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TRUE STORIES OF THE STRANGE AND THE UNKNOWN

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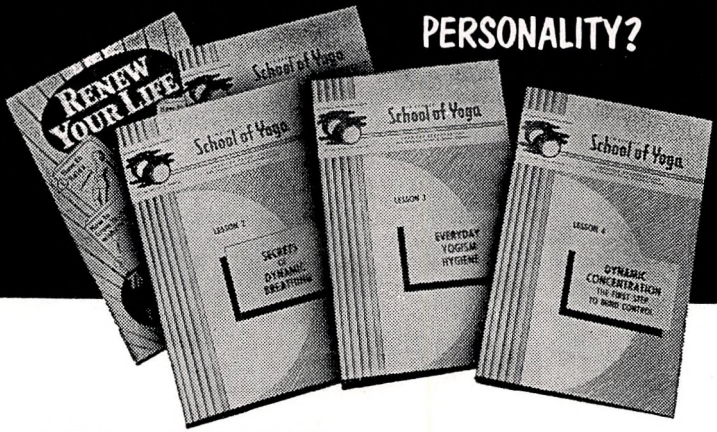
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FATE TRUE STORIES OF THE STRANGE AND THE UNKNOWN Vol. 17—No. 7 Issue 172

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1964

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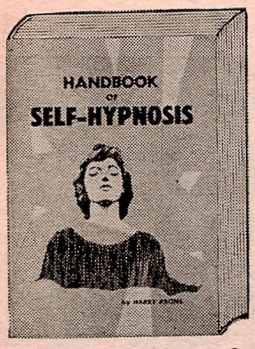
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By HARRY ARONS

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REVISED, ENLARGED EDITION contains a step-by-step series of experiments through which the author developed a method for teaching self-hypnosis via tape recordings in student's own home.

The author, who has been teaching hypnosis to doctors and law officers for many years, lays bare the full scope and potentialities - as well as the limitations - of self-hypnosis. "I can testify . . . to the great practical value of the methods of autohypnosis that Mr. Arons has developed," says Dr. Hornell Hart, Professor Emeritus of Duke University.

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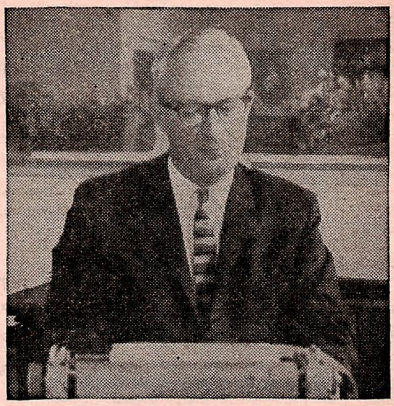
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I See by the Papers...

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Look at this day for it is life, the very life of life. In this day's brief pause lies all the verities and realities of your existence. The bliss of growth. The glory of action. The splendor of beauty. For yesterday is gone and tomorrow is only a vision. But today well lived makes of every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

— Ancient Moslem Prayer



By Curtis Fuller

CONTRADICTION

THE SOPHISTICATION of techniques for identifying the minutest traces of foreign materials in any substance has reached an amazing refinement.

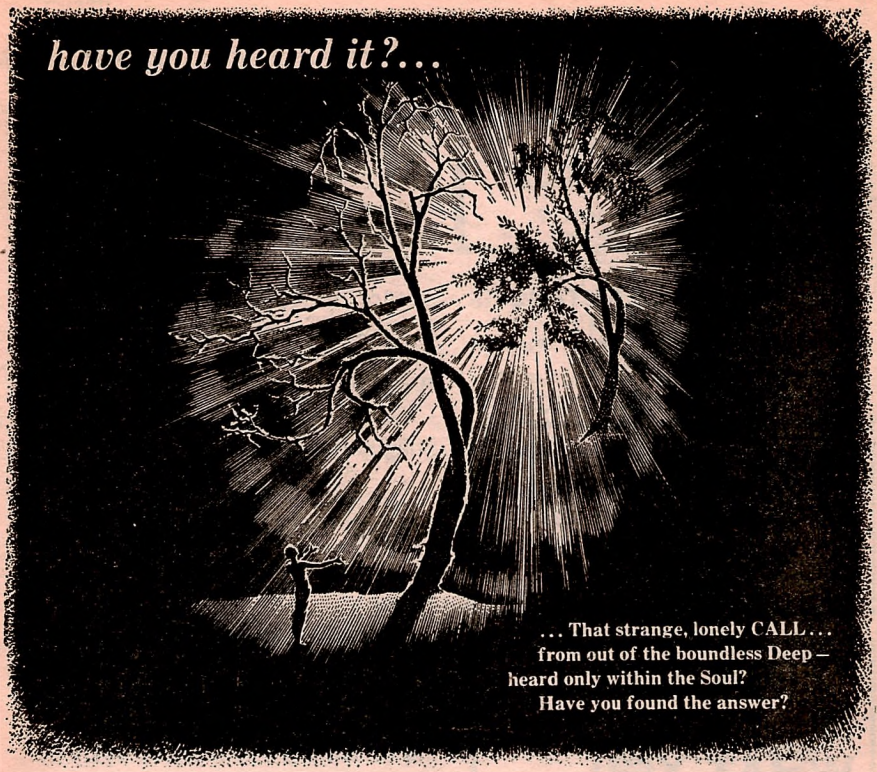
It is such a technique that led the Food and Drug Administration to prosecute the developers of Krebiozen on grounds that their delicate methods could not find Krebiozen in the alleged test substance given them.

But can tests be that delicate? And do we *know* that minute traces (such as the chemicals found in sea salt) are not indeed beneficial to human health?

Here's an example of what we mean. There's a small area in Yellowstone National Park where the buffalo bulls return each year to graze. It's adjacent to the mud volcano known as the Dragon's Mouth. Biochemists and agronomists have analyzed the plants there and find they contain from two to three times the manganese and only a third to half the molybdenum of otherwise similar forage plants elsewhere in the park. Question: do the buffalo prefer the plants there because they taste better or because they're good for them? If the latter, how do they know?

Well then, let's get to an analysis that has left the smartest chemists undone. What makes Scotch Whisky taste like Scotch Whisky? Apparently the flavor is

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a complete mystery and no attempts to analyze it have been successful. Secrets for the production of Scotch whisky presumably are known but attempts to manufacture it successfully elsewhere and duplicate its flavor have failed.

How does it happen that if our science is good enough to prove that Krebiozen doesn't exist, it can't find what flavors Scotch Whisky?

Or is this flavor purely in our imagination too?

∞

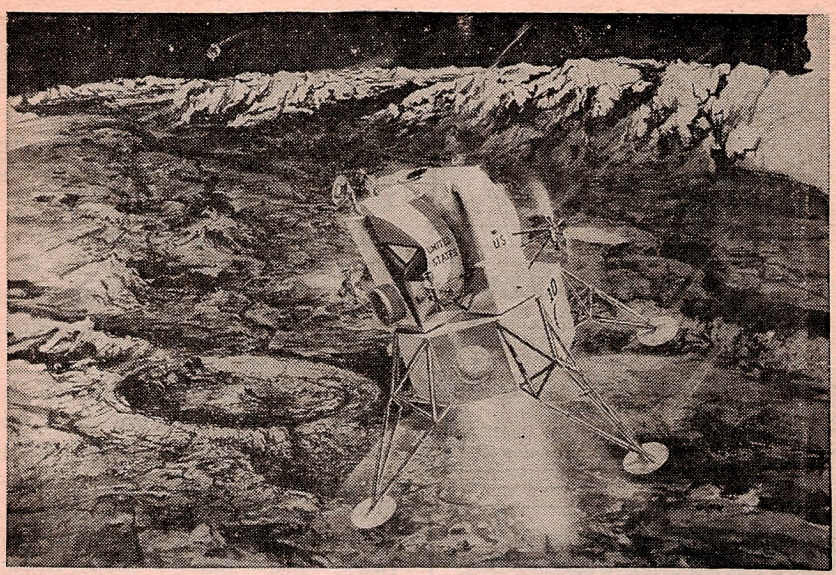
KING TUT — WHAT, AGAIN?

THESE STORIES roll on and on.

Recently the Earl of Carnarvon told members of the West Palm Beach Rotarians about two strange incidents connected with the opening of King Tut's tomb in 1923 by his father, the Fifth Earl of Carnarvon.

The present earl, a member of the British House of Lords, described two outstanding incidents that lend credence to the famous "Pharaoh's Curse."

At the exact moment that his father died in Cairo from blood poisoning after having been bitten by an insect, all the power in the city went off, Earl Carnarvon declared. Officials of the electric company said they could not understand the cause, since the cur-



Drawing Courtesy Grumman Aircraft Corp.

A new chapter in the conquest of space is expected to be opened by the NASA Lunar Excursion Module, shown landing astronauts on the moon. Currently under development by the Grumman Aircraft Corp., the LEM will be carried by an Apollo spacecraft, which will be boosted into space by a Saturn C-5 vehicle. Once the spacecraft enters lunar orbit, the LEM will separate from it and descend to the surface.

rent came back on again in a short time.

At the same time, in Highclere Castle, England, the Earl's pet dog and close companion of several years wailed loudly, then died. This also occurred at the identical time, within the minute, that the famed Egyptologist died in Cairo, his son stated.

∞

CAUSE AND EFFECTS

SOME PEOPLE get jittery for no apparent reason. Before a thunderstorm some children are strangely restless. Why?

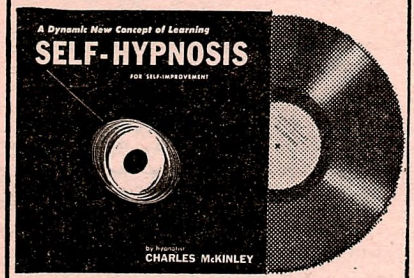
May not various energies be affecting our behavior without our being consciously aware of the source?

The answer is yes, even though our knowledge of this mysterious area is rudimentary. Still, we are getting inklings of all manner of waves and energies, some of them cyclical, that affect human behavior.

A study recently was made of the

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admission periods of 28, 624 mental patients over a four-year span to eight Syracuse, N.Y., hospitals.

The frequency of admissions was found to correlate with magnetic measurements obtained from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

During times of intense fluctuation of the earth's magnetic field "significantly more" mental patients entered the hospitals than in periods of relative calm.

The researchers concluded in the British Journal *Nature* that "at least some relationship exists between the incidence of psychiatric disturbance and magnetic fields."

Does this mean that magnetic fields cause mental disturbance? Not at all. For example, magnetic fields may be a secondary effect of some other force, such as cosmic rays — and the mental disturbances may merely be reflecting some other cause.

∞

UNLEARNING "KNOWLEDGE"

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE these days is being unlearned almost as fast as it is learned. For example, it has been almost axiomatic that cancer tends to run in families — that members of famillies where cancer exists are more likely to get it for hereditary reasons.

Apparently this is an old wive's tale.

The Journal of the American

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Medical Association has reported on a Danish study of 6,893 sets of twins born between 1870 and 1910. In the group scientists were able to compare 1,528 sets of identical twins with 2,609 fraternal twins.

Out of a total of 164 sets of identical twins where cancer was involved, in 143 of the sets only one twin had cancer. In the 21 remaining sets where both twins had cancer only eight had cancer at the same site. Thirteen had cancer at a different site.

Among 340 fraternal sets of twins of the same sex where cancer developed, in 292 sets only one of the twins had cancer. Only nine had partners with cancer at the same site, and 39 had partners with cancer at a different site.

* * *

WHILE WE'RE on the subject we ought to tell you that doctors are increasingly interested in spontaneous regressions of cancer.

Such cancer cures occur spontaneously for no reason that anyone yet understands. The University of Illinois College of Medicine is one place where such studies are being done and out of 1,000 reports of spontaneous regression they have selected 130 carefully documented cases for further study.

In some of the "cases" it appears that something dramatic happened within the patient's body. Sometimes it happened within weeks; sometimes it seemed to take place almost overnight. If doctors could find out what it was they might be able to cure other cancer patients.

∞

MEDICAL ODDITIES

WHILE WE'RE on a medical kick we think you'd like to know a few of the recent medical "facts of life", remembering always that they're likely to be replaced by diametrically different "facts of life" a few years hence.

● DDT, the insect killer, has invaded the water environment of the world and has spread over the planet, Dr. Luther L. Terry, U.S. Surgeon General, has warned. DDT has done much good, yet at the same time it may become dangerous to man since it tends to accumulate in fatty tissue. It is even found in "surprising amounts" in the fats and oils of such ocean fish as tuna.

● The *Journal* of the AMA reports that a 26-year-old woman from Hialeah, Fla., was admitted to Hialeah Hospital complaining of severe cramps and pain in the lower abdomen. She had live termites, which eventually passed from her body. Her recovery was uneventful.

● LSD has aided children with acute mental illnesses.

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● Physicians have recently reported to the New York Academy of Sciences that there appears to be a good possibility that in the near future it will be possible to diagnose such different diseases as heart disease, schizophrenia and cancer by studying a few drops of blood from a patient.

Sounds like they're getting mighty close to radiesthesia.

● There's an ancient Kikuyu remedy for the back ache: if you will sit on a tortoise you will be cured. There's a tortoise named "Doctor" tethered in the grounds of the Nakuru European Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. Patients come from miles around to squat on its back. The tortoise is owned by Austin Riley, chief laboratory technologist at the hospital, who claims it cured his back ache so that now he can play golf again. Physicians who more than half believe all this suggest that maybe the angle of squatting on the two-foot back of "Doctor" is responsible for the cure.

∞

PERENNIAL APE MAN

THAT 10-FOOT man with an apelike face reported recently from California (see May, *I see By The Papers*) possibly has been explained. Late in the winter George Warren, 40, a prospector, came into Sonora and went to see Sheriff Miller D. Sardella. Warren was

alarmed for fear he might be mistaken for the "monster" and shot.

"I could see why he thought people might make a mistake," Sardella said. Warren is more than six feet tall, weighs over 200 pounds, has a five-inch coal black beard, and wears an ankle-length bearskin coat.

"I told him he'd better take off that coat," Sardella said. "But he said he couldn't because his dog wouldn't recognize him an might bite him."

* * *

Meanwhile we wish to advise you of the latest hot information on the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas, straight from New Delhi. The ABSM, or Yeti, seems to have a wife.

She is called a Lidini. She is heavy-breasted, long-haired, and will attack on sight.

At least that's what they're whispering in Nepal.

∞

THE SCOURGE OF TERRE HAUTE

WE HAVE BEEN in communication with Mr. S. J. Malooley of Terre Haute, Ind., whose newly painted home, along with some of his neighbors, homes, has been blackened three times between last July 4 and mid-November.

Mr. Malooley says that chemical analyses indicate the blackening has been caused by the incomplete

Why Can't You Remember?

A noted publisher in Chicago reports there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends in both business and social advancement and works like magic to give you added poise, necessary self-confidence and greater popularity.

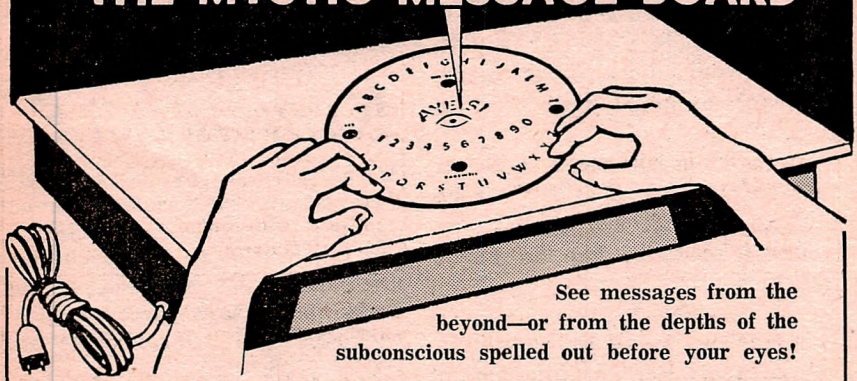
According to this publisher, many people do not realize how much they could influence others simply by remembering accurately everything they see, hear, or read. Whether in business, at social functions or even in casual conversations with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can dominate each situation by your ability to remember.

To acquaint the readers of this book with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering names, places, figures, dates, business transactions, or even passages of literary content, the publishers have printed full details of their interesting self-training method in a new book, "Adventures in Memory," which will be mailed free to anyone who requests it. No obligation. Simply send your request to: Memory Studies, 835 Diversey Parkway, Dept. 318B, Chicago 14, Ill. A postcard will do.

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AYE-SEE works on a newly discovered principle that appears to improve accuracy and bring messages through with greater speed.

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As you touch your fingertips to the Planchette, mysterious forces may move it about over the Table. When it stops moving, the Light Beam will point to one letter or symbol to indicate that it belongs in the message. The indication is very positive —there is no question as to what *AYE-SEE* wants to tell you.

The entire Table is built of wood because psychics have advised that wood produces the strongest vibrations. Since the entire Planchette is in contact with the Table, it may be that most of the energy from these vibrations is absorbed by the Planchette and transformed into the movements that spell out your messages. This may account for the high-speed reception *AYE-SEE* gives some experimenters.

DEVELOPED BY SENSITIVES The superior features of *AYE-SEE* are the

product of careful experimentation by sensitives adept in using message boards. From coast to coast, accomplished psychics have contributed suggestions which now emerge as *AYE-SEE*.

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OPERATES IN DIM LIGHT *AYE-SEE* provides its own light—room lights need not be turned on to read the messages—thus, *AYE-SEE* can be used in comforting, dim light or under the conditions of the seance-room. An *AYE-SEE* working under these conditions seems to pour out a fountain of light and presents a highly dramatic picture.

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burning of ordinary coal.

But even if that caused the blight it is still a great mystery where it comes from, Mr. Malooley points out.

There is a coke plant 12 blocks from the Malooley home but it has been there many years. If it is the culprit, why hasn't it destroyed paint before? Why are no intervening houses blackened? Why does it affect only lead base paints?

Good hunting, Mr. Malooley!

∞

MOON WATER

ALTHOUGH SOME astronomers can tell you with absolute certainty why there is no life on Mars, things are on again, off again for the Moon, which space-wise is within spitting distance of us.

The present problem concerns water for the coming moon probe. Weight is too much of a problem for much water to be taken on manned trips to the moon. It would be better if we could find water there.

Water on such an arid desert world?

Well, two new ideas recently have been proposed by officials concerned with lunary research. Dr. Charles R. Warren, a Government geologist, has developed a theory that the moon originally consisted of a mixture of dust and ice like the head of a giant comet. The "seas" of the moon, under this theory, at one time held water over which floated a pumice-like material.

Though the moon's gravity was too small to hold the water or its vapors, a thin water vapor might be obtained by drilling wells once the first lunar probe arrives.

The second idea to obtain water is to squeeze it, literally, from the solid rocks. Boeing engineers are working on this problem in Seattle. Water can be obtained from almost any rock, the Boeing researchers say.

∞

WALL ON THE MOON

BEFORE WE LEAVE this subject we'd like to tell you about a fascinating new phenomenon recently discovered on the moon.

U.S. space scientists have found a wall 800 feet high and 60 miles long—so straight it has been nicknamed "The Straight Wall."

Officials at the Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Md., don't think it's mysterious. They say it's a geological fault or linear fracture in the moon's surface.

Shadows indicate it is no longer vertical—if it ever was—and that rubble has formed a slope of not over 40 degrees in most places.

∞

LITTLE MYSTERIES

● LAST FEBRUARY 5 ten men and one woman were taken from



. . . At 20,000 feet above sea level

WHAT DOES THIS PHOTOGRAPH MEAN TO YOU?

The above photograph shows a remote peak of the Andean chain in Peru. It was taken by a member of our exploration team.

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the sinking 105-foot yacht *Hattie D* near Eureka, Calif., in a dramatic Coast Guard helicopter rescue. Survivors agree unanimously that the boat had been rammed by something big and made of steel. The boat sank in 7,500 feet of water. No submarines were reported missing. Crewman Carl Johnson said: "I don't care how deep it was there, what holed us was steel and a long piece. There was no give to it at all."

Side note: Since 1900 more than 1,200 ships of all sizes have been reported missing with all hands and without a trace.

● In dark caves where no sunlight reaches and blind white fish and eyeless pale beetles grope for food, the algae are green, red and blue-green and widely distributed. Their color comes from chlorophyll which is supposed to come from photo-synthesis — which obviously the algae aren't able to carry on without sunlight.

Where does this chlorophyll come from?

● There's a spring on the Leonard McGonigal property which lies between Karthaus and Potters Dale, Pa., that's different from any spring we ever heard of. It flows gasoline. The gasoline flows with the water and a trap has been constructed to separate the gasoline and periodically tap it and store it. The McGonigals have owned the land for 19 years and the supply of gasoline varies from year to year. One of the best years was 1957, when Mrs. McGonigal tapped off 250 gallons. There were only five gallons in 1962.

