

JOURNAL OF THE
BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS
No. 4 June, 1934

NOTICES

A MEETING was held at 12 Park Crescent on 5th April at which about 30 members were present. The power of human radiation was demonstrated by means of an argon lamp which becomes luminous at a distance from the subject varying with his physical condition. Short talks and explanations were kindly given by Miss Mudd, Colonel Godman and Dr. Wright.

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We have received copies of the first five numbers of *Les Capteurs d'Ondes*, the publication of the Société de Radiesthésie du Languedoc. This society was formed in the spring of last year and now includes 320 members.

Amongst numerous interesting articles are *Les Parfums qui guérissent*, by P. Hemme, and *Du Réglage du Pendule*, by Dr. Paul Chavonon.

The Society is to publish periodically an *Annuaire de la Radiesthésie* which will combine in a single volume everything of interest concerning Radiesthésie. It will include a list as complete as possible of all dowsers and those interested in the subject; the addresses of professional dowsers and well-sinkers; a bibliography; addresses of dealers in dowsing instruments; a description of the various methods in current use. The cost to subscribers is only 5 francs.

We wish the Society every success.

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Dr. Raoul Braun-Fernwald, of Vienna, who is a profound student of Radiesthésie, has kindly sent us an article from the *Zeitschrift für Wünschelrutenforschung* of October-December 1929 telling of an exhibition at Mödling at which a special section was devoted to the divining rod, and of various useful locations of water made by Colonel Karl Beichl who was chief of the Austrian dowsers during the war and was made Knight of the Order of the Emperor Francis Joseph for his services.

Dr. Braun-Fernwald has also drawn our attention to a note in *La Côte d'Azur Médicale* of October 1931 on the Congress at

Bad Rothenfelde where a new mineral spring had been opened up on the advice of the well-known dowser, Dr. Paul Beyer. At a depth of 180 metres it yielded 22,000 galls. per hour.

Dr. Beyer has himself sent us a pamphlet containing several striking examples of his location of petroleum, potash, brown coal and mineral water. He was the founder and first president of the Internationaler Verein der Wünschelrutenforscher (International Association for the Investigation of the Divining Rod).

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Whalebone for divining rods can be obtained from Messrs. Devine and Co., Ltd., St. Stephen's Road, London, E.3.

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

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A Banker's Order for the payment of annual subscriptions is being sent with this journal.

ANALYSIS

A REMARKABLY simple but effective method of approximate analysis was demonstrated at 12 Park Crescent by Colonel Godman on the afternoon of January 9th.

The method depends on the following principle :—

If two objects of a similar nature, not necessarily equal in size, are placed a short distance apart, reactions with the rod or pendulum will be obtained over each object and at a point halfway between them.

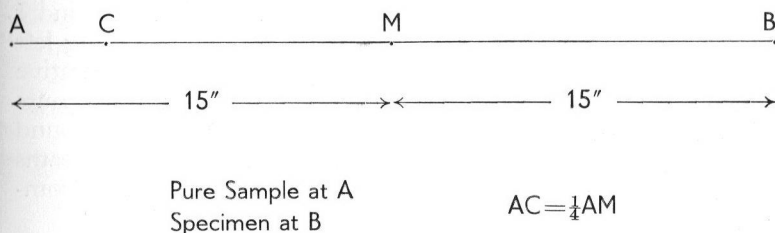
The reaction at the mid-point depends on the two objects being of the same *quality*; the *quantity* in each is a matter of indifference.

If, however, the objects are not of the same quality, but one is of pure material (A) and the other an alloy or mixture (B), the reaction will no longer occur at the mid-point (M), but will be obtained at a point between A and M, such that the distance from A to the point of reaction bears to the distance from A to M the same proportion as that of the pure material in the alloy or mixture.

Thus, for example, if at one end B of a base line AB, 30 in. in length, a piece of 9-carat gold (i.e. 9 parts gold, 15 parts other metal) be placed, and a piece of pure gold at A, M being

the mid-point, a reaction will occur at a point $\frac{9}{24}$ of the distance from A to M, or $\frac{9 \times 15}{24} = 5\frac{5}{8}$ in. from A.

Similarly, if it is required to ascertain, say, the quantity of cornflour in a specimen of adulterated arrowroot, a small quantity of pure cornflour would be placed at A and the specimen at B; a reaction would then occur at a point C between A and M, such that if the specimen contained 25 per cent. cornflour the distance AC would be one quarter of AM or $\frac{15}{4} = 3\frac{3}{4}$ in.



It will be observed that no reaction ever occurs between M and B when this method is effective.

It is not as yet clear whether the analysis is of weight or of volume; it is hoped that members who find they can carry out this experiment with consistent success will discover to which class the analysis belongs.

LEAVES FROM A DIVINER'S DIARY

By J. TIMMS

I SUPPOSE it is necessary in writing a first article for the British Society of Dowsters to make my own position clear, being a professional diviner. When I first found I had an 'extra sense' very marked, 'which every true diviner has in greater or less degree', I made up my mind that I would keep clear of all ready-formed theories, and work till I had sufficient data to claim the attention of scientific colleagues. During the first few years, I did not make the mistake of so many amateurs

and think I had a professional status, but gave unlimited time to investigative work, the only sites given being free sites to an ever-growing circle of friends and acquaintances. These began to show very definite results.

