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Manning triumphs in press healing tests Doctors are 'astounded by his successes'

STAR HEALER Matthew Manning triumphed when the "News of the World" arranged 12 test patients for him to treat. On Sunday the paper said the results "were astonishing."

The two "remarkable" healing sessions were witnessed by doctors. After Matthew successfully treated one sufferer, the paper's medic said, "I've never seen anything like that in my life."

And a wheelchair victim said he no longer needed it after a "miracle" healing.

Did Manning have "any real power over illness? As Matthew prepared for his nationwide tour which starts this week, we decided to investigate."

The results "were certainly astonishing." The paper arranged two private sessions for 12 people suffering from a selection of ailments.

The two doctors who witnessed the healing sessions "admitted they were astounded by his success."

Len Shorter arrived by wheelchair to meet Matthew, 26, at a private house in W London.

Len, 72, had suffered from arthritis in both knees, his back and hips for 12 years. He could walk only with the aid of two sticks, dragging his legs along.

Furthermore, he had the medically incurable Parkinson's Disease (trembling condition).

Matthew clasped Len Shorter's arthritic joints for half an hour,

then helped the patient to stand. "This time, using only one stick, Len started to walk slowly — bending his knees for the first time in years."

The sufferer's companion, Eugene Branco, shouted: "Sir, God has given you the gift. I've never seen Uncle Len walk like that before. It's a miracle."

The doctor was also enthusiastic. There was, she said, a definite improvement all round.

Len, of Palmers Green, N London, "kept walking round the room saying he no longer needed his wheelchair."

"To prove the point, he walked down the half dozen steps outside the front door and got into his car unaided."

Grandmother Nora Wakeham lost the use of her left arm about six years ago.

Movement was severely limited. Her right wrist was so weak and swollen she could not hold a cup.

After ten minutes' healing, Matthew asked the patient to raise her left arm above her head. Tentatively, she did so. "Gosh!" was all the "amazed" Nora could say.

Matthew treated her right hand. After 15 minutes, he told her to clench her fist. She did so with ease.

The "News of the World" doctor rushed over. "I've never seen anything like that in my life," she said. "The swelling has totally vanished."

The seven other people present "were also flabbergasted."

Mrs Wakeham, of Colindale, NW London, said: "I never thought anything like this could

happen to me. I've always had someone to help me on with my coat. Now I can do it myself.

"I'll be able to do some knitting in aid of The Year of the Disabled."

As PN told (June 27) Matthew gave healing to BBC radio reporter Colin Maitland, who lost his sense of smell 16 years ago after fracturing his skull.

After a further healing session, Maitland was able to discern the odour of vinegar and smelling salts.

"I know I can cure him eventually," said Matthew. "Today he has advanced a little more."

Fred Ripsher, 60, sought help for constant pain which began two years ago after an unsuccessful spine operation.

Fred could hardly move when he joined other patients at a London hotel.

At Matthew began healing, "Fred started twitching as if he was having dozens of small electric shocks."

"The pain has gone," he shouted.

Dr Christine Pickard, who witnessed that healing session, carefully examined Fred beforehand.

Later she made him lift his arms and legs and bend right down to touch his toes.

"Yes," she said, "that's pretty fantastic. The muscles are much slacker."

Eight of the paper's patients reported "substantial improvements" which were verified by the doctors. Six told us their "cures" had lasted.

The failures included a broken leg which refused to mend, a paralysed child and a man with thrombosis.

"Matthew admitted they were probably incurable, but offered to try again if the patients wanted him to."

The healer's fees "depend on the financial circumstances of the patient. Some pay large amounts voluntarily, but others give as little as £2, which barely covers his costs."

Dr Pickard thought the improvements she witnessed "are compatible with medical teaching — they can all be put down to psychological factors."

"They happened where there was an overlay of muscular and/or emotional tension."

Chronic illness "always tends to cause people are frightened. They hold themselves tight as protection against further injury or pain."

Muscles become injured in unhealthy positions. People became further emotionally upset by the continuing illness.

Matthew commented, "If I can heal them in ten minutes, why has the medical profession not done so?"

His healing did not always work, "but doctors have monitored me dissolving tumours. I've cured many lifelong allergies."

At present he was working in conjunction with three hospitals, "and have had great success with young children, especially those with mental problems."

In Manning's view, about 60 per cent of illness is in the mind. Feel-



MATTHEW MANNING: "Incurable" patients have nothing to lose by trying spirit healing.

ings of hostility, if suppressed for years, could result in a tumour.

"The healer simply turns round people's mental attitudes," he said. "I'm just a channel. Power flows through me from somewhere else."

Better results came if people sought help as soon as a disease manifested.

Some wanted "an instant miracle, but I know it can take me up to six sessions to get a positive result."

"After all, who can be harmed by a healer? The people I see are at the end of the road."

"The medical profession has written them off as incurable. What have they to lose?"

MORE ABOUT HIS TORIC SURVIVAL PROOF Reporter tried to blackmail famed medium



HARRY HOUDINI: Author makes unproven allegations about his spirit return.

I READ last week how a journalist used blackmail and intimidation against a famed medium and then, when she failed, lied in print to discredit him. Thus, she cast doubts on one of the most famous seance cipher tests in Spiritualism's history. And it is still being printed as the unblemished truth over 50 years later!

Though these events occurred over half a century ago, it is vital that Spiritualists should know the true story as ammunition against any sceptical salvo fired by critics.

Latest of these is author Raymond FitzSimons. As PN front-paged (June 6) BBC Radio 4 broadcast a dramatised documentary based on his book, "Death and the Magician" (Hamish Hamilton) which tells of Houdini's anti-Spiritualist campaign.

FitzSimons' programme gave the impression that an arranged-in-advance complicated code between Houdini and his wife Bess was never communicated. It was — as PN's editor Maurice Barbanell stated in a letter to the editor of "Radio Times."

The editor quoted Mrs Houdini's affidavit, signed by witnesses, that famous medium Arthur Ford gave the message "in its entirety, and in the agreed upon sequence."

A reply to the editor's letter came from John Knight, a producer. He sent Barbanell's comments to FitzSimons. The author's

PN Reporter

reply was:

"I am sure that Bess Houdini did sign a statement to the effect that the message was genuine. This was followed by great controversy. The upshot was that Bess repudiated the message."

"A full account of the episode is to be found in my book. The episode was too involved to be dealt with adequately within the framework of my radio feature."

FitzSimons' "full account" leaves a lot to be desired. And it omits some vital facts.

After the agreed code came via Ford the word "soon heard it," he says. "The news broke in time for the afternoon papers and was flashed around the globe. Houdini had come back!"

"He still lived! Afterlife and spirit communication had been proved beyond doubt!"

Spiritualists, he writes, rejoiced. "He that was lost had been found. He that was dead had been restored to life. A new chapter was

beginning for the human race.

"What glories and mysteries might not be revealed with such a powerful spirit in touch with the world!"

Joe Rinn, an old friend of Houdini, was not impressed, says the author. Yet he can hardly be called an impartial witness. According to FitzSimons, Rinn believed most mediums "were dishonest magicians who had taken the left hand path, claiming they possessed supernatural (sic) power."

"In doing this they violated the magicians' code."

Rinn regarded the code episode "as the spook trick to end all spook tricks, a trick that must be exposed at once or Houdini's great crusade would be discredited and the Spiritualists have the final victory over him."

"Bess" was convinced of the truth of Ford's seances. Rinn and other friends of Houdini reminded her of certain things which in her emotional state she had forgotten.

