Issue 82

Ability

(Reprint of an article in the May 30, 1958 edition of "DIE HUISGENOOT", by P. C. du Plessis, Transvaal Editor - South Africa.)

DOCTORS TOLD THIS BRIDE: "YOU HAVE TEN MONTHS TO LIVE".

The Charles Dick-Joan Frowen we ding, that took place in Pretoria was an extraordinary occurrence. Not only is the bride small and crippled, but six years ago she was given ten months to live.

Today she is bright and cheerful, has fully recovered her health, and has no more pain; and is making a living by helping others who are in need of help.

Joan has been a cripple since birth ("Fragilitis Osseum"). Usually, people who suffer from "brittle bones" do not live longer than about thirteen years. Since babyhood, Joan has seldom been out of a hospital -- she has been known to do up fractures by the mere act of sneezing.

When in standard four she fell out of bed one night and could not return to school again.

In 1946 she went to the hospital, for the umteenth time and was completely covered in plaster of paris: only her head was not covered. Not before 1948, after numerous operations did she again leave.

In 1950 her right leg was amputated.

Joan was a very ill person, fainting up to eight times on certain days. She fell often, fracturing more bones. On a certain day she threw a match box at a friend and fractured a rib. She set it herself with adhesive tape!

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Left to right: Jan Halpern, Richard Halpern, L. Ron Hubbard, Jr. (Nibs), L. Ron Hubbard.

She cannot remember a single day without pain -- til six years ago.

Before I tell you of the great change in her life, you must be introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Aspeling (nom de plume). Mr. Aspeling, an Afrikaans civil servant told me the story a few weeks ago. Mrs. Aspeling confirmed it.

In 1941 Mrs. Aspeling was a healthy woman, a teacher of gymnastics. Soon after she became an invalid. There were times when she could not walk for twenty yards without fainting.

All diseases struck at once: Teeth extracted; tonsilectomy; gall bladder malfunction; numerous operations; more than eighty anti-anaemia injections. The birth of two daughters weakened her a lot more.

When the doctors could no longer help, she was referred to psychiatrists and their verdict was that something was wrong with her marital relationship. This she could not accept.

She was ill for 12 years. In 1953 she made a singular recovery. Throughout the years all and sundry gave freely of advice. Mr. and Mrs. Aspeling read book after book on psychology, psychiatry, psychosis, psychosomatic medicine -- but without any result.

Then in 1953 Mrs. Aspeling's brother brought along another booklet! "This one I refuse to read!", said Mr. Aspeling, "I know all there is to know about Psychology, by now".

But he read it -- a treatise on Dianetics. As he read, his interest grew. In the book exercises to increase the ability of a person were given -- he made his wife do them. Soon after this he saw in an advert, that the author of the book, Doctor Hubbard, was going to England for a period of 3 months to give a course in Dianetics which would enable people to practice the Science.

The Aspeling's next action appeared a little "silly" to their neighbours. Mr. Aspeling intended going to England for the ad-

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vertised course; he believed he would thereby gain the required knowledge and skill to cure his wife.

Mr. Aspeling was granted leave for exactly 3 months, he therefore had to fly, but as Doctors bills had taken all of their savings, it was decided to sell the family's car. Mr. Aspeling's brother came to the rescue by advancing him the money and the car was saved.

Leaving much debt behind him, Mr. Aspeling boarded the plane for London in June 1953. In September he returned, a professional Auditor in Dianetics.

Six months later, Mrs. Aspeling started her career as teacher once more -- she has never been ill again.

When I visited her, I found her to be a healthy person, who played tennis regularly. I could not imagine her as ever having been ill.

Mr. Aspeling and Mr. Ken Gunn were the first South African Dianeticists.

Mr. Aspeling remained a civil servant. When people came to him for help he helped them, never charging for his services. Many people came to him to be healed, and were healed. Amongst others there was a woman with some thyroid malfunction, who was relieved after only 8 1/2 hours. Eventually she was completely healed. Mr. Aspeling explained that mental states influenced glandular secretions, it was therefore not at all strange that this woman found relief by mental treatment.

Another person with blinding headaches also found relief, and these are Mr. Aspeling's words, "When I speak about blinding headaches, I mean that she really went blind."

After Mr. Aspeling's return, different people became interested in Dianetics and Scientology (a subject that developed out of Dianetics). A branch of the International Society of Scientologists has been established in Johannesburg and here people who are interested can take courses in Scientology.

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Among the people who attended one of these courses was Mr. Hertzog Rheeder, a Welfare Officer of the Pretoria City Council. Shortly after he completed the course he met Miss Joan Frowen at a lecture which was given on Joga by Sir Paul Dukes.

Mr. Rheeder invited Miss Frowen to be his first patient. Miss Frowen although spectical, agreed. Daily Mr. Rheeder helped her to "create a new body" with no pain. Three months later, Joan experienced her first day without pain.

There were other improvements as well. Joan's shoulders, which previously were pressed against her ears, began to lower. For the first time she could now move her chin. "Previously when I turned my head just a little bit, I fainte", she told me a few days before her marriage, "The spells of dizziness have disappeared completely and I have even started growing again".

Joan, after her treatment took a professional course in Scientology and started a practice in Pretoria. People from all walks of life consult her daily, sometimes up to 8 per day, receiving an hour's treatment each. Although Joan found a livelihood in this way, she never accepted fees if she felt that she could not help a patient.

