line which separates the hand from the coffee, then I take it as a sign that there is no harmony. Coffee is not advisable in such a case.

Then add the milk or cream and make the test in the same way. Later, add the sugar and take note of the answers.

You should do this with other foods. Take raw foods and cooked foods, all kinds, and profit by what you learn. It will pay you well to do so. Remember, you may not get very satisfactory results at first. But don't be discouraged. Try again, and persevere in your endeavours.

To return to our subject, coffee. Caffein is known as a great stimulant, an irritant; in other words, a "toxin" or poison. Caffein is "alkaline" in nature. Chemists have a new method for determining the degree of alkalinity or acidity by the so-called "pH test." This allows them to place the things they are testing according to their pH value.

I have made a number of pH tests and had some interesting results by using the Radioscope. It was necessary for me to construct a special chart for that purpose. I found the boiled

kind of coffee to register at pH 11, while the drip coffee registers at pH 8.1. This is quite a difference in alkalinity, as can easily be seen. This fact becomes more significant if we consider that the pH of the Lymph is, normally, pH 7.3. The higher on the scale, the more toxic they are, and boiled coffee is near the top.

Strong, boiled coffee does not agree with me very well. Even though I dilute it, when I am in a position where I am not able to refuse the invitation of my hostess, I generally have a bad night and it leaves me in bad humour for the next day. This had occurred some time ago, and I began to wonder whether it was not possible to discover an "antidote" for coffee.

Again I resorted to the Radioscope, and, as usual, it has served me well. I did discover the antidote all right, but how was I to know whether it worked or not. And so I had to do some experimenting with myself the "guinea pig."

First, I brewed some boiled coffee, and I made it good and strong, too. I took part of it and added some of the antidote (made, like all of my remedies, out of harmless food stuff). I tested the mixture and found, to my joy, that the pH 11 had been reduced considerably.

That was encouraging. So now I took a hearty drink of that strong and poisonous coffee. I felt it go down and "round and round" in the stomach and intestines. The Radioscope in my hand, I was able to follow its course and I could tell the disturbance it stirred up in my circulation. My pulse became stronger and faster, my heart began to beat and I felt the stimulation keenly.

Then I took a good drink of the antidote. It, too, went down, and "round and round," too, as I sat watching and waiting. The Radioscope in my hand and the watch at my side, I gradually felt and noted by the reactions how a subtle change was taking place. I began to feel a little calmer. Soon my heart quit racing, the pulse became more like normal and that stimulation, that feeling of irritation, disappeared like the thief at night. The antidote had accomplished its task. Again the Radioscope had "made good."

This, it seems to me, is a line of research that should be taken up by all physicians, dietitians and all healers of every kind. Yes, by every intelligent man and woman who possesses the necessary qualification and education.

It happens that one of my pupils, Mrs. L., has the same difficulty as I have related. She is invited to the house of some of her good friends who insist on giving her a cup of coffee to drink,

This is, unfortunately, of the boiled kind, and my friend Mrs. L. has experienced many sleepless nights because of this. She does not like to refuse the invitation and in consequence has to suffer the consequences.

Mrs. L. was elated to hear of my experiments with coffee and the antidote, and I asked her to check up on me. The opportunity soon presented itself. She was invited. The boiled coffee was served as usual, and Mrs. L. drank her share. Arriving at her home that night, she took a good swig of the antidote, which she had prepared in anticipation of the inevitable results. She went to bed, slept the night through and so proved the efficacy of the remedy for coffee poisoning, she acting as a human "guinea pig."

Of course, there are a variety of methods of making tests and of checking and cross-checking them. I use a number of charts which I have constructed in the course of my studies to serve as accessories.

"Everything radiates." That is now a fact accepted by science. It has been proved by delicate instruments to the entire satisfaction of those who made a study of the subject. Physicists have paved the way; the men of medicine are slow to grasp the significance of these discoveries, but there is a group of "progressives" who have dared to lead the way. They are earning the usual harvest of the pioneer, that is, ridicule by the orthodox group. But this progressive group are the "salt of the earth." They are the real "doers," the others merely follow the beaten path.

Dr. Albert Abrams was one of the pioneers in the U.S. He was derided and ridiculed, called a fake, a liar, and crook and what not. So-called scientists proved, to their own satisfaction, that the "reactions of Abrams" did not exist. I wonder how these men feel about that now that the whole world knows all about it.

If we now claim that certain things radiate certain energies, we stand on solid ground. When we claim that the human nervous system "reacts" to these energies, radiations or emanations, we meet with distrust. If we dare to demonstrate this fact by using the Rod or Pendulum, we meet with ridicule and doubt.