Ford's message from Houdini's mother included the evidential word, "Forgive." A year before Arthur's seance one paper quoted Bess as saying any communication from her mother-in-law would have to include that word.

"Ford could (my italics) have read this," says FitzSimons. What is his evidence that he did so?

Also the previous year a biography of Houdini had been pub-

lished. FitzSimons' obvious inference is that Ford knew of this. Where is the evidence?

FitzSimons then makes an allegation that would be tantamount to libel were Ford still on earth.

A nurse was present as Houdini lay on his death bed. She "could (my italics) have heard him asking her (Bess) to repeat the formation of the code words and their meaning."

"This information could (my italics) have been passed to Ford."

So, without a shred of evidence, FitzSimons has the temerity to discredit Ford with a series of monstrous insinuations!

Worse comes. Two days after the seance the New York "Graphic" made some "startling disclosures." The Houdini message, it claimed, was a hoax.

One of its reporters had been in possession of the code words 24 hours before the seance, the paper claimed. How this secret had been revealed was not disclosed. Ford, it added, had admitted being a close friend of Bess. The pair had planned a joint lecture tour.

Ford would finance it and Bess "had supplied the code as her part of the deal."

Mrs Houdini "denied this strenuously," saying she had never betrayed her husband's trust. She admitted to meeting Ford prior to the seance.

FitzSimons has the effrontery to

★ Turn to page 8, column 1

Do hypnotic regressions prove previous lives?

"Mind Out Of Time?" by Ian Wilson, Gollancz, £6.95

IAN WILSON established his reputation as the author of "The Turin Shroud." Turning his investigative skill from the examination of sacred relics to that of past lives he has now produced the book under review.

He claims that what he has written is the first attempt to provide a sound, comprehensive basis for the study of reincarnation. It is a bold claim and many will consider the author ill advised to have made it.

To answer the question whether the experience of past lives is real or imaginary has been the object of other and, at least, equally well-qualified writers in recent years. However Ian Wilson asserts that in writing his book he has drawn on the best material available.

This chiefly consists of contemporary cases which have attracted a great deal of publicity and are at the same time apparently well-founded. Our author's aim has been to show that even cases of this kind can be adequately explained without enlisting the doctrine of reincarnation as a hypothesis.

Part memory plays

He argues that such cases simply manifest the human mind's extraordinary powers. It is, of course, true that we are normally acquainted with only the conscious mind and its particular type of awareness. The area of mental activity which lies below the threshold of consciousness has seemingly unfathomable depths from which gods as well as demons may emerge.

In analysing cases of hypnotic regression into past lives, Ian Wilson makes much use of cryptomenia as a possible explanation.

In Drevier's "A Dictionary of Psychology" this is defined as "memory without identification or recognition as previous experience, original experiences being forgotten or repressed, and their reinstatement appearing as a new experience."

We know that we receive far more impressions from the external world than the conscious mind can contain. We are constantly assimilating information which is pushed into the mind's subconscious part and left there until recalled in circumstances which require its emergence.

To explain fantasy

A memory of everything we have known, observed or experienced is retained in this mental storehouse.

Bearing in mind the human mind's incredible capacity for creating fantasies, it is conceivable that the supposed memory of past lives may have originated in a forgotten or repressed experience of this life.

But, if regression under hypnosis to early childhood produces acceptable results, why should the same method yield nothing but fantasy when applied to prenatal existence?

There is, I understand, a widely-held belief that a person under hypnosis cannot lie. What basis there is for such a belief I cannot say. But certainly childhood incidents when recalled under hypnosis generally appear to be accurately described. Does the

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Books reviewed



by

W.H. MACKINTOSH

moment of birth separate truth from fantasy?

Does a hypnotised person refrain from lying when recounting his childhood, but indulge in it when recalling a previous incarnation? If it is so, neither Ian Wilson nor any other author in this field seems to have found a satisfactory explanation for this difference in behaviour.

It is, of course, true that when taken back under hypnotic regression to past lives there is a wide variety of response from subjects. Some are completely consistent in regard to details while others are wildly inconsistent in their accounts.

It may be that when regressing into childhood the subject's suggestibility is compensated for by a more certain knowledge of what actually happened.

Is there a link?

Our author perceives a link between behaviour in hypnotic regression and multiple personality. Leaving aside the historical background of past lives, the various characters who emerge do seem to have a great deal in common with the kind of personalities who exchange places and assume a temporarily predominant role within the ambit of a single individual.

As an alternative to past lives being recalled or re-enacted, the author offers the interesting idea of a hidden observer or unconscious self being the source of the characters appearing under hypnotic regression.

This ascribes to the mind not only remarkable inventive powers but extraordinary active abilities.

He sits on fence

Though mental states may be involved which are of a very unusual nature, Ian Wilson stresses his belief that the material produced under hypnotic regression can quite easily have been acquired by normal means.

In assessing the evidence he argues that it cannot be accepted as proof of the reality of past lives without obtaining in the first place the fullest possible information about the subject's identity and history.

At the same time he admits that even if the evidence is shown to be derived from fantasy, this would not in itself make the doctrine of reincarnation an absurd or improbable belief.

FOR a considerable time now an old, valued reader of mine has regularly sent me anti-fluoridation literature. An ardent campaigner for several causes she is convinced Spiritualists should be interested in and responsible for. She has long hoped I might write something about fluoridation.

I have not felt such a subject could be treated in these columns. After all, there is no psychic connotation. But it seems I am wrong. Another reader has written on this very matter so I seize the opportunity to write about it.

It is some years since there was widespread public concern concerning the fluoridation of public water supplies. In Wiltshire, where I was then living, I wrote to the local newspaper. My letter was published along with those of other protesters.

But to no avail. The County Council, and local medics, were adamant, and we lost the day. Now I live in the same area, but I will not drink tap water, preferring to buy bottled spring water for drinking and cooking. At least it is safe.

The truth is, according to statements by the National Anti-Fluoridation Campaign, there is much evidence of fluoridation causing harm, ranging from dental fluorosis in

When spirit advice conflicts with medical opinion

Brother



John

children, to increased cancer death rates in the elderly, while mass fluoridation has never been sanctioned by Parliament. The original writer of the letter tells me how, from the age of 15, she suffered from rheumatoid arthritis. Twenty years later a sudden worsening of the condition seemed to coincide with the introduction of sodium chloride into the local drinking water.

This seemed proved when

nothing but bottled spring water was adopted for drinking and cooking. Within three months there were signs of improvement. It was not proved whether or not fluoride had anything to do with it, but then no tests were made.

Unfortunately problems and decisions have appeared again. It is now a question whether or not hip operations, on medical advice, should be done. And here is where the psychic connotation enters. Some years ago she sat with a well-known medium and a spirit doctor advised against surgery.

He also said it would be medically recommended, but spirit healing could be of just as much help. The letter continues: "Since time is man-made, and that sitting was five years ago, could it be this present advice to which the spirit doctor was referring?"

"I realise we all have free will and the decision must be mine. But what a decision! Is it fair to seek the help of a clairvoyant? Could such a one help anyway? For if this illness is part of my 'karma', how can I be helped? How would you tackle the problem?"

My first advice, and I am

sure I will get into hot water with some readers over it, is to dismiss the idea of "karma." Certainly cause and effect will always work out, but there are no grounds for regarding the outlook as therefore hopeless.