As I became more sure of my work and the results obtained, I began to get many calls in an area of three counties, still continuing the investigative side of my work. Later on, partly to get sufficient time to fully develop my research work, I struck out and became professional. Both my work and the importance of the things undertaken are constantly growing, also the depth at which I can give approximate depth and quantity.

At this stage I started to read up the subject, only to find I was ahead of most of what was written. So the only thing left was to carry on, which I am still doing. One of my educative schemes took three years, and swallowed thousands of hours without a penny recompense, the mapping of all underground streams in an area of 30 miles. About 250 miles of these streams are mapped by A. H. Church, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., who accompanied me over every yard not occupied by buildings.

I claim by this scheme, successfully carried out, to have learned more of the sources and habits of underground streams than has ever been known before. I will now give a few typical instances of my work, as at present being carried out, methods being reserved for a future instalment.

At the Thames Board Mills, Purfleet, I actually had located supplies of 25,000 and 20,000 galls. an hour turned down as inadequate. However, I was able to find a much bigger supply before leaving the works. This was given on April 28th, 1932. On February 8th of this year I stood over the main from the new engine house where 150,000 galls. an hour were being pumped from the bore without lowering, and on the same day located two new sources of equal volume, besides lesser flows. The above supply was estimated and got at 120 ft.

For paper pulping firms alone I have located 300,000 galls. an hour which are now in use. For waterworks alone 500,000 galls. an hour are in use. My successful sites run well into four figures.

Now for a typical day on smaller work.

On February 21st, 1934, I located on two farms at Tadmarten, Oxon., then went on to Rugby to locate for an Isolation Hospital a short distance out. I did the two farms in company with a waterworks engineer, one on Oxford's biggest college property, the other on Lord Saye and Sele's estate. The joint Hospital Board met me at Rugby and we went to the site together. Two sites were given, one 500 galls. an hour at 50 ft., the other,

after bringing three streams to junction and on lower ground, 900 galls. an hour at 30 ft.

I do not wish to become tedious with an array of figures, but my work is many sided and I have enough of interest to fill several volumes. I have not touched on my healing work.

I should like to close these few notes with a strong word to every prospective diviner, and also to those who are practising. Don't neglect to educate your 'sense' to a high state of proficiency before attempting to use it in any semblance of a professional manner, or you will bring a great force into disrepute, and I can assure you there are many things to know, much more than several editions of the *Journal* would contain without any other matter.

I have to deal with many sites every year given wrongly by diviners who should have educated themselves first.

Although the year is young, I already have some on my list. Concentrate and educate would be a good motto.

IMPRESSIONS

By Lt.-Col. HUGH ROSE, of Kilravock

LET us hope that it is fully realized by the members of our Society that all dowsers vary in some respect or other, whether in bodily mechanism, in methods of working, or in beliefs on the subject.

Dowsing is somewhat similar in this respect to foods. We know the old adage, 'What is one man's meat is another man's poison'.

For instance, most people are fond of eating strawberries—a friend of mine swoons at once if one crosses his lips. Another friend breaks out in a rash on the face.

At least three people of my acquaintance in pre-war days were ill after eating an egg, even if it only happened to be a minor ingredient in a pudding. And a lady whom I know is quite upset if she partakes of a rabbit, in any shape or form.

It is said that no two finger-prints in the world are exactly alike, and so it is with us dowsers. But, by meeting together and discussing personally, or in the *Journal*, these little differences in dowsing, we pick up useful tips from one another and progress in knowledge. And, as we are all out to help each other, not to mention the community at large, in these days of water shortage, we greatly welcome our Society, which is supplying a long-felt want in our country.

Long may it flourish.

Now, there is one curious trait which the writer has experienced five or six times, and it would be interesting to know if any others have had the same sensation.

After working with the rod for some time, I feel 'exalted', in fact, almost hysterical though outwardly quite calm.

When this condition occurs, a strong impression seems to be borne in upon me, for no particular reason, to continue the task which might appear to have been completed.

Here are three instances :—

Case No. 1. In Ireland, on Lahinch Golf Course, Co. Clare—close to O'Brien's ruined castle. It was an exceptionally dry season, and the club secretary invoked my aid to find water wherewith to keep the parched greens in order. The greenkeeper, a tough Aberdonian sceptic, made no secret of his utter unbelief in dowsing. But he said that if I could find the spring that used to supply O'Brien's Castle with water, through an underground conduit leading into it, he might, perhaps, believe in it.

It took me a very short time to trace from the old ruin to the spring. The latter was entirely covered, flush with the rest of the course, with drifted sand, grass and bents.

The greenkeeper concurred with my location of the source, and agreed that there was more in dowsing than he had hitherto thought. He mentioned that the water was 10 ft. under the ground.

Suddenly an impulse made me turn half left, and start dowsing in a different direction, and I came across another, a stronger well, some 15 to 20 yds. away.

I said to the man, 'Do you know that there is another well here?' 'Of course I do,' he said, 'it is twelve feet down and there are steps leading down to it'.

There was absolutely no surface suggestion of a well. Through negligence, the drifting sand had obliterated all trace of it.

Case No. 2 occurred in the year 1915, in Mametz Valley, near Albert.

Having been asked by a R.E. officer to find water for a large number of artillery horses, I worked for four and a half hours all over the valley, and finally hit upon a good strong flow. I was working with a finely-tempered clock spring.