There are peculiarities about this gasoline. Oil experts say it contains elements found only in processed gasoline and never found naturally. Yet no oilman has been able to account for its presence. The McGonigal home is high in the mountains. There are no nearby towns and no refineries or pipelines within 60 miles. The gasoline is a bright orange in color and burns well but, alas, isn't good enough to power engines. Gums them up, apparently.

∞

HAIL, BROTHER!

SINCE THE FIRST skeleton of Neanderthal man was found in Germany 108 years ago the poor fellow has been in all kinds of trouble with the anthropologists trying to classify him.

In *Current Anthropology*, C. L. Brace, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of California (Santa Barbara), appears to have resolved a conflict in a direction that anthropology has been moving only in recent years.

When the first skeleton was found in 1856, points out Brace, Germany was emotionally unwill-

ing to accept the theory of evolution and Virchow and other leaders of the German scientific community looked for other reasons to categorize the Neanerthaler as anything but an ancestor of man.

The seal was put on this kind of thinking by the French paleontologist Marcelli Boule early in this century. Boule depicted the Neanderthals as a kind of apelike man, certainly no more than a human offshoot, who became extinct without issue.

Since the German discovery of 1856, the remains of more than 100 Neanderthals and Neanderthaloids have been discovered.

The evidence is now pretty clear as to what happened to Neanderthal man, Dr. Brace believes. As he grew to rely more and more upon tools for defense and hunting, his huge teeth became unnecessary to his growth and survival. Fire and increased eating of meat also reduce the Neanderthal need for huge teeth an he became adaptationally free to vary.

And what happened to him?

"As has frequently happened to members of the older generation in this changing world," proposes Dr. Brace, "Neanderthal man has been perceived in caricature, rejected, and disavowed by his own offspring, *Homo Sapiens*.

"It was the fate of the Neanderthal to give rise to Modern Man."

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EXPLAINING THE "SNOWMAN"

IF DR. BRACE'S theory is correct, then the proposal of a Soviet scientist that the "Abominable Snowman" represents a living descendant of Neanderthal man probably is wrong.

Dr. Boris F. Porshnev of the Historical Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, a winner in 1950 of the Stalin Prize, has proposed this theory, recently published by the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The Russians have been interested in this theory for some time and do not discount the existence of the "Snowman."

Porshnev's theories are not only based upon reports of encounters with the "Snowmen" but on footprints and on the mummified hand of the mystery creature.

"The Neanderthals have not yet become extinct," Porshnev's report stated. "Neanderthals existed side by side with the modern human beings right through the development of the latter."

Dr. Brace's theory, on the other hand, presumes that Neanderthals in the traditional sense probably could not exist today. If they were the ancestors of modern man they can not also be living wild men.

∞

INTO THE ULTRAVIOLET

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tain areas of the body may be unconscious receptors of vibrations and signals of which consciously we are unaware. How else explain telepathy, for example, unless the brain somehow is receving a signal by means unknown?

It is now realized that some animals, cats for example, are able to see into the infra-red areas of the light spectrum much farther than man can—and that they actually can see where man is blind.

Until recently, however, bees and certain other insects were the only animals known to be able to see at the opposite end of the light spectrum to infra-red—the ultraviolet.

Now it has been discovered by George Wald and James M. Krainin of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., that the common horseshoe crab, *Limulus,* has a light receptor extremely sensitive to ultraviolet wavelengths.

To see into the ultraviolet, *Limulus* has a pair of simple eyes quite separate from its primary image-forming eyes. These ultraviolet-sensitive eyes are no larger than a pinhead and are located at the base of the median frontal spine. These eyes can barely see in the regular visible spectrum.

∞

THE FATE OF NICHOLAS BANNON

IN 1959, NICHOLAS BANNON, a 10-year-old Australian lad, vanished while sightseeing in South Australia's Wilpena Pound. Wilpena Pound is a very wild area, in the Flinders Ranges—a great natural basin encircled by a massive mountain wall. At the same time it is not too large, covering only about 40 square miles.

FATE has done a great deal of work investigating this disappearance because two Australian native trackers followed the boy's trail, which ceased abruptly in open country. The trackers assented that the boy's foot, lifted for the next step, never had touched the ground again.

Two theories were offered: One that the boy had been carried away by an eagle; the other, that he had been carried away by something "unknown."

Studying the evidence at FATE's request, Ivan T. Sanderson, the famous naturalist, said it would have been impossible for an eagle to fly away with the boy. The lifting power of the largest eagle known is only about 10 pounds, Sanderson said.

This left the other possibility for investigation, that Nicholas had been carried off my something "unknown."

On September 7, 1961, a party of three men in Wilpena Pound came upon the skeleton of a small boy about two-thirds of the way up St. Mary's Peak in the Pound.

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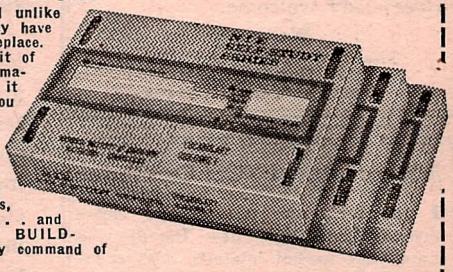
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It was positively identified as that of Nicholas.

Since then FATE has been in continual correspondence with Australian authorities about this mystery. Theoretically the Pound had been covered from end to end by the searchers. Why then was this boy never found? Though he was young, he was known to be strong active and intelligent. He ought to have been able to find a trail that would take him to safety, or his calls should have been heard, since this is an oft-traveled recreational area.

After studying all the evidence, FATE must agree with Australian authorities—that there is no mystery. In all probability Nicholas got lost, panicked, then kept walking until he was exhausted. He climbed to a height to get a bearing and either found himself unable to get down, succumbed to extreme fatigue, or perished for want of water in the 100° to 110° temperatures.

∞

IN CASE OF SNORES

CREDIT THE AP with this. Two fellows named Sam entered complaints against each other in a Brooklyn court last January.

Sam Scheir, a waiter, complained that he couldn't sleep after getting home at 2 A.M. because the man in the adjoining apartment kept

pounding on the wall.

The pounder was Sam Gutwirth, a publicity man, who complained that he pounded because Scheir's snores kept him awake.

The judge postponed proceedings to see if the two Sams couldn't let things calm down a bit.

Things did. There mysteriously appeared on the wall of Scheir's side an extra four inches of plaster board.

Scheir said he didn't do it. Gurtwirth said he didn't do it. The apartment building manager said he didn't do it.

Who did it?

∞

POSTSCRIPT

A YEAR AGO we ran a story on the strange death of Thomas P. Meehan, an attorney for the California State Department of Employment, who apparently drowned in the Eel River.

Just before Meehan disappeared he came to the Garber Medical Center, apparently soaked to the skin, and said: "I have the funniest feeling I am dead." Then he vanished before he could be given treatment. His body was found 20 days later, after his damaged car was pulled out of the water. All evidence suggested that he had appeared at both Medical Center and his motel *after* his car went into the river.

Did he then return to drown?

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This mystery may have been explained by an action begun in San Francisco late in December. A suit was filed in Superior Court seeking damages and blaming Meehan's death on hallucinations caused by the drug LSD.

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ANIMAL NOTE BOOK

THERE'S BEEN another of those panther hunts in California . . . this time the search is on for two full-grown black panthers . . .why are there so many reports of big cats?

A two-headed king snake has been donated to the San Diego zoo. Name is Dudley Duplex II.

Have you seen Michel, the talking poodle, who has appeared on the Johnny Carson *Tonight* show?

Shep is a collie about nine years old who disappeared from his Denver home about four years ago. Recently he showed up and resumed living there just as if nothing had happened.

One more dog story: Mrs. Tommy Coe of Miami, Fla., was in labor. She scribbled a note on a piece of paper, attached it to her dog Toby's collar, and sent him after her hubsand, a night watchman for a tugboat towing firm. Toby carried the message through. Coe raced home. The fifth child, a girl, was born a few hours later. They named her Toby.

MAN

THE BIO-MAGNETIC ANIMAL

New discoveries reveal magnetic fields benefit cancer and arthritis cases, turn white hair dark—and restore youth.

By Joseph F. Goodavage

FOUR-HUNDRED-Million degrees Centigrade is the absolute hottest known in the universe. The surface of the Sun, actually a colossal ball of eternally roaring ionized gases, is only about 5000 degrees Centigrade, but even at this temperature nothing we can see or know is able to exist on it.

Scientists now are generating ionized hydrogen gas so incredibly hot it instantly vaporizes anything it touches. It is kept in laboratories inside "invisible, inside-out bottles."

This is possible because the superhot ionized plasma itself generates a tremendous magnetic charge. The only thing able to hold it in place and contain the reaction is a wall of negative magnetic force.

In the laboratories of space age physicists, therefore, temperatures in excess of 800,000 times that of the Sun's surface are being kept in magnetic "bottles."

In recent months the effects of magnetism have been discovered in so many areas of human existence that it amounts almost to a new science.

Louis Pasteur can be said to have pioneered the field with his fermen-

tation experiments in 1862. He learned that the Earth's own magnetic field plays a key role in a natural ripening process. Pasteur proved the theory beyond doubt by showing that the magnetic field of the Earth caused all the atoms inside the molecules of tartaric acid (from wine casks) to line up in the same direction. This caused sunlight to be deflected at different angles from different levels in a vial of the acid.

It has been learned since Pasteur that this occurs in all of nature—in all organic compounds. Scientists now are begining to suspect that the Earth's magnetic field activates an enzyme system in fruits and vegetables to cause normal ripening.

Drs. A. A. Boe and D. K. Salunkhe, two horticulturists from Utah State University, placed green tomatoes inside a magnetic field and discovered that they ripened four to six times as fast when exposed to the south pole of a bar magnet or the open end of a horseshoe magnet.

Magnetism also causes seeds to germinate at many times their normal speed. Seeds and tomatoes are organic compounds with enzyme systems.

So are human beings.

The Sun is a colossal electromagnet and so are all the stars.

Planets too are known to generate magnetic fields much like that of the Earth.

Doctors and technicians at several hospitals and universities are learning that the human brain has a positive and negative magnetic polarization. The center of the forehead is negative and the base of the brain at the back of the head is positive. By suddenly reversing the polarity of the brains of test animals, they have succeeded in rendering the animals unconscious.

There is a great deal of speculation about the subtle differences between sexes and the magnetic orientation of the brain. It happens that the pineal and pituitary glands are located respectively in the center of the forehead and at the base of the brain in the back of the skull.

We could be totally unaware that our brains have the characteristics of radio receivers—that the magnetic fields we generate act as invisible response-receptors (antennae) which pick up signals from somewhere and translate them into emotional attitudes, moods, etc.

Fish, animals, insects and plants also generate magnetic charges and are subject to invisible biological influences from the surrounding universe. Oysters, for example, open and close their shells in perfect synchronization with the rise and fall of the tides.

Dr. Frank Brown, of North-

western University, experimented with some oysters taken from Long Island Sound. He transported them from New Haven, Conn., to Evanston, Ill., where he kept them alive and nourished in a tank of salt water at even temperature and even level under a dim, steady light.

The oysters, now divorced from fluctuations of temperature, from night and day, and from tidal changes, still continued to open and close their shells in phase with the tides at New Haven.

It seemed to Dr. Brown that the rhythmic opening and closing of the oysters' shells was merely an inherited characteristic—until something totally unforeseen and unexpected happened: after two weeks the oysters clammed up and remained tightly closed during a period when they should have been open. At the end of this time the cycle resumed but with a profound difference; they opened their shells widest at a moment when the full Moon was directly overhead at Evanston, Ill.—some time *after* high tide in New Haven, Conn.

Dr. Brown's oysters obviously were reacting to the Moon's specific location which triggered some mysterious reaction in their "biological clocks." Here was an entirely new mystery for scientists. No one knows of any connecting link between celestial bodies and the terrestrial phenomena with which they so often correlate. Not even a theory has been postulated on the intermediary force.

Every plant, animal, insect and fish responds to exogenous forces. Man, too, is influenced by many biological cycles. Mood, temperature, blood pressure, all rise and fall at regular intervals, so do accidents, intellectual forces, emotional attitudes and physical energies. These cycles are variable and seem to begin at the moment of birth when the human entity starts to function independently of its parent.

A remarkable correlation was found by a two-year atmospheric ionization study done by the American Institute of Medical Climatology, in Philadelphia, in 1961. Police reports, fire department reports, and hospital and industrial records showed peaks and troughs corresponding to the times of the new and full Moon.

Other recent studies suggest that the biological rhythms of all life forms are inseparable from barometric pressure changes, atmospheric electricity, ion density, sunspot cycles (as reflected in tree rings) and other little-known stellar and planetary forces.

Terrestrial forces, according to Rutherford Platt (*Reader's Digest*, April, 1963, "The Subtle Tides Of Life") "are affected by forces from outer space, by the phase of

the Moon, by undulations in the pear-shaped, electromagnetic field that surrounds the Earth, by showers of gamma-rays, cosmic rays and other electromagnetic forces emanating from extra-terrestrial sources that bombard the Earth's atmosphere."

Because of their simplicity the lower life forms that inhabit our planet furnish excellent clues to the effects of cosmic influences. Man's biological complexity, rather than making him immune to these forces, seems to make him more sensitive.

Since the time of Kepler and Newton those who have sought to deduce a connection between terrestrial magnetic phenomena and celestial magnetic phenomena have been unable to exclude man's biological processes. "Magnetic vibrations" once were hypothesized as causing subtle but powerful celestial influences to act on all living things. But nobody knew what they did or how they did it.

However, a recent NYU computer study of Moon phase and rainfall supports the age-old contention that planting in harmony with the lunar phase produces the most bountiful yields.

Certain plants respond to light and move to face the source of photons from the Sun—the sunflower, for example—and they are called phototropic. Horticulturists now are aware of magnetotropic seeds and plants; in fact, no seed or plant is known that will not respond to a magnetic field. Seeds show tremendous acceleration in growth when exposed to magnetism.

This same Earth's magnetism activates an enzyme system in fruits and vegetables to cause normal ripening and/or fermentation. When the field of a magnet passes though the organic compound of a tomato, apple or peach, it triggers a loss or gain of protons which speeds up the enzyme system and causes ripening.

At a space symposium in 1962 Dr. Robert O. Becker, of the VA Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y., claimed that astronauts who invade the magnetic force fields of other planets beyond the Earth's atmosphere will undoubtedly exhibit mental abberations.

Purely aside from being fried alive by the lethal radiations from a solar flare (which John H. Nelson of RCA Communications, Inc., has shown to be intimately related to planetary magnetic fields at various angles), space explorers of the future will certainly be adversely affected by strange forces.

"We have discovered," Dr. Becker said, "that the electromagnetic field in our environment has a profound effect on behavior and biological cycles. We believe the mechanism for its action is within the central nervous system."

Dr. Becker found a 24-hour variation in magnetism and a 28-day biological cycle that is vital to human beings. He has shown concrete evidence that psychotic breakdowns correlate with variations in the Earth's magnetic field.

These changes in geomagnetism are suspected by other researchers to correlate in turn to the angular distances of the various celestial bodies—the magnetic fields of the planets.

The inference seems obvious.

Dr. Becker, who is also an orthopedic surgeon at New York's Upstate Medical Center, claims, "Subtle changes in the intensity of the geomagnetic field affects the nervous system by altering the body's own electro-magnetic field. Increased activity in the Earth's magnetic field has a direct relationship to admissions to mental hospitals," he reported.

The surgeon discovered that a direct-current electro-magnetic field surrounds the human body. With highly sensitive electrodes, Dr. Becker and physicist Charles Bachman mapped out this bio-electrical field which centers around the brain and spinal cord. It has a positive charge at the back of the brain and over the major spinal nerve groups at the shoulders and lower back. Along the arms and legs it gradually becomes positive. These currents are connected to the nerve cells and synapses of the brain and spinal column.

All man's energies and moods are determined by the chemical-electro-magnetic changes in the brain and spinal column nerves, which are inextricably a part of the body's magnetic charge, which is affected by geomagnetic fluctuations. And these changes in geomagnetism seem to be a result of the ever-shifting magnetic patterns of the solar system.

* * *

IT MIGHT BE interesting to observe the results of some serious investigation into the so-called esoteric fields. The occultists, for example, long have reported the existence of a "human aura," which many claim to have seen. It bears a most remarkable resemblance to the bio-electrical field discovered and described by Dr. Becker.

Dr. Frank Brown, the biology professor at Northwestern University, has proved that animals respond to changes in the Earth's magnetism . . . that they find their way around by it, thus possibly explaining the heretofore mysterious "homing instinct" of some, if not all, species. He succeeded in confusing many animals which respond to Moon-phase changes by placing magnets where they would distort the Earth's responses to lunar magnetism, to which these animals also respond.

Dr. Becker, who learned that the electrical charge at the front of the brain is negative, and who knocked out test animals by reversing this polarity, also discovered that bio-electrical fields are primary forces in wound-healing.

In his experiments with wounded animals, he learned that the electrical field jumps sharply from negative to positive, then slowly returns to the normal negative state during the healing process. By applying negative electrical stimulation to the wounded areas, he increased the speed of healing.

Broken human bones also emit negative electrical currents during the healing process. The mending of fractures, breaks and open wounds in human beings, therefore, soon may be speeded up either electrically or magnetically. There are strong indications that within five years this sort of treatment will become as commonplace as blood transfusions in our hospitals.

Dr. Igno H. Kornblueh, of the American Institute of Medical Climatology in Philadelphia, has succeeded in rendering completely painless the agony of third-degree burns over an entire human body by having his patients breathe negatively charged air ions.

In a report to the AIMC, he said the results were effective even when a stream of negatively ionized air was played directly onto the burned body tissue. The blistered areas dried quickly and healing was speeded up.

This writer has seen the pain of advanced, even terminal cancer cases relieved when the patient inhaled negatively ionized air; it has been known to work even where certain drugs and narcotics were no longer effective.

One of the most fascinating possibilities came to light as a by-product of Dr. Becker's discovery of the bio-magnetic field.

It seems clear ancient Egyptian doctors were more advanced than we generally give them credit for; they performed tedious surgical operations and even removed cataracts from the eyes of patients. Egyptian dentists extracted teeth and filled others with gold.

The fact that Egyptian priests wore precious stones and magnetic medallions at the centers of their foreheads indicates they may have had some knowledge of the function of the pineal gland—the "third eye" of the occultists. This leads us into very strange territory indeed. Where is the dividing line between the esoteric and the scientific?

Edgar Cayce, the great psychic diagnostician of Virginia Beach who confounded medical experts by diagnosing the ailments and prescribing cures for people he'd never seen, also had some experi-

ence along these lines. He showed that the Psi-faculty of ESP ability was enhanced when a semiprecious stone was taped to the center of the forehead. His readings indicated that the use of the *Lapis Lingua* could accomplish this. *Lapis Lingua* is described as a combination of azurite and malachite (chrysocolla).

"There is mind in every cell of the body," Cayce said in trance 35 years before the discovery by micro-biologists of DNA and RNA, the mysterious nucleic acids which carry intelligent life-building energies throughout the human system.

* * *

THERE ARE properties to magnetism we haven't begun to guess at. Dr. Becker and Professor Brown, modern pioneers in bio-electricity and bio-magnetism, have found a host of diseases that occur in cycles; they are convinced by practical experiment and investigation that the bio-electrical field is the link between celestial forces and human somatic and psychological function.

The experiments with animals proved beyond doubt that the Earth's field varies in so many ways that the planet is literally "talking" in its responses to celestial magnetic forces. Animals (and quite likely humans) are known to tune in and understand this "conversation" without being aware of it.

A New York City gynecologist and cytologist, Dr. K. E. MacLean, is the first M.D. to use an electromagnetic activator in the treatment of advanced cases of cancer. So far, although he has confined his treatment strictly to those cases which are considered "hopeless," the results have been remarkable.

"Cancer cannot exist," MacLean claims, "in a strong magnetic field." The interesting side-effect of repeated exposures to magnetism, on human beings aside from its beneficial effect as a cancer treatment, is the restoration of pigmentation in the hair of many of his patients—in most cases from a silvery white to its former natural color.

Dr. MacLean's full head of hair is dark brown; he has been exposing himself to a 3600 Gauss magnetic field daily for about five years. He is tall and athletic-appearing and looks to be about 45 years old. He is 64.

His discovery could revolutionize the present concept of the aging process. For the first time, Einstein's energy-mass equation has been applied to the practice of medicine. MacLean's application of a magnetic field seems to relieve pain from *any* cause and to help speed the human organism's return to normalcy. He has shown it to be equally effective in treating most kinds of arthritis, rheumatism

and bursitis. After five years he has not discovered a single adverse side-effect from exposure to a straight-line magnetic field.

There is evidence, however, that when the human organism is exposed to two lines of powerful magnetic force intersecting at right angles, the effect can be disastrous.

Physicists and electrical engineers discovered this remarkable fact during experiments with intense magnetic fields used to energize particles in an early atomic experiment at Holyoke, Mass. According to unconfirmed reports, several technicians died as a result of exposure to two lines of magnetic force which were set up in X-cross fashion.

Drs. Green and Chandrasekhar, of Western Reserve University, have found that even at very low temperatures, metals will alternately shrink and stretch when a nearby magnetic field is smoothly varied.