Secondly, as one who believes in tending off surgical operations till the last possible moment, I would seek for spirit help. Whatever it entailed, I would get myself into the hands of one of our reputable healers. I do not make personal recommendations, but there is a wide choice.

As to sitting with a medium for advice, this is a very personal matter. It could produce results. On the other hand, it might prove disappointing, and even act as a setback to hopes. I think I would pray for guidance about this, and see what impressions I got.

I have just enough space to mention that I have had offers of help from two mediums for the little Cornish church struggling to keep open, to which I referred in my June 20 article. Blessings on them!

★ ★ ★

"Truth Has No Label," a selection from Brother John's articles, is obtainable from PN Bookshop, £3.70/\$11.10.

SHE 'TALKS' TO ANIMALS BY USING TELEPATHY

IN her autobiography, Barbara Woodhouse makes it abundantly clear that she owes her phenomenal success in animal training to being psychic.

In "Talking to Animals" (Penguin, £1.50) she describes how the initiative came when she was in the Argentine.

She was living in a house, part of an establishment which broke at wild horses. Barbara met an old Indian who said the great secret of such horse training was to begin by breathing up the animal's nostrils. This practice they reciprocated by breathing up the trainer's nostrils.

She met with tremendous opposition when she sought permission to break in wild horses, being told this arduous work was fit only for men.

Finally by using the nostril breathing method she tamed a wild horse, much to the surprise of the ranch manager. Thereafter she trained about four horses every week.

They were caught up from the herd for her. She greeted a welcome by their noses, gently telling them all she wanted them to do. They submitted almost immediately.

She never spoke to the animals above a whisper. She knew they so liked a quiet voice. If you achieved attunement with them, she writes, it did not matter what words were

used. The intonation of the voice was the important factor.

Barbara tells readers that in some mysterious way, through the touch of one's fingers or directly from mind to mind, thoughts are transmitted to the animals.

Frequently she has proved this when out riding. Barbara has thought which way to go, and found the pony almost invariably took the right turning.

Today a similar phenomenon occurs with her cows. There is a choice of three paddocks for them when they come out of the cowshed. Without any material help from Barbara, her 13-year-old cow always makes her way to the pasture she wants the animal to take.

She believes one has to be within about 25 yards of them to transmit this telepathic control, but there can be no doubt that it happens.

Barbara states that the animals always know without a word being spoken when she is upset, angry, unhappy, ill or out of temper.

Now she makes it a rule never to go near her horses to attempt to tame them if she is cross about anything.

Her irritability communicates itself to them at once. "Then that communion is lost which is so essential if one is to make them do what one wants them to do, instantly and without fear."

US PSYCHIC COMPLAINS

ABOUT 'DISCRIMINATION'

LEGISLATION which requires US psychics to obtain licensing has been branded as "discriminatory."

Harley Davidson Keller was one speaker at the Festival of the Psychic and Healing Arts in W Palm Beach, Florida. Her comments are reported in the resort's "Post."

Ms Keller, a clairvoyant, writer and "political activist," says, "We strongly resent legislation on psychics that requires licensing fees which are double those for other professions."

"It is discriminatory," Law enforcement officers, busi-

nessmen and other professionals are "turning to psychics. People have to realise we are in the age of healing awareness."

Tony Leggett, a British spirit healer, told those at the festival that the American Indians, Tibetans and Eskimos "all believe in spiritual healing."

"The mind cannot get better unless it wants to. To get better, you must want to get better and start learning how."

Leggett is a member of both the National Federation of Spiritual Healers and the American Holistic Medical Institute.

HEALING MEETING AMUSES REPORTER

WHY did a local journalist who visited a healing session experience "an overwhelming urge to giggle"?

Julie Hearn covered a demonstration by Dan Averdung for the "Windsor, Slough and Eton Express," Berks.

Dan held the session at the Windsor Boys Clubs' headquarters. Though it was due to end at 10.30pm, there were so many sick people waiting for treatment Averdung did not finish until an hour later.

A local vicar and rector attended the meeting, but two doctors declined invitations "as they did not want to get involved."

"I thought it would have been a good idea if a doctor checked and advised by Dan Averdung for each healed patient," Dan told PN.

To begin his meeting, Averdung held his arms towards the audience.

"You should feel something now," said, "maybe a tingle, or a warm sensation. Some of you will see a glow on my fingertips."

Julie Hearn "felt a tingle in my face muscles - caused by an overwhelming urge to giggle."

"There was nothing funny, however, about reasons why many of the 55 people in the audience were there."

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At least half of them were suffering from pain caused by rheumatism, thrombosis, migraine or spinal disorders.

German-born Dan, of Orchard Park, Trenches Lane, Langley, Bucks, was successful in treating Vera Hollis, who sought help for strained muscles in her right arm.

After several minutes' healing, she was able to "raise the injured arm high above her head."

Two days later she spent the afternoon digging in her garden. "I could never have done that before Averdung's treatment," Mrs Hollis testified.

The journalist said that whether the effects of Dan's healing lasted or not, "every person who walked, limped or hobbled on stage admitted feeling total or at least partial relief from pain afterwards."

Averdung said he is not a faith healer. "I use my natural life energy to relieve pain."

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Here is real-life generation game

GUESTS at a surprise party held at Otley National Spiritualist Church, W Yorks, to celebrate the 80th birthday of church member Marie Miller could have been forgiven for finding the event confusing.

Marie's husband Charles is also her grand-daughter Vanda's father-in-law as well as her great-grand-daughters' grandfather.

Or, to put it another way, Marie's son, Clifford Maude, also an Otley church member, is the father-in-law of Marie's stepson, Ron Miller, whose wife is Marie's grand-daughter.

If that sounds confusing, imagine how Marie's great-grand-daughters, Jenny Miller, nine, Debbie, six, and Samantha, two, understand how their grandfather can be married to their great-grandma!

The answer is that they don't even try to work it out and simply content themselves with calling their mother's grandma.

The explanation of this real-life generation game is quite simple. Charles is Marie's second husband; his son Ron is married to Marie's grand-daughter, Vanda. This accounts for this perplexing web of relationships.

The two couples first met about 11 years ago when attending services at a Spiritualist church in Nassau Place, Chapelown, Leeds.

Otley church members gathered



A delighted Marie Miller pictured during her 80th surprise birthday party with her great-grand-daughters Debbie (left), Jenny (right) and Samantha.

in secret to celebrate Marie's birthday last month.

She thought Charles had taken her to the church simply to collect a birthday cake which Eddie Moss, an Otley official, had made. He is a skilled, professional baker.

Marie's surprise quickly turned to delight as she found many of her

friends and relatives waiting quietly. Church president Duncan Gascoyne greeted her.

When Jenny, Debbie and Samantha sang "Grandma, we love you," everybody knew whom they meant!

Marie comes from Holt Dale Green, Holt Park, Leeds.

'Dead' rabbi's glass eye proves Survival

PN Reporter

VETERAN Spiritualist John Bronkhorst — last week's PN briefly reported his passing, once told of seeing his grandfather's full materialisation. He proved his survival by reproducing the deformed foot from which he suffered on earth.

Interviewed by PN in 1974, John recalled how his twin brother David dismissed a message at a Spiritualist meeting because he thought it was wrong.

The medium described a little old man's spirit form. He had a white beard and a malformed left foot.

Their father, a rabbi at one of Britain's largest synagogues for over 50 years, overheard David telling John about this.

"My boy," said the father, "that is your grandfather. He had a deformed left foot."