I traced it from ground some little height above the valley down to the edge of it, and marked the spot. Suddenly I felt an urge to start again in another direction, though rather tired, and decidedly hot. Sure enough, there was obviously another strong flow heading towards the other one. I located the exact

spot where the junction occurred, which, incidentally, no one but a dowser could possibly do, and, instead of getting only 5,000 galls. per hour, which was the normal yield in that area, my well, 59½ ft. down, produced over 10,000 galls. per hour!

The R.E. officer in a 'chit', which I possess, calls this 'a quite exceptional yield for a comparatively shallow well in chalk formation', and adds, 'The above is, I think, of scientific interest, showing the valid assistance Water Divining can give to the geologist'.

Case No. 3. Some six years ago, in Scotland, I was asked by a Welsh mining engineer if I could check his assumed 'strike' of manganese ore, extending for about a mile along a hillside.

The mine expert watched me from a distance and said not a word. I worked in loops of about one hundred yards, and whenever the rod turned to the ore, a sample of which I held in my left hand, I gave him a sign. At one spot I told him that the pull was exceptionally strong, and he found under long grass a chunk of manganese, turned up evidently by the plough.

Then came a strong impression on me that we should go 40 yds. or so, higher up the hill. He said his 'strike' agreed with my line so far, but that he was almost sure that there was no ore near the surface above where we stood. 'Well,' I said, 'it will not take more than three or four minutes to try there, anyway'. So we went up, and found quite a big patch of it, to the surprise of both of us.

These cases suggest perhaps, that dowsers after locating water, minerals or metals, might orientate to all points of the compass with the rod held high. Possibly some might thereby avoid missing something else of value in the neighbourhood, of a similar nature to what they are searching for.

This, however, is merely a suggestion.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF WATER FINDING BY THE DIVINING ROD

By B. TOMPKINS

THE art or gift of discovering springs of water and metals (gold and silver) concealed in the bowels of the earth by a direct inherent preconception of their existence was known in ancient times. The divining rod—or dowsing rod, as it is sometimes called—is simply a forked stick or twig of natural growth from 18 to 20 in. long and from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in thickness,

of two or three years' growth, either of whitethorn, hazel, ash, oak or withy, or, in fact, almost any kind of wood except blackthorn, witch-elm, or maple. I usually use whitethorn when



available, as it was through this particular kind of wood I discovered I possessed the gift to discover springs of water; at the same time, a hazel twig or rod is equally good, and I find in practice these two woods are the most reliable in estimating the depth and field of water to be obtained, which are of vital

importance. The action of an ash twig is too quick in its movements over the spring head, whereas the oak twig is too slow, consequently the ash overrates and the oak underrates the depths of a spring, so in practice they are not to be depended upon to give as true results as either the whitethorn or hazel. The withy is of too soft a nature ; it will not stand the pressure and soon breaks and becomes useless.

The proper method of holding the rod is between the third and fourth fingers of each hand and under the thumb and gripping the rod fairly tightly with the apex downward. With the rod held in this position, it is absolutely impossible for any one to cause that twig to move or revolve unless some unseen power is brought into contact with the twig operating through the body of the water finder or the person using it. With the rod in position, I commence to walk over the land in sections, so as not to miss any part of the property. I continue my search until an underground stream is found, and as soon as I come across, or over, a subterranean course of water, the rod I am using commences to rise and point with its apex in the direction in which the water is running towards the 'spring head'. Sometimes the water is flowing in an opposite direction to that I am walking in, then the rod reverses its action from rising in front of me and points backwards : I at once follow this direction. I have found this reversing action saves me a tremendous amount of walking, for now, by crossing a property in sections, I am able to determine whether a spring head exists and so start the important part of the search and survey without unnecessary fatigue.

In reviewing the past thirty years of my experience as an expert water finder all over the United Kingdom and South Africa, I look back with satisfaction on the concrete results of my efforts in providing nearly four hundred towns, districts and parish councils, Waterworks Companies, Corporations, Crown Land Commissioners, Manufacturers, Breweries and Dairy Companies and land-owners with one of the most vital necessities of life—pure spring water. On several occasions I have discovered springs of water yielding from 10,000 galls. to 50,000 galls. per hour, even where it appeared on the surface an impossibility for water to exist, and in some cases water has overflowed the top of a 12-in. bore at the rate of 40,000 galls. of water per hour at a depth of 325 ft. deep.

At almost the commencement of my professional career, I carried out numerous experiments and tests for the discovery of springs of water, gold and silver for the late Sir William Barrett, Professor of Physics at the Royal College of Science, Dublin. Sir William

at the time was preparing a lecture on the so-called 'Divining Rod', for delivery at the Royal Albert Hall in connexion with the Psychical Research Society, to which Sir William invited me to assist him, and to give my experience.

The power of water finding does not affect the head in the least. It comes from the ground through the feet, legs and back, over the shoulders, down the arms, on to the twig. The negative and positive influence meeting at the apex causes the twig or rod to rise in the hands and revolve over and over, when over the 'head of the spring'. If rubber shoes be worn, or if one stands on insulators, or even if the rod or twig is split through the apex and severely bound with twine, the rod ceases to act over the same spot where before the rod had turned so violently in the hands of the operator. The water finder, possessing a nature very sensitive to the power, as he is searching an estate, comes across various subterranean watercourses. The moment he comes in contact he feels the current flow through his body; he becomes taut, as when a violin or harp is tuned, and his rod indicates at once by rising in his hands and pointing in the direction in which the water is flowing. He at once feels a pulling or constraining influence to follow that course in its zigzag direction, the rod continually rising in front of him until he arrives at the 'spring head', when it revolves over and over. If he holds it very tight and applies pressure to it, to try and prevent its turning, he will soon lose a lot of energy and become faint and exhausted, his hands being blistered and his twig twisted and fractured like a withe.