Positive and negative magnetic polarization, an intimate property of electrical phenomena, exists throughout the universe. All matter, organic and inorganic, participates in and depends upon the eternal flux and flow of these energies. Indeed, these energies are matter in motion, as Einstein said.

And man, the electro-magnetic animal which dominates the planet Earth, is coming into a revolutionary concept of himself and his place in a magnetic universe as a direct result of these profound discoveries.

The tiny sub-atomic particles which make up your body generate minute electrical charges and contribute these charges to the aggregate charge of the atom, the molecule, the cell, and the entire organism.

It is conceivable that all living things on Earth contribute something to geomagnetism and, at the same time, are affected by it. This may not be in the realm of physical science.

As Charles Steinmetz said, "When science turns toward *spiritual* discoveries it will make more progress in 50 years than in all its past history."

THE LAST DAY

ON HIS CALENDAR at work, Claude Buzard, 70, of Baldwin Park, Calif., circled the day on which he was to retire. On that day his fellow workers prepared coffee and cake for a party and wrapped up a fishing rod as a retirement gift. When they went to summon him to the party, they found he had suffered a heart attack — from which he died a few minutes later.

Just as he spoke the name of his dead sister, the heavy glass inkwell split with a loud report. Was it chance—or proof of survival?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J. Wainwright Evans is a noted freelance writer whose work has appeared in many leading publications. Since his graduation from Princeton in 1907, he has been a newspaper reporter, magazine editor and university instructor in journalism.

WHEN THE INK WELL SHATTERED

By J. Wainwright Evans

THE LITERATURE of psychic research is full of well-authenticated stories which constitute impressive evidence that the human personality survives after death.

Among these stories which carry a high degree of conviction are those of the apparently causeless fracturing of glass objects at some significant moment, such as at the instant the name of a dead person is uttered.

For example, a man grief-stricken over the death of his brother spoke his brother's name in conversation with other members of the family. At that instant a heavy glass ashtray on the nearby table split in two, with a report like a pistol shot.

Of course, badly annealed glass often breaks spontaneously from its own internal stresses, but why at that exact moment?

The odds against such a coincidence are millions to one. And the odds against the same thing happening again and again to other persons are billions to one — it is as if a whole string of poker players kept drawing royal flushes.

Yet, these glass-shattering cases, with this same remarkable timing, are many. And it is difficult to explain the phenomenon as other than a signal from the other side.

Of all these glass cracking stories the best, it seems to me, comes from my friend Dr. S. Ralph Harlow, formerly professor of Religion and Biblical literature at Smith College and a psychical researcher of long experience. He tells the story in his latest book, *A Life After Death*; and it is told also more briefly, in Dr. J. B. Rhine's *New World of the Mind*.

Dr. Harlow had a sister, Anna, who was markedly psychic. The two were very close. Her sudden death in 1925 plunged him into devastating grief. He desperately needed the assurance that she still lived.

And this brother and sister, because of their common interest in psychical research, had agreed that whichever of them died first would try to give the other some significant signal from the other side; and the evidence, whatever form it might take, must be "clear cut."

After the emotionally shattering experience of Anna's funeral, Dr. Harlow returned to his office in Pierce Hall at Smith College, to keep an appointment with a senior student. They were to confer on William James's famous book, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. The book has special associations for Dr. Harlow because he studied it with James when he was a student at Harvard.

Says Dr. Harlow, in his own account, "I thought of Anna, and as I pondered, I toyed with the thick, square glass inkwell that I had inherited with the office several months before. It was an empty, useless article since the invention of the fountain pen, but I kept it because it had a certain uncorrupted beauty about it and it served occasionally as a paperweight.

"I slid the inkwell aside and turned to my student who sat quietly waiting for me to begin. 'Perhaps,' I said, 'because I have just returned from a funeral we can approach the varieties of religious experience if I tell you something about the religious experiences of my sister Anna.'

"And then suddenly the inkwell split with a report like a revolver shot. It happened at the precise moment I spoke my sister's name, and we both stared at the fractured glass, still resting on the desk top where it had been before but it was now cleaved cleanly in its center.

There was no movement and the room was silent.

"Then my student rose, trembling and unsure of herself. She was obviously greatly frightened. 'What was that?' she gasped. 'What was that?' She started toward the door. 'I'm afraid, Dr. Harlow,' she said. 'I'm afraid to stay here.'

" 'Don't be silly,' I said. 'You're a Smith senior and Smith seniors should not be superstitious. There's nothing to be afraid of.'

" 'I don't care,' she said. 'I can't stay now. Can't I come back some other day? Please give me another appointment.'

" She was beyond comfort there in that room, and I must admit that I was not so calm as I wished to appear. I agreed to see her another day, walked her to the door, and returned to the desk and the inkwell. I carried it down the hall to the men's washroom and carefully washed it. There were no slivers, and the newly opened sides were as smooth as its polished exterior.

"Back in my office I sat again at my desk, staring at the inkwell halves, attempting to construct the last few minutes in exact detail. And then I heard a voice, sharply and distinctly. It said, 'Is this clear-cut evidence?' "

Dr. Harlow took the fractured inkwell to a colleague, a professor of physics, and asked if he could tell him how the inkwell could have split the way it did, with that perfectly smooth surface, like the polished outside of the inkwell. He told him nothing of the circumstances of the fracture, for fear of exposing himself to ridicule.

The professor hazarded several guesses, admitting that he never had seen glass fracture that way. Had Dr. Harlow perhaps struck the glass a hard blow with a heavy sharp instrument? No?

The professor next guessed that the glass was poorly annealed, that the break had resulted from internal stresses caused perhaps by a sudden change of temperature. Had Dr. Harlow opened a window? No?

"Well," said the professor, "if what you say is accurate, there is only one possible explanation for this type of fracture; and that is that some sudden vibration struck it. That could cause it to split. You know, something like a boat's whistle cracking a glacier."

Dr. Harlow adds, "I never told him how significant his comment about vibration is to serious researchers in the psychic field. Again and again evidence has pointed to vibrations that have not yet been calibrated by known scientific methods, but if such vibrations do indeed exist man has not yet been able to document and prove them."

With a question in my own mind as to the smoothness of that break,

I asked Dr. Harlow, "Was the break really that smooth, or approximately so?"

"Really smooth," he said. "I've still got the pieces, and I'll send you a picture if you like."

To settle the question of how a break in glass could be that smooth, I took it upon myself to do a bit of research. I wrote the Corning Glass Works in Corning, New York, told them about Dr. Harlow's inkwell and asked if they could account for the smoothness of that break.

They could; and their explanation serves to make this remarkable incident more remarkable. According to Corning's department of Product Information the break was fully in accord with the known physical constitution of glass, though rather unusual. Their letter added that, while they were glad to furnish the information, they didn't want to get mixed up with the parapsychological end of the problem.

The Corning explanation boils down to this: Glass is brittle and, since it does not yield to stresses, it fractures abruptly when stress is applied. Fractures in glass often originate in small flaws, usually surface scratches so small as to be invisible even under a microscope. The extreme narrowness of these often invisible cracks can cause a concentration of stress much greater than a more diffused stress such as would ordinarily be found in the same immediate area.

In the case of Dr. Harlow's inkwell, conditions presumably existed, in the way of unnoticed scratches and such, that were a perfect setup for sudden fracture.

As to the smoothness of the break, that often happens in a piece of glass that has been poorly annealed in manufacture. Poor annealing means a low level of internal stress inside the glass. The result is that when a slow, creeping crack spreads through the glass, it lets go near the end of its course with a sharp, pistol-like sound. Such a slow break is likely to start with a smooth, mirrorlike surface, and to maintain that mirrorlike smoothness through the whole course of the break.

In contrast, a rapid fracture, resulting from mechanical impact would be rough.

Now how does all this apply to the fracturing of Dr. Harlow's inkwell as he uttered his sister's name? If Anna really did it, as the timing suggests, *how* did she do it?

Perhaps Dr. Harlow's guess that she did it by the application of some sort of vibration, say to some microscopic crack in the surface of the glass, is as good as any.

What vibration can do is well illustrated in the story of Caruso's cracking a wine glass simply by

singing a note that set it into sympathetic vibration with his voice.

But how could a discarnate intelligence produce such a vibration?

Is it conceivable that a discarnate intelligence, such as that of the recently deceased Anna, could have applied sufficient psychokinesis (PK), in the form, say, of some vibratory force, to have started the slow-spreading fracture that Dr. Harlow describes, at the precise moment when he spoke her name? Does the timing make "chance coincidence" unlikely? In short, was this "clearcut evidence?"

The scientific skeptic will be quick to point out that Dr. Harlow's own subconscious mind, eagerly seeking for evidence of Anna's presence, could have supplied the PK vibration, or whatever it was, that fractured the glass.

Thus the final, unquestionable proof of survival after death eludes us once again.

PREMONITION ON THE PRESIDENT

By John Putrino

ON FRIDAY, November 22, 1963, I was a witness to an amazing forecast of the event that was to shock and sadden the nation. At about 11:30 A.M. that day (E.S.T.), my wife, Mary, and I were preparing to sit down to lunch with my cousin, Mrs. Frank Creser, and her children in Bridgeport, Conn.

My cousin's oldest son, Frank, Jr., aged 11, was out in the back yard, playing with some friends. When he came inside upon being called, we sat down to lunch.

While we were eating, Frank, Jr. suddenly said, "Mommy, President Kennedy got shot!"

Imagine our astonishment.

"What?" I exclaimed. "Why do you say that?"

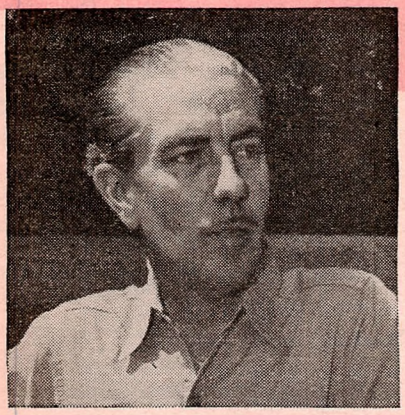
"I don't know," the boy answered. "It just came out." He seemed even more surprised than I.

We dismissed the incident as a childish prank. Thinking no more about what had been said, I finished my lunch.

About 2:00 o'clock that afternoon we heard the news of the assassination while watching TV. Recalling the remark that Frank, Jr. had made at the lunch table, I was dumbfounded. In some strange way, an 11-year-old boy had possessed knowledge of the tragedy some two hours before it occurred!—*Greenwich, Conn.*

Speculation on a Great Sea Mystery

TRAVELING PINWHEELS of Tropic Waters



Are the mysterious "pinwheels" reported by mariners caused by mundane sea life stimulated by extra-mundane life under seas?

Ivan T. Sanderson is a noted zoologist and author of many books and magazine articles in his field.

By Ivan T. Sanderson

FOR JUST ON 100 years now mariners—commanders, captains, masters of ships or their senior officers—have been reporting immense displays of what they rather naturally call "lights" under the surface of certain seas.

I have about 100 cases in my files; I know of other sources of reports I do not yet have and I am quite sure there are dozens if not hundreds more tucked away in nautical journals both naval and mercantile, and in the records of every seagoing nation. I have been told they are mentioned in ancient Indian literature. And well these people might have recorded this strange business for it is apparently centered around the Indian Ocean.

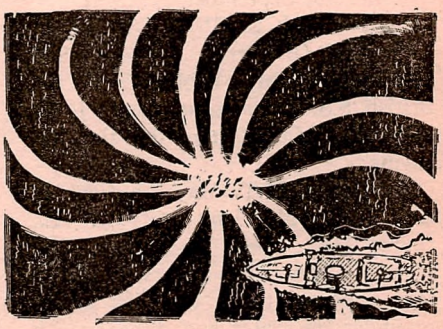
Of all the cases I have so far unearthed only one (originally given by the indefatigable Charles Fort) *might* be from outside this general area. This is from a statement made by a Mr. E. L. Moss in the British scientific periodical *Nature,* in April, 1875: "when upon H.M.S. *Bulldog* a few miles north of Vera Cruz," he "had seen a

series of swift lines of light" on the sea.

I have been unable to trace the cruises of said H.M.S. *Bulldog* during that year but I will keep trying because this might be a rather vital item. There was a Punta de la Vera Cruz on the west coast of Luzon in the Philippines but it seems to have been dropped from the maps before 1875 and one supposes Mr. Moss meant the well-known port in the Gulf of Mexico.

All other cases, however, come from the periphery of the Indian Ocean, from the Persian Gulf to the South China Sea, with one somewhat doubtful record from the upper reaches of the Gulf of Aden and one ambiguous report from "the China Sea" without specifying which China sea—the one north of Taiwan or the one south of that island. If we assume that it refers to the South China Sea then all the reports fall between the Equator and approximately 25° N. latitude. (Note that Vera Cruz, Mexico, is at 20° N., between 50° and 120° E. longitude.)

The greatest number of these "wheels of light" have been observed in 1. the Persian Gulf and notably the narrows of the Strait of Hormuz; 2. off the coast of Malabar in the channel between that coast and the Laccadive Islands; 3. the Palk Strait, north of Ceylon; 4. the Strait of Malacca between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra; 5. the Gulf of Siam; and 6. the South China Sea. The reports from the latter are mostly without precise fixes but one from the Gulf of Siam, the most recent, dated May 30, 1962, in a *Notice to Mariners* of the U.S. Hydrographic Office, is most precise. Perhaps it is significant to note that although it is in a sea, rather than the ocean, it is not in a strait of any kind. One of the most remarkable aspects of all these reports is that there are none that I know



Drawing shows revolving "wheel" of light described by Cmdr. J. R. Bodler in a report which appeared in the September, 1952, issue of FATE. Numerous such phenomena have been observed by seamen, but their cause has remained unknown.

of from the open *ocean* and almost all are from landside straits.

These observations have been made during every month of the year but no less than 70% have occurred during March, April, May, and June, and 60% during the last of these three months. This, at first, looks like a natural seasonal phenomenon but the seasons in the tropics are not defined (by our calendar) latitudinally, but rather longitudinally. Mostly, it is a matter of wet as opposed to dry periods. If, on the other hand, the phenomenon is life-induced or animated, it might be possible to correlate this April to June emphasis with some seasonal occurrence in tropical marine animal or plant life.

Just for the record lets examine two typical sightings:

"Notice to Mariners (U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office)
No. 38, September 22, 1962
LUMINSCENCE, GULF OF SIAM"

"Second Officer C. J. Boyes and Midshipman M. Hibbert of the British S.S. *Telemachus,* Capt. J. K. Edmonds, Master, reported the following:

At 1906 G.M.T. May 30, 1962, in lat. 7°22' N., long. 103°18' E., course 166°, speed 16.5 knots, dim rays of light were observed. These rays appeared to be traveling across or under the water and came from a 210° direction and extended in a 120° —300° direction. They passed the ship at a rate of 3 per second. At 1910 G.M.T. these rays changed from parallel lines to curved lines which rotated around a center, which apparently was on the horizon, in a clockwise direction. The center was bearing 210°. At 1913 G.M.T. the rays became confused and at 1916 G.M.T. another group of rays, this time on the port bow, appeared. These rays were curved but rotated in a counterclockwise direction about a center which appeared to be bearing 120°. At 1921 G.M.T. the lines became less well defined and slower in movement and passed the ship at a rate of 2 per second. At 1926 G.M.T. the rays disappeared altogether. The depth finder was turned on but showed the charted depth with no variations.

Wind N by W force 1, no swell, rippled sea, barometer 29.76 inches, temperatures: dry 84° F., wet 79° F., sea 87° F.

(N.S. 38/62.)"

By way of contrast and to bring out what is probably the most important fact of all I wish to reproduce parts of an article that appeared in the September, 1952, issue of FATE from the pen of Comdr. J. R. Bodler (USNR).

"My vessel had passed through the Strait of Hormuz, bound for India. The night was bright and clear. The Third Mate called me to the bridge, saying that he had observed something I ought to see.

"About four points on the port bow, toward the coast of Iran, there was a luminous band which seemed to pulsate. Its appearance suggested the aurora borealis, but much lower; in fact on or below the horizon. Examination with binoculars showed that the luminous area was definitely below the horizon, in the water, and drawing nearer to the vessel. With the approach of this phenomenon it became apparent that the pulsations seemed to start in the center of the band and flow outward towards its extremities.

"At a distance of about a mile from the ship, it was apparent that the disturbance was roughly circular in shape, about 1000 to 1500 feet in diameter. The pulsations could now be seen to be caused by a revolving motion of the entire pattern about a rather ill-defined center; with streaks of light like the beams of searchlights, radiating outward from the center and revolving (in a counterclockwise direction) like the spokes of a gigantic wheel.

"For several minutes the vessel occupied the approximate center of the phenomenon. Slightly curved bands of light crossed the bow, passed rapidly down the port side from bow to stern, and up the starboard side from aft, forward. The luminosity was sufficient to make portions of the vessel's upper works quite visible. The bands of luminance seemed to pass a given point at about half-second intervals. As may well be imagined, the effect was weird and impressive in the extreme; with the vessel seeming to occupy the center of a huge pinwheel whose "spoke" consisted of phosphorescent luminance revolving rapidly about the vessel as a hub.

"The central 'hub' of the phenomenon drew gradually to starboard, and passed aft; becoming more and more distant on the starboard quarter. While it was still in sight, several miles astern, and appearing, by this time, as a pulsating band of light, a repetition of the same manifestation appeared fine on the starboard bow. This was slightly smaller in area than the first, and a trifle less brilliant. Its center passed slowly aft on the starboard side, with the pattern of revolving, luminous 'spokes' clearly defined.

"It was my impression that the actual illumination was caused by the natural phosphorescence in the water, periodically stimulated by regular waves of energy. The shape of the 'pinwheel', the well-defined 'spokes', the revolutions about the center, and the speed with which each band of light traversed the water, all preclude the possibility of this phenomenon being caused by schools of fish, porpoises, or similar cause.

"Approximately half an hour later, a third repetition of this manifestation was observed. The general characteristics, direction of rotation, etc., were the same as the others, but this one was much smaller and less brilliant. Its diameter was not over 800 to 1000 feet, and compared to the other two was unimpressive. It was first observed much closer to the vessel than had been the case with the

others. Whether this was due to its lesser brilliance or the fact that it came into being at comparatively close range could not be determined."

The first thing that strikes one is that these so-called "wheels" of light are not wheels at all but might better be called "sun-bursts", like the Japanese flag. However, some reports state the beams, instead of broadening out as they leave the hub as do all other types of lights except laser beams, appear to continue as parallel bands. Second, these underwater "lights" appear to have a definite point of origin. Third, this point of origin invariably seems to be moving. As in Commander Bodler's report, sometimes this center or "eye" appears to have moved in under his ship and, if his statement does not delude me, to have stayed there for some time, presumably travelling *with* the ship.

The first major point to understand is that these displays are not "wheels" of light; for whoever heard of a wheel without a rim? Rather, they are a series of "spokes" that rotate or whirl horizontally around a diffuse center. (Several of the reports state that the center was not brighter than the rays, but that it was "mushy" or almost indefinite. This is significant.) Nobody seems to have noticed the outer ends of these beams—as to whether they dimmed off, petered out, appeared to plunge down, or came to an abrupt stop.

Let me go back and try to give a composite picture of just what these seasoned mariners have reported for, lo, these 100 years.

Mostly, something like a pulsating light appears on the horizon or between the horizon and the vessel. In due course, this resolves itself into, not a pulsation, but a series of *beams* of intense light sweeping around, apparently just under the surface of the sea. In a few cases the witnesses report approaching a large luminous blob or mass. When they came close-to, rays shot out from it and started revolving. In several cases more than one display has appeared at the same time, or in succession. In the latter instance they always seem to diminish in size.

In this matter of size there is apparently enormous variation. Many ships' officers have reported that, observed through binoculars from the bridges of their ships, the hubs were beyond the horizon yet the beams swept their vessels' hulls and in most cases seem to have continued under them and far toward the opposite horizon.

One report, made by Officer Douglas Carnegie, of a display in the Gulf of Oman, in 1906, states, "I noticed that an intervening ship

had no effect on the light beams; they started away from the lee side of the ship, just as if they had travelled right through it."

Other reports appear to describe quite small displays only a few hundred feet in total diameter. But these reports are, one and all, frustrating because they fail to mention the exact form of the whole or how the rays ended.

One case, observed by the Second Officer of a Pacific and Orient liner in the Strait of Malacca, notes that the shafts "appeared to be about 300 yards long" which would indicate they terminated abruptly.

There is no agreement as to the width of the shafts or beams, nor of the distance between them. When given, the width of the shafts seems to be between 20 and 30 feet, and the distance between them about 100 feet. However, the matter is further muddled by instances in which the beam and intermediate unlit areas are said to have been equal and both about 100 feet in width. But if these beams emanate from a fairly small hub it stands to reason that the distance the beams are from that hub would automatically alter their width if they expand like the beams of a car headlight, while the distance between them also must increase outwards.