Coffin is test

He then unearthed a photograph of his father who had passed on before the twins were born. The likeness exactly fitted the medium's description.

Rabbi Bronkhorst returned through Joe Benjamin a few weeks after his passing.

During a social call on John and his brother, Joe gave spontaneous clairvoyance. Their father referred to his coffin being opened and that he was "late for his funeral."

His sons confirmed these incidents. The hearer drove took a wrong turning and arrived 20 minutes late. This would have caused the father concern, said John, since he was a strict timekeeper.

David had asked for the coffin to be opened. He wished to make sure the rabbi's earthly remains were wrapped in the correct white robe.

Benjamin said this communicator was an inveterate pipe-smoker. This was correct. His large pipe collection had been burned that day.

"Not all of them," said the medium. "There is one in that corner desk. It is broken and has been mended."

Pipe is evidence

Sure enough, when they checked the bureau, tucked at the back of a drawer was a meerschaum with a taped broken stem.

Two physical phenomena highspots in John's psychic quest included levitation and materialisation.

The first occurred at a Leslie Flint séance. An old-fashioned leather armchair rose in the air and floated round the room. It finally came to rest, gently leaning on John's shoulders.

Alec Harris was the medium responsible for the grandfather's materialisation.

Joe told a colleague how he took a friend, head of a large store, to a sitting with an amateur medium, who was entranced and

spoke in a strange language. The companion recognised it as a Hungarian dialect.

John's father made a highly evidential spirit return when PN editor Maurice Barbanell had his first sitting with Robin Stevens.

Robin supplied the names of Alfred and Sid. Mention came of a rabbi and Cheyne Walk. Sadie was referred to, and a Hirst.

This, said Robin, was part of a surname. Then he got it exactly. "Bronkhorst, David," exclaimed Robin. "Now I'm coming back to the rabbi and Cheyne Walk in Hendon."

The editor knew David lived in Hendon, NW London, but was not sure about the Cheyne Walk. "Now I've heard everything," Robin added, "because here is a rabbi with a glass eye."

The editor checked with David. Alfred was his eldest brother, he



JOHN BRONKHORST: A levitated armchair floated on to his shoulders at a séance.

was wed to Sadie.

David's father had a glass eye, a fact Barbanell did not know. David said that even those who met the rabbi failed to notice it.

Sid, his father's brother, and Sadie lived with David after Alfred's passing.

David, the editor learnt, had lived at Cheyne Walk five years previously.

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President's wife has test séance

PN Reporter

SPIRIT communication, it seems, is sometimes more reliable than a telephone conversation between two people on earth.

Last week's PN reported that famous medium Doris Collins gave a successful sitting to Dulce Figueiredo, wife of Brazil's President.

A colleague checked with the Brazilian Embassy press office and was told that though Madame Figueiredo had been in London, she had left. The spokeswoman had no knowledge of the sitting.

This is not surprising. Due to a misunderstanding the séance was held for Carmen Lopez-Portillo, wife of Mexico's President.

Madame Portillo is no stranger to psychic matters. Two years ago she invited famous US medium Keith Rhinehart to demonstrate at the presidential palace.

During a séance — Keith and his party were escorted by gun-toting guards — a spirit voice communicated in test conditions.

Madame Portillo was instrumental in ensuring that fraud-proof precautions were taken. Rhinehart was entranced by one of his spirit guides, who provided evidential messages.

"Each person in Madame Portillo's group received one from a relative or friend in the spirit world," said Linda Dunn's report. "The President's elder daughter was so moved by her message that tears flowed freely."

She was surprised to receive a message from a friend who died a violent death.

Keith announced his guides were preparing for a voice séance. Two blankets, supplied by Madame Portillo, were taped across a corner of the room to form a cabinet.

Before entering, Rhinehart took water from a glass into his mouth.

"Tape was placed over his mouth by Madame Portillo," said Linda. The tape was marked with a pen. The marks went over Keith's face. The President's wife



Mexico's President Jose Lopez-Portillo and his wife Carmen. She and her daughter received spirit messages.

signed her initials as an added precaution.

Shortly after Rhinehart entered the cabinet, a deep spirit voice addressed Madame Portillo.

When Keith left the makeshift cabinet, before the tape was removed Madame Portillo checked it.

"She found it had not been moved or tampered with in any way," said Linda. "It was then removed."

Having set the record straight, I would say the odds that the wives of Brazil's and Mexico's Presidents should be in London at the same time are astronomical.

LETTER

Time to close ranks

THIS is my answer to the points raised in two articles by contributor P. J. Mosby.

Spiritualism is a religion, therefore we cannot turn away from our teachings. The pioneers fought opposition that we might worship without fear or distress.

They withstood the "slings and arrows" of criticism (not forgetting the rotten fruit and vegetables) to proclaim the truth.

What was this truth? That life after earthly death continues, not that "Uncle Joe has met Aunt Edith." This, I agree, is not what the present generation of young seekers want.

I do not however understand how your contributor can mention stagnation in his first article, yet say nothing different in his second one.

The question of psychic centres to replace churches has been broached by many others, including SNU president Gordon Hig-

ginson, who has campaigned for such for several years.

Others, including our most fervent opponents, have criticised the Movement since its early beginnings.

I do not suggest I can provide an answer. I postulate debating points for which I invite comments.

We who call ourselves Spiritualists must stand and be counted. No army ever won a battle unless it had closed ranks. We must unite in the cause of Spiritualism, not divide as at present.

Spiritualists must remove those blinkers which prevent them from welcoming other spiritually motivated groups and organisations. By doing so we must not however become the "proverbial melting pot where anything goes."

The minds of Spiritualists must progress, not regress. If this upsets the "older rigid minds," they must learn the virtues of tolerance and patience. Older workers in this "vineyard of light and love" must stand down while younger ones take their stand for Spiritualism. —S. Hellen, Crickley Street, Ilkston, Derby.

"To serve is noble"
— a spirit message

Mass said for guide

INEVITABLY, when it is suggested something may have happened for the first time, evidence is speedily produced to the contrary.

My colleague "Psyche" asked last week whether it was unique that mass had been said for two spirit guides.

One of famous healer George Chapman's patients in France, to express her gratitude for the successful healing received from his two guides, William Lang and son Basil, had masses said for them and for George.

My colleague's query as to whether this was the first time it had happened brings a letter from another noted medium, John Lovette, describing a similar happening about 20 years ago.

One of his Roman Catholic sisters, Frank Allison, was so convinced by evidence received from his "dead" wife over a series of sittings that he caused a mass to be said for John's guide Greyfeather in Westminster Cathedral.

John, whose mediumship has been absent from a psychic scene for too long, tells me he does not regard himself as having retired, a statement recently reported in PN.

His problem is a heart disease which manifests in angina pectoris, "which makes it unwise to go into trance and causes me to be unreliable." John hopes to pick up the threads again one day.

Meantime he has been listening to other mediums at public meetings. On three occasions he felt impressed he would get a message. Each time he did, the mediums being Jessie Nason, Eileen Blackie and Carmen Rivers. Yet, he says, none of the mediums knew him.

All Worlds Are One



Maurice Barbanell

Doris faces deluge

FAOUSH medium Doris Stokes is bracing herself for yet another deluge of mail. The sequel to her autobiography is due to be published next month.

Doris has received thousands of letters from many overseas. Some writers say that her first book "changed their lives."

"More Voices In My Ear" is scheduled to appear in mid-August. The mass-selling "Woman's Own" has bought the serialisation rights. Doris' hectic promotional itinerary includes appearances at various British cities.