The acceptance of my theory as the most practical one has greatly increased since my explanation at the Royal Albert Hall and the three broadcast talks I have given, beside the three editions of my book, entitled, *Springs of Water and How to Discover Them*. Although my theory has been severely criticized, to me it is a very practical one, and no one has yet been able to overthrow it or replace it with anything better.

Springs of water are often connected to each other by subterranean watercourses coming from long distances underground. A very curious incident happened at one of our English towns situated in a valley in Buckinghamshire. The streets had been flooded for a considerable time. Previous to this flooding I had an engagement in the suburbs of the town to discover a water supply for a country residence and an open-air swimming bath, 15 yds. long, 6 yds. wide and 9 ft. deep. I was successful in discovering a strong spring of water estimated at 40 ft. deep and yielding 5,000 galls. of water per day at the foot of a plantation near a high hill. The spring also extended to a well-laid-

out tennis court and flower garden. It was decided to sink a well at the foot of the hill, so as not to interfere with the tennis courts. Water was struck at 30 ft., but to obtain the full supply, the sinking was continued to 40 ft. The swimming bath was constructed, and everything was in perfect order. Some little time elapsed before the arrival of the pump, when quite suddenly, to the surprise of everyone, the water completely disappeared. Having a second engagement in the neighbourhood, I was informed of this curious coincidence and asked to make a second test to ascertain, if possible, the cause of this disappearance. To my astonishment, where my rod had previously showed such unmistakable signs of a strong spring of water at the site chosen for the well and at the tennis courts, where the excavation had taken place, my rod was absolutely still and motionless. I was dumbfounded, disappointed and surprised. Never having had such an experience before, I determined to try and find the cause. After a very careful search, I found other supplies had vanished and wells gone dry on adjoining properties and that Nature, in one of her less kindly moods, had opened her safety valves and allowed the various springs to have their liberty by diverting the subterranean watercourses and flooding the streets; no doubt they will become normal again. Such cases are very rare, but they go to prove that at times the very best of us have to bow to Nature's supreme power.

There are facts in connexion with the subject of water finding that may be interesting and useful to mention. This art, or gift, is, as I have already said, apparently confined to only a few who possess a very sensitive nature, though I believe the number is by no means as limited as is supposed. I have tested hundreds of persons of various ages and positions in life, but only in two instances have I found any one outside my own family who possessed the gift with sufficient confidence to be able to utilize it with any degree of success. One of my sons was equally as successful as myself, but to my sorrow I lost him (as a despatch rider in the Royal Air Force during the war), from pleurisy and pneumonia. The other son possesses too strong a nature, consequently he has to subdue his strength to use the rod successfully, then he is too exhausted and fatigued to stand the strain the spring of water produces on him and collapses and is placed *hors de combat*.

Water finders are born, not made. It is a gift that cannot be acquired, or a profession that cannot be taught, although it may be developed by a person conscious of having the gift by practice and coaching through expert tuition.

A very common feature in connexion with this gift is the

discomfort when close to a dynamo or electric light station, unless one is properly insulated. The body is like a battery easily becoming charged with the current and the only thing to do is to take a long brisk walk for relief.

One mysterious fact that I have not yet been able to solve is why and by what cause the various subterranean courses of water coming from the various points of the compass underground should in nearly every case converge in their zigzag directions to a certain spot termed the 'head of the spring' where they meet. By tapping the spring at this spot the greatest volume of water can be obtained by one well or boring and often it proves to be the main spring of the neighbourhood.

In sinking a large well it has been proved that these various courses of water come into the well from the directions previously described during the search at various depths. In some cases they have come in at nearly the same level and met in the centre of the well.

Some years ago I advised for and carried out the contract for a new water supply for Lord Camoys at Stonor Park, near Reading. I discovered a spring head, which I estimated at 125 ft. deep on a hill. It was a condition in the contract that I should give a fortnight's pumping test before erecting the wind engine for supplying the house and estate. The village of Stonor, situated about two miles off, is supplied by wells 90 ft. deep and each of these wells decreased 10 ft. in their supply, but as soon as I stopped the pumping test, the water returned to the normal capacity, thus proving each of these wells had previously been sunk on some of the subterranean water-courses supplying the 'head of the spring'.

The question is often asked: How do you ascertain or estimate the depth and quantity of water at which a spring head exists?

The depth is estimated by the amount of pressure on the body at the 'head of the spring', similar in principle to the pressure indicated on a steam gauge from a boiler, and the quantity is estimated by the number and comparative width of the subterranean watercourses, whether of local origin or coming from a long distance converging to the 'head of the spring' and in many cases I have been exact or within a few feet of the depth and to a gallon of water in the yield at depths varying from 6 ft. to 1,000 ft. and in quantities from 3,000 galls. per day to 50,000 galls. per hour, and if necessary can give chapter and verse to prove these statements.

