

T O P S I D E

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THE NEW ERA OF THE SCIENTIST

by
Carol Halford-Watkins

With scientists at long last turning their attention to metaphysical subjects, notably experiments in extra-sensory perception, psychical research, etc., it seems likely that within the next decade or so, we shall be faced with some startling discoveries and many of the mysteries of so-called psychic "phenomena" will turn out to be great natural laws hitherto unexplored scientifically. With scientific backing, the "Cinderella" science of psychic phenomena may be given new "respectability" and acceptance and may well be elevated to its rightful place among other natural sciences. Such investigations may in time even include the probing and final harnessing of the illusive Fourth Dimension, thereby opening up a dramatic new field of experience in the history of this planet.

Already there are indications of the scientific eye being focussed on the metaphysical. That even the highly cautious, ultra-conservative medical profession is gradually widening its horizons to include the possibility of healing on a metaphysical basis, is evidenced by the fact that previously "suspect" hypnotism is now being widely used for the treatment of certain conditions, and in Britain over 500 hospitals now admit spiritual healers to treat patients who request their services. The many well-authenticated cases of successful treatment by metaphysical healers of sickness and disease, including cancer - often the result of a last desperate resort of a patient when orthodox medicine has failed - can no longer be ignored and a few of the more enlightened men of the medical profession are now endeavouring to probe scientifically the mystery of metaphysical healing powers.

A case in point is the experience of a prominent Harley Street specialist, Dr. Michael Ash who, 21 years ago discovered, more or less accidentally, that he possessed the power to heal successfully with what he terms radiations emanating from his own body. The discovery occurred while he and his wife were on a long sea voyage and Mrs. Ash developed a prostrating headache. When the migraine failed to respond to the limited medical facilities aboard ship, in an attempt to soothe the condition, Dr. Ash laid his fingers on her temples. Within a few minutes, her headache disappeared completely and Dr. Ash made an interesting discovery - his fingertips had turned slightly blue under the nails.

Intrigued by the experience, Dr. Ash decided to experiment further and discovered that he was able to heal angina, anaemia, ulcers, skin diseases, etc., and even some forms of cancer responded to the touch of his fingertips which, as before, turned slightly blue.

Not content to accept this power as some mysterious healing gift, Dr. Ash decided to investigate the phenomena scientifically. Satisfied that the healing power was indeed some form of body radiation, he sought for means to identify and measure it. In his attempt to isolate this body radiation, he tried to find out what opposing waves could interfere with it. This led to the discovery that ultrasonic waves, i.e., sounds beyond the range of the human ear, did in fact disrupt the radiation.

Continuing his experiments in this particular field, Dr. Ash - as so many scientists before him when attempting to solve a problem by the method of trial and error - then ran into an experience with rather disastrous results. In probing the problem of the effect of ultra-sonic waves on body radiations, a young girl scientist who was assisting him in the experiments, turned on a machine which produced ultra-sonic frequencies. When she tuned to a frequency of 82,000 cycles per second a dog, brought in as part of the experiments, ran howling from the room. Realizing that not even a dog with supersonic hearing, could have heard such a high frequency sound, she pondered on the possibility of the dog's nose being sensitive to the sound waves. To test her theory, the girl - either courageously or foolhardily - put her tongue in the path of the ultra-sonic waves. She collapsed immediately, her nerves and body temporarily paralyzed. Dr. Ash, rushing into the room, found her in a state of shock, unable to smell or taste although her tongue was not burned or injured. He was, however, convinced that she was not suffering from electric shock.

Dr. Ash treated the girl but her return to normal health was a long and slow process. There was a curious aftermath to the accident. For a considerable time after the incident, the girl became unusually psychic. With her metaphysical senses abnormally sharpened, she was able to hear conversations that were taking place miles away and she could quite easily tell people the contents of their handbags or pockets.

This unfortunate incident was not, however, without some beneficial results to Dr. Ash's experiments. In summing up the situation he reported: "It was this accident which gave me a very important insight into the mystery of radiations from the human body. I found that each part of the human body broadcasts radiations in its own particular frequency. I now believe that by a million-to-one chance, this girl tuned in to the frequency of her vagus nerve which passes through the throat directly to the heart. Naturally, the result was catastrophic."

As a result of his investigations, Dr. Ash claims that he can produce scientific evidence that his healing power is a perfectly natural function. He maintains that such body radiations are no more extraordinary than sound waves made by the vocal chords. He claims that everyone has such body vibrations but that natural healers seem to be blessed with more of them. He believes that the emanations from sick bodies are caused by some vital leakage and that they can be healed by radiations from a healthy body.