At a literary lunch at a London hotel where she and another expert explained to book buyers present the contents of their new works. "Woman's Own" has taken dozens of photos of Doris to illustrate the serialisation.

One session, at a London retail market, cost the publisher a small fortune. Whenever she picked up an item, the stallholder insisted she should buy it.

By the time Doris returned home, she had a collection ranging from sheets to pan scooters!

The "Woman's Own" photographer was impressed after Doris was besieged by skinhead fans asking for her autograph at a London meeting last week.

Beyond death's door

NEXT month will also be hectic for TV and radio personality Michael Bentine, who was guest of honour at the PN dinner in 1978. He will be promoting his book, "The Door Marked Summer, scheduled for publication on August 20.

Lined up for him is a series of interviews — I counted 29 of them — on TV, radio and with national and provincial newspapers in several parts of Britain.

Michael explains his autobiography's title by saying that in life he has found himself facing many doors.

Some, after opening them, he shut in terror. Others opened for him, leading him to see much sorrow and pain. Some, he admits, he has not had the courage to open.

"But there is one which, when it opens, spilt a great blaze of golden light into my life. Beyond it I can see the smiling faces of all the people that I love, who have preceded me through the door." This one, his favourite, is marked "Summer."

Michael has been involved with psychic phenomena since childhood. His father, who

worked as a healer with Joe Benjamin, was a scientist engineer who had a remarkable home circle.

As a result the family met "a colourful stream of mediums, clairvoyants, healers and psychometrists." Michael of course has given evidence of possessing psychic powers.

Calls it 'marvellous'

LET me praise two mediums for the excellent evidence they conveyed to a woman from Germany who came to London to visit an English friend.

Her husband, Rudolf Meldau, describes the results as "marvellous." In both sittings I was mentioned by name, though neither Minnie Bridges nor Joe Benjamin could have normally known of my association with their sister's husband.

In Minnie's case she got my first name, Maurice — "He is on earth" — with the statement of a business connection between her husband and mine. The information came from the sister's father and her daughter.

Mention was made of the fact that her husband lectures, which was his profession.

Then the medium described the spirit presence of an Indian guide who was also associated with her husband.

When Mrs Meldau went to Joe



MINNIE BRIDGES: Her mediumship bridges two worlds

Benjamin, he told of her husband's association with Silver Birch. The information, said Joe, came from someone named Pestalozzi who said, "I am the father of Fred ... you know Fred and his wife."

Joe also mentioned Meldau's being invited to a Silver Birch sitting. The Meldau happened to be in Zurich when a Silver Birch sitting was arranged at the home of Fred and Sylvia Pestalozzi. They were invited to present.

Meldau is responsible for translating into German "Silver Birch Speaks," which was published in 1978. There is also a suggestion that the same publisher will produce his German translation of my book, "This is Spiritualism," which is the subject of current negotiations.

Grave humour

THE journalist responsible for the "Daily Mirror" Live Letters feature solved a reader's problem about an old epitaph last week.

The inquirer wanted to put his sister's mind at rest by telling her the rest of the wording which contains the line, "As you are now so once was I."

The reader was told there have been many epitaphs with variations of that theme, but the one trying to be recalled was probably written in the grave of Charles Williams, who died in 1841, in St John's Church, Hackney, E London.

"Remember me as you pass by. As you are now so once was I. As I am now so you must be. So be prepared to follow me."

There was a "reply" when a wag added to this epitaph the words: "To follow thee is my intent. But you left no word which way you went!"

Dead wrong

MY colleague Brother John, who recently featured the problem of people being buried alive, will be interested in a cutting I am sending him from "Weekend."

The writer, Daniel Farnon, told last week of an American clairvoyant, Washington Irving Bishop, who was declared dead until a pathologist's knife showed in a

"post mortem" that he had been in a trance. He survived to tell the tale.

No balloon to heaven

MEMBERS of a US religious sect who expected to rise to heaven found themselves still on earth last week, wondering whether they should try to buy back their homes.

This was the sequel to a story that was featured on this page in our last issue.

Bill Maurin, who founded the 50-member Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation in Tucson, Arizona, had predicted for two years that millions of people would ascend like balloons into heaven on June 28, 1981.

"Those saved will go on a one-way trip for six or seven years, and then we will be coming back," he stated.

Some followers had sold their homes in preparation for leaving. Others had refused to renew leases.

Maurin admitted he may have made a mistake on the date. "But we know it's going to happen. Star's spirited return

I AM chary of recording what are said to be psychic phenomena in innos. Too often the pub is getting publicity for spirit encounters of the kind not associated with psychic phenomena.

This one, however, published in the "Sun" last week, seems to be evidential.

I said that strange things happened at the Hermit Inn after the passing of its star regular, TV comedian Ronnie Dukes. All five of the pub's clocks stopped at 7.40, the exact minute the comedian's son Dean phoned news of his father's death to landlord Peter Alderson.

Then the landlord noticed that his beer pump, from which Dukes often pulled his own pint, was working by itself.

Dukes, 51, in the tradition of show business, refused to abandon his theatrical career after having heart attacks. The last one caused him to be transferred to the spirit world while he was on stage at a Jersey night club on June 6.

The landlord said at the Hermit, Higham, near Barnsley, S Yorks: "All this makes me wonder whether Ronnie is still with us. I feel a spirit's here. It's the kind of joke that would have Ronnie laughing."

No comparison needed

MATTHEW MANNING could not have been pleased with the headline "Gaiety" in the "Evening News" describing his current role as a spiritual healer. It reads, "Uri Geller" of Cambs in new healing role." Newspapers do not do the Uri Geller. Uri Geller is Matthew Manning of New York."

As Matthew has said many times, he got fed up with what he termed the repeated demands by scientists for him to demonstrate destructive and negative phenomena. Wisely, as I advised him many years ago, he decided to channel his powers into healing.

Proved in Israel

AM invited to the Italian psychic magazine "Gli Arcani" for reporting how a conference with a psychic theme was evidence of "peaceful coexistence" by the attendees — as recalled was probably written in the grave of Charles Williams, who died in 1841, in St John's Church, Hackney, E London.

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Dr Larissa Vilenskaya, who left Russia last year to live in Israel, spoke of constructive applications of parapsychology, based on Russian research results during 15 years that began in 1965.

Dr H. Berendt, founder and director of the Israel Parapsychology Society, described psychometric experiments. There were two lectures on unorthodox medicine, including treatment of leukemia (blood cancer).

Alex, Barbara Ivanova, the famed Soviet healer and researcher, who was scheduled to speak, was refused permission to leave Russia.

I ASK YOU FOR A QUID PRO QUO

WHEN I see that the Spiritual Truth Foundation has only £134 in its current account, I realise the time had come to replenish its coffers.

The foundation was launched in 1965 with its stated objectives being:

(a) the promotion and advancement of the religion and religious philosophy of Spiritualism, (b) the promotion and advancement of spiritual healing, and (c) the relief of poverty.

Its present trustees are David Dutton (chairman), Sylvia Barbanell, M. H. Tester, Laurence Wilson, Gordon Adams (secretary) and myself.

Another objective is to ensure PN's independence and future. To do so I arranged that when they were under my control, the overwhelming majority of shares in Psychic Press Ltd, which publishes PN, were transferred to the foundation. I have made similar arrangements for two Worcester companion monthly magazines.