Not only is it possible to discover pure spring water, but I have been successful in finding a spring of pure soda water at 160 ft. deep at Milton, near Peterborough. So strong is this

spring that it rises 15 ft. above the surface through an artesian bore and the water is being distributed all over the country under the name of Hydrox. Mention may be made of the discovery of a sulphur spring and a pure spring of drinking water within 5 ft. of each other, at 20 ft. deep, in a grass field near an hotel at Llanwrtyd Wells. This engagement was to be of a secret nature and I was asked to defer my search until quite late and dark, with only a light tied to a gatepost as a guide in the field where I was searching. Both springs proved to be pure in their separate nature, with only five degrees of hardness. Another recent engagement was for the extensive tomato nurseries of Messrs. Luddington, at Tilney St. Lawrence, near King's Lynn. Several wells had been sunk to various depths at considerable cost, and although the local land water was obtained, it was salt and proved useless. I succeeded in discovering a 'spring head' in one of the large tomato houses, estimated at 20 ft. deep, 10,000 galls. per day. The spring was struck at 17 ft. and the water was analyzed and found to be absolutely pure and free from salt, thus proving the difference between a 'spring head' and ordinary land soakage water.

THE MIND AND THE ROD

By Canon H. J. F. TRINGHAM

MANY years ago I watched an old Wiltshire dowser seeking for a supply of water in my garden, and subsequently found that the rod seemed to become 'alive' in my own hands. Later on I experimented with coins and discovered that the mind governed the action of the rod. Thus, if I thought of water, the rod would not act for coins, and *vice versa*. I then experimented with coins of different metal, putting each coin in a separate envelope and mixing the envelopes together so that I had no knowledge whether any particular envelope contained a copper or a silver coin. Thinking of copper, the rod enabled me to pick out the corresponding envelope, and switching the mind over to silver I could find the silver.

I was not infallible, but when in the right mood my success was remarkable. I found that it would not do to place a silver coin in an envelope which had been used for a copper coin, or *vice versa*, for this led to confusion. Apparently metal of any kind leaves an influence behind it after the metal itself has been

removed. Thus the rod will indicate the spot where a coin has rested on the floor.

Since making these experiments with coins I have tested my dowsing powers in many ways, e.g. with the stars. The dowser has only to think of any particular star and the rod will locate its place in the heavens.

I have amused myself with an atlas : I turn to the list of names at the end of the volume and select one which is unknown to me. I concentrate on this and the rod will usually indicate in which direction the place lies. I am not always right ; with this, as with all such experiments, unknown factors seem to come into play and cause confusion.

Within the last few weeks I have been using the rod in an endeavour to name and date some old china which I have inherited. I knew very little about china and an expert was not available.

My method was as follows : I placed a specimen in front of me and tested with the rod to find out whether it was pottery or porcelain. A book on the subject gave me a list of places where porcelain (say) was made. Going through the list, rod in hand, and coming to the correct (?) name the rod rose. In the same way I went through the list of names of manufacturers who had potteries in that particular place. This gave me the maker's name. I then tried for the date, first getting the rod to indicate the century, then running through the century in tens until I got into the right ten, then running through the units. I have attached a label with the requisite information to each specimen, so that when an expert is available my results can be tested. I may be hopelessly wrong, but the astonishing thing is that the rod was always quite definite in its indications.

I want to try the rod when I have time on a collection of coins in my possession. I want to see whether the rod will pick out the fakes from the genuine coins. If it will do this, and if my experiments with the china have not deluded me, one sees many uses to which the rod might be put, e.g. as a guide in connexion with old furniture and silver, faked or genuine, old masters, etc. But I should like others more gifted than myself to try out these experiments. Self-deception is so easy, and in spite of the definite action of the rod, I am only half convinced.

Will someone try to date coins with the rod ? This ought to be possible. I can get no results in this direction.

I realize of course that the rod is only an indicator. When using it, I have carefully watched my hands. When the power is operating, I notice that there is an inward twisting movement of the left wrist. If I hold the rod in my left hand and press

only the end of the other fork against the palm of the right hand, the rod acts; *vice versa* there is no action. If without the rod, I hold the two hands clenched, as if holding the rod, there is a movement of the left wrist in passing over a spring of water. Will others try this out?

As to a possible cause of these phenomena, it might be worth while to read Maurice Maeterlinck's *The Unknown Guest*. He does not deal with dowsing, but with allied phenomena. His theories are interesting, if not altogether convincing.

WATER DIVINING

III.—The Unknown Force

By Major C. A. POGSON

FROM the facts laid down in the two previous articles, two points stand out—(1) that there is a force of some unknown nature generated by or through other, possibly known, forces in currents of water, as is exemplified by the oscillations of the automatic water-finding instruments; and (2) that the human frame picks up and transmits in varying degrees some force when the hands, or poles, or one might even say aërials, are thrust out. I omitted to mention previously that the actual presence of the body had no effect on the Biometer, as it was only when the hands were actually stretched forth that indications were received on the recording dials. Let us call 'force' number one, W, and 'vital force' number two, V.

It is my theory that force V acts as a carrier to force W as far as the human frame is concerned, and, dependent on the receptive power of the individual for force V (as exemplified by the varying characteristics exhibited by the Biometer) so force W makes itself felt. I merely give the above for what it is worth, and although at present I have no definite means of proof I can positively state that with an individual who is able correctly to detect underground currents, his hands are alternately attracted and repelled. Force V is a direct current operating only in one direction; force W would appear to have alternating properties, and if such is the case this fact would assuredly exert some effect on the human machine to which it gained access by the assistance of force V.