The speed at which the beams travel along their circular course appears to range all the way from motionless to an estimated 200 m.p.h., but most are estimated as travelling about 60 m.p.h. This again would, of course, depend on the distance from the hub.

Some observers—and I am quoting only from ships' officers—seem to have felt that the beams were above the surface of the water, as from a light source protruding from the water. But this does not jibe with the fact that the hub always is described as being rather diffuse, or that beams coming from beyond the horizon do not sweep the *upperworks* of the vessel but always remain at the waterline. Further, they always seem to pass *under* the vessel.

Another curious fact is that the whole manifestation may turn either clockwise or counterclockwise; two may be going in opposite directions at the same time; or one may slow down and became dim and then come back, revolving in the opposite direction. This is immensely puzzling. But most aggravating of all, the beams, per se, cannot be "light" at all! For, who ever heard of a *curved* beam of light, especially one making a flattened "S"?

A high percentage of the reports describe the beams as being curved like a catherine-wheel firecracker or turning from straight lines to curves. One might think this to be some sort of optical illusion were it not that in more than one case

where the hub moved directly under the ship, or the ship steamed over the hub, this curvature was very pronounced.

The sum total of recorded facts about this weird phenomenon is pitifully little to go upon and I cannot understand how mariners, dependent for their lives as well as their livelihoods, can so persistently fail to include such further details as the color of the light, whether it appeared to follow the curvature of the earth, etc.

* * *

NOW LET US consider this so-called "phosphorescence".

Contrary to popular opinion there is no such thing *per se,* at least in the sea. Certain substances actually may glow in total darkness due to the release of photons caused by the breakdown of material that has become "charged" through the absorption of sunlight. What we see in the sea is better called luminescence and is produced chemically by living things, including bacteria and all manner of higher animals but most notably by a tiny single-celled animal known as *Noctiluca miliaris* (i.e. Night lights by the milliards).

Noctiluca miliaris are found all over the world but mostly in warm water and most abundantly in tropical waters. These tiny creatures light up when stimulated in various ways—as mechanically by a ships' bow waves and wake. Sometimes diffuse patches of luminescence may be seen stationary near the surface of the sea; this is usually due to a school of fish feeding and so stirring up the tiny, normally dark creatures.

But that *Noctiluca* or any other luminescent animals or plants could be the initial cause of the whole business of the "wheels" of light is so improbable as to be wellnigh impossible. However, it is possible they may be the cause of the light itself. It is known that fireflies may synchronize their flashing, precisely, over a wide area, and *Noctiluca* can do the same in the face of sundry stimuli. Hence Commander Bodler's observation is very acute.

Let us suppose that some source of energy starts broadcasting some invisible "waves" on the electromagnetic (or other) spectrum which stimulate or activate the light-producing mechanism of the *Noctiluca*, and let us also suppose that said energy is broadcast in the form of a series of radiating bands whose source of origin is revolving; we would then have a progressive and, to our eyes, instantaneous turning on and off of the *Noctiluca* as the beams swept by them. I cannot overstress the speed of the "make-and-break" mechanism of these and other intermittent light producers. The

flash can be of as short duration as a millionth of a second!

This suggestion leaves us with two appalling questions. How can the beams or shafts curve? What is the initial source of stimulation?

Let's try the first one. Consider a single straight—be it parallel-sided or expanding like a car headlight—shaft of this energy that stimulates the luminescence of the little animals. As any skater who has played "crack the whip" knows the skaters at the end of the circling line, going around the outside, travel much further and faster than those near the center. If one forms two strings starting at right angles, like four spokes of a wheel, you will end up with four strings curved very much as Commander Bodler describes the "wheel" of light.

Now neither light nor any other electromagnetic wave can bend like this (as Einstein showed, light can be bent only by gravity), so that the beams or shafts actually are straight. The curvature might be due to the minute time lag on the part of the *Noctilucas'* lighting mechanism which, although incredibly rapid, is not instantaneous nor even anywhere near the speed of light. Moreover, there is a known curve of this order that can be mathematically correlated with such time lags.

The triggering energy could be of an order that proceeds to infinity but which loses its potency progressively with distance, or its wavelength could be such that it would activate the luminescence up to a specific distance only.

Of course, this "explanation" of the phenomenon is not the only one, nor can it claim an iota of confirmatory evidence. Nonetheless, it is the most logical of the dozens that have come to my attention. Let us, therefore. investigate the possible *source* of such a triggering energy.

First, the energy acts like a radio or radar beacon in that it "sweeps" the horizon. There are three possibilities: it is either inanimate, animate, or mechanical.

It always has been suggested that these displays are "electrical" phenomena. This, in a manner of speaking, is reasonable because electrical flux belongs in the same scheme of things as radio beams, but it begs the question. What *sort* of electrical displays, and how come their unique form?

What this suggestion really is driving at is that they are natural manifestations of electromagnetic disturbances. like lightning or northern lights. However, we do not know anything remotely like this elsewhere, in any other medium.

The second idea, that the source is animated, assumes it is some manifestation of marine biology such as the *Noctiluca.*

There is more to this story. Certain kinds of deep sea worms, of the group to which our Lug-Worm belongs, come to the surface near reefs in the Indonesian and West Pacific area on but one night in the year. This they do as part of their breeding cycle, and at this time the back part of their bodies are nothing but a thin-skinned, elongated sac, containing eggs. These eggs are brilliantly luminous. Arrived at the surface, these egg-sacs break off the wriggling multitudes which then sink back into the depths.

These eggs are delicious to eat raw. I once sampled them off the Aru Islands in company with the locals. By the end of the orgy all of us and the canoes were completely luminous too. A most eerie sight!

My initial notion was that a mass of these worms could form into a vast ball and by the creation of a mass rhythmical motion somehow "broadcast" and then cut off their light, while revolving as a whole. But I am afraid the idea did not and does not wash. These worms do not move rapidly. Besides, they are not known from the Persian Gulf!

There are luminous squids and they could move through the water fast enough to match our reported speeds. But how account for the beams, all equally spaced, emanating horizontally from a diffused mass that is never the brightest part of the display? And why turning?

We are left then with the third, last, and most "unpleasant" notion: that the source of the triggering energy is mechanical. A mechanical source could account for the regular beams, of regular width, regularly spaced, and revolving at a regular speed; hub not the brightest spot; hubs moving of their own; beams changing from straight to curved (with increased speed?), or slowing down; beams appearing apparently on the surface, just under it, or deep down and even sinking!

Charles Fort first suggested that these sources of energy were what he called "constructions". He also called OSFs ("Objects Seen Floating" in the sky), now better known to us as "Flying Saucers" or UFOs, "constructions". By a nimble juxtaposition of reports and cases Fort tried to point out the significance of all manner of "fiery" objects allegedly seen plunging into and rushing out of the sea. He never quite says that extraterrestrial devices, mechanisms, craft (either robot or manned by intelligent entities) constantly come and go, to and from, this planet and use the bottom of the seas (as opposed to the oceans) as their landing fields and "outposts". He hints that the "masses of oily substance" reported

floating near these light displays could be oil or other waste from said machines. There he stops.

Let us continue this speculation —merely as an intellectual exercise, of course!

If the energy that triggers our luminous sea creatures comes from such "constructions" how and why does it occur? Why are they seen only around the periphery of the Indian Ocean and possibly the Carribean?

Any craft that can travel through space should be able to continue in a liquid medium, since said craft must be completely sealed. What better place to land than the bottoms of the seas (not the oceans where the pressure is great, the silt deep, and the atmosphere far away). But why pick on the fringe of the Indian Ocean only? Possibly they don't. But it is only here, and maybe in the Caribbean, that our local conditions (*Noctiluca* in abundance; clear water of a certain constitution, etc.) cause some of their beamcasts to become visible to us.

Perhaps they are all over; perhaps they prefer water of a certain temperature; perhaps they need the enhanced "spin" of the equatorial belt to help in their braking for landings and thrust for take-off; perhaps they just stumbled on a base in the Indian Ocean, like the Europeans did in Singapore, as a highly suitable center for activity with ready-to-hand raw materials in greater abundance than elsewhere. We could speculate on and on with this wild idea.

I admit to having been shaken by the submarine photograph taken by the Russians of what was described as "the track of some enormous bottom-living creature" in the Indian Ocean a few years ago. Admittedly, this looked somewhat like the tracks left by a sea-turtle when it comes out of the surf to lay its eggs far up on some sand beach, but its very size—some 18 feet wide—gave me pause.

Where had I seen anything like this before?

In the Canadian Northwest Territories at the end of a new road being pushed through the spruce forest and muskeg! It was the track of an enormous "crawler" that toted tens of tons of gravel up to the road-head!

Having considered this wild, way-out theory as to their origin, we now must ask: why their form?

All I can suggest is that hypothetical circular "ships" could have constantly running radar-type scanners; that the "rays" these use become apparent to us only when they happen to trigger the luminosity of a mass of little, one-celled creatures indigenous to our warm seas and present there in countless-multitudes.

Maybe these "constructions" are all over the continental shelves but there just aren't enough little *Noctiluca* to show us their presence.

Now, you think up a better one.

DESTINY PLAYS WITH CARBON MONOXIDE

ESLER FIELD, near Alexandria, La., recently was the scene of an amazing coincidence in which a magazine article proved so "timely" that it played a life saving role while still being read.

At about 5:10 P.M. on October 16, 1963, Preston J. Gauthier, 41, was on duty at the field, which is a Federal Aviation Agency facility supplying flight and weather information to pilots. As no routine matters required his attention at the moment, Gauthier idly leafed through the October issue of *Aviation News*, a monthly FAA publication.

His attention was held by an article describing the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning from defective aircraft heaters. The article detailed the progessive symptoms: increasing headache, weakness, dizziness and dimming vision; finally loss of muscular control, vomiting, convulsions and coma, ending in respiratory failure and death.

Before Gauthier was finished with the article, he heard the voice of Roderic Bushnell, a 24-year-old student pilot, over the station's loudspeaker. Bushnell reported that he was flying at 5,500 feet and did not feel well. He was dizzy, he said, and his vision was blurred.

Recognizing the symptoms from the description in the open magazine before him, Gauthier instructed Bushnell to switch off his cabin heater at once, then to open a window and descend to 2,500 feet. Marksville Airport, 30 miles southeast of Alexandria, was closest to Bushnell's position and Gauthier told him to land there. Gauthier next phoned police and arranged for an emergency unit and an ambulance to be on hand.

Despite numbness and muscle spasms in his arms, Bushnell landed safely and was rushed to a hospital. Doctors confirmed that he had been in danger from carbon monoxide poisoning and forecast a speedy recovery.

THE CARDS WERE RIGHT

Studying the cards for a client in Columbus, O., Claudia Simcox, 61, a reader and adviser, announced that they revealed a talent for police work. The client Policewoman Audrey Foley, agreed — but arrested the reader on a charge of illegal practice of clairvoyance.

WHAT LIGHTS THE "WHEELS"?

Some force in the sea not only stimulates the production of the light, but causes it to form the "wheel" pattern.

By Wallace L. Minto

AS A SCIENTIST interested in the various types of radiation given off by living creatures, I wish to advance an explanation for these remarkable wheels of light observed in oceanic waters. I fully realize that advancing one possible explanation for these phenomena does not thereby eliminate other, more esoteric possibilities, because we know so little about the world in which we live. But trying to fit observed facts into the framework of our present knowledge often serves to call attention to unnoticed gaps in that framework. So let us see whether scientific deduction can shed some light on this luminous mystery.

THE AUTHOR

Wallace L. Minto, now retired, has been awarded numerous patents in the fields of chemistry, physics, electrical and mechanical engineering. He is co-author of Volume VI-3, National Nuclear Energy Series of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. He is a director of firms in New York and New Jersey.

First, since the observations of this phenomenon seem confined to tropical seas — or at least to warm water — this is a compelling indication that the source of the *light* is in some form of luminescent organism which requires such warmth

for growth and activity. Because of the uniformity of illumination within the beams and at the hub, it is evident that the light sources must be dispersed through the water, in contrast to the appearance that would result if the light emanated from a single central source. Therefore, the evidence clearly indicates that luminescent plankton must be the immediate source of the light, as suggested by Ivan Sanderson. However, this leaves unanswered the mystery of the extraordinary pattern. Why would the plankton give off light in the shape of a rimless wheel?

We know that the luminescent plankton found in tropical seas emit light when subjected to a mechanical stimulus, as shown by the luminous wake of a boat plowing through an area suffused with these tiny organisms. But what sort of stimulating force do we know of that could induce this pattern of radiating beams? A source of stimuli that fills the requirements very nicely is underwater *sound.* If there are two closely adjacent sources of sound at the hub, an interference pattern will be set up. In the radial zones where the sonic waves from both sources are in phase, they will reinforce each other, stimulating the plankton to emit light. In the alternate zones, where the sonic waves are out of phase and cancel each other, there will be no luminescence-stimulating vibrations. Thus, we can see how a radial pattern could be generated, but, let us test this hypothesis against the other observations to see whether it stands up.

First, it is fully in accord with the notation that the beams pass through ships, since their hulls would transmit the vibrations, exciting the plankton on the far side.

Second, if the two central sound sources rotate slowly about each other, the radial interference pattern will also rotate. Further, because of the limited speed of sound in water, such rotation would produce a pattern of spiral spokes, rather than lineal beams, again in accord with the reports.

Third, the intensity of light will be essentially uniform, both at the hub and throughout the length of the radial arms, because the intensity of light is dependent upon the concentration of plankton in the water, not on the intensity of the sound waves. As with most biological phenomena involving excitation, the sonic stimulation of plankton is an "all-or-none" effect. Below a certain threshold level, the individual organism remains quiescent; when the stimulus is above threshold, it gives off light. But increasing the intensity of the stimulation does not increase the brightness of emitted light after the threshold level is surpassed.

Again, this fits well into the observation that, in some cases, the beams had a fairly sharp termination. Naturally, the intensity of sound decreases with distance from the central hub, so, at some radial distance, the intensity will fall below threshold. As a result, though the sound waves continues outward with slowly diminishing intensity, they will be unable to stimulate the plankton, resulting in a fairly sharp cut-off point.

In every respect, the observations are entirely compatible with the results we should expect from sonic excitation of luminescent plankton. But what is the primary cause of this spectacle? What can we deduce about the source of the sonic waves? A wide variety of marine animals produce underwater sounds. Let us examine the clues and try to narrow down the list.

Since the wheel of light is so large the sound must be intense to disturb so large a volume of sea. Yet, if the sound were so intense, why did the observers fail to mention its presence? Logically, because its frequency fell outside the spectrum of human hearing, which extends from about 20 cycles to 15,000 cycles per second. To generate sub-sonic frequencies at less than 20 cycles under water requires the expenditure of tremendous amounts of power. No living animal could generate a sub-sonic output capable of agitating the plankton at the reported distances. So, the only possibility at this end of the spectrum is some incredibly powerful machine. Because of the historical dates of sightings, we can be sure that this hypothetical machine could have been made by man.

On the other hand, at the upper end of the sonic spectrum beyond human hearing, it takes much less energy to generate ultrasonic vibrations. Sounds of the required intensity could be generated by a large marine animal; indeed, dolphins and other whales generate just such sounds for communication and sonar detection of objects in their vicinity. It would be virtually impossible for a host of small creatures to vibrate so exactly in phase as to produce an interference pattern, but the powerful whale is a good probability. This highly intelligent mammal could well be the focus of this display.

But we are left with one tantalizing problem: The generation of a radial interference pattern requires the presence of *two* adjacent sonic sources. Could it be that a solitary cetacean is "talking" out of both sides of his head at once? If so, why? Nature rarely does anything without a purpose, though it may be difficult for us to discern it at first. Possibly this is a deliberate search pattern in a very empty ocean? If so, our sonar experts

could profitably learn from it.

Another possibility is pleasantly beguiling. The same beautifully coruscating whorl of light could be engendered by two porpoises "singing" in close harmony! Let us hope that the rigors of scientific analysis do not lead us to reject this enchanting possibility.

As usual, scientific enquiry takes us but a few steps farther before we again are faced with another question unanswerable because of insufficient date. We never can know everything about the world around us, but the pursuit of knowledge is a pleasure and an end in itself.

WASHINGTON'S FAVORITE HAUNTED HOUSE

STRANGE happenings reported over the years in connection with the Octagon, a stately Georgian mansion in Washington, D. C., have made it known as the Capital's favorite haunted house. The Octagon was used as a temporary executive mansion by President James Madison when the British burned the White House during the War of 1812. Built in 1800 by Col. John Tayloe, the brick structure on the corner of New York Avenue and 18th Street is today the national headquarters of the American Institute of Architects and a historic shrine.

Although Mrs. Velma May, hostess at the Octagon, states she has seen no ghosts, she reports having seen a big glass chandelier in the stairwell sway as if a hand had moved it. There was no wind at such times, either, she told Joy Miller, whose article about the house recently appeared in the Richmond *News Leader*.

One morning, Mrs. May added, a maintenance man, the first person to enter the house that day, found the rug turned back at the foot of the magnificent stairway. The rug, she said, had been properly in place when the house was closed up the previous night. According to legend, one of the young women of the Tayloe family died at the spot when she either threw herself or accidently fell down the stairwell.

A former caretaker said he often heard people walking up the stairs, but saw nobody when he investigated. Robert Bradley, the gardener, related that occasionally he hears "groans of distress that follow you up the stairs."

For years, according to other reports, the bells in the house rang at a certain hour every night until rewired.

True MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

FATE will pay $5 for each True Experience published. Stories should be less than 300 words and typed (double-spaced) on one side of the paper. They should be sent to the TME Editor, FATE Magazine, 845 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Ill. They must be signed by author and the author's address must be given. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.

I SAW THE GHOST

By Bernice Knapp

I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN convinced that the house in which I grew up was haunted—this despite the fact that it was a *new* house, built the summer I was 15. The old house it replaced was built by my grandfather and was one of the first ever built in Pocahontas County, Iowa. It had not been haunted. Our new farm home was three miles northwest of the small Iowa town of Rolfe, and not equipped with electric lighting.

For years it was only the noises which frightened me. I was 21 before I ever *saw* a ghost. These noises were principally rapping, and footsteps, usually tramping about in the attic over my room but sometimes in the upstairs hall. There was also the sound of boxes being dragged about on the attic floor. And very often there was a sharp rap on my ceiling, as of someone tapping hard on the attic floor with a cane. There were several old canes up there, leaning against the wall. They had belonged to my grandfather. But when I went up to the attic in daylight to investigate nothing ever seemed out of place. I think the most eerie sound of all was an omnipresent click. On the nights when "they" were there this soft, faint click seemed to be everywhere in the room. It was an unearthly sound that I never have heard anywhere else.



BERNICE KNAPP

It is impossible to describe my terror on these nights. I often lay bathed in the cold sweat of fear. When things got too bad I would go to my parents' room and wake them. There never was a time when they could not hear the same things I heard. But the strange thing is that otherwise they seemed to sleep right through it all. Neither they nor my younger brothers and sisters seemed frightened. As my parents' religious beliefs forbade a belief in ghosts they would at first say it was my nerves. Then admitting they heard it too, they would say there must be some naural explanation—although they never offered one.

The summer I was 21 and back home after a year of teaching school both by mother and I saw *it*! On a peaceful summer night about 10:00 o'clock I was lying, wide awake, in my bed. The whole family had retired early as is the custom of farm people. Hearing a slight sound at my door I looked to see the door open. There stood a man with his hand on the door-knob. He was dressed in a sort of overall, a light grey garment, like a suit of long underwear. The light was too dim for me to distinguish his features, but it seemed to be the figure of a young man. I tried to think it must be my brother, who occupied the room next to mine. I called his name, but he did not answer. I am not sure now whether I screamed and he then turned away, or whether it was the other way around. At any rate he moved from the door, out of my vision, and my mother, hearing my screams, came from her room in time to see the figure leaving my door.

As she told it, she thought she saw my brother, Noble, dressed in his dark Sunday suit, walk away from my room and into his own. She followed into my brother's room and even on into the clothes closet, where the figure just disappeared!

She was in a state of great confusion and coming back said, "Why, wasn't Noble here?" But although Noble was sound asleep in his bed and she actually had seen this figure, and seen it vanish, she never admitted she had seen a ghost! Years later, when we argued over this she said it might have been an hallucination—to which I replied that hallucinations can't open doors and this one did!

There is a sequel to this, but no conclusion, as I never have learned of any reason why this house should have been haunted. No crime, no murder or tragedy ever took place there. No one even died there.

Some years after I had married and come home for a visit, bringing my baby. I was given the one downstairs bedroom. I think it was the second night of my visit I was

waked out of a sound sleep by the distinct sensation of being rapped on the top of the head with a ruler or small stick. It was not a dream; it was a definite physical sensation and it gave me a rude shock! The room was pitch dark. I could see nothing but I was so frightened that I dashed upstairs to call Mother. She came downstairs with me, carefully closing the bedroom door, and got into bed with me. But we were no sooner in bed than the door reopened. I heard the creaking of its hinges. Then something like a small dog bounded across the wood floor. I could hear its claws as they struck the floor, but it was too dark to see anything. Whatever it was must have been running blind, for it would go "trr-ump, trr-ump, trr-ump, wham!" First bumping into one wall and then into the opposite wall, hard. After a few minutes of this it seemed to gallop into the closet and we heard it no more.

