

Fraud File No. 2893-

OFFICE
OF THE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT: B. A. Mann,
Professor B. A. Mann,
Institute of Radiopathy,
and Central School of
Psychology, and their
Officers and Agents
as such,
at
Rochester,
N. Y.

Order No. 1326

Post Office Department,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

APR 29 1908

It having been made to appear to the Postmaster General, upon evidence satisfactory to him, that G. A. MANN, PROFESSOR G. A. MANN, INSTITUTE OF RADIOPATHY and CENTRAL SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY, and their Officers and Agents as Such,

at Rochester, New York, -----
engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises,

in violation of the act of Congress entitled "An act to amend certain sections of the Revised Statutes relating to lotteries, and for other purposes," approved September 19, 1890—

Now, therefore, by authority vested in him by said act, and by the act of Congress entitled "An act for the suppression of lottery traffic through international and interstate commerce and the postal service, subject to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States," approved March 2, 1895, the Postmaster General hereby **forbids you to pay any Postal Money Order** drawn to the order of said parties,

and you are hereby directed to inform the remitter of any such postal money order that payment thereof has been forbidden, and that the amount thereof will be returned upon the presentation of the original order or a duplicate thereof applied for and obtained under the regulations of the Department.

And you are hereby instructed to **return all letters**, whether registered or not, and **other mail matter** which shall arrive at your office directed to the said parties

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to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the word "**Fraudulent**" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Provided, however, that where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of letters not registered or other matter, you are directed in that case to send such letters and matter to the **Dead-Letter Office** with the word "**Fraudulent**" plainly written or stamped thereon, to be disposed of as other dead matter under the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

G. V. L. MEYER.

Postmaster General.

5-669-a

To the Postmaster,

Rochester, New York.

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Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
Washington

April 29, 1908.

MEMORANDUM for the POSTMASTER GENERAL

In re

G. A. MANN, PROFESSOR G. A. MANN, INSTITUTE OF RADIOPATHY
and CENTRAL SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY, Rochester, New York.

The above-named parties were on April 11, 1908, cited to show cause why a fraud order should not be issued against them; and on April 28, 1908, the date set for hearing, Clinton N. Quinby, Attorney, of Rochester, New York, appeared and made answer in their behalf and submitted a written reply to the charges.

This case has been under investigation for a long time. Mann was formerly connected with the ^{Inst of Phys & Surgery} ~~New York Institute of Science~~, conducted by Thomas F. Adkin, against whom a fraud order was issued on August 2, 1905. At that time Mann left the Institute of Science, and with a clerk of the Institute, whom he has since married, started a correspondence course of "psychology" under the name of Central School of Psychology. Later he had Adkins's booklet on the "secret Force of Nature" translated into foreign languages, inserted his own picture and the pictures of a few of his associates, changed the name "Vitaopathy" - the wonderful long-distance treatment advertised by Adkin - to

"Radiopathy", and commenced doing business in Toronto, Canada, at which place his offices were raided by the Crown police August 18, 1906, and he was denied the use of the Canadian mails. He then returned to Rochester and commenced the business now under consideration.

Under the names Professor G. A. Mann, G. A. Mann, and Institute of Radiopathy, Mann inserts advertisements in various foreign newspapers, some of which circulate in the United States and others of which are confined in circulation to foreign countries. In these advertisements he endeavors by the use of highly misleading and extravagant assertions to lead the reader to believe that he is a doctor of eminence in the United States, that he has discovered a wonderful force in nature possessing marvelous curative properties, that by means of this power he is able to and will cure diseases which are generally considered hopeless. Among the representations calculated to produce this belief are those to the effect that "with his phenomenal power this man works wonders; the blind see, the paralyzed walk x x x there is no illness which he cannot cure"; he gives back health in a most incomprehensible manner to sick people who have been declared by physicians to be incurable; that he can and will cure blindness, deafness, consumption, paralysis, cancer, etc.; that he has found the most marvelous power man has so far invented; that he has effected

many extraordinary cures and is known as a miracle-worker. As to the character of the institution and the manner in which its business is carried on, Mann represents that he has a regular staff of physicians and specialists and employs over two hundred persons; that the cases of patients are diagnosed by these doctors and specialists; that he has a splendid sanitarium and that his methods are indorsed by the medical profession. He also represents that the institute is incorporated and prints upon his letter-heads a picture of a building as the offices of the institute which has in fact no existence. It is useless to quote all the grossly exaggerated and false statements contained in the advertising matter. That Mann's object is imposition is clear from the above, which are typical of the statements contained throughout the literature. The reader is led to pay his money under a designedly created misconception of Mann's character, his methods, the standing of the institute and the kind of remedies which he uses.

Those answering the advertisements are sent a booklet in which the representations are, if possible, more misleading and deceptive than those contained in the advertisements. It is represented that "Radiopathy is a wonderful discovery; the discovery of Radiopathy marks a new era in the practice of medicine"; that "Radiopathy cures all habits"; that Professor Mann has a "Staff of Physicians and Surgeons"; that "incurables are cured"; that the institute is incorporated, etc.