One of the foundation's first major achievements was to present the celebrated medium Helen Hughes with a rent-free house when she retired after many long years of dedicated service. This she shared with her devoted husband.

After her passing, Tom continued to live in the house, only a few doors away from their daughter Mary, where he lavished his skill on the garden, a delight to all who saw it.

When he was reunited with them, the house was sold. The amount realised was placed to the foundation's credit.

The next major achievement was to buy Branden Lodge, a former private hotel, so that this almost century-old property could be used for Spiritualism's first and only old people's home in Weston-super-Mare, Avon.

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The property was found after a search made by Tester, a chartered surveyor by profession. His choice was confirmed by representatives of the major Spiritualist organisations, who helped finance the purchase of Branden Lodge.

The house, which faces south, is only a couple of minutes away from the sea, faces a park and has a shopping parade nearby. The local town council provides entertainment for residents and visitors throughout the year.

To administer Branden Lodge, the Spiritualists' Housing Association was formed. This, like the foundation, is a registered charity. To help the Administration, the foundation granted the association a 40-year rent-free lease.

I have listed two major achievements, but there are several others which do not come within that category. There have been, for example, advertisements in national newspapers offering free literature to explain what Spiritualism and spiritual healing have to offer.

A current project is the republication, in one volume, of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's two excellent out-of-print books on Spiritualism, "The New Revelation" and "The Vital Message."

The foundation's charitable objective has been achieved in cases where a course of names cannot be mentioned.

So now I invite you to replenish the foundation's coffers. What I am asking, something that I feel sure almost every reader could afford, is to put a £1 note in an envelope and send it to me.

Of course it will not be possible to acknowledge the donors, who I am sure would not even require it to be done. Naturally I will make objections if readers decide to send me far more than £1. Any way, it is now over to you to play your part.

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PN Reporter

FIND out from some of the country's leading mediums what makes a good sitting. That was my brief from PN's editor. The results from this inquiry proved fascinating.

"Expect nothing, but be prepared for everything," is the sound guidance to sitters from leading medium Robin Stevens.

"So many sittings are spoiled or wasted by the sitter's ignorance or 'disparation,' Robin declared.

Explaining that first-time sitters



JESSIE NASON: She has given over 20,000 spirit messages.

sometimes expect spirit messages to be given them like a TV script or book manuscript, Robin told me. "What they do not appreciate is that it just does not happen like that."

"A medium has to work with what information he or she is given, and in whatever form it is offered. Often this can be a series of seemingly disjointed images."

"Sometimes, if the medium tries to make a coherent theme from all these images, something is lost from the message. It calls for the medium to have total confidence in his messages, however irrational and illogical they may seem."

"Pressure of work on this busy medium precludes him from giving private sittings. But were Robin to have the time he would prefer to be 'very selective' about those he would undertake."

He stressed the view of the purists that mediumship's function lies essentially in proving Survival. To many inquirers today expect a



DAVID WALTON: "I always meditate beforehand."

medium to be a counsellor, confidant and, sometimes, nursemaid.

"It is not my job to give sitters directions which they can freely obtain from such places as the Citizens Advice Bureau," he said pointedly.

For veteran medium Jessie Nason the first essential for a good sitting is "wavelength compatibility." This she described as "having the right state of mind, and this is not because I want to read sitters' minds."

"Over 70pc of a successful session lies with the sitter. When people contact me for a sitting, and I discover they have never sat before, I always suggest they go to a public demonstration first to understand what to expect."

Jessie calculated she has given over 20,000 spirit messages since she began her weekly meetings at Dulwich, SE London, some 18 years ago.

The figure can easily be trebled

Special inquiry proves fascinating — What makes a good sitting — and a good sitter

by adding the messages she has given in churches throughout the UK and in America, together with countless private sittings.

Despite all this work Jessie finds she has to explain the basics of mediumship to many people. It is still a common misunderstanding for people to seek a sitting immediately after a bereavement.

"My father passed three weeks ago, can you get him back for me?" is just one example of requests she gets daily at her SE London home. "In these cases I always say a firm 'No,'" declared this stalwart campaigner.

"You can't tell the spirit people, 'Come in number nine.' That is not how it works. Mediums do not, and cannot, call up the dead. It is about time this old myth was exploded."

She related some experiences with private sittings and the need, sometimes, of encouraging shy communicators to overcome their reticence.

"When this happens, my guides step in and relay messages should there be any difficulty in establishing a direct link."

No placebos offered

"People should realise there is as much variance in the individualities in the next life as there exists in this."

"Rarely have I had to turn sitters away. But if I get nothing for them I refuse to offer placebos and platitudes. Even more rare are the times when I have been exhausted, low on energy and thus creating a personal stress barrier against spirit communication."

"Another important fact inquirers should appreciate is that mediums are like telephones, can sometimes break down, and have crossed wires like the faults in mechanical communication."

"Also people must stop using mediumship as a panacea for solving all life's problems. We learn from our ups and downs. I am not here to be used as a judge or jury on the actions of others."

Voice is vital

"The Spiritualist of 1980," David Walton has another approach to successful sessions. "I always make a point of meditating for at least an hour before each sitting," he said. "Normally I receive most of my messages during that period."

"But if my sitters just sit there and grunts, then I have to work so much harder. Few people realise that the sound of their voice is essential in helping the spirit people to get through the mediumship of a human instrument."

"I always explain that whatever reason prompted them to come to me I want them to put it into their minds. Then I get them to relax, after which it all starts to pour out."

Trust is needed

David added that he has now relinquished private sittings in the UK because he feels "an immense need to reach the untaught." These are people in Third World countries who have never seen a medium demonstrate.

Another medium who shares some of David's views is Andreas Vasilou. He tries to discipline himself to a brief meditation prior to each sitting.

"I dislike being fed by sitters," he said, "because the most important part is the trust that should exist between us."

Andreas suggested that experienced sitters could help mediums by declaring beforehand that they have had Survival evidence and what they really seek is spirit counselling.

"Every sitting is unique," was the comment of medium Carmen Rogers. I managed to catch her between sances at her new Hertfordshire Psychic Study Centre.

Carmen is one of a number of younger mediums who have chosen to open psychic centres to teach psychic and spiritual development and holistic health techniques.

Her interpretation of a good sitting takes a different line. Carmen has discovered that few of her sitters seem solely concerned with Survival evidence.

"Naturally they welcome it," she told me. "But their real reason is for counselling and spirit guidance."

"When this comes, I frequently find that their loved ones and helpers are so concerned to get a message of warmth and support to them that this theme can be repeated several times."

Carmen dislikes being "fed" information by her sitters. She finds



DORIS RICHARDS: She springs a surprise.

this devalves part of the link she has with spirit communicators.

"Long explanations inhibit me. Of course I welcome rapport with my sitters, but all I require from them is a simple Yes or No to the messages."

Agreeing that some sitters frequently underrate the value of spirit guidance, Reg Wilson of the College of Psychic Studies gave one secret of a successful sitting. "This is being prepared to receive rather than 'grab' at messages given through mediums."

"We frequently have phone calls from people who have not had sittings," he said. "We try to get them to relax and not allow themselves to become preoccupied by their problems."

"It is a fact that almost invariably, if they follow this advice, their problem will surface during the sitting. The difference between people's outlook when they first arrive and when they leave is a heartening process to observe."

"They always seem to leave here happier because they have found what it is they were looking for. I



ROBIN STEVENS: When too much is expected.

me an unexpected, impromptu example of her work.