My mother exclaimed in surprise, "I didn't know we had any rats in here!"

I answered, "That was no rat."

As soon as it went into the closet she got up and closed that door, in order to trap the "rat". She said she would let the dog in there the first thing in the morning. This she did but, of course, the dog found nothing.

As the farm passed out of my father's hands some time later I have no way of knowing whether subsequent occupants were troubled by these hauntings. — *Chicago, Ill.*

A COFFIN AND DAFFODILS

By Bonnie Holt Jones

I WAS ABOUT 10 at the time of this unusual experience. It was between the years 1924 and 1926. I was reading a book about pirates, hidden caves, and buried treasure. I remember the book because later on my dad thought I might have dozed off and dreamed some embellished aspect of the story. But I was not asleep. I was in the living room curled up in Dad's big chair. Dad was in the bathroom shaving and Mom had gone to the store. My sister Evelyn was in one of the back bedrooms. Ev had been sick for a very long time and I had accepted her illness as just one of those things. That she was going to die just never entered my 10-year-old brain. In fact, I truly doubt if I ever had seen a coffin.

Some tiny movement seen out of the corner of my eye caused me to glance up and there across the room was a white casket. We had an old-fashioned Murphy bed enclosed behind a pair of highly polished mahogany doors and the coffin stood in front of these doors. I even could see it's reflection in the doors. However, from where I sat I couldn't see *into* the coffin

and felt compelled to get up and walk toward it. Probably I had taken only a few steps when it vanished! However, I had time to read my sister's name in small gold letters on the top left-hand side of the coffin.

I still was standing in the middle of the room unable to move when Dad came in. He said later he hadn't heard me call out but suddenly had a sense of urgency, felt something was wrong. Dad said my face was as white as his, which still was covered with shaving cream! When the spell was broken I became hysterical and sobbed out the whole story.

Perhaps I should explain that my folks were accustomed to my "fantasies", as Mother called them. Daddy was more tolerant. While I think he did not actually believe my wild tales he never scolded me as Mom did. This time he was quite disturbed and cautioned me not to say anything about it to Mom.

In the meantime, we had gone back to see if Ev was all right. She was pasting things in her scrapbook and wore her usual happy smile. I think I really looked at her for the first time and realized just how sick she was. She had had tuberculosis of the spine for 10 years or more and was very crippled and nearly always in pain. However, it hadn't dimmed her sunny disposition. Evvy loved everybody and everybody loved her.

Well, weeks went by and I had convinced myself I had been dreaming. It was spring and on my way home from school one afternoon I plopped down under a tree in a vacant lot and almost instantly I was gazing into a vast field of yellow daffodils. They were everywhere! Some inner knowledge told me Evelyn was dead. I flew home on wings of fear and apprehension. When I got to our corner I saw the ambulance in front of our house. My grandma met me at the front door. She told me Evvy was gone. I didn't mention the daffodils.

I stayed at Grandma's until the day of the funeral and then Dad came to get me. We went directly to the undertakers. As we approached the front entrance I stopped suddenly on the sidewalk and grabbed Daddy's arm, "Daddy, Daddy," I cried, "they haven't combed Evvy's hair right. It's parted on the side and not in the middle!"

Dad took me inside and left me in a small waiting room. When he came back in a few minutes all he said was, "I fixed her hair, honey." He was crying.

When we entered the chapel where Ev's body lay I saw the exact same scene I had previewed months before in our living room. Her coffin was white. In tiny gold letters her name was spelled out on it—Evelyn. Mother, who never

had heard of my "dream," had chosen the casket and had requested her name put on it.

The following spring we went to the cemetery on Easter Sunday. I was not surprised to see Evelyn's grave covered with daffodils. Father had planted the bulbs the fall before and now the beautiful yellow daffodils were waving their pretty heads at us.—*Chicago, Ill.*

DREAM SUMMONS

By Blanche Cole

IN 1925 MY MOTHER lived in Redwood City, Calif. She was proprietress of a rooming house and also owned an ice cream parlor across the street from her residence.

She was alone with my younger sister and brother one night. At 2:00 A.M. she heard a noise but couldn't tell whether someone was trying to break into her home or into the house next door. She was wishing that my husband and I were with her as she was quite frightened. Velma and Ralph were too small to be of any assistance and she did not want to disturb the roomers.

She was concerned that it might be robbers, as she had collected quite a sum of money this day. She had no telephone at that time.

My husband and I lived in San Jose, Calif., approximately 30 miles away. I awoke at 2:00 A.M. this same night to see my mother standing in the room looking at me. She said, "Come! Come!" Then she disappeared. I woke my husband who only groaned, "You've had a bad dream. Go back to sleep!"

I was unable to sleep. I knew something was wrong.

A half hour later my husband, Charles, awoke, shaking convulsively. He stated he had dreamed that Mother was having difficulty. He had seen her plainly and heard the words, "Come! Come!"

I told him I was going to Mother's place if I had to walk the 30 miles. But he was perturbed also and we drove the 30 miles to Mother's place as quickly as we could.

She was glad to see us and said she was wishing very much for us to be with her. We stayed the balance of the night.

In the morning we learned the house next door had been burglarized during the night. So Mother's fears were correct. And if we had not arrived, who knows, maybe Mother's house was next on the housebreakers list.—*Corcoran, Calif.*

CHILDHOOD DREAM

By Marjorie Yost
As Told To Larrie Kay Yost

WHEN I WAS a small girl every time I slept in a strange house I had the same terrible dream.

I dreamed two men were driving down a road in an old Model T Ford with no top. The men got into a

fight and the driver knocked the other man out of the car. The one who was knocked out of the car had a shotgun. He sat there in the middle of the road where he had fallen, raised the shotgun and shot the driver's head completely off. The man's head rolled grotesquely off his neck and over to the side of the road.

Each time I had this dream I was terrified and told it to my mother repeatedly. But she always said to forget it, it was just a nightmare.

The year I was 11, in 1937, my great-uncle, Gib Storey, was driving home after selling some turkeys. He had about $80 in his pocket which, at that time, was a lot of money. As he drove along near Datto, Ark., in his Model T Ford which had no top he picked up a hitchhiker. The hitchhiker, who had a gun, tried to rob my uncle. In the scuffle the gun went off as the hitchhiker fell or was knocked out of the car. My uncle's head actually *was blown off.*

The hitchhiker took the money and left my uncle's body in the car. The killer never was caught although in later years I understand it became common knowledge who he was.

I never dreamed the dream again after my uncle was killed.

Because I never saw my great-uncle in life I wonder, was my dream a premonition of his death? — *Victorville, Calif.*

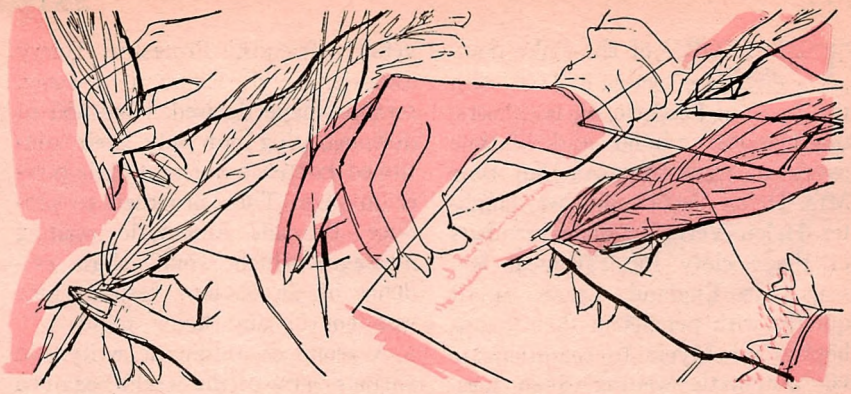
TWO LIVES THAT TOOK ONE PATH

FROM THE cradle to the grave, the lives of two women were linked in a chain of almost incredible coincidences. Both were named Julia and were lifelong friends. Both were born in 1895, in Caldas da Rianha, a Portuguese coastal village where they attended the same school.

One came to the United States while in her teens and later married a man named Joaquim Frade in Chicopee, Mass. The other married Joaquim Leal in Portugal and later came to the United States also. Both Julias married in 1914.

Mrs. Frade and Mrs. Leal both had daughters named Celeste. The daughters, now married, live at the same address in Yonkers, N.Y., where their mothers had long been neighbors.

On February 17, 1964, Mrs. Frade suffered a heart attack and was taken to a hospital. On the same day Mrs. Leal was taken to another hospital — also as the result of a heart attack. On February 20, within three hours of each other, the women died. Both were buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, in Yonkers.



LORD BALFOUR and the SPIRIT SCRIPTS

The messages came for 10 years and gave evidence of a dead girl's continued love for England's Prime Minister.

By Susy Smith

LORD ARTHUR BALFOUR — once Prime Minister of Great Britain — was the hero of a love story that extended beyond the grave. Called the "Palm Sunday case" by parapsychologists, the story of the continuing love of Lord Balfour's deceased sweetheart has been instrumental in revealing a new method of communication between this and the "spirit world."

The method apparently used by Lord Balfour's lost love is now called cross-correspondence, and most scientific psychical investigators agree that cross-correspondences are the most nearly evidential of all purported communications from beyond.

A cross-correspondence may be defined as a message that is transmitted piece-by-piece through a number of individual sensitives, so that only when all of its parts are assembled does the meaning of the message become evident. The technique appears analogous to electronic "scrambling" of confidential radio and telephonic communications.

THE STORY of the Palm Sunday Case begins in 1901 with the death of Frederic W. H. Myers, the classical scholar and lifetime psychical researcher. At that time Mrs. Helen Verrall and her daughter Helen Verrall Salter, members of the Society for Psychical Research in England, began to sit quietly with pencils in their hands hoping for Myers to communicate via automatic writing. Soon messages were written by their hands which contained so much classical and other material beyond the scope of their own literary knowledge that they suspected Myers himself must be communicating.

However, in any automatic writing it can be argued whether the material received actually comes from the mind of the medium, or from telepathic tapping of the minds of other living persons. For a purported communicator merely to say, "I am Myers," or "I am Mary Lyttelton," is no proof at all of identity. If he says, "Do you remember this or that," the answer is, "Yes, and because I do, even if the automatist has not discovered it by normal means, it is simpler to say that she got it telepathically from my living mind rather than from the dead."

The communicator claiming to be Myers appeared to realize these difficulties; and he and two other recently deceased Cambridge University friends, Professor Henry Sidgwick and Edmund Gurney, seem to have devised a method of demonstrating not only their continued existence but also their power to plan. They proposed to produce through automatic writing messages which would show evidence of an obvious design which was not in any living mind.

A group of automatic writers in various parts of the world began to receive messages purporting to come from Myers, Gurney, or Sidgwick. Among these writers were Mrs. Verrall and her daughter in England, Mrs. Leonore Piper in the United States, and Mrs. Holland in India, all women of undeniable integrity.

Mrs. Holland is the pseudonym for Mrs. Alice Kipling Fleming, sister of Rudyard Kipling. She lived at an army post in India and did her writing surreptitiously because her husband and her brother were much against the practice. She had no knowledge that her scripts had any tie-in with other material being received elsewhere in the world until her communicator told her to send them to Mrs. Verrall, of whom she had never heard. She was given Mrs. Verrall's correct address in Cambridge, England, a city with which she was totally unfamiliar.

When these various scripts were compared it was seen that certain

classical references seemed to indicate a continuing stream of thought. An intensive study of them was undertaken by investigators for the Society for Psychical Research, and eventually the system of cross-correspondences was recognized.

The investigating group consisted of Mrs. Eleanor Sidgwick, Mr. J. G. Piddington, and Miss Alice Johnson among others. Fortunately they were persons of exceptional acumen, patience, and capacity for hard work. It was like piecing together an extremely difficult jigsaw puzzle as they pulled out from the maze of scripts certain literary fragments which fitted together into complex integrated structures.

The statements made in the script of one writer were by no means a verbatim reproduction of the statements made in the script of another, but they seemed to represent different aspects of the same idea, and one supplemented or complemented the other. There was neither a mechanical verbatim reproduction of phrases, nor even the same idea expressed in different ways such as might result from direct telepathy between the writers. A fragmentary utterance in one script, which taken alone had apparently no particular point or meaning; and another fragmentary utterance in another, equally without meaning taken by itself, when put together were found to supplement one another, and it then became apparent that one coherent idea underlay both, but it was only partially expressed in each.

This was a new method to produce evidence, which could be more conclusive than any other obtained hitherto, of the action of an intelligence external to the minds of any of the automatists. The scripts were written over a period of 30 years by about 12 scattered automatists, and many critical psychical researchers have been convinced that they could not have been conceived by any mortal mind. By 1913 Mrs. Sidgwick, widow of Henry Sidgwick and a sister to Arthur Balfour, a calm and keen investigator, declared: "I myself think that the evidence is pointing towards the conclusion that our former fellow-workers are still working with us."

DURING the 11 years from 1901 to 1912 there were occasional references in the scripts to Palm Sunday, to a Palm maiden, to a lady with a candle, to cockleshells or scallop shells, to May blossoms, to King Arthur, and to Dante and Beatrice and other lovers in literature who were parted by death but held the hope of eventual reunion. Other points as well, such as emeralds, St. Catherine's Wheel, even the signature on occasion M.L. or Mary L. were incomprehensible

to the investigators as they had not yet received the clue which would connect all these to the story of Arthur James Balfour and his lost love.

This very vagueness seems to have been intentional, for the script intelligences later stated that a cross-correspondence which accumulated for years without being deciphered could hardly be credited to any person living on earth. These script intelligences numbered seven by then, including Myers, Sidgwick, Annie Hill Marshall (Myers' first sweetheart, who had died before he was 30), and Laura Tennant Lyttelton, a sister-in-law of Mary Lyttelton who had died in childbirth. All of these were more or less active in the Palm Sunday Case. The three who gave it their especial attention were Edmund Gurney, Francis Maitland Balfour, a brother of Arthur's who had been killed by a fall in the Alps, and Mary Catherine herself.

Not until 1912 when Mrs. Winifred Coombe-Tennant, a well-known public figure who wrote under the pseudonym of Mrs. Willett, began to write automatically about the Palm Sunday Case were the clues given. In her scripts the purported spirit of Edmund Gurney, who was her control, insisted that Arthur Balfour's brother Gerald should come and sit with her while she wrote. He came, and the script intelligences showed fine dramatic sense, for they chose Palm Sunday to begin to elucidate the mystery. The earlier scripts must be gone through again, they said, and they gave certain clues which would help clarify them.

In the light of indications provided by the new Willett data, the investigators came to the conclusion that for 10 years the continued love of Mary Lyttelton for Arthur Balfour had often been alluded to in symbolic fashion in the earlier scripts.

The love story of Lord Balfour and Mary Catherine Lyttelton had been an undramatic one, because the gentleman in question was shy about making his intentions known. Although in later years he seemed quite aloof and austere, as a young man he delighted in good talk, good music, and the company of friends.

In 1871 at a Christmas ball Arthur met Mary for the first time and fell in love with her. She was not a great beauty, although she had unusually beautiful hair and soft brown eyes, but love and sympathy streamed out from her. Friends said that she was one of those persons who charge the atmosphere with life when they appear. She was also an exceptionally good pianist, and Balfour had a deep love of music.

Their families were friends, and

with their brothers and sisters they saw a good deal of each other during the next four years. But Arthur did not speak of his love for Mary until the early spring of 1875. He intended to propose at their next meeting, but they never met again, for she fell ill of typhus and died very quickly. Her death was on Palm Sunday, shortly before her 25th birthday.

As to Mary's reactions to Arthur Balfour, in a letter written shortly after she met him she stated: "Mr. Balfour interests me more and more, but I would he had a little more backbone — perhaps it will come with age! Meantime there is great charm about him, from his goodness, cleverness, and peculiarity." She also stated later: "The more I know him the more I respect his talent and character."

Apparently her respect gave way to love, for her sister Lavinia particularly noted how her face glowed with happiness after Balfour had told her of his deep feelings for her. If the cross-correspondence scripts are any indication, her love grew even after death.

Balfour was desolated by Mary's death. He took with him on his visit to the stricken family a beautiful emerald ring which had been his mother's. At his wish it was placed upon her finger and buried with her. A long lock of her hair which had been cut off during her illness was given to him and he had made for it a silver box, engraved with periwinkles and other spring flowers, and lined with purple silk. He never spoke of this and it was not known to anyone who later tried to decipher the cross-correspondences which mentioned it.

Balfour visited with the Lyttelton family on almost every Palm Sunday for the rest of his life. He never married, but devoted all his time to public service. Besides being Prime Minister he was also at various times Chief Secretary for Ireland, Leader of the House of Commons, First Lord of the Admiralty and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs during the First World War, and finally twice Lord President of the Council.

Now if one were to try to identify a person without actually mentioning his name or address, how would he go about it? In the case of Arthur Balfour he was represented in the scripts as:

1. A faithful knight.
2. A pilgrim or traveling palmer (a pilgrim who carried a palm leaf as a sign that he had been to the Holy Land).
3. King Arthur of Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*.
4. He also is referred to indirectly by quotations from Tennyson's "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington" because Wellington

was Arthur Balfour's godfather for whom he had been named.

5. Also by drawings or allusions to a palm tree, this being the crest of the Balfour coat of arms; and a thistle, for Scotland, which was his family home.

References in the scripts to Mary Catherine Lyttelton are even more complex. She was on one occasion or another indicated as:

1. The Palm Maiden, because of the day she died.

2. The lady with the candle, because the best picture extant of her shows her standing at the foot of a staircase holding a candle in her hand.

3. The May blossom, because it is her birthday month, and also because her family called her May rather than Mary.

4. Cockelshells or scallop shells, as these appear in the Lyttelton coat of arms.

5. "The Blessed Damozel" of Rosetti's poem, who yearned from Heaven for her lover.

6. Dante's "Beatrice," and emeralds, which link "the emerald eyes" of Beatrice to the emerald ring which was buried with Mary.

7. The firework known as the Catherine Wheel because of her second name, and the wheel because St. Catherine of Alexandria was martyred on a wheel.

8. The Moon is also an indirect symbol for Mary Lyttelton and is associated in the scripts with another indirect symbol, the Greek sign *sigma* which has several forms: one is the letter *M* which stands for Mary, another stands in its more cursive form for a "lock of hair," and a third *C* stands for the name Catherine and also has a symbolic association with the new moon.

9. Another indirect symbol is Berenice, whose legend tells that she cut off her hair and dedicated it in a temple for the safe return of her husband from the wars.

The scripts also contained references to a metal box, something purple, and even to periwinkles and spring flowers.

It was not until 1916 that all the points referred to in the various scripts which seemed to be about Arthur and Mary were finally linked together with understanding. Then, in response to impassioned appeals by Mary Lyttelton in the scripts, Arthur Balfour himself finally came and sat with Mrs. Willett. He identified the points previously unknown, explaining the lock of hair hidden away in the silver box.

This hair incident is typical of a later event throwing light on past scripts, written automatically by people who knew nothing of the matters referred to and deciphered by investigators who also were ignorant of the actual facts of the case. Another is the frequent use

of the candlestick symbol for Mary, when the automatists had no idea that her last picture had been taken holding one.

When one considers that the script intelligences had to use the brains and hands of persons who had no knowledge of what they were talking about, it is evident that their task was extremely difficult.

The script intelligence Gurney once told Sir Oliver Lodge, an active psychical researcher, referring to this problem: "You must get through a good bulk of matter to get in what you want said from our standpoint. They are not without threads of connection. But listen. Those threads extend also in subliminal of automatist. Thus if I would say *fire,* I Gurney might make an allusion to Phoebus or to Zoroaster. Her subliminal may conceivably go one better and shove in Salamander."

Lodge replied, "Well, that was what we rather suspected, that subliminal activity was mixed up with your intention."

To which the alleged Gurney responded, "Woven strands. Pick out the gold thread."

Naturally a man as reserved as Arthur Balfour would be reticent about trying to pick out the gold threads in any communication purporting to come from "the beyond." He was slow to commit himself about so basic a matter as the authenticity of the scripts, but gradually over the years he came to accept that the messages he received did indeed come from Mary Lyttelton.

In 1926, when he was old and ailing after pneumonia, he sent Mrs. Willett a reply to an emotional script begging him to believe in her continued presence. "The message," he wrote, "is understood by him and is deeply valued . . . Assuredly he does not require to be told that death is not the end . . . The hour of reunion cannot be long delayed. . ."



DEFYING DYNAMITE

WHEN a pickup truck loaded with a ton of dynamite exploded about a mile east of Ritzville, Wash., it blew a large hole in U.S. Highway 10, hurled pieces of the truck over a wide area, split the engine block and bent the driveshaft like a pretzel. But Kenneth Veigel, of Spokane, Wash., driver of the truck, escaped without injury.