Dr. Ash has now trained himself to detect impulses from the human body with his hands and he describes them as feeling like "tiny electric shocks". He further claims that he is able to tell the difference between sickness and health by the distance at which he feels such body emanations.

His theories and claims have, of course, proved revolutionary to his medical colleagues, many of whom reject them, but the fact remains that whatever the source of his power, he has successfully healed a number of diseases by "irradiating" the area of distress and has even returned to mobility long-standing cases of paralysis.

To break down the citadel of orthodox medicine will obviously prove a hard and stony path, but the scientific efforts of professional

men such as Dr. Ash are a welcome step in the right direction. If by the discovery and implementation of natural healing powers, we can in time cure the mental and physical disorders of homo sapiens, this must inevitably prove to be a greater achievement and blessing to mankind than all the costly and comparatively unrewarding attempts to probe space. Man's curiosity about the space that surrounds him and his solar neighbours is completely understandable, but as fascinating as the prospect of space travel may be, are we really ready for such cosmic explorations? I doubt it and humbly suggest, first things first. How much better if these vast sums of money were placed in the hands of the scientists for work on man's welfare and the improvement of world conditions! Let us first put our own planet in order, achieve freedom from wars, famine and disease, and above all, acquire a little more wisdom before, ill-prepared physically, mentally and spiritually, we attempt to invade alien territories in outer space.

The future fate of the world still rests in the hands of the scientists who, if they broaden their scope of activities to encompass the vast, unexplored areas of the metaphysical side of life, may find the answers to many problems and mysteries, with a resultant betterment of world conditions. As we step into the new Aquarian Age, our scientists are presented with a fascinating challenge - and an awesome responsibility - whether their efforts will result in the final destruction of this planet, or the ultimate creation of a beautiful world on which health, harmony and equal prosperity for all reign supreme. Such a Utopia need not be an idle dream but a distinct possibility - if the scientist lives up to the highest calling of his profession.

REPORTING FLYING SAUCER SIGHTINGS.

W. B. Smith

Many flying saucer reports do not do not have anywhere near the value they might have had if they had been properly reported. Much valuable data is either lost or rendered useless by being left out or inadequately reported. Many otherwise good reports are reduced in value because the people who prepared them didn't realize what constituted a good report. The following notes are intended to form a framework for the reporting of sightings, which if followed, should result in the preparation of really useful reports.

When a flying saucer, or any other unusual object, is seen the first thing to do is to note, in writing if possible, the EXACT time and place, to be followed by a detailed description of the duration, behaviour, etc. Careful note should be made of the prevalent conditions, such as wind, clouds, position of the sun or moon, precipitation, etc. If these things serve no other useful purpose they go a long way to establishing the competence of the observer and his ability to recognize and interpret what he sees, as they can be confirmed in most cases through the local weather office records. Precision in placement in time and space, coordinated with parallel evidence from observers located somewhere else opens the way for a surprising amount of interpretation and basic data.

description as possible of WHAT WAS SEEN, which may be somewhat different from the conclusions reached. For example, a coin seen at a distance will appear as a circle, fat or thin ellipse or a thin line according to its tilt to the axis of vision. When viewed flat side on, unless surface markings are visible it could be a sphere. Size is an important point and here the manner of reporting is vital. "As big as a dinner plate" is interesting but useless for evaluation because it is obvious that a dinner plate a hundred or so feet away looks as big as the full moon! A much more accurate method of reporting is to state the apparent size of the object in relation to the full moon, which is quite familiar to us all (if we are not too old). Another method is to poke a few holes through a piece of dark colored paper with a pencil ranging in size from the point to the full pencil diameter and then holding this paper at arm's length compare the bright area of a suitable hole with the apparent size of what was seen. The diameter of the hole held at arm's length will give the investigator a very good idea of its subtended size.

The position of a stationary object, or the path of a moving one should be carefully reported by reference to background or reference points that can be located. If the observer has a GOOD knowledge of the star constellations this is probably the best method of describing position and trajectory, but knowledge of the general areas of constellations is of little value. Probably the best method for the amateur is to note its position as above some particular landmark, estimating the angle above the horizon, and then identifying the landmark on a map (such as a road map) together with his own position. The angle above the horizon can be reported easily by threading a string through a sheet of paper, attaching a weight to the end of the string and looking along the top edge of the paper and noting the position of the string. A line on the paper where the string lay can subsequently be scaled off with a protractor. It is quite permissible to do this little job sometime after the actual sighting, provided that it is soon, and the details are still fresh in mind.