It is therefore necessary to devise ways and means by which we are able to demonstrate and then bring proof of an unmis-

takable nature that we have to do with real facts and not with mere imagination.

This is possible and is being done. Especially in France, where some of the most brilliant minds have taken up the study of what they call "Radiesthésie." They are the pioneers who are educating the scientific world to a new understanding of natural forces and the mysterious energies of nature which have been a "terra incognita" so far.

French investigators and experimenters have done a great deal to popularize Radiesthésie, and to acquaint the people in general with it. A great deal of this sort of popularization has been going on in Germany, Switzerland and other European countries too. It is to be hoped that the entire civilized world will soon become educated to the facts in the case and learn to use the Rod and the Pendulum for the purpose of developing that precious faculty which now slumbers, unused, within each of us.

The question has been asked whether it is advisable to let the layman "monkey with this sort of thing." The fear is expressed that he is encroaching upon the privileges of the physicians, and, not being trained for the work, cannot be trusted with making a diagnosis or to prescribe foods and remedies.

This question seems to have a sound basis, but there are two sides to it. Each man or woman should know whether a food is good or bad, harmonious or inharmonious as far as they are concerned. One would not object to anyone using the Rod or Pendulum in order to save themselves from self-destruction by eating foods or taking remedies that are destructive and cause them harm? Such an objection would not be well taken. Especially not, when there are very few medical doctors who are well posted on the value of foods, and if they are, find it difficult to select foods that are congenial in every case. To do so by "regular methods" requires much experimenting. It is a case of "trial and error" at the expense of the patient and often causing an unnecessary loss of time.

One who is not familiar with the Sciences, such as the physician bases his knowledge on, will not be able to use the diagnostic faculties slumbering in him, except in a general way. I dare say, though, there are some "born" healers who have never gone through a medical college and still are remarkably capable in their art. Both the educated and the natural healer are able to increase their value to mankind a thousandfold if they only develop their talents by an intelligent use of the Rod or Pendulum.

NOTES AND NEWS.

As reported in the *Eastern Daily Press* of July 15th, a public inquiry was held on July 14th by Mr. G. S. Wells, M.C., A.M.I.C.E., a Ministry of Health Inspector, into an application by the Wainford R.D.C. for sanction to borrow £1,757 to provide water for the parish of Rumburgh (Suffolk).

About three years ago, when the village was in the Blything Rural District, a borehole had been sunk to 500 feet at a cost of £252; but the water turned out to be strongly saline and inadequate in quantity, so the borehole was abandoned as useless.

Owing to the urgency of the case the Council had taken it upon themselves to sink another bore-hole without waiting for the sanction of the Ministry, and a wholesome supply of water was now available, "whereas in the past the people had had to rely to a large extent on ponds and ditches."

Though it is not mentioned in the report, the site of the new bore-hole was selected by Mr. Tompkins, the veteran water-diviner, who was called in by the Council.

He estimated that a supply of 7 to 10 thousand gallons per day would be obtained at a depth of about 250 feet. A 6in. borehole was driven to a depth of 296 feet and a supply of about 12,000 gallons per day was obtained after a four days and four nights pumping test. The water stands about 100ft. up the borehole.

The cost of the scheme appears to have been about £145, so considerable expense might have been saved if the advice of a skilled water diviner had been taken before the first borehole was sunk.

* * * * *

Mr. G. G. Fleming writes as follows:—

"There does not appear to be much more to say at present further than this: The other day I was trying an experiment with two friends for whom the reactions of the rod mean nothing, as it does not work with them; we placed a goodly lot of rich gold ore on a table and both negative subjects held the arms of the rods, one in the subject's right hand and the other subject held the other arm in his left hand. I then caught the empty right and left hands, forming a circuit, and walked towards the ore. Immediately we were over it the rod performed just as strong as if I had been holding the rods in my hands. I think this is a splendid way to demonstrate that the movement of the rod is not manipulated by the Diviner."