PRACTICAL EXPLANATION

A practical explanation in detail is, I admit, difficult as so little is known, and the ridicule so frequently directed at the whole

subject does not assist matters. I would add, however, that my experience has tended to the belief that if the Biometer test could have been carried out with a certified water diviner and actually over a subterranean current of water, I think it would have been found that as the hands moved in obedience to the impulse force from the water, the Biometer needles would have indicated a considerable alternating variance, readings increasing and decreasing as the direction of the water impulse force agreed or was at variance with the carrying force. Furthermore, I believe that if observations had been carried out by testing known diviners with the Biometer, it would have been ascertained that certain characteristic readings would have been obtained. For instance, it might have been ascertained that an equal intake and output reading was obtained only by those individuals who can detect water. Unfortunately, I have never heard of the instrument since the death of Dr. Baraduc, and for all I know, the secret of its construction may have been lost with his death. As the needle of the automatic water-finding machine swings over, so possibly the human poles operate, but until it is definitely proved what makes the former operate, ignorance will prevail as to why the hands move as they do. Unfortunately the makers of the machine seem unable to produce an actual reason of a reliable nature, for it is entirely insufficient to say that it must be some electric force. I believe I am correct in saying that the original inventor of the machine had some idea, when designing it, that it should show the passage of electric currents along flows of water, but as it has been explained by those who should know, that the passage of earth currents, possibly at some depth, cannot thus be shown by an instrument, it would appear that the designer has by accident stumbled on a means of showing the action of what I have called force W.

PERSONAL EQUATION

I have said enough to show that it must be by a personal equation—how the individual is constituted—that an effect is produced upon him when force W is introduced. By some people this faculty is labelled as a miraculous gift simply because they are not so endowed themselves. If the various senses can be called gifts, then I agree. A man who is blind from birth does not, however, say that his more fortunate brethren have a strange gift; he is in the minority, while those who are blessed with eyesight are in the majority, and consequently the sense of seeing is taken for granted. I presume, however, that if we, with a few exceptions, were all blind, then those who were the exceptions

would be considered as persons endowed with a miraculous faculty. They could state that an object was round, and by the sense of touch this could be proved by those who could not see it, and the prediction would be verified. But if a dowser predicts water and water is discovered, his faculty is described as some weird gift, or is held up to ridicule.

A NATURAL SENSE

The actual ability to locate water is as natural as the senses of seeing or tasting, but given this natural additional sense, it can be intensified. Just as constant use, practice, and experience sharpen the eyesight, so the human receptive frame can be made more sensitive in its detective powers as regards the effects of these unknown forces. Different little movements and small indications, which take years of experience to notice, are discernible in the hand movements. Knowledge concerning depths and strengths of currents is simply gained by years of observation and practical experience. As is the case with all seekers after scientific truths, the dowser is often led astray. At first, certain deductions appear to be correct, but then in course of time they may prove to be erroneous. During researches over a period of nearly twenty-five years by the late Mr. W. N. Pogson and myself, in an endeavour to arrive at some deduction regarding the different effects produced by varying water currents at various depths, many blind paths have been followed and steps have had to be retraced, and investigations have had to be begun all over again. The more that is done, the greater is the knowledge gathered, and the more there is to be learned.

MATTERS OF EXPERIENCE

I do not for one moment propose to touch here on the calculations involved by the different observations. It will be sufficient to say that the actual detection of underground water is natural, whilst data as regards probable depth and yield are matters of experience based on many observations compared with results. Man is not infallible, and in spite of the utmost precautions and calculations, errors are bound to occur. New factors crop up, observations previously not encountered occur, all of which introduce elements of error. The best that one can do is to reduce such errors to the smallest percentage. Physical stress or strain, fatigue, or indisposition are the greatest enemies, and attempts at water divining should not be conducted under such circumstances. It is also worthy of note that the readings

obtained by the Biometer varied considerably in the case of an individual when in perfect health and when indisposed or fatigued.

The theoretical and practising points are far too numerous to be dealt with here, and were I to repeat only a few of the experiments which have been conducted by scientists with the late Mr. W. N. Pogson and myself, they would fill many columns. It is more than possible that some of the points I have brought forward may not be in line with accepted ideas. But I have merely given my own opinions and theories in the hope that they may help to dispel some of the rather vague ideas held by many people on this subject of water divining.

RHABDOMANCY AND MODERN SCIENCE

By FREDERICK CHARLES TIDBURY

AS a water diviner of over thirty years' experience in England, France, Belgium, South Africa, etc., I should like to express my views upon it, especially as I believe that it is a matter of vital importance to the public health, and that greater knowledge would bring untold benefit.

I am able to locate water through my hands alone, which, I think, is very rare ; and through this rare gift I have been enabled to discover a herbal preparation, which insulates the human body from the effect of the power which moves the divining rod. Different diviners use whatever wand or rod they find suits them best, whereas other people cannot find any rod which will enable them to find water.

The reason for these differences is that, as scientists tell us, there are three or four different kinds of human blood ; therefore, a person with one type of blood can use the rod for divining, another steel, or the hands alone, while others cannot divine at all. The power which causes the rod to work with some people cannot be electricity, as we know it in use for household purposes, as it works through wood or rubber, through which electricity cannot pass. In my opinion, the power must be a hidden ray similar to electricity, which affects everyone, more or less, through the blood, causing acidity ; and this acidity has results which vary according to the condition of the person. In one it may find its way to the sinews and muscles and dry up the oil from them, causing them to work like rough rope instead of elastic, which is called ' Fibritis '. In another case the acid finds

its way into the bones, burning away the calcium (lime) from them, and gradually depositing it around the joints, causing locked joints, swellings, etc. The acid may also work up to the mouth, extracting calcium from the teeth and thus causing decay.