Is the famed Indian Rope Trick no more than a myth—have those who claim to have witnessed it been cleverly duped?

HISTORY OF THE *Indian Rope "Trick"*

By H. N. Banerjee

A GOOD DEAL OF editorial ink has been wasted both in the West and in the East on the possible existence of "The Indian Rope Trick." Some say that this is India's greatest feat, others deny even its possibility.

This curious mixture of contradictions leads to the belief that the Rope Trick stories are mere fantasies. Lt. Col. R. H. Elliot, formerly of the Indian Medical Service and Chairman of the Occult Committee of the Magic Circle, London, is of the opinion that, "The Great Rope Trick is a myth. It never has been performed and never will be. It sprang Minerva-like from the brain of an inventor of jovine proportions and Goddess-like it has lived on far too long."

The story and description of this legendary feat varies in detail but is generally similar in broad outline. Will Goldston, founder of the Magicians' Club, London, has writ-

About The Author

Mr. H. N. Banerjee agreed to write this article for FATE when he was in this country on a visit during the summer of 1963. He has worked extensively with Dr. Ian Stevenson, Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of the School of Medicine of the University of Virginia, on studies of possible cases of reincarnation. He is Director of the recently formed Department of Parapsychology at the State University of Rajasthan. The Indian Journal of Parapsychology of which Mr. Banerjee is editor will be published by this Department henceforth since they have completely taken over the activities of the Institute of Parapsychology of which Mr. Banerjee was Director.



ten as good a description as any:

"The conjuror sits crosslegged in an open space. He throws one end of a coil of rope into the air; and about 15 feet of the rope (sometimes 20 or 25 feet) remains stiff, like a pole. A little boy climbs the rope and balances himself at the extremity. At a word from the conjuror he entirely vanishes and is discovered in a basket or comes running into the crowd from a distant spot. Then at a signal the rope crumples to the ground."

But is this trick really a "myth"? Are there no eyewitnesses to the trick at all to prove its existence?

History tells us that more than 1000 years ago the trick was commonly spoken of in India. The doctor of the Vedanta philosophy, Samkara, has referred to it in Sutra 17, of the Vedanta Sutras. From China, in a volume of *Travels* written by Ibn Batutah (Abu Abdullah Mahammad of Tangiers), an Arab or Moorish sheik who journeyed through the East in the first part of the 14th Century, comes this report of an entertainment at Hangchow . . . "one of the Khan's jugglers took a wooden sphere in which there were long holes and, in these, straps, threw it up into the air till it went out of sight, as I myself witnessed, while the strap remained in his hand. He then commanded one of his disciples

to take hold of and ascend by this strap, which he did until he also went out of sight. His master called him three times but no answer came. He then took a knife in his hand, apparently in anger, laid hold of the strap and also went quite out of sight. He then threw the hand of the boy upon the ground, then his foot, then his other hand, then his other foot, then his body, then his head. He then came down, panting for breath and his clothes stained with blood . . . the juggler then took the limbs of the boy and applied them onto each other, he then stamped upon them and the boy stood up complete and erect . . ."

Yue's *Marco Polo* also contains a detailed and similar description of the trick. Marco Polo ended his account by saying that Kazi Afkharuddin was next to him and remarked, "Allah! It is my opinion there has been neither going up nor coming down, neither marring nor amending; it is all hocus-pocus."

Mr. S. W. Clarke, in the *Magic Wand,* a conjurors' journal, tells of finding a reference to the trick in the 16th Century, at Magdeburg, Germany, where a magician "would throw a cord up in the air and the little horse would go up it; himself taking hold of the horse's tail, would follow him . . ."

In the Memoirs of the Emperor Jehangir, translated from a Persian manuscript by Major David Price, member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, we read that he saw the Rope Trick performed by a Bengali magician in Delhi, at the beginning of the 17th Century.

In the year 1895-96 Gulam Mohammad, a barrister-at-law of Rajkot, saw this trick performed in Bombay while he was staying there in the Great Western Hotel. In his account the rope and strap of former accounts has become a thread; otherwise the trick differs very little. Mr. Mohammad states that he saw this done before a group of nearly 200 persons of his acquaintance.

The London *Morning Post* printed an account given by Sir Ralph Pearson, formerly Lieutenant Governor of the North West Frontier in which he claims to have seen the trick performed at Dondachia station, on the then recently constructed Tapti Valley Railway, in the west Khandesh District of the Bombay Presidency, in the spring of 1900. In the same newspaper, for January 26, 1932, Mrs. Pennel Williamson told of seeing the trick done at Mussoorie in the year 1907-08. In the *Times* of India for April 30, 1934, there is an account by someone who saw the trick performed.

I have in my files many other

instances of eyewitness accounts of the Indian Rope Trick. So it seems quite certain that the feat has been and can be accomplished. It remains for us to examine the methods.

In my opinion the Indian Rope Trick has been so bolstered up and misrepresented by the exaggerated accounts of reliable and notoriety-seeking travellers that it has lost its real character and those who hear and read about it expect far more than it is possible for any human to perform. Miracles, as all theologians from St. Augustine onwards have said, "do not happen in contradiction to nature, they only transcend what is at present known to us of nature." But it is my belief that the Indian Rope Trick is not even a "miracle"; it is only a clever trick and admits of quite a simple explanation.

William Von Arrensdroff, a professional magician from Montreal, Canada, stated that he had studied the Rope Trick for years and believed it to be compounded of both illusion and hallucination—up to a point it is hypnotism and beyond that it is trickery, he said. He also offered to perform the trick, but there is no record that he did so.

Horace Goldin, president of the London Magicians' Club, has stated that he not only has seen the trick performed but that he has learned to do it. In one of his printed booklets which he sent to me he frankly confesses that he is "the only white man in the world to discover the secret."

The booklet further states, "The illusion known throughout the world as The Indian Rope Trick, so called from its supposed Hindoo origin, is one of the oldest tricks known to the profession of conjuring." During a visit to India Mr. Goldin found that the Indian method of performing the trick consisted chiefly of a sort of hypnotism, a hypnotism imposed on the audience by itself. Mr. Goldin searched for 18 years before learning the secret. I have a press clipping from the *Daily Sketch,* dated October 21, 1936, which states, "Indian Rope Trick Done At Last. At last the Indian Rope Trick, which has been described by countless retired Anglo-Indians to sceptical English listeners has been done in England by Mr. Horace Goldin, President of the Magicians' Club. He took up the offer of the Magic Circle to pay 500 pounds to anyone who could prove the trick could be done—by doing it—and made a bid for an offer of 1000 pounds by Bertram Mills, of circus fame, at Penge Empire, with apparent success. There was a little Indian boy at the top. Mr. Goldin sounded a gong. The boy just vanished."

But, of course, this was only a stage version of this famous trick.

And it has been done many times by other magicians since that day, by Servais LeRoy, Howard Thurston, Harry Blackstone, David Devant, Chang, Dante and Virgil, to name a few.

Joseph Dunninger, American magician and mind reader, pooh-poohed Dr. Alexander Cannon's claim that he needed $275,000 to do the Indian Rope Trick in Albert Hall, London, and offered to do the trick in Madison Square Garden for only $50. However, when the *News* asked Dunninger to do the trick in one of the *News* offices or on the roof of the *News* Building he laughed, and offered to give $10,000 to anyone who could do that trick on a roof or even in the open.

"There are 35 different methods of creating the illusion of the rope trick," Mr. Dunninger said. "Many of them are impossible. There was one described in *Science And Invention.* It told of a rope which, when thrown into the air, stood rigid because of interlocking metal sockets within its coils. At the time the climber is to disappear a chemical in his hand belches forth smoke and a mechanism at the bottom end of the rope causes the upright coil to collapse. It's an idea, but it's not practical," Dunninger explained.

He said that years ago when he was in vaudeville he used to do the trick, and that he still has, stored away, the equipment to do it with. But he reminds his interviewer that it's only an illusion. "And the Hindus never had a rope trick."

The rather popular explanation, that the trick is done by hypnotism, even by mass hypnotism, is howled and hooted down by some scientists and approved by many amateurs. But Elliot says, "You cannot do this (hypnotize) to a group of people from a distance who are not willing to cooperate with you. Further, the hypnotized subject forgets afterward what happened during the trance while these people profess to remember every detail."

Dunninger agrees, "Mass hypnotism couldn't be done unless every one in the crowd had been examined previously to learn his receptiveness and then the hypnotism probably wouldn't be successful."

William Banker, an Englishman of the Apollo Circus, worked out the mechanics of an " Indian Rope Trick" of his own. His conjuror always did it in an open space between two buildings in the late afternoon. Rockets shooting into the air announced the performance. The smoke from the rockets hung about an almost undiscernible wire stretched taut from building to building.

Mr. Banker's conjuror tossed his rope upward a couple of times, muttering incantations. The third time it usually straightened out and held stiff in the air. The audience

didn't realize that the three little hooks concealed in the rope-end had caught on the wire. A child, actually a very fine wire-walker, climbed up the rope. Then while the conjuror on the ground caught the eyes of his audience with some foolishness, the child undid the rope, threw it to the ground and tripped swiftly over the wire, midst smoke and dusk, to one of the buildings.

Several assistants slipped the child into a great basket, went to the ground floor of the building and mingled, basket in hands, with the crowd. They stopped to watch the conjuror and set the basket down. Then they moved off.

The conjurer noticed the basket. He gesticulated. The crowd parted. He stabbed into the center of the basket as the boy carefully coiled himself about the outside rim at the bottom of the basket, leaving the center empty. Then the conjurer took off the lid. Presto! The vanished boy reappeared.

Col. H. Cornes, R. A., says he saw the trick done in a narrow Indian street, smoke hanging heavy over all. And Cleve Conner, a New York business man who lived for many years in Malaysia, says he often had strolling players do it for his guests as an after dinner trick. He says they always did it among the trees.

Perhaps Banker's honest explanation helps us understand what Mr. Connor and Colonel Cornes saw.

I have met three persons who have described the trick to me as they saw it themselves. They are all reliable persons; one of them studied magic for many years. His description of the trick not only supports the fact that this trick acually has been performed, but that its effect has been exaggerated.

He states that the rope rose about 15 feet in the air, moving upward slowly. Instead of a boy, a small monkey climbed the rope and stood on the top. Then the rope fell, and the monkey dropped with it. The rope used in the trick was of most peculiar construction. My witness had an opportunity to examine it. It consisted of sections which could be made rigid or released by interior cords. The rope was coiled and the fakir had an underground assistant who pushed up the rope, the joints being fixed together as the rope rose. When the monkey had ascended the rope the master cord was pulled and the rope collapsed—coling as it fell.

Twenty-five years ago, there was an account of a conjuror who performed versions of the Rope Trick in an open field. He adopted the principle of the prepared rope which could be recoiled or made stiff at will, thanks to the many special sockets inside it. He

performed this on the pavements of Chowringhee, Calcutta, and in front of the Stateman House, Calcutta. He got full page publicity in India's popular daily *Amrita Bazar Patrika;* and many photographs of this trick in its various stages were published in the January, 1937, issue of the monthly magazine *Modern Review*. Some of these pictures were printed in the "Orient" *Illustrated Weekly* Magazine for April 23, 1944, also.

On the stage this trick is done easily, but it is difficult to produce out of doors. However, I think we can clear up the mystery of how the Indian street jugglers performed it 100 years ago.

If we consider the time, place and situation of the early performers we will find that this trick usually was performed in hilly areas rather than in the desert country. The Fakirs wore *loongi* and *askans,* long flowing garments. The boy wore a loin cloth with one *fatua,* singlet, on. They chose their site for the performance carefully, between two high hills or other lofty places. The secret was a horizontal thread stretched from one hill to another and caught by two assistants, one at either side. At that time invisible thread had not been invented, even piano wire had not been introduced. The Indian Fakirs made their invisible wires from human hair especially prepared. They could use catgut ropes at either end because those portions of the cross rope were far off from the spectators. The time selected was evening, just before dusk.

After killing time with preliminary tricks, thus getting the spectators into the proper mood and incidentally allowing the dusk to deepen, the magician started the Rope Trick. Accompanied by weird Indian music, such as is associated with the Jaduwallahs, tom-toms, dholok, etc., the magician showed a coil of rope woven from soft cotton thread prepared on a *charka*— the spinning wheel made famous by Mahatma Gandhi. The rope was about 40 feet long, with a lead weight and a knot at the extreme end. The Fakir threw the rope several times unsuccessfully, just for effect, then with a proper throw the end of the coil of rope engaged the horizontal suspension. Even now-a-days electric and telephone wires are quite invisible when they are against the green background of trees and hills, thus we can believe the spectators of long ago did not see the horizontal wire.

Through the code of the weird music the assistants on the top of the two rocks knolls were told to start pulling their catgut rope-ends. Thus, just like today's floating balls and dancing handkerchiefs are suspended from above rather than supported from below, as even modern

audiences still seem to expect, the rope really hung instead of standing. The rope went up and up. When it reached about 30 feet the people thought it had risen up to the sky in defiance of the laws of gravity.

So the first part of the Indian Rope Trick is successfully accomplished in the open field.

Now for the second part of the trick.

One small boy climbs up the vertical rope, hand over hand, to the top. After a little by-play the magician follows him, holding a sharp knife between his teeth. When the magician reaches the boy he begins to throw down parts of a costume similar to the one worn by the boy. These have been smeared with blood or blood-like colors and could be accompanied by some freshly butchered meat. The assistants pick them all up with much by-play and talk, such as, "Where is the left arm, Ostad?" In the meantime the boy has taken shelter beneath the flowing parments of the Fakir. All the pieces of cloth and meat which the Fakir originally carried under cover of his costume are now dropped down and the boy takes their place. He clings to the performer just as a young monkey slings to its mother.

Now the magician climbs down, thoroughly exhausted. The assistants have collected the boy's "body" and placed the pieces in a basket. The magician approaches the basket. More acting and commotion misdirects the audience's attention and the boy slips out from under the voluminous skirts of the Fakir and enters the basket. Then at a command the boy jumps out of the basket quite hale and hearty, to receive coins and baksheesh.

By this time it is dark.

At a signal the long rope falls limp to the ground—the two assistants stationed on the two lofty places have untied their ends.

During all of this incense has been burning, a bonfire has been lit in the name of *Homa* or *Yagna,* and the smoke from these hangs heavy further obscuring vision and creating distractions.

So, the great Indian Rope Trick is not a myth. It was done out of doors by the street magician. It was a great feat during those days and has acquired legendary fame. Facts died, but legends survive.

It was a feat of ordinary, commonplace trickery performed with ease and without the need of hypnotism or hallucination. It is absurd to attach a mystical character to the performance. It has called correctly through all the years, *The Indian Rope TRICK.**

* Mr. H. N. Banerjee is President of the All India Magician's Club and first researched this phenomenon for The Danish Society For Psychical Research and for the Institute of Parapsychology, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan.



Fragment of one of masses of unknown foam-like substance, torn by brush, was two feet across.

A BOUNCE of FOAM in MEXICO

By Coral Lorenzen

AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.M. on the morning of December 12, 1963, the telephone at Customs Inspection Main Gate in Agua Prieta, Mexico, jangled noisily. Customs Interventor Ignacio Gonzales Baz answered. From the other end of the line an excited inspector at Free Port Gate Number Two informed Baz that a strange, white, ball-shaped object had come in at tree top level and landed about 100 yards southwest of the gate.

Baz, busy checking cattle into Mexico from the United States,

told Inspector Amber Gordillo, the caller, that he could not get over immediately but would come as soon as he was free.

Exactly 12 minutes later Baz again answered the telephone and was told by Inspector Gordillo that two more of the strange objects were approaching. Baz, now finished checking cattle, ran to his car, drove home to snatch up his camera, and set out for Gate Two.

Upon his arrival at Gate Two Baz found that the two fluffy appearing *things* had landed and were "bouncing" across the soft ground of a freshly plowed field about 100 yards from the gate. The objects were not perfectly symmetrical and only roughly ball-shaped, approximately five to six feet in diameter. Their bounces carried them between three and six feet off the ground. The field bordered on the Agua Prieta River (Spanish words meaning dirty water) and a range of stubby mesquite growth. Baz sloshed through the wet field in pursuit of the strange objects. A strong north wind was blowing, driving the objects southwest along the ground. When they reached the mesquite growth they began to disintegrate. Although their long bouncing across the ground apparently had no effect on them, contact with the sharp-edged brush and mesquite trees caused them to tear. It was at this point that Baz caught up with them and took pictures of the two largest portions, each of which measured approximately two feet at the longest part. One landed in water, the other at the base of a mesquite tree. The portion which

What were these weird objects that floated down from the sky? They resembled spherical masses of foam—and bounced across the ground like huge plastic balls.



Ignacio Gonzales Baz, Mexican customs officer, investigated strange "foam."

landed in the water showed no signs of dissolving or otherwise deteriorating in the short period it was observed.

Two hours later, at noon, a torrential rain drove everyone indoors and when the rain stopped sometime later the strange heaps of white material had disappeared.

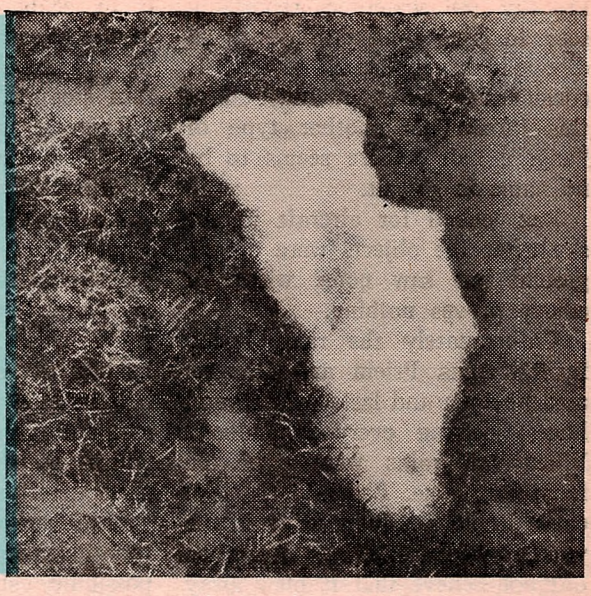
* * *

ON JANUARY 6 I drove to Agua Prieta from Tucson and, by inquiring at the border station, found Mr. Baz without difficulty. Ignacio Gonzales Baz is 52 years old and has been an employee of the Mexican Customs Service for 32 years. He speaks Spanish and English and is learning to speak French. He lives in a comfortable, attractive home with his wife and three daughters. He is called honest, trustworthy and intelligent by those who know him. He responded to my questions without hesitation.

I was curious to know what happened to the first ball of material and Baz informed me that some youngsters and adults had broken it up with sticks and stones and then trampled it, as they were afraid of it.

He told me the texture of the things closely resembled tiny interlocked bubbles interwoven with a fibrous stuff. Baz was at a loss to identify them. He said he thought at first it might be a concentration of soap or detergent suds blown from some laundry in the area. However, he pointed out, each ball remained intact in the air and while striking and bouncing along the ground. The resilience and cohesiveness of the stuff was quite different than soap or detergent foam. When it came into contact with sharp objects such as the mesquite trees, it tore apart, clinging in a strange way to the objects with which it came in contact. But, although it tore on contact with trees, it did not disintegrate further despite the heavy winds which tore at it. Had it been any kind of soap or detergent foam it should have broken up and dispersed even while in "flight" above the treetops.

Baz, an amateur photographer, had gotten his Lord 5-D camera and, using an F/16 aperture, ASA 125, 35 millimeter film and 1/100 second exposure, he took two pictures—one of a portion of the object in the river, the other of another portion which struck and adhered to a mesquite tree. He hesitated to touch the stuff because of its strange nature, but did put a stick into it. When he turned the stick the stuff responded somewhat like "cotton candy" winding onto a lollipop stick. When the stick was thrust into it it did not part as soap or detergent foam does, but rather clung cohesively.



Substance was unlike soap or detergent foam. Resilient and cohesive, it had bubbly fibrous texture. This was second of two large masses photographed by Ignacio Gonzales Baz.

I was somewhat puzzled as to why other persons had not reported seeing these strange objects while they were in the air, but a look at the map was sufficient explanation. Agua Prieta lies south and just a bit west of Douglas, Ariz., which is situated about 300 yards away to the north. The objects, coming in at roof-top level from the north, would have attracted little attention for they would have been visible to people in the streets or in their homes for a very short time. Also, because of the cold wind blowing that day, few persons were outside unless they had to be. There is another possibility. The objects could have come down from the north just west of the town, between the Phelps-Dodge copper smelter, farther west of Douglas, and Douglas. If this was their route they easily could have by-passed Douglas without being seen. As it was, they came down on the outskirts of Agua Prieta, on the west side of town.

I have examined many reports of strange white material which has draped itself on ground, trees, buildings, and telephone poles in the past 10 years, but at no time have I examined a report as strange as the Agua Prieta "fall of foam". The "angel's hair", wispy strands of white material seen falling from

the sky and sometimes reportedly seen to issue from unconventional disc and cigar-shaped objects, is considerably different but, unless this "foam" is another type of "angel's hair", there seems to be no name to give it.