The answer submitted is an admission of practically all the allegations of the citation. The representation that "Radiopathy" is a discovery is defended on the ground that Mann has adopted a system of sending a photograph of his eyes to his patients which he alleges has been treated by him in such a manner as to help the patient in his search for health. The absurdity of this claim needs no comment.

The inspector states that he interviewed Mann on April 2, 1908, at his place of business, when Mann admitted that his institute was not incorporated; that he was not a physician or professor; that the statements in his literature that he has a staff of officers, doctors, specialists and employees of over two hundred persons, ^{are false} that he has but nineteen employes, ten of whom are employed in the printing plant; and that his staff of doctors and specialists consists of but one doctor, Dr. J. S. Read, who is engaged in private practice in Rochester and who spends but a few hours each day at the institute. At this interview, Superintendent Vick of the Rochester post-office was present, and he submits an affidavit substantiating the inspector's statements.

The inspector also interviewed Dr. Read, who stated that he could not cure blindness, deafness, consumption or cancer and did not pretend to do so. He said that Mann had employed him to prescribe for his patients; that Mann submits to him the diagnosis blanks giving merely the name and degree of the disease;

for instance, "Consumption, bad case," "Cancer, no improvement," etc., without any details, and that he would judge these cases simply from the statements on these blanks without regard to former condition or treatment of the patient, prescribing what are known in the medical profession as the ordinary "buck-shot remedies". He further stated that he never saw any of Mann's patients; never made a diagnosis of their cases; never consulted with any other physician or specialist regarding the case, and that Mann employed no other physician or specialist. Mr. Vick was also present at this interview, and his affidavit also covers it.

The inspector also interviewed Dr. Curtis who is advertised by Mann as his "Chief Medical Attendant". Dr. Curtis stated that he was not employed by Mann. Mr. Vick's affidavit also covers this interview.

Mr. Gil, advertised as "Chief of Corresponding Bureau", stated that he was not now employed by Mann, having left his employ because Mann wanted him to send out stock medicines without consulting with a physician. Mr. Gil's letter is in evidence in the case.

The certificate of the Secretary of State of New York showing that the Institute of Radiopathy is not incorporated is also in evidence.

Complaints are in the case from the Italian Consular Agent at New York, from a member of the Berlin Press Association, from Mr. Louis Michel, a prominent American residing in Germany

and from several other persons to the effect that Mann is swindling thousands of poor persons in Italy, Germany, France, Spain, South America, Central America, Mexico and Cuba.

Under the name "Central School of Psychology" Mann is selling alleged courses in psychology. He represents that the Central School of Psychology has "come into existence for a great purpose; the founders had in view one great object, namely, to furnish a plan for spiritual unfoldment". It is stated that "those who follow" the course "have discovered the 'word'; that "it (the course) indicates to its pupils the path to follow, in order to unfold their inner selves quickly, in order to bring themselves into conscious relation with the spirit within."

The pamphlets state that "We thoroughly explain to you how to renew youth, and how to keep it; how to acquire force and how to use it to conquer environment; we teach you every phase of subjective attainment, the dream mystery, continued consciousness, etc.; the influence of temperament, its vitalizing principles, how it is lost and regained; we teach you communication with your soul and with your friends in and out of the body; also how to read communications in writing and symbols; x x x how to control the mystic forces; x x x give you the secret of success for business and all ; x x x we outline new standards of culture and give the mystery of resurrection and eternal life; x x x positive evidence of the dead restored to life and how it may be done."

It is further stated that "This course has the indorsement

of the leading adepts of the world, and it was compiled at a large cost under the direction of a committee of eminent thinkers"; that it "is the only course of instruction touching these subjects that learning can devise or money purchase"; that it "has been prepared by the ablest experts living"; that it is "taught by an institute which has a recognized standing before the scientific world".

What Mann actually gives to those who respond to his solicitation of \$10 is a number of pamphlets containing general information of no special value whatever, which pamphlets he well knows will not enable the pupil to accomplish the things pretended. He does not intend to teach those who subscribe to his courses what he promises to teach them; and his representations are therefore fraudulent.

The striking similarity between the schemes conducted by Mann and those conducted by Thomas F. Adkin under the name Institute of Physicians and Surgeons, et al., indicates whence he adopted his methods and their nature. Mr. Quinby at the hearing stated that the business was not conducted by those parties who conducted Adkins's schemes; but stated that he did not wish to be understood as denying that the methods pursued were practically the same.

It is significant that the answer to the citation is not signed by Mann, but by his wife, and that it contains the

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statement that Mann himself has left for Europe.

I find that this is a scheme devised for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent representations, pretenses and promises; and therefore recommend that a fraud order be issued against the parties named in the caption of this memorandum.

R. L. Goodwin
Assistant Attorney General.