The water diviner's work certainly involves a loss of vitality to him ; his strength cannot resist the power which turns the rod : so it is quite reasonable to believe that persons who live constantly above such a power can lose vitality without being aware of it, especially as many possess the ability to divine water who have never discovered it. In bed they are actually sleeping above a steel spring which is continually conducting the drawing power of the water, as do also the legs of chairs, which act as a divining rod unknown to the persons using them, and thereby sap their vitality. A person may live for years above such a power without feeling any ill effects, so long as he is able to get about and keep up his strength, as the body is similar to a battery : when connected it will lose energy, and recuperate when disconnected. But should such a person have a severe cold or attack of influenza, or other complaint which lowers the vitality, then the unseen power might prove too much for him and result in what is called ' rheumatic fever '.

No doubt doctors have often attended patients who, unknown to them, lived above such a water power, and when the patient was gradually getting worse, the best the doctor could do was to order him away for a few months' change, resulting in considerable improvement. The reason would be that the patient had left the place in which there was a hidden drag upon his vitality, and had gone to one which was free from it. There have been remarkable cures of some who have suffered for years, without any change either of locality or diet, through the sinking of a well on the construction of a tube or sewer, which has had the effect of cutting off the stream from which the power had come, possibly at a considerable distance from the place where the sufferer lived.

Bee stings are known to have cured or relieved rheumatism ; but only, I am convinced, during the time when certain herbs are in flower, which the bees visit and from which they collect the pollen, and with this they inoculate anyone they happen to sting. These herbs I am using in a lotion, which has the property of insulating the power working the divining rod. This lotion can be used to insulate rheumatic and other sufferers from the influence of underground water.

In spite of all that modern science can do, it is admitted that cases of nerves, rheumatism, etc., are greatly on the increase. In years gone by, underground streams, and therefore the power

coming from them, were cut off by the sinking of wells in many places ; but now, when water is artificially conveyed in pipes, the springs run freely everywhere ; houses are erected above them, and the occupants are affected by the power coming from them. In this, and in many other ways, science is really working against Nature, not hand in hand with it.

Similarly, the progress of civilization affects the climate, and causes a diminishing rainfall. Almost a third of the rain now falls on tiles, slate, asphalt, etc., and drains straight into our rivers and away to the sea, so that the sun cannot draw it back as it used to do in the days when rain soaked into the land ; hence our drought.

In conclusion, I must repeat that I have been convinced by experience, and by the cures I have had through insulating suffers from the influence of underground water, that the power which saps the vitality from the diviner—a power so great that a man's strength cannot stop the turning of the rod—is the power which is causing not only rheumatism, but many more complaints and maladies. Sooner or later science must do its work of investigating and explaining this, and when the cause and the remedy are generally recognized, rheumatic complaints can be conquered, and untold suffering done away with.

REVIEWS

La Radio-Tellurie, appliquée à la Recherche de l'eau by M. Larvaron ; obtainable from the author, 85 Rue de Paris, Rennes ; 10 fr.

This pamphlet of 32 pages was written in collaboration with Dr. J. Regnault. In it the authors describe the use of the rod and pendulum, and how they are affected by the radiations emitted by an object in the ground.

Chapter IV contains an account of the Regnault-Larvaron method of finding water and of determining the depth, quality and yield.

A description is given of the *Radio-capteur*, an instrument invented by Dr. Regnault for finding water at a distance. This can be done up to a distance of 80 kilometres.

La Côte d'Azur Médicale.

October 1933.

Terrestrial magnetism and radiations by Al. Bécédéef.

Radio-activity, new theories from the biological point of view, by M.

Legangneux with a note by Dr. Regnault.

Congress of the French association of well-sinkers and water diviners.

This society was started in January. The Congress was held at Brignoles on 24th September.

November.

Continuation of the account of the Congress in which were exhibited and explained M. Larvaron's *neutraliseur*, an instrument which neutralizes radio-telluric influences, Dr. Regnault's *radio-captteur* for finding depth, the apparatus of Commandant Costes and that of M. Perotti for the same purpose.

December.

An account of a meeting on 19th November, 1933, of *l'Institut International d'Études des Radiations Solaires, Terrestres et Cosmiques*.

Coloured light by Dr. J. Regnault.

A discussion of the effect of colours on the human organism and of the fields of influence of various pathological products with reference to the work of Dr. H. E. Jones in America, Mr. Franklin Henry, and others.

Doctor Léonid Andrenko.

A short biographical note. He is the author of numerous books on astronomy.

January 1934.

Influence of syntinisation on living organisms by D. Cooper.

Describes the effect on plants of the *syntoniseur*, an apparatus invented by Dr. Leprince producing high frequency currents causing waves of 5 to 50 cms.

The action of perfumes by Dr. J. Regnault.

Describes the effect of certain scents on animals.

February.

Remarks on magnetic waves by M. Larvaron.

Explains how a magnet as an emitter of magnetic waves can be used in prospecting at a distance and for locating water or other objects.

Radio-activity.

Letters from Dr. Braun-Fernwald and Dr. Regnault in which is discussed the nature of the influence which causes the reactions of the rod.

March.

The Sun, cosmic influences and radiesthésie.

A note on articles on these subjects by M. Léon Mercer in *France-Radio*.

Congress of the French association of well-sinkers and water diviners.