Baz looked for aircraft in the sky after the objects were on the ground but saw none, which of course proves nothing.

Unfortunately the rain started in the Agua Prieta and Douglas area at noon and lasted for several hours, driving everyone indoors. When the rains were over the foam was gone. Baz said that because it did not blow away in the wind preceding the rain storm he did not believe that it blew away later either, but rather dissolved into the earth. Although the river water appeared to have no effect on it, perhaps we can assume that the force of the falling rain was sufficient to wash it into the earth, or at least to beat it into small pieces not noticeable to those who examined the area after the rain stopped.

Inspector Gordillo's and Interventor Baz's descriptions of the material tally.

Mr. Garth Johnson, editor of the Douglas *Gazette,* told me in a telephone conversation that he felt the stuff was merely a "freak snowfall". This despite the fact that he had not seen the material and had nothing on which to base his assumption except the photographs which he published along with a short description of the incident.

Until someone offers a satisfactory indentification, almost an impossibility since the material itself is gone, giving origin and accounting for the unusual interlocking "bubbles" and the fibrous content of the foam the Agua Prieta fall must remain an unsolved mystery.

THE BIBLE WOULD NOT BURN

A SHORT CIRCUIT caused a fire in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Harrington, in Columbus, O. Starting in the living room by a metal table, the blaze burned carpeting around the table and destroyed the shade of a lamp standing on it. The flames spread to drapes, window frames and ceiling before they were extinguished by firemen. When the damage was assessed, everyone was astonished to find that the family Bible, which had lain on the table in the very midst of the blaze, was unharmed.

Fingers of FATE

By Harold Helfer

A retirement party had been planned for Roy Norstrom who was ending 42 years as a Racine, Wis., truck driver. But as he finished his last run, he slumped over the wheel . . . dead.

●

Mrs. Moira Nixon walked around a ladder on an Edmonton, Canada, street but you couldn't say it improved her luck. She was struck by a repairman who fell from the ladder.

●

At Rock Falls, Ill., Vincent Talkowski was arrested and fined $15 for following another vehicle too closely. An hour after his release from jail he was killed in an automobile accident. Officers said he'd been following too closely behind another vehicle.

●

Surrounding a Phoenix, Ariz., motel, police demanded through a loudspeaker that Walter Lewis Hefner, wanted on a robbery charge, surrender. He walked out to give himself up and so did two other men from another cabin. The pair was wanted for a burglary and thought the police had come after them.

●

Maurizio Sarra, author of the book *My Friend The Shark*, went swimming in the ocean off Terracina, Italy, and died of wounds received there . . . he was attacked by a shark.

●

At the morning assembly Police Chief Sam Howlett, of Rochester, Mich., congratulated his men because there hadn't been a robbery in the town in 26 years. He was still talking on the subject when a robbery report came in.

●

Chosen at random to draw the lucky ticket for a prize of 100 silver dollars at a McPherson, Kans., affair, Terry Wedel, 5, reached into the box containing 10,000 tickets and pulled out his mother's ticket.

●

Discharged from a Modena, Italy, hospital, after spending two weeks recovering from auto accident injuries, Venusto Pignatti suffered a heart attack and died as he walked out of the building.

Firemen raced to the frame dwelling as one blaze after another struck in unexpected places. The family fled in terror—for an "evil spirit" seemed at work.

Canadian HOUSE of FIRES

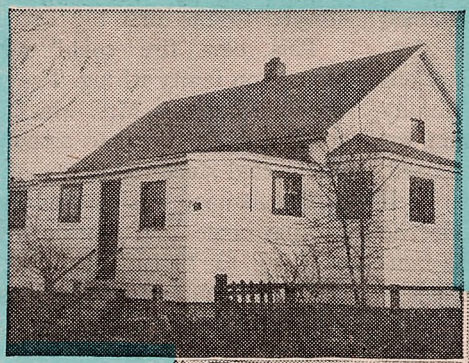
By James Hayes

FOR THE MANY years of their married life Mr. and Mrs. Douglas MacDonald of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, had lived quietly and contentedly. A steady, reliable man, Mr. MacDonald worked at a variety of jobs until a heart ailment forced his retirement on a pension 10 years ago. Mrs. MacDonald was at one time a Salvation Army officer but retired from that position upon her marriage. However, she remained a firm adherent of the organization and a devoted worker in the ranks.

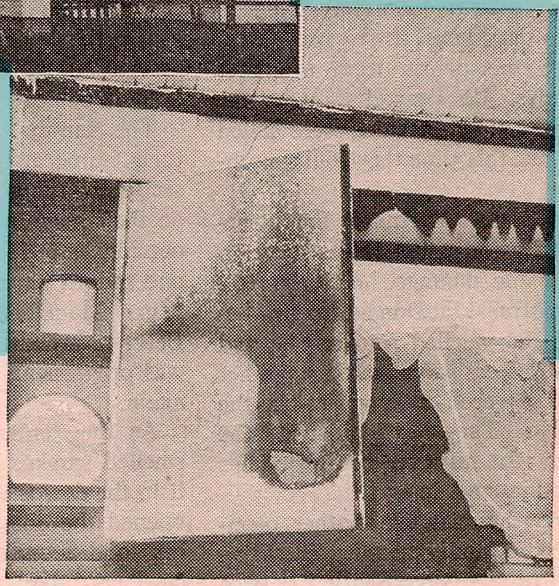
They were, as they say themselves, a wholly unremarkable family. However, some of their close relatives on both sides had what the Scots of Nova Scotia call second sight. They claimed to see visions, to see and sometimes speak with members of the family who had died. They claimed to foresee events that later occurred. The MacDonalds knew these "gifted ones" and believed them, although they could lay no claim to psychic experiences themselves.

The MacDonalds have no children of their own although through the years they adopted a number who grew up as accepted sons and daughters. Some moved away but three, Marie and Sheilah, both 25 years of age, and Betty, 21, remain at home.

At the time when Mr. MacDonald had passed his 69th birthday and Mrs. MacDonald was 65, in the spring of 1963, they continued to live quietly as they always had in



Mysterious fires extensively damaged the modest two-storey home of the Douglas MacDonald family in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. Inside surface of cupboard door (below) is one spot where flames broke out inexplicably.



their modest two-storey home on Glace Bay's Gilday Street.

Then, suddenly in April, 1963, their lives were disrupted. Their world, they say, will never be the same again.

IT ALL BEGAN on the afternoon of April 16, 1963, when fire was discovered blazing on the second floor of the Douglas MacDonald home in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. Firemen were called and the flames

were extinguished without great effort although the building sustained extensive damage.

There was nothing mysterious about the fire. Neither the family nor the firemen could account for the outbreak but, it was reasoned, a faulty electric wire might well have been the cause. The electric service lines were cut and the family moved to temporary quarters.

Two days later, as she was cleaning up the debris from the first fire, Mrs. MacDonald thought she smelled smoke. Firemen were called again but this time they found nothing.

That same afternoon the insurance adjuster called at the home to inspect the damage. While he was there Mrs. MacDonald again believed she smelled smoke. She and the adjuster investigated together and discovered a new fire in the upstairs. They extinguished the flames; the adjuster completed his inspection and left.

A few hours later another member of the family heard a crackling noise upstairs. Investigation showed the second floor again was ablaze. This time it was more serious. By the time they arrived firemen could not enter the building. They played their hoses on the flames through the windows, finally bringing the fire under control. The home had been further damaged, together with some new furniture that had been moved in to replace that destroyed in the first big fire.

This new fire could not be blamed on faulty wiring. The power was still cut off. Mrs. MacDonald concluded the fire had smouldered undetected since the first outbreak.

The damage was covered in part by insurance and workmen were engaged to begin rebuilding. An electrical contractor was hired to rewire the house and, as an added precaution, a new chimney was built.

The family continued living in their temporary quarters in another section of the community and work on their home moved forward without incident. Then on May 16, just one month since the first big fire, Mrs. MacDonald and daughter Betty returned to see how the work was progressing and the fires began again.

As they entered the house they smelled smoke. Finally they traced it to the downstairs bathroom. They opened the door to an enclosed recess and found papers ablaze in a cardboard box.

"I don't know how those papers got there," Mrs. MacDonald said. "I am certain that we used every paper we could find in this house to sop up water left by firemen after the big fire. Yet there it was—dry paper—on fire."

In the meanwhile, firemen had been called. This small blaze offered

no difficulty. They extinguished the fire and left. But less than a half-hour later they were back at the MacDonald home again. Fire had broken out in a closet in Mr. MacDonald's bedroom. This time it was burning fiercely and throwing up clouds of smoke. Again the firemen put out the flames and returned to the station. Before leaving they noticed an oddity. The two outbreaks had occurred some 10 feet apart, on either side of a wall. However, the wall showed no signs of major damage. Obviously flames from the first fire had not gone through the wall to cause the second. Apparently each had originated in the place where it had been found burning.

Less than two hours later the firemen were summoned again. This time the fire had broken out on the inside surface of a cupboard door. This small cupboard hangs on the wall and is several feet above the floor. It contained only the usual kitchen equipment and nothing was found there to explain the new outbreak. The flames had not come through the wall behind.

An hour later and the firemen were on their way to the MacDonald home for the fourth time in that one afternoon. They found the flames on the back porch, some distance away from the location of the earlier fires. This time, the firemen were exasperated and perhaps suspicious. They arranged for a police officer to remain on duty at the home until a thorough investigation could be made.

Mrs. MacDonald and her daughters now sat with a group of neighbors in the house. Suddenly one of the visitors cried out, "Look, there's another fire!"

A section of wall board, some six feet above the floor and facing the doorway through which they were looking was smoking and a red glow was spreading.

A neighbor pulled the wall board away and squeezed out the glowing ember. There was no smoke nor evidence of fire in the space behind the wall nor nearby. The police officer examined the wall board and, obviously puzzled, ordered everyone out of the house. This directive did not bother Mrs. MacDonald nor her daughters; they said they would be afraid to remain overnight anyway. Their home was a shambles. Much of the new work was destroyed. The insurance money was exhausted.

* * *

THEN AS SUDDENLY as the fires had begun they stopped. In time the family returned to their home on Gilday Street. It still bears the signs of fire damage but they hope to make the needed repairs. This, Mrs. MacDonald cautions, provided that the fires do not start again.

Now, at the end of 1963, after months of talk and reflection the MacDonald family confesses they are no closer to explaining the fires than they were in the beginning.

If it was some fault in the wiring or the heating system why have no new fires occurred? A carelessly dropped cigarette or match could not be responsible, they believe. No member of the family smokes.

Of course, there is an answer. But it may not be a normal one, at least firemen have not found the source of the fires.

Mrs. MacDonald has her own theory, but it gets into the area of the paranormal and is not calculated to appeal to hard-headed firemen and other authorities.

"People would laugh at me if I said it, so I keep quiet, but I think there is something like witchcraft or an evil spirit behind this," she says.

But why, Mrs. MacDonald asks, should this happen to us?

They have no answer unless it is somehow involved in the case of a child who lived with them for five months and then was taken away from their home two weeks before the fires began.

The infant was placed in their home by a child welfare agency at the age of three months. It was, Mrs. MacDonald says, an unusual baby although she finds it difficult to explain in just what way it was unusual. The infant, she says, was very shy yet demanding of attention. The baby lived with the family until it was eight months old and had settled in well. It seemed to have achieved real contentment. Then, Mrs. MacDonald says, the child's father insisted that it be taken from their home because he objected to immunization on religious grounds and Mrs. MacDonald had arranged to have the child vaccinated.

Is it possible, the family wonders, that in some way these fires were involved with the baby's leaving their home?

There are no answers to this question.

LEGEND OF THE PALM TREE

THE BACARDI Rum Company, which now manufactures its product in Puerto Rico, originally had a factory in Cuba. In front of the small building in Santiago de Cuba where the business was established in 1862 stood a tall coconut palm. Around the palm centered a legend that the company would survive as long as the palm lived. The old palm died in 1960 — in which year all Bacardi properties in Cuba were confiscated by the revolutionary government under Fidel Castro.

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GRANDPA'S GHOST

By Cecile Ward

MY MATERNAL grandfather, the Honorable George Washington Rose, an attorney, was accidently shot and killed by his oldest son, my Uncle Oliver Steele, then 22 years old, in 1880. At that time my mother, the youngest of a family of four children, was seven.

From then on the 16-room mansion in which the family lived in Maysville, Mo., had the reputation of being haunted by Grandpa's ghost. Many times he was heard walking about the place and at other times was seen by various members of the family.

One evening when I was 10 years old and living in the country, about three miles southeast of Maysville, with my parents, I suddenly became violently ill with what later was diagnosed as "bilious fever." My mother, seeing my distress, tried to interest me in playing dominoes to distract me from my sickness. But I started vomiting, violently.

We didn't have any telephone and my mother, becoming alarmed, started walking with me to the nearest neighbors', about a quarter of a mile away up a steep hill. She wished to telephone my father who was working away from home and was with us only on weekends. She wished to call a doctor also. I vomited all the way up the hill, along the dusty road.

When we reached the top of the hill, I looked back down at our house in the valley; it was bathed in evening sunshine.

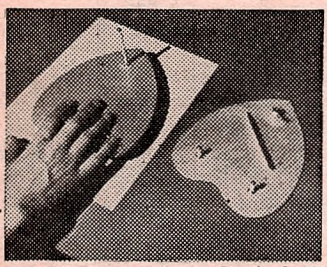
In a triangular clearing, between the house, the smokehouse, and a woodpile, I saw three men. They were dressed in black; their frock coats and tall "stove-pipe" hats, which long since had gone out of fashion, were clearly visible in the brilliant sunshine. Even from a



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quarter of a mile away, I could see these men distinctly. They were milling around in our back yard.

"There's Pa!" I heard my mother gasp. "Down there. Look!"

I looked at her and saw that her eyes were focused on the same distant scene.

"It's Pa and two of his associates," she exclaimed.

I've never forgotten that long-ago vision and I've often wondered at the cause of it. Was it because I was indeed near death and almost "over on the other side" that I saw these men? Or was it simply that my mother, a reputed psychic and medium, transferred this scene from her mind to mine? Specifically, were the men actually *there* or simply in our minds? The fact that we both saw this scene must have some significance.—*Chicago, Ill.*

VISITATION

By Marie Beckleman

IN MARCH, 1930, I lived in Santa Barbara, Calif., with my father, an older sister, and a younger sister. My mother had passed away a little more than a year earlier. I was 18 years of age and was in bed very ill with pneumonia. I do not remember the exact date but on this particular day the doctor had come and gone.

Father, who worked nights, was in his room asleep. My oldest sister was not at home and my youngest sister had not yet returned from school. I was alone in my room, feeling terribly low and wondering if I shouldn't just give up the struggle to live.

All of a sudden I felt a peculiar thrill. I looked up and saw my

mother standing at the foot of my bed, her hands resting on the wooden bed railing.

She looked exactly as I remembered her from my childhood. The gray was gone from her hair and the lines from her face. She looked much younger than when I'd last seen her. Her appearance was vivid and real. She was wearing a pale blue dress.

My first thought was that she had come to get me. I blurted out, "Oh, Mother, take me with you."

With her large, dark brown eyes fixed on mine, she shook her head and replied, "You have much to do." She repeated the sentence twice as though trying to impress it firmly on my mind. Then she was gone.

Needless to say, after this my outlook was much improved and my recovery was remarkable.

I have kept the memory of this visitation a secret all these years. Just why, I do not know. Countless others have experienced similar phenomena, and history records that such visitations occurred long before Christ. As long ago as 850 B.C. the blind poet, Homer, recounted the visitation of what he called a ghost: "Tis certain man though dead, retains part of himself; the immortal mind remains; The form subsists without the body's aid," he wrote.—*Mountain Center, Calif.*

THE THIRD DAUGHTER

By Vivian F. Roberts, R.N.

IN JANUARY 1932 or '33, when the depression was at its worst, I was doing "private duty" which in those days was 12 and even sometimes 20 hours at a stretch. People rarely went into hospitals when they were ill at that time as hospital

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insurance was a rare commodity. When illness occurred a nurse was called into the home.

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Since my duty was from 7:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. I was familiar with the many creaks and squeaks in the place. When they retired for the night the family always wanted to be reassured that I would call them if any change occurred in the patient's condition. None of them ever had looked in on us during the night, so complete was their confidence in me. This particular night I had made my patient comfortable and then settled myself in a large chair, behind which was a floor lamp. Over this lamp I draped a blanket. The light shone over my shoulder and onto my book only.

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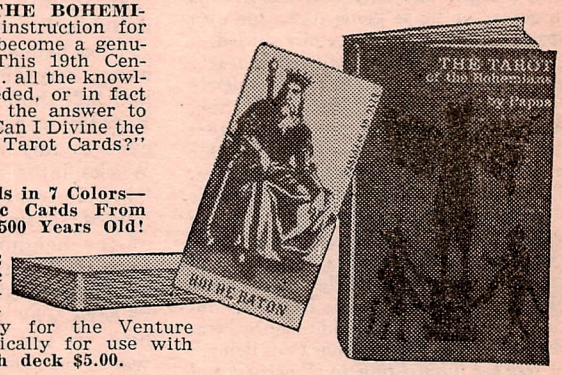
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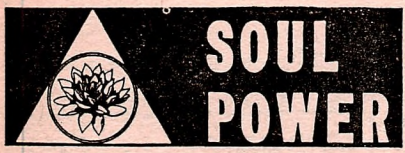
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As I sat reading I heard someone come down the hall. She walked softly into the bedroom and came to stand at the foot of the mother's bed, resting both hands on the foot rail of the bed. She was turned away from where I sat with my book and the room was only dimly lit beyond the pages of my book. I did not see her face but I could see she was clad in a white flannel nightgown. It was old-fashioned with a yoke and a ruffle around the neck. The sleeves were long, with ruffles at the wrists. She was barefoot.

I was not startled that one of the daughters would check on her mother during the night although no one ever had done so before, but since it was January I felt she should put on slippers and a robe. I started to tell her this but as soon as I spoke there was no longer anyone there. The figure had seemed solid enough; in fact I never once thought that it was not one of the living daughters until the figure vanished.

I managed to learn in a roundabout way that none of the family had left their beds during the night. But I never mentioned this experience to any member of the family. Weeks later I visited a friend who lived in rental property which belonged to another old-time resident of the neighborhood who knew this family. When I finished telling of my experience this elderly woman, said, "There was a third daughter who died in her early 20s. Probably it was she who came to take her mother."

This could have been the case, for at dawn my patient slipped away from this world. Her unknown visitor had come at 1:00 A.M. that same morning.—*Bell, Calif.*



NEW BOOKS

VENTURE INWARD, by Hugh Lynn Cayce. Harper & Row, New York, 1964. 227 pages, $4.95.

Venture Inward has as its object to help the reader in his search for insight into mental and spiritual goals in everyday living, and in this respect the book is very successful, particularly in its latter parts. Insight is best achieved through awareness of the powers of the unconscious mind and the proper use of them, according to the author, who is director of the Association for Research and Enlightment in Virginia Beach, Va.

In arriving at his conclusions, Hugh Lynn Cayce has used as his guide the trance communications of his father Edgar Cayce, the famous Virginia Beach seer. Edgar himself, as he is known to those who have read his two biographies or who have worked and studied with the A.R.E., was a most fascinating and appealing man. Further information about him is revealed here by his son in numerous welcome personal glimpses. However, readers not familiar with the background of this interesting psychic may wish that more historical material had been included.

In Part II Hugh Lynn discusses two traditional "doorways to the unconscious"—hypnosis and mediumship. He warns the reader that incorrect use of such doorways as automatic writing and ouija boards, dianetics and scientology, and hallucinogenic drugs is fraught with danger. Yet, he also indicates the value of such psychic adventures as may be obtained by using the proper procedures. He wants those who are naturally psychic to know better how to deal with their unusual experiences.

Section IV — "Safer Doorways to the Unconscious" — contributes valuable information on how to contact and make use of subconscious processes. "It is possible," Hugh Lynn says, "that mankind has reached a point in space-time when the unconscious must be explored and understood. To turn back without further examination, in my opinion, would be as foolish as giving up after brief attempts at establishing colonial settlements in the New World. There seems reason to believe that understanding of the unconscious can bring man valuable knowledge — of his own real nature, of his true relationship with his fellow man, of his kinship with what he

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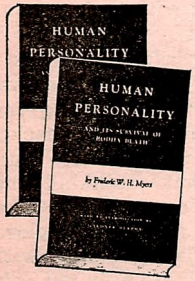
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calls the Creative Force. His heritage, in a historical, evolutionary, and spiritual sense, may be locked within this unconscious."

Hugh Lynn Cayce suggests that "the study of personal psychic experiences is like setting up an experiment in a laboratory;" and he goes on to show the need for self-appraisal in considering one's capabilities for telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, etc., The use of dreams as clues to subconscious reasoning is explained, and an excellent system of meditation is presented in detail. All in all, for one who is making an effort to understand his own mind, or to develop his psychic powers, the latter portions of this book should be very rewarding.—*Susy Smith.*

THE STATES OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS, by C. Daly King. University Books, New Hyde Park, N.Y., 1963. xiii plus 176 pages, $7.50.