If two people separated by a modest distance both report seeing the same object at the same time, and provide the minimal data set out above, the following information with regard to the object can easily be determined. 1. Where the object was in relation to a fixed ground location. 2. How high it was. 3. How big it was in actual size. 4. How fast it was moving, if at all, in miles per hour. 5. Relationships with respect to such things as airplanes, balloons, beacons etc. which might have been visible at that time.

Specific data are very difficult to shoot down, but casual data can be explained away quite easily. It is far more important to have a few facts well tied down than a whole sheaf of opinions which cannot be supported by fact. It is often more effective to identify what an object was not (and why) than to try to identify what it was. The identification of obscure objects is really a job for the expert, but the amateur can be of the utmost assistance in providing the necessary facts upon which the expert can base his analysis.

MORE ON SOVIET GRAVITY RESEARCH

by Dr. Albert Parry

GRAVITY IS INCREASINGLY

one of the most important Space-Age subjects of Soviet research and controversy. "Gravitational Waves-Do They Exist?" is the title of a recent extensive symposium in the Moscow magazine Znaniye-Sila (Knowledge is a Force). Four well-known Soviet physicist-theoreticians participated. One of them, Professor Dmitry D. Ivanenko, an outstanding atomic scientist, is noted for his work on the quantum theory of gravitation. In this symposium he declares that, in the study of gravity, mankind is "on the threshold of new discoveries."

AFTER RECITING THE WESTERN RECORD

of research of gravity, Dr. Ivanenko praises recent Russian work in this field, particularly that done by the team of V.B. Braghinsky and G.I. Rukman. These two physicists have suggested the idea of locating gravitational waves with the aid of complicated and costly equipment consisting of tens of thousands of cylindrical piezocrystals made of titanate of barium. Describing their proposed equipment and method in some detail, Professor Ivanenko comments: "It is a difficult experiment, of course! But it is most desirable to try it out. Nowadays solutions of great problems of principle have often to be wrested from nature at the price of enormous efforts." In effect, he pleads for governmental funds to make such experiments possible.

WHAT PRACTICAL RESULTS

may there be? Will weightlessness be reduced or even eliminated? It is of course too early to give any definite answers to such questions. The attempt to discover gravitational waves is so far a task of pure science only, Professor Ivanenko admits, yet he adds that such a discovery, if made, "will inevitably lead in the future to various applications in technology as well." He writes: "Mankind will perhaps (thus) find an entirely new route of generating gravitational waves and will be able to utilize these waves' wonderful capacities in all their wide scope, including their remarkable ability to penetrate any handicaps without perceptible changes." Gravitational waves may in time be exploited by man for his communications purposes, the Soviet professor suggests.

BUT THE VERY EXISTENCE

of gravitational waves is questioned as "problematic" by Professor M.F. Shirokov, another participant in the symposium. "Even if they are finally discovered," he argues, "it is hardly possible that they will have a technical application." The middle-of-the-road position in the symposium, is expressed by M.E. Gertsenshtein, a younger physicist. He says that he is convinced of the existence of gravitational waves in nature, but that "the road to their discovery, reception, and generation is very long." He criticizes the current proposals of equipment to locate and use such waves as "too clumsy and expensive to be put into practice." He speculates nevertheless on the possibility of building, in time, a gravi-telescope with unprecedented strength. But he hastens to say: "The creation of such a telescope is an extraordinarily far-off thing." Gertsenshtein is joined by Professor A.S. Kompaneyets, who also does not doubt "the real existence of gravitational waves" but feels that an instrument to intercept and relay them,

although possible in principle, would take miles of space to construct, "and perhaps more." He summarizes: "it is premature to speak about a practical application of gravitational waves. However, should discoveries be made that would cut down on the quantitative requirements of such technology, the question can be posed quite differently."

IF NOT A REDUCTION OF WEIGHTLESSNESS,
 then new communications inventions can be the result. "The day may come," the editors of the Soviet symposium say in closing, "when a gravitelescope, gravitelephone, and gravitelevision will be flesh and blood of our engineering installations." (Missiles and Rockets, March 19th, 1962)

SOMETHING UNUSUAL?

"Pilots of the North American Aviation X-15 research airplane report an unidentified object detected at extreme altitude by an automatic camera during the recent altitude record flight to 246,700 feet by Joseph A. Walker, chief pilot of the X-15 program. (Aviation Week and Space Technology, 21 May 1962).