I was amazed to have the furnishings of my small flat accurately described, even to the little alysum plant which I patiently grew from seed and then transferred to my garden.

"I am convinced of Survival I was less surprised to be linked with many loved ones who have forged the path ahead of me into



CARMEN ROGERS: "Inquirers want counselling and spirit guidance."

doubt that there has been one complaint in 500 sittings."

"We try to ensure that each sitter sees a copy of Paul Beard's booklet, 'Hints on consulting a sensitive.' This is an excellent initiation for new sitters."

Balancing the views of the veterans, I also sought comments from some up and coming mediums. The first was Barbara Evans, of Gants Hill, Essex, who relinquished her office work last year to follow in the full time footsteps of professional mediums.

"Clear your mind and please don't feed me," are the succinct words Barbara offers her inquirers. She told me that an increasing number of her sitters are reluctant ones, husbands pressed into investigating by their wives.

"They may be sceptical when they arrive, and frequently are," she said. "But they certainly leave with something to think over."

"Many of my sitters are very nervous." Winstead, E London, medium Gillian Jackson told me.

"They sit there fidgeting or their fear shows in belligerence, a kind of 'Let's see just how clever you are' type of attitude."

She is 'transmitter'

"I offer them a cup of tea or coffee and make them relax. The exceptions are natural sensitives. With them the flow of messages is excellent. It seems as if there is a kind of natural empathy."

Iford, Essex, medium Doris Richards gave me an unexpected surprise. She makes a special point of giving telephone sittings as well as personal links, and explains to callers her role is that of a transmitter.

"I just transmit exactly what comes through me," she said. Doris, who is clairaudient and clairvoyant, stressed how important she felt was the interpretation of spirit messages.

"I try never to place any interpretation on what I am getting. Once I do this then I feel there is a danger that the information might be innocently misunderstood."

"I tell people always to have pen and paper at hand and to make sure they write down whatever I give them. Then they can make their own interpretation."

Doris' "phonevoynce" often amazes her callers, describing in detail the layout of their homes. This she said comes from her spirit helpers — and proceeded to give



God will get you, mayor warned after rededicating church

The Mayor of Worthing, Sussex, Cllr Sam Cambridge, last week laughed off warnings of "retribution" after he had rededicated the town's Gratton Road Spiritualist Church.

The building's foundation stone was originally laid by the then mayor in 1925. Cllr Cambridge was invited to perform the rededication after the church had installed a new ceiling, central heating and complete redecoration.

Before the service, the mayor received a letter from local resident John Harding saying he was placing himself in a position of "utter condemnation."

He wrote, "I would advise you that a number of Christians in this town have taken a very strong prayer stand against this dedication."

He warned that God could act against the mayor in his life and the hereafter.

"The object of this letter is to put the fear of God into you, to make you think very seriously of the consequences of your attending this dedication."

Later Harding told the "Worthing Gazette" that recently Christians in New York prayed about a Spiritualist church there, and shortly after it burned down.

He said he believed seriously that because the mayor had attended the dedication, something horrible would happen.

Nevertheless Mayor Cambridge was not alarmed. "I am not worried," he told the local paper.

"I went to this dedication with an open mind."

"I feel sorry that Mr Harding is so narrow in his outlook that he would have such views and in a



ERIC GOSWELL: "There was nothing in our service to arouse antagonism."

Andreas Vasilou & George Charalambous

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the next world, yet it was a reunion I always welcome.

But how could this woman, whom I have never met, know that only two days previously I found myself wondering if my sugar intake was too indulgent and the possible effects on my physical health?

"A doctor helps me from the spirit world," she explained, and then played my unspoken fears with a single sentence. "He says to tell you that you have not got diabetes."

While I welcome that unexpected message, I know it is my responsibility to ensure that my slightly padded physical form could well do with a mild diet.

roundabout way wish harm to anyone."

Mayor Cambridge was not disturbed. "Nothing terrible has happened to me yet," he said.

Church president Eric Goswell told PN that when he originally extended the invitation, neither he nor the mayor thought that a so-called Christian would take such exception.

"I could have understood it way back in 1925," he said. "That was when anything opposed to Orthodoxy was frowned upon. But not in this day and age."

"There was nothing in our service to arouse antagonism. I even asked for the clairvoyance to be omitted on that occasion as I was not sure of the mayor's religious persuasion and did not wish unwittingly to offend."

Goswell is answering Harding in the local paper, and looked forward to another full to overflowing church.

Pilot scheme is success

AN elated Gordon Higginson told PN on Monday he plans to hold intensive get-to-know-Spiritualism courses throughout Britain.

A pilot scheme, held at Blackpool SNU Church, Lancs, last week, was attended by 100 students. Public meetings attracted capacity crowds. For one, more people were turned away than could be squeezed into the church.

The students were given comprehensive instruction on all aspects of Spiritualism and mediumship. At the end of the series, seven circles were held simultaneously.

Obviously, the high spot came when a physical sense was organised, and, via Higginson's mediumship, students were able to view ectoplasm.

So successful was the scheme that next year Gordon hopes to hold similar events throughout the country for those who cannot attend the Arthur Findlay College, Essex.

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WEEK COMMENCING July 12

East London

BARKING CS CHURCH
Co-op Hall, 201 Wood Lane, Barking
Sun, 6.30 Mr B. BAUSTIN

RECONTRIST SPIRITUAL CENTRE
Mamie Court Centre, Neasden Rd.
(near to Mark Year Library), Daguenham
Mon, 6.30-7.15 Healing by appointment.
7.30-9.00 CRUCIFIX, psychic art
9.15-10.00 Healing
Wed., 7.30-9.00. Fluidgins demonstrate
Collection for Samaritans

At Co-op Hall, 110 Becontree Ave.
Dagenham
Thurs., 7.30-9.00 DORLEN SMALL
9-10 Healing

LIFORD SPIRITUAL NATIONAL CHURCH
Chiswick Road, Hoed
Sun, 6.30 HELEN GAD
Sun, 7.30 Healing service
Thurs., 2.30 Ladies' meeting
Sun, 10.30 M. SORRENTINO
Fri., 8.00 Discourse group

ISLAND OF LIGHT
The New Community Centre
Gleagol Court, Millwall, E14
Sun, 5.30-6.30 Healing
6.30-8.30 Service
8.45-10.00 Talk
Everyone welcome

LITTLE LIFORD CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL CHURCH
2115 Honeyway Road, E17 4DS
Sun, 6.30 Mr P. WADDE
Thurs., 7.30 Healing
Sun, 10.30-11.30 Mrs. J. THOMPSON
Fri., 7.30-8.45 disc. group

MANOR PARK SUICIDE CHURCH
Sherry Road, Forest Gate, E7
Sun, 7.30-9.00 M. NELSON
Sun, 7.30-9.00 M. BUTCHER
Sun, 7.30-9.00 M. BROMLEY
7.30 Healing Service

PLAISTOW SNU CHURCH
141 Cambard Road, Lendin, E15
Sun, 6.30-8.00 Mr & Mrs J. COMBE
Sun, 7.30 Ladies' Service
Thurs., 7.30 Service
Healing services, Wed., 12.30 until 1.45
Fri. 8.30

STRATFORD SPIRITUAL CHURCH
Mansford Road, Stratford, E15
(off Forest Lane)
All enquiries: 0747 3911
Sun, 6.30 Service
Sun, 7.30 Healing
Sun, 7.30-9.00 Meetings