Continuation of the account of the meeting at Brignoles dealing with dowsing from plans. M. Perotti describes his method of estimating yield.

Bulletin de l'Association des Amis de la Radiesthésie.

Transfer of head office to Paris, p. 424 :

The office is now at 105 Boulevard de Magenta near Gare du Nord. The Society has now 950 members. It celebrated its move into new quarters by the lecture from the President, M. Armand Viré, and a dinner.

Remarks by M. Gaudichard on the lecture of M. Brouard last June, p. 425 :

It is important that in medical cases the radiesthetist should always be an assistant to and not direct the doctor.

Closing Remarks by Vicomte H. de France, p. 427 :

In June 1926 a Psychic Congress was held in Paris. Only M. Viré, as scientist, and Dr. J. Regnault, for medicine, paid any attention to us. We had no Press and no advertisement. In June 1933 we have had a congress attended by many generals, doctors and engineers. We have a constantly increasing library, and there are many provincial and foreign societies with the same aims. We have amongst us two dowzers of the first rank, the Abbés Bouly and Mermet. The School of Military Engineering has asked us to organize instruction. The great journals now notice us.

Yesterday we were simply empiric. We have now entered the scientific domain and we hope to render real service to France and to humanity.

Some experiments by L. Turenne, p. 429 :

Various tests with radium and with colours to demonstrate the series of images obtained.

First lessons of a first enquiry by M. Pitois, engineer, p. 433 :

Containing a table of serial numbers for nine substances given by six well-known dowzers.

Study of cosmic rays by L. Turenne, p. 439 :

Taking successively the 92 elements of Mendeléev's table and using the detector on the sun's rays, a reaction is obtained for all but six, viz., sodium, magnesium, silicon, argon, calcium and zinc. (This seems very curious in view of well-known lines in

solar spectrum.—F.H.) The results for the moon show these six bodies as well, also helium and neon which are everywhere. Results are also given for the stars.

Radiesthésie abroad by D. Lecouffe, p. 448 :

In Germany : Two societies have been formed, Institute of Munich and the Internationaler Verein der Wünschelrutenforscher.

There is a good case of effects caused by running water. An international congress is being arranged next October at Lüneburg. All information from the Verein at 14 Kurzestrasse Berlin-Steglitz or from the Town Hall at Lüneburg.

In Italy : R. Jemma has given interesting communications on telluric rays and on atmospheric electricity.

Preliminary ideas in the study of radiesthésie by M. Brouard, p. 453 :

General remarks on apparatus and simple tests.

Marconi's work on directed short waves by L. Turenne, p. 461 :

A description of a method published by the writer in 1932 which it appears to resemble.

A reply of Commandant Gorceix to M. Turenne, p. 463 :

A criticism of M. Turenne's remarks that results depend on surface and not on mass contrary to Newton's laws.

Radiesthésie can analyze where chemistry fails by H. Lemonnier, p. 465 :

A special acid, dynestra, analyzed chemically gave varied results and missed some important components which were found by author without opening the containing flask.

The radiation of thought by Emile Cadet, p. 468 :

Maintains that he who thinks of lead, for example, gives to the dowser the reaction of lead.

Radiesthésie and popular sayings by General Barbarin, p. 470 :

Many of these can now have some probable explanation.

Téléradiesthésie, waves of intelligence and memory, by Georges Luy, p. 471 :

Reference to works by Emile Christophe. The relation between the human and his environment.

Method of instruction in radiesthésie by Commandant de la Bastide, p. 495 (first part) :

The Chinese never build over subterranean flowing water. After the war Abbé Bouly, employed by the Army, was able to detect and distinguish between French and German shells. The

apparatus of Chevalier de Vita has established that the effects are not due to human origin but are rays with some of the properties of Marconi's.

The apparatus of de Vita and the experiments of the Vicomte de France show that the radiations are of an electric character. Bodies emit rays in more than one direction, radium in six, one of which is fundamental. The rays appear to obey the laws of light and can be polarized.

We do not know how these rays are received. So much depends on personal powers which in some cases embrace the power of seeing through any substance and reading thoughts ; the means of transmission of impressions to the detectors is also unknown.

The rod or pendulum acts differently in the same circumstances with different people, so that no rule has yet been found. The Commandant Gorceix has established that the most favourable lengths of the pendulum for different elements are in accord with the Mendeléev numbers. The best general results are obtained with one of 10 cms.

Reading from a map by Henri Penet, p. 515 :

Correspondence of deductions from field observations and from a map by different workers. Outline portraits of well-known French dowzers.

Discovery by a German doctor on nature of rays by Dr. Kopp, p. 520 :

Statement by Prof. Kraft that wave-length of rays lies between 0.01 cm. and 1 cm. The President of Munich Institute announced that an examination for dowzers might be started.

Dowsing in the past by R. A. Dannin, p. 521 :

In Auvergne in 1646 a dowser, M. Beyssat, a boat-constructor, had been retained to search for hidden money.

The case of M. Cattelin by Henry de France (junior), p. 523 :

M. de France finds that he trembles over running water, but to a less extent than M. Cattelin.

Dowsing and colonial forestry by P. Saint-Yves Cassar, p. 523 :

The dowser can find trees valuable for gums, essences, etc., from base lines by the aid of samples without having to traverse the whole area as in the usual method, thus saving time and personnel. The author can work up to 500 metres. It is important that the sample should be a leaf with no parasites newly plucked by the dowser and not handled by others. Until more is known this method is only supplementary.

F.H.