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Mr. H. O. Busby writes as follows:—

"I was interested in a point raised by the Rev. H. W. Lea-Wilson, M.A., in his article in the December number of the Journal

which I had noticed myself, relating to the picking up of one level of streams to the exclusion of others which may be crossing above or below the one being traced; it is analogous to the following of one 'scent' among others by a good hunting dog. I have had experiences with other dowzers who did not seem to have developed this selective faculty. As an example: I have a bore on my property which struck water at about 115ft., but which did not yield as much water as anticipated, and not as much as the same stream yielded at a couple of other points at which it had been tapped on the property. When I selected the site for this bore some years ago I had not advanced very far in dowsing and was not quite as careful as I should have been in the light of later knowledge. When I had decided to have this bore drilled I followed the side of the stream to a convenient spot which I marked, then I went across it and came back to pick up the other side, and then I marked a spot in the middle for the actual bore. From later investigation I find that there are actually two streams running parallel to one another at this point, the one a few feet deeper than the other, and that I had put the bore down between the two, just touching one edge of one of these streams. A successful dowser and boring contractor happened to call on one occasion, so to test him I asked him to tell me why the bore did not yield as much water as it should have done. After going over the area he said 'There is lots of water here and a regular river about 30 yards away, as well as a couple of better streams just on one side.' Knowing that I followed only one level at a time, I went over the ground again with him, and it was not until I had 'projected' myself to different levels that I found the streams he had found, which were all much deeper than that one which I had tapped, and each of these was at a different level in relation to the others. I estimated that these streams were from 60ft. to more than 200ft. deeper, yet they all appeared to this dowser as on the same level, they all seemed to him to flow into the largest of them."

* * * * *

According to the *Morning Post* of May 17th, and the *Daily Telegraph* of May 18th, Mr. Geoffrey Shakespeare, M.P., Secretary to the Ministry of Health, exercised his gift as a water diviner at the scene of the tragedy in which Mr. and Mrs. Hall lost their lives through the collapse of their house at Norwich. Using a twig he was able to detect the presence of water in the old chalk workings in the district.

* * * * *

According to the *Warwick Advertiser* of July 11th, Mr. T. Garrett, of Bishops Itchington, using a copper wire, assisted in the recovery of the body of G. H. Bartle who was drowned in the Avon on Sunday, July 5th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Colonel A. H. Bell,
Backwoods,
Lindfield,
Sussex.

Vienna.
25/6/36.

Dear Sir,

Thanks for your Journal of the British Society of Dowsters of June, 1936.

Mr. C.S.T. writes, p. 211, reviewing the book of Fritsch and Jelinek: "He (Fritsch) deals with ionisation theories and quotes Dr. Braun-Fernwald as saying 'As a 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."

As to this, I should like to add a few remarks. I know very well the popular belief that the snow is melting quicker on top of subterranean waters. But I never had cited this opinion, nor have I found any proof of its truth. The error of Mr. C.S.T. was caused by Mr. Fritsch's description, which was not very clear.

Mr. Fritsch furthermore states in his book (pp. 25, 26): "Braun-Fernwald has especially worked on this problem (influence of Röntgen rays) and thinks that these rays bring forth an influence only if they strike the hands of the dowser." This assertion of Mr. Fritsch is erroneous. In my article in *Zeitschrift für Wünschelruttenforschung*, May, 1924 (p. 86), I reported only that in the experiments which Dr. Emil Marcus, a Viennese Röntgenologist, in 1922, performed on my person the Röntgen rays always caused a movement of the divining rod. In one case only the result was negative: when I held my hands with the divining rod vertically above the holder of the photographic plate and the rays were coming from above without passing through my body.

I have published this result once more in the October number of *Z.f.W.* of 1932, and added that it seems probable that not the Röntgen rays themselves, but other rays accompanying these, and perhaps not detected by physical methods, were the real cause of the movement of the rod. At any rate, my reactions ceased when I was protected by a screen of barium-platinum-cyanide (painted on cardboard) between the source of the Röntgen rays and my person. On the other hand, three zinc plates in the same position did not screen me; in this case the divining rod acted as usual.

Vicomte de France, a very famous dowser, agrees with me that diviners react on Röntgen rays more readily when these are produced by the old-fashioned, relatively weak apparatus (with induction coils, etc.) as used now in secondary schools only.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) DR. RAOUL BRAUN-FERNWALD.

REVIEWS

APOLOGIE DU SOURCIER.

By Emile Christophe, *Librairie Mignard Frères*, Paris.

M. Christophe is well known as the author of *Tu Seras Sourcier* and the editor of *La Prospection à Distance*, a monthly paper which is reviewed in our Journal.

The description of the book on the cover is "La Téléradiesthésie; methods of distant prospection; prospection on plans and photographs; commentaries and refutations."

The book is, in fact, a discussion of radiesthésie in all its applications, regarded as a metaphysical phenomenon. In it the author describes his own theories and methods of distant prospection and, at the same time, puts forward a justification for the claims of radiesthésie in general.