Her most interesting case, she says, was a man in his middle years who for five years had been crippled to such an extent that he could only move his left hand slightly. She began treating him by request of his relatives, and did not expect much success. The first interviews were difficult, he could only answer her questions by slowly writing with his semi-crippled left hand. This brave little person, using a wheel chair to move about, went to visit him once every week. One morning, three months later she arrived at his house and saw her patient walking towards her, aided by his native servant. He was still very unsteady, but it was a remarkable improvement for a man who had been given up by Doctors as a hopeless case. (Before Joan accepts such cases for treatment she always consults the patient's Doctor.) At this stage Joan unfortunately developed pneumonia, and lay in the hospital for two months, with the result that she did not treat this man again. He died before she could start treatment once more.

And now, on May 17th, a day after her 34th birthday, Joan is married. People will continue to go to her flat for help, for Joan is still going to practice along with her other responsibility -- that of housewife.

What is Dianetics? At this stage I don't quite know. From what Mr. Aspeling told me and from the books he gave me to read I can explain certain aspects of it only.

(cont'd. next page)

I immediately want to give warning that this article may create a wrong impression, because of the fact that I have put the accent on healing. True enough, Dianetics and Scientology are two of the youngest off-shoots of Psychology, but at the same time they are quite different from Psychology. Healing is incidental.

The founder of Dianetics is L. Ron Hubbard, who is a Doctor in Civil Engineering and one of America's first Nuclear Psysicists. Over a period of 25 years he travelled a lot. In the East he studied the Eastern Philosophies, he read avidly, he also made experiments which brought about these new methods of solving mental diseases and of heightening Man's ability. All these activities led to what he called Dianetics.

He stresses the point that Dianetics is not a treatment for neurosis or psychosis, but is an education intended to free the mind and in that way heighten people's abilities in different spheres. The fact that people are curred of diseases is incidental.

In 1950 a book by Dr. Hubbard appeared with the title "Dianetics, The Modern Science of Mental Health". Thousands of copies were sold within a few weeks. During the next eight years Dianetics spread across the whole of the Western World.

After publication of this book a considerable amount of research was done along the lines indicated by Dr. Hubbard and it again led to a new and broader science which is known as Scientology (Scio means Know; Logos means Study). Not all Dianeticists accepted the new Science, because it is based upon premises which to the practical Western mind is less acceptable than that on which Dianetics was based. Scientologists, however, say that if one has done a course in Scientology these premises are not quite as fantastic as they may sound.

When Mr. Aspeling went to England, Dianetics was already at the stage where it started to pass over into Scientology. But for the purpose of this article it is unnecessary to differentiate between the two sciences. In America both sciences are today recognized and legally protected. Furthermore, may we refer those of you who are interested in the philosophy and techniques of Dianetics to the many books which have been written on this subject. Here we wish to confine ourselves to one or two aspects of the theory which deal with the healing aspect of Dianetics and Scientology.

Like the general Psychologist, the Dianeticist believes that certain memories can have important influences on a person's behaviour. But the Dianeticist explains the process in a differ-

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ent way to the Psychologist. According to the Dianeticist, man sees in pictures. As a matter of fact, no thought is possible without pictures.

What prevents a man from seeing a picture of himself as healthy? The Dianeticist explains it by the term "Engrams". An Engram is a mental picture which is taken at a moment of tension, grief, or unconsciousness. Some time or other a man sees himself as a sick man, perhaps because he is really ill. An Engram is formed which is later recalled by certain stimuli. This Engram has a command value over a person. He once more lives in the past and therefore once again becomes ill. The Psychologist will probably not disagree with these theories; he may, however, less easily accept the Dianeticist's claim that by means of certain mental exercises a person could be made to recall all memories at will, not only from his birth onwards but even from before birth (however, Psychologists are these days accepting pre-natal influences more and more).

The Dianeticist, furthermore, does not believe that a person has to be conscious when mental pictures are taken. According to them a great number of Engrams come about when a person is unconscious. People under anaesthesia could, for instance, hear the Doctor say, "Heavens, but this man is a nervous wreck", in the mind of the patient an Engram is formed in which he sees himself as a nervous wreck. Later when the Engram is re-stimulated, the patient is compelled to see himself as a nervous wreck. Or the Doctor may say, while the patient is under anaesthesia, "It is so dark I can hardly see anything". Once more the Engram would originate in which the patient cannot see. From this a condition of functional blindness may develop. Mr. Aspeling once made his wife recall her experience at the Dentist where she had received an anaesthetic. The experiences that she related were confirmed by the dentist as a correct account of what had taken place while Mrs. Aspeling was in fact unconscious. Because an Engram can originate so easily, Dianeticists never make use of suggestions, they stress that they do not indoctrinate their patients in the usual sense of the word. The patient does have a new understanding of himself, but this he gets during treatment. The Dianeticist claims that without having to make use of anaesthesia, hypnotism, suggestion or shock treatment, they have a greater percentage of success than Psychologists or Psychiatrists.

Whether or not these claims are true I cannot say, I can only relate that which was told to me.

(Reprint permission granted 12 August 1958 by "DIE HUIS-GENOOT".)

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Standing, l to r: Miriam St. Georges, Tony Dunleavy, Mark Roberts, Ted Dunn, Andy Parlogean, Jack Horner, Oswald Swallow, Margaret Watson, Phyllis Fletcher. Seated, l to r: Elda Ilger, Connie Godfrey, Elanore Eddy, John Roberts, Helen Sandfuchs, Melody Horner, Kay Miner, Max Clay.



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(Not pictured: Esta Gluck, Len Hamilton, Jae Hawks, Mary Gray.)



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