C. Daly King, who died before this work was published, had a Ph.D. in psychology. He wrote the book in academic manner as though for colleagues or advanced students. The foreword, by a professor of philosophy at Sarah Lawrence College, implies that King's views warrant serious attention, but offers little regarding their validity. Included is a statement that he "ventured widely off the beaten path." Some of his views are so far off that their appeal to orthodox psychologists is very unlikely.

The general public will find the book involved and difficult. It is heavily weighted with physiological material which the author considered pertinent but which for the man

in the street—namely this reviewer — does little to promote acceptance of the concepts regarding consciousness. Indeed the author's efforts to relate physiological material to the states of consciousness appear to involve some dubious science.

However, some of the ideas regarding consciousness and its assumed states are of interest and value although they may appear extreme. As is explicity stated, the concepts derive in part from the teaching of the fabulous G. I. Gurdjieff, especially as interpreted by A. R. Orage.

The book treats of four states of consciousness: *sleep*, *waking*, *awakeness*, and *objective consciousness*. *Waking* is the term used for ordinary consciousness such as we all have. King contends that it resembles light hypnotic trance. We

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have a *self* that is conscious of the body's sensing, feeling, and thinking, but in the waking state it is considered merely an onlooker without influence. Thus we are considered to lack free will, but we are not left without a small ray of hope. If we can attain the state of *awakeness* the self can begin to exert an influence. Unfortunately, according to King, about the only way that awakeness can be attained is by applying a technique (credited to Gurdjieff) that is difficult and dangerous, and should never be practiced without expert supervision or help from informed associates. It involves strenuous efforts to increase awareness of the functioning of one's own body.

Having achieved awakeness, the most adept may aspire to attainment of *objective consciousness.* This too is a rare state—so rare in fact that King never had known anyone who had attained it. His reading, however, led him to believe that ancient Egyptians had done so. He considered the cosmic consciousness of the mystics to be essentially the same thing, but distorted.

An attitude to be attained before awakeness can be achieved is said to be that of non-identification, or not feeling one's *self* with one's body, and thus with the sensing, feeling, and thinking associated with the body. The art is to observe these functions as though they were someone else's. It is an intriguing exercise, although said to be dangerous to mental health if not properly done. Something similar, but apparently less drastic, has been advocated elsewhere as a step toward attainment of cosmic consciousness. — *Harold Steinour.*

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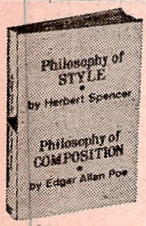
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HYPNOSIS AND SUGGESTION IN PSYCHOTHERAPY, by H. Bernheim, M.D. University Books, Inc., New Hyde Park, N.Y., 1963. 428 pages, $10.00.

Written nearly a century ago, this work by Bernheim has been acknowledge one of the great classics in the field of psychotherapy. Bernheim, who was fully respected in French medical circles, conducted his research during a period when interest in hypnotic phenomena had the approval of the medical profession. But the fate of his book illustrates how hypnosis has undergone repeated cycles of general approval followed by total eclipse. It was translated into English almost 80 years ago—and has been out of print for almost 75 of those years.

Of the 105 cases reported by Bernheim, only two were considered outright failures of cure; 22 cases improved or were cured with qualifications; 81 were considered cured of their original symptoms, and Bernheim claimed he had no evidence that substitute symptoms developed.

He concluded that the results he

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produced involved more than the ability to produce hypnotic trance. He realized that the key was a special relationship—a *rapport*—with his patient. He describes cases in which this rapport does not occur —and in which therefore he failed to obtain a cure.

Currently hypnosis is widely accepted as a legitimate field of scientific inquiry and as a useful tool of psychotherapy. However, more is known about it than in Bernheim's day and in the opinion of at least some authorities its role in psychotherapy has narrowed. Yet his book remains a valuable reference for students of hypnosis in general and of the history of hypnotherapy in particular.—*Guy Archette.*

THE I CHING — The Book of Changes, translated by James Legge. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1963. 448 pages, $2.45.

The *I Ching* (or *Yi King*) is considered by scholars one of the most important books in the history of Chinese culture. James Legge, famed sinologist and translator of the classic, traces its basic text to King Wan and his son, the Duke of Kau, who lived about 1,100 B.C. The *I Ching* was one of the Five Classics edited by Confucius (about 450 B. C.), who reportedly considered it of such profound significance that he expressed the wish he could have 50 years more of life to study it.

Basically the *I Ching* is a manual of divination based on 64 lineal figures, or hexagrams, which are attributed to Fu-hsi, who dates back to 3,322 B.C. These consist of two elementary forms — a whole

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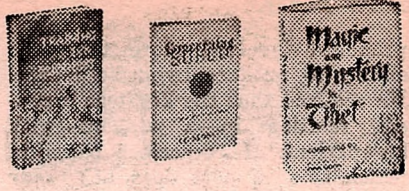
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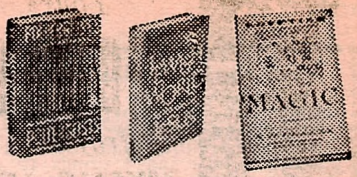
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line and a divided line, and a hexagram consists of six such lines in various combinations.

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REPORT FROM THE READERS

EN RAPPORT WITH TREES

Are trees intelligent enough to obey the commands of man and to make their needs known to man?

They may do so in some cases, and I offer as an example two orange trees which grow at the back of our house. I tend them properly, but I do give more attention to one than to the other.

If you ever have picked fruit from a tree, you may recall that the first fruit came off easily, as though the tree had not yet become aware that you were picking its fruit. Then suddenly effort was required to remove the fruit from the branch. The tree was holding fast to it. I have experienced this.

In the fall my husband picks the oranges from our two orange trees. He picked the contrary tree first and it was a difficult job for him. The tree fought him all the way, as if it would rather lose a branch than let him remove the ripe orange.

I told my husband that the other tree would be easier to pick. It was — up to a point. Then it, too, began to hold fast to its fruit.

Finally I went outside and told the tree mentally, "You do not need this fruit any more. Let us have it so you can have strength for the new blooms which already are forming within you."

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I reached up and oranges almost fell into my hands. The rest my husband picked easily. He said the tree seemed almost glad to get rid of its fruit.—*Dulcie Brown, Fresno, Calif.*

VISION OF A QUILT

FATE printed the story of *The Haunted Quilt of Poy Sippi* (April issue) without going directly to the owner of the quilt, thereby missing out on the most important information of all.

I enclose part of a letter I received from Mrs. Dora Monroe of Poy Sippi, Wis., the owner of the quilt. I am a Spiritualist and the evening before the report of the quilt appeared in our Pittsburgh newspaper, *The Press*, I laid down on my living room couch and immediately went into a trance.

While in this trance I had a vision of the quilt and heard my voice loudly commanding a spirit to leave it. In the vision I had a complete picture of something about which I previously had known nothing. I had no knowledge of the quilt and knew nobody by the name of Dora Monroe.

In my vision I saw a man of ruddy complexion and large build. He was paralytic and grinned with a mouthful of broken and decayed teeth. He was holding on fiercely to the top of the quilt. I did not know what the quilt looked like before that, but what I saw in the vision was exactly like what appeared in FATE except that I saw it in color.

Also in the room with the man was a young boy, dressed in old-fashioned clothes that looked like a Dutch costume. The man did not

speak, but the boy was eyeing me from where he stood at the foot of the bed. Thus I believe that the voice Mrs. Delfosse heard was that of a young boy, not a woman. I saw no woman in my vision.

Suddenly I came out of the trance, somehow aware of what I had done concerning the quilt. A spirit had gone to rest.

Please note that I had the vision on October 24. I enclose a clipping from the Pittsburgh *Press*, which you will see is dated October 25. I wrote Mrs. Monroe on October 26, and she answered on November 1, as is proved by the postal cancellation date on the enclosed envelope in which I received her letter.

Since I live in Pittsburgh, so many miles away from Wisconsin, I never had heard of a place called Poy Sippi. As soon as I saw the report about the quilt in *The Press*, I knew what my vision was all about. I wrote Mrs. Monroe and told her that the quilt now was free of its "haunt". If she kept my letter, it will supply further proof of what I am writing you.—*Mrs. Dolores Mastascusa, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

AN ASTROLOGER PROTESTS

Just a brief note to protest the wording you used in your "I See By the Papers" column in the March issue. You said astrologers appeared to be cheating in connection with the 20-year Jupiter-Saturn conjunction cycle.

Please be assured it is not the astrologers who are "cheating", it is merely you who are confused. Or, perhaps we (the astrologers) are at fault in not making our meanings clear.

The point is that *the man elected*

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during such a conjunction dies in office. It does not matter that Roosevelt was elected in 1932, 1936, etc., but what *does* matter is that the man elected in 1940 responds to that cycle or demonstrates it. Thus we were able to forecast that the man elected in 1940 would not finish out his term, that he would die in office. This being the case, we were able to predict that Roosevelt would continue to be elected until he did finish his life in office. The same would have been true of Kennedy. Had he lived, he would have been re-elected and finally died in office.

This has been explained so many times I was shocked to see you, of all persons, utilizing a term such as "cheating." I know astrologers are not perfect. As a newsman I know editors are not, either.

I know I am not and I certainly hope I am not being rude in registering this protest.—*Sydney Omarr, Hollywood, Calif.*

* * *

I regret that I simply cannot follow the reasoning of astrologers who feel that the conjunction of two planets may have had a direct influence upon the deaths of presidents, considering that the deaths have occurred as late as four years after the conjunction which is alleged to have influenced those deaths.

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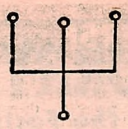
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he went on to win his fourth term in 1944 and died in office in 1945.

In view of this and other difficulties, I can only reiterate my personal feeling that astrologers are using a little poetic license in relating the 20-year cycle theory to this particular series of tragedies.

In expressing this legitimate difference of opinion, please understand that I do not intend to demean astrology as a whole. A friend of mine, a clinical psychologist who has done some original research in astrological predictions, produced some surprising correlations, which ought to be more widely known and investigated.—*Curtis Fuller.*

WAS OSWALD ALONE?

I find that I must take exception to the statements by Mr. Fuller (in "I See By the Papers," March issue) that Lee Oswald, the reported killer of President Kennedy, was working alone. I realize that Mr. Fuller's statement was written some months before FATE was mailed, but, just for the record, subsequent investigation has revealed that Oswald had carefully planned an es-



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cape route through Mexico and probably into Cuba. Such a plan would appear not to be an individual undertaking.

You state that Oswald might have been mentally ill. He may have been, but do not forget that Oswald was an admitted Communist and not, as Mr. Fuller said, just a product of our violent society. If our society is violent, and if hatred caused Oswald to murder the President, then that violence and hatred may in large be laid at the feet of the Communists, whose insane plans for world conquest utilize any means.

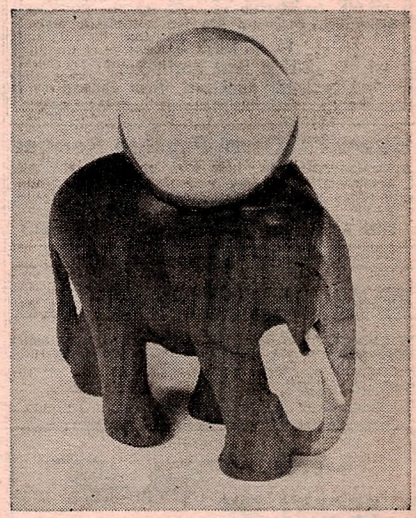
Oswald was a member of the Communist-Cuba-supported *Fair Play for Cuba Committee*, and another of its members, Robert Fennell, is reported to have threatened the life of President Johnson. This may be taken as a lesson by those who believe the Communists are gentlemen and can be dealt with honorably. In fact, 10 years ago Senator Joseph McCarthy made a prophecy when he told author Taylor Caldwell, in answer to her suggestion that Kennedy might make a fine president, "My God, no, the Communists would kill him."

Mr. Fuller also states a legend will build up that Kennedy's assassination was engineered by a powerful group of men who secretly rule America. I have heard vague rumors of such a group and would appreciate any reliable information as to whether it actually exists.—*Russell S. Pond, Derry, N. H.*

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a result of living in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas and spending much time out in the open, watching bees and other insects, I decided they had a means of communicating with each other.

I constructed a form of supersonic device and took it out into the fields. Almost immediately I heard many different sounds, including an intelligible voice. I asked a question audibly and an answer came at once — a highly intelligent answer, too. This frightened me a bit. I decided to ask no more questions until I found the source of the voice, which I never did.

I wonder if any others have had a similar experience?

I was personally acquainted with Thomas A. Edison and made some test instruments for him in West Orange, N. J. I also knew Nicola Tesla.—*Thomas E. New, Santa Monica, Calif.*

A "CAPTIVE" SURVIVAL?

Mr. Christensen's experience in your survival department (April, 1964, issue) is a useful contribution to discussion about the nature of life after physical death. He tells us that "growth and experience have ended," that those who pass over can only forever "relive" the life they had here.

This interpretation of life beyond also has been suggested by Prof. H. H. Price in Eileen Garrett's anthology, *Does Man Survive Death?* (page 41). For discussion's sake, it cannot be excluded, but it raises many questions.

For instance, if a person is forever captive to his past, is this not sheer determinism, and perhaps

even an outside fate? Does it not contradict the whole assumption that man is free and that, therefore, man can learn, be educated, be reformed, and make for himself a better life — whatever his past has been? Of course, the whole existentialist approach demands this openness, this freedom — which Mr. Christensen's interpretation would exclude.

His interpretation, too, is not that suggested by a large body of psychic experience, concerning life after physical death. The entire gist of almost everything I have read in the field of communications, is against his conclusion. Still, his conclusion may be true if we regard it as particular and not general.

What I mean is this: certainly a person would have his memories in the next life, as Mr. Christensen says. If that person decided to live in those memories, would it not be literally true, for such a person, that his life would be just those memories? Thus Mr. Christensen's observations and interpretations would be valid only for such an individual.

For myself, I would prefer to keep the openness, the sweep, and the challenge of life beyond physical death. As the *Book of Common Prayer* has it so nobly: "And we bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service."

Life, as it progresses through God's kingdom, becomes never less (unless this is deliberately chosen) but increasingly more. Certainly life beyond is exciting, open, and

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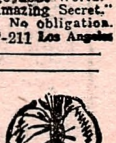
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grand as this present life, at least, or why should we sense even this much?—*The Rev. Carlyle Haynes Meacham, Saint Paul's Church, Universalist, Clinton, Ill.*

DIFFERENT AFTERLIVES?

Samples From Eternity, by Forrest Christensen, in "My Proof of Survival" (April, 1964, issue), gave me pause. If we only relive our earthly lives over and over, forever, where is the justice of this? The poor, the blind, the suffering, the deformed, would go on and on. Not even the release of extinction could rescue them if this were true.

However, it appears that death affects different persons in different ways. Some seem to go into a time dimension of memory and to repeat everything they have lived. This would explain ghosts in haunted houses and ghosts that repeat an event on a certain date every year. They may be earthbound, or simply impressions which are played back repeatedly, such as by a tape recorder or a movie film — or a combination of both, the actual entities being long gone.

It is possible that Mr. Christensen never got any further from his body than the memory vibrations contained in his aura. This may explain why some seem to relive their past in a flash while drowning, or in some other emergency.

Actually, those who have died and returned to tell of it, report vastly different experiences. Some find themselves on higher planes. Some find themselves no further than standing outside the physical body.

My mother "died" of fever when she was quite young, and it took others some time to revive her. She

said that during the time they thought she was dead, she was enjoying herself in a beautiful garden filled with flowers more beautiful than any she ever had seen on earth. She wished to stay, but she was pulled back into her body against her will.

Many things can happen and all are valid. We should not attach too much importance to a single experience.

The mother-in-law could not have spoken to Mr. Christensen if she was merely reliving her memories, or she would not have been able to say anything new, like telling him she was alive. According to his theory, she would have been able only to repeat what she had said to him in the past. She may have meant that she was living and that he always would remember her, and vice versa. Or she may have meant that she lived in his memory, and that this life, locked away now in his mind, would be unfolded for him when he passed on.

The idea that after death we would be in such a condition as described in this story is a dangerous one for persons who might just believe it! They might find themselves trapped in the vibration of memory after death. Spirit entities reportedly do encounter all sorts of tricky situations, and it is difficult to rescue some — those with fixed, preconceived ideas, for example. Thus if one believes he will be dead until the resurrection, that's the way it is. Everyone gets what he expects, more or less.— *Rosalind John, Norco, Calif.*

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explanation for the following phenomenon which I experience almost every night. I want very much to know the reason for it.

When I retire at night, I usually turn out the living room light and then make my way to bed in the dark. If I happen to bump into a piece of furniture, the sudden jarring causes a brilliant white light to "spill" from my eyes. "Spill" is the only word that describes it accurately.

If the jarring is violent, or if I hear a sudden, loud noise, the white light floods over my eyes and I am unable to see for a minute or so. This also happens in the daytime.

If readers will write me, c/o FATE, I will be deeply appreciative.

Incidently, I will send three Herkimer "diamonds" to anyone who sends me 50 used, large commemorative stamps.—*Vida C. Schneider, Yonkers, N. Y.*

THROWN BY A GHOST

I found the July, 1963, issue very interesting. After reading "Did I Meet the Ghost of My Father?" I cannot understand why the boy's father asked him so many questions. If he was able to join the boy it seems to me he would know what was going on at home, whether or not his wife was well, etc. This sort of thing throws me.—*H. Muriel McGuire, Fresno, Calif.*

PREVIEW OF A PICTURE

One afternoon a few years ago I felt tired after cleaning house and lay down to rest a while. As I closed my eyes, the face of a girl appeared before my inner eyes. She was a complete stranger, yet I saw her very distinctly. I wondered who she was.

After I got up, I thought no more about the face I had seen. While glancing through the newspaper the next morning, I was startled to find the girl's picture in it. The accompanying story related that she had killed herself by jumping from a building.—*Mrs. C. E. McCormick, Kansas City, Mo.*

AN APPEAL

My husband Harold and I wish to direct an appeal for healing help to FATE readers.

Harold suffers from total paralysis due to a broken neck. Although his spinal cord was just bruised and not severed, he remains totally paralyzed.

If any readers with spiritual or psychic healing ability can help him, we will be most grateful.—*Mrs. Harold Reimann, Rockford, Ill.*

All letters addressed to Mrs. Reimann, c/o FATE, *will be forwarded immediately. We hope that all help will be offered to her and her husband without charge.—Editor.*

(Continued on page 129)

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(*Continued from page* 119)

THE AURA AND THE FIREFLY

The article in the September, 1962, issue, relative to the Russian couple photographing "life and death," is intriguing.

The editorial note which followed the above article commented on the "off and on" subject of the "aura." Perhaps some scientific person can arrive at a definite conclusion in view of this transcript of an article published in the *Newark Star Ledger* of July 16, 1962.

The article concerns the "cold" light, or bioluminescence, produced by click beetles, glow-worms, certain fungi and bacteria, as well as by the firefly. It stated:

"The light organ of the firefly is in the tail end of his soft little abdomen. It is a wad of fatty tissues riddled with a network of fine air tubes. The little generator uses a very complex chemical process which, as yet, we do not fully understand. But we know a few of the steps.

"One chemical present in the firefly's generator is called luciferin, another is luciferase, another is adenosine triphosphate, which is written in shorthand as ATP. The ATP chemical is also present in our own muscles. So far as we know, the firefly's luciferin changes into other chemicals in the presence of luciferase and ATP. When this complicated chemical process is going on energy is released. Almost all of this energy is released as light."

If, as this article states, our muscles do contain some light-producing chemical, then perhaps there is a factual foundation for the pictures that the Russian couple are getting, and also for the "human aura."—*Lloyd R. Reaney, Westfield, N. J.*

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A medium's "spirit guide" may not be what many think. Nandor Fodor discusses the mysterious partnership from the viewpoint of psychoanalysis.

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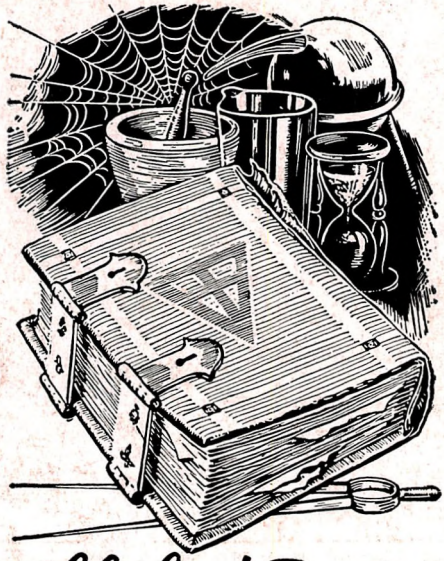
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