Though the author refers to "waves" and "wavelengths," unlike most writers on the subject he happily makes no attempt to correlate them with the electro-magnetic waves of modern physics. He attributes the dowser's reactions to a radiation of a kind neither truly physical nor truly psychic, which is appreciated by a sixth sense like that of the sense of orientation in animals.

To bring this sixth sense into play the dowser has to achieve a "concentration of waves" by means of "mental orientation," which may admit of four mental operations: order, to eliminate the power of will and auto-suggestion; desire, to acquire receptivity to the waves selected; convention, to assign a definite interpretation to the various movements of the rod and pendulum; interrogation, to obtain answers to questions admitting of a negative or affirmative reply.

The author devotes considerable space to the medical aspect of radiesthésie and makes interesting observations on impregnation and *rémanence*. On page 191 he describes a device of his own for eliminating parasitic radiations. But the chief interest of the book for English readers will lie in the description of the methods of prospection on plans and photographs.

A.H.B.

BULLETIN DE L'ASSOCIATION DES AMIS DE
LA RADIESTHÉSIE.

(No. 39. April-May, 1936).

In "Quelques objections aux anti-radiesthésistes," Dr. Foveau de Courmelles, the distinguished President, discusses various criticisms of radiesthésie, notably by Dr. Osty and Dr. E. Pascal in the *Revue Métapsychique* and in the *Vie Médicale*.

An article, "Excursion radiesthésique à Naours (Somme)" by Armand Viré, describes a visit made to the caves of Naours for purposes of instruction in the art of radiesthésie. He considers there is no better means of instruction than a collective excursion in which skilled dowzers impart instruction to beginners.

At Naours an elaborate system of artificial caves dating from Roman times exists, large enough to accommodate 300 families in an emergency, including a small church, stables and bakeries. The entrances had been blocked up and only the memory of them remained until in 1887 Abbé Danicourt aroused local interest and got them re-opened.

Practice was carried out in elementary dowsing and in the location of faults and fissures, special attention being given to the correct tension in the rods.

General Barbarin in "Visibility of the human fluid," mentions an article by Dr. Raoul Blondel in *L'Echo de Paris*, in which reference was made to the visible emissions from the ends of the fingers as an illusion. The General gave a lecture on the article at a meeting, when several people showed that the fluid could be seen in suitable light without the use of special screens, mainly as a yellowish radiation from the first and third fingers. It occurred to him that the phenomenon might be due to the persistence of light on the retina. He therefore tried the experiment in a light of an indigo-ish colour, the compliment of that in which the previous experiments had been tried. He found that the fluid was still visible as black in colour against a greyish background, which proved that the phenomenon was a genuine one and not due to the persistence of light on the retina.

LA CÔTE D'AZUR MÉDICALE.

June.—Dr. A. L. Tchijevsky has a short article "On the rapid changes of electric potential of the surface of the body owing to strong emotional excitation." His researches have led him to believe that the magnitude of the electrostatic charge varies with the degree of excitation. He carried out a series of experiments of the following kind: A subject sat in a chair reading a book in complete silence. A metal cap (cardboard lined with lead foil) was hung from insulators on the ceiling by a silk cord,

the metal part of the cap lightly touching the hair of the subject being connected by a wire to an electrometer in a neighbouring room where the observer was. Suddenly a revolver shot was fired. The emotion of sudden fright caused the occurrence on the surface of the head of the subject of considerable changes of potential which were recorded on the instrument.

Such phenomena as the rising of the hair on the head through fright can be explained in this way. Electric charges of the same nature accumulating in the hair would cause the hairs to repel one another and to stand up.

There is a report of the International Congress of Radiotellurie on May 8th to 10th this year. The meeting was opened in the *salle Bréa* at Nice by M. Lucien Marsel, President of *L' Association française des radiotelluristes, sourciers et puisatiers*. He defined "Radiotellurie" as the study of terrestrial radiation by physical apparatus and by means of "the reactions of men called dowzers." He mentioned Madame Curie, M. Henri Mager, Dr. Jules Regnault, Dr. Albert Leprince, M. Armand Viré, D.Sc., M. Henry de France, the Engineers Gorceix, Brard and Voillaume, M. Bovis, Professor Larvaron, Cav. Alberto de Vita and the engineer Jemma of Rome, Professor Darder Pericas of the National Institute of Tarragona, Dr. Raoul Braun-Fernwald of Vienna, as pioneers in the study of radioactivity.

M. Portepan defined the object of the Association, of which he is Vice-President. M. Henri Mager discoursed on radio-physics, and expressed a hope that a diploma would be issued by geophysicists and radiophysicists to all qualified dowzers.

A letter was read from Dr. Regnault who, unfortunately, was unable to attend the Congress.

Other members gave addresses on various subjects.

On May 9th an excursion was made and experiments were carried out and filmed at Sospel.

On May 10th the Congress again met in the *salle Bréa*. Amongst resolutions passed were: Recognition of the word "radiotelluriste"; use of the terms "penduliste" and "baguestiste" for experts, the terms "pendulisant" and "baguestisant" being reserved for amateurs; issue of a diploma for qualified dowzers.

Dr. Regnault's thesis "La question de l'eau au point de vue géologique," is reproduced in this number. It was originally published in *Le Mouvement sanitaire* in September, 1935, and has been reprinted in other French and several foreign journals.

LA CHRONIQUE DES SOURCIERS.

May.—This number contains articles on the experiments and notes of the late Louis Probst, one of the pioneers of radiesthésie.

At the Congress in 1913 MM. Probst and Falcoz carried out experiments before Dr. Gustave Le Bon which, owing to his eminence as a scientist, have acquired a classical importance. The article published by him in *La Nature* of March 30th, 1913, is given in full. This is a translation :—

“ These gentlemen carried rods of different metals, each rod, apparently, being able to reveal one particular metal. I gave them ten numbered envelopes ; the contents, which I did not know, were entered on a list, which I had not intentionally looked at.

Unfortunately, the operators said that, being very tired from the meetings of the Congress, they could determine only five metals, the names of which I was to tell them beforehand, so that they might select the appropriate rods. To comply with this demand, I had to find the names of the metals enclosed in the envelopes by means of the numbers, so as to be sure of giving the operators only those envelopes the contents of which they said they were able to detect. It turned out that I knew, in spite of myself, the names of the metals corresponding to the numbers written on the envelopes.

The choice of the five envelopes having been made, I presented each in succession to the two operators, simply placing them on the ground. After several minutes the names of the five metals (aluminium, copper, silver, lead, zinc) were given correctly.”

July.—M. Henry de France, fils, describes water divining by a native in Morocco which he witnessed. A celebrated dowser, Sidi Tayeb Ben Abdallah, a man much respected as are all Moroccan dowsers, claims to see a kind of vapour above places where subterranean water exists. The depth is equal to four times the height of the column of vapour. To render the eyes more sensitive he recommends a specially prepared mixture of kola. The method appears to give good results, as M. de France got indications in the same places.

LA PROSPECTION À DISTANCE.

June.—There is a letter from Abbé Mermet pointing out that before the French started boring for oil at Chilly (Haute Savoie) he had stated, as a result of prospection on a map, that no oil would be found there.

A cutting enclosed in his letter describes how the bore had been abandoned at a depth of about 300 metres and states that

the prediction of Abbé Mermet appears to have been justified.

M. Paul Croiset gives a remarkable case of the cure of a canary by means of a Lakhovsky spiral.

July.—An extract from the *Marseille Matin* of May 28th states that a Nieuport aeroplane piloted by M. Decaux fell into the sea near St. Raphael whilst practising bombing attacks. A salvage vessel was despatched, but was unable to locate the wreck. The officers of the aviation centre, remembering that Lieut. Dieudonné had the reputation of being a reliable dowser, asked him to try to locate the aeroplane. Working on an Admiralty chart, Dieudonné located the aeroplane with a pendulum. He then proceeded to the spot in a steamer and sent down divers, who found the wreck at a depth of 47 metres.

LES NOUVELLES PERSPECTIVES.

March.—An International Committee for the study of injurious rays has been formed at Paris. The President is M. Le Vicomte de France, and the Secretary Dr. Andrée Besson.

The objects in view are :—

- (1) To collate all information on the subject.
- (2) By means of lectures and articles in the press to inform scientific circles and all intelligent people of the manifold dangers caused by certain radiations.
- (3) To create national committees for the study of these radiations.
- (4) To ask all the chief societies dealing with radiesthésie—
 - (a) to arrange at one of their meetings for a discussion of the radiations and of measures to combat their effect ;
 - (b) to detail one or more of their members to carry out the duties of regional delegates or local correspondents by keeping in touch with the International Committee (C.I.E.R.N.) and, if possible, attend its meetings.
- (5) To publish proceedings periodically.

The Committee will meet every two months, the next meeting being in May.

Several local centres have already been established, in particular at Bordeaux (M. Henry Béatrix), at Vichy (Dr. Fruitier) and in Somme (M. de France). Dr. Delchaux has for several months been studying the question in Lot.

A.H.B.