WALTHAMSTOW SNU CHURCH
Henry Road, E17
Sun, 6.30-8.00 LAWRENCE McDONNELL
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
7.30-9.00 Discussion Group: JAY RAYNES demon-
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Wed., 7.30-9.00 PETER CLOSE

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Sat, July 11: Mr ALAN NICHOLS
Wed, July 15: Mrs RUTH CASH

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Thurs., 2.45-3.00 Healing
Thurs., 7.30-8.00 Address & clairvoyance

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Every Wed., 7.30 Healing for all

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Cresley House, 11 Muswell Hill Rd., N10
Sun, 6.30-8.00 M. FREDRICK
Sun, 7.30-9.00 Mrs M. D. EASOTT
Fri., 7.30-8.00 Healing
Sat., 7.30-8.30 M. R. ROBERTS

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(Buses 14, 168A, 280 to Honey Lane)
Sun, 11: Mrs GLADYS ENGLAND
Sun, 6.30-8.00 M. P. WADDE
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
7.30-9.00 Discussion group
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South London

BALHAM SPIRITUALIST SOCIETY
Headquarters Hambleton Hall
8-9, Balham Road, Balham, S17
2.30 Spiritual readings
Thurs., 7.30 Healing
Thurs., 7.30-8.00 HELEN WATSON
Mrs BROWN
Mrs BROWN
Mrs BERNARD & Mr CLARK

PETTS WOOD SPIR. CHURCH
Manor Hall, 289 Petts Wood Rd., Kent
(2 miles. off A2)

MORDEN SPIRITUAL CHURCH
114 Newark Road, Morden
S9 9SS open door
Sun, 11: D. LARKWOOD
Mon, 7.45 Open Circle
Wed., 2.30 Advisory service (Brother STAN-
LEY) by appointment only Ring 01-457 3366
Thurs., 7.30-8.00 JYVET CRYE
Sun, July 19, 9.30 B. CARMELI
Healing: Tues, Fri., 7.30-8.30, Sat., 2.30-3.40
and before Thurs. and Sun. services.

BARNES CHURCH & HEALING CENTRE
White Hart Lane, SW13
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Thurs, Tues: 7.45-8.45
Wed, 7.45-8.45
Mon, 7.45-8.45
Mon, 7.45-8.45
Mon, 7.45-8.45
Mon, 7.45-8.45

BATTERSEA SPIRITUAL CHURCH
64 Bessinger Rd., Northcote Rd., SW11
Sun, 6.30-8.00 M. P. WADDE
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing

BRITON SPIRITUAL CHURCH
66 Woodberry Grove, Manor House, N4
Sun, 6.30-8.00 M. P. WADDE
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing

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Sun, 2.30-3.45 Mr. WESTON
Wed, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Wed, 7.30-8.00 Healing

WOOD GREEN SP CHURCH
Cap of Marlborough Road
HB Road, Wood Green, N22
Tel: 01-488 7929
Sun, 6.30-8.00 M. P. WADDE
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing

ELTHAM SPIRITUAL CHURCH
44 Woodberry Grove, Manor House, N4
Sun, 6.30-8.00 M. P. WADDE
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing

FULHAM SP CHURCH
Kewford Road, SW9 near Parsons Green
Sun, 6.30-8.00 M. P. WADDE
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
Mon, 7.30-8.00 Healing
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ELTHAM SPIRITUAL CHURCH
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Survival 'attacks very roots of science'

SINCE 1972 Gilbert Bonner has obtained over 10,000 paranormal recordings using the electronic voice phenomenon (EVP) technique. Many of these voices, he has testified, include "amazing evidence from people who identify themselves as those we know to have passed on."

In his last PN article (April 11), Bonner told how, using the EVP, another researcher had contacted murder victims and obtained four convictions by the evidence given to the police.

Now give us his latest views.

by
Gilbert Bonner

THE general attitude of science towards the supernatural is that unless it can be understood in normal physical terms it does not exist.

The paranormal does not fit into the framework of Newtonian physics. The possibility of Survival is totally rejected in the chemical and electrical (mechanistic) view of brain function, the basis of materialism.

To admit the possibility of Survival would therefore attack the very roots of scientific hypothesis.

Spiritualists may believe when they read that a scientist accepts the benefits of spiritual healing, or investigates metal-bending, that indicates he similarly accepts the paranormal, and its implications, that is not so.

Many psychologists admit that spiritual or mental healing often works where other methods fail, but they usually interpret resulting benefit as due to "suggestion" rather than anything transmitted by the healer.

In metal-bending, they look for

find room for the paranormal. Here the world is seen as a construct of our own sensations and perceptions.

Physicists have shown how we influence the physical system. The object is affected by the observer.

Mind could be basic to matter. Thus, parapsychology could underlie physics in the hierarchy of science.

The new physics, unlike the old, rejects mechanistic and materialistic concepts and introduces consciousness into its study of the physical system. That is why I have often suggested that evidence which points to Survival comes within science's framework.

If we study the out-of-body experiences of many people who have been revived from clinical death, we are forced to conclude this demonstrates a temporary mind/brain separation. Further tests in "remote viewing" further confirm this belief.

My research into the EVP over the past ten years has also produced evidence that completely shatters our picture of reality as conceived in the old physics, but it makes sense in terms of the new physics.

Over the years I have sought to

Should principal changes be made in Seven Principles?

by the editor

THE question of whether Spiritualism's famous Seven Principles should be revised was once again broached by Paul Beard, College of Psychic Studies president, in PN last week.

We have three folders full of PN cuttings dealing with these Seven Principles. They include statements that not only do they need revision, but in one case that they should be scrapped!

Even Paul Beard entered this controversy in 1977, when he pleaded that time must be taken to revise the Seven Principles and an ethical code included.

There is some doubt about their origin. It is stated, for example, that when Spiritualists felt the need to propound a minimum number of principles on which there could be agreement, the problem was solved by that wonderful pioneer and trance medium Emma Hardinge Britten.

In 1887 she was entranced and a number of principles outlining what Spiritualists could accept was transmitted through her. Some accounts say the spirit speaker responsible was none other than Robert Owen, a Spiritualist when on earth and founder of the Co-operative movement.

Language is problem

The Seven Principles are utilised by the Spiritualists' National Union as the teachings that should be accepted before people can become members of affiliated churches. An important proviso is that full liberty of interpretation is recognised.

It should be remembered that the principles were received during the Victorian era, and some are flavoured by its language.

For example, the first refers to God's fatherhood, a statement which today's Women's Libbers would rightly oppose.

Nearly a century ago, however, male superiority, whether applied to humans or even the Deity, appeared to be accepted by the majority.

What are angels?

There could be similar objections to the second principle because it refers only to man's brotherhood, whereas it is intended to include the whole human family.

As for number 3, frankly I don't know what is meant by "the ministry of angels." It seems to suggest winged beings who never had human form.

Though others may do so, I see no real objection to the wording of numbers 4 to 7, though I wish animal survival was included.

Anyway, it will be interesting to see what you think. I invite readers to compile a minimum number of principles which they consider would be acceptable to the majority of Spiritualists.

To define Spiritualism

At the same time, as semantics will be involved, I welcome your definitions of a Spiritualist and Spiritualism.

The latest date for receiving your entries is July 27. I will award a £5 prize to the reader who in my view offers the best replies.

There are other points mentioned in Paul Beard's article last week on which I would like to comment.

He began by quoting a spirit communication from Harold Vigurs, a past SNU president and leading Spiritualist. He was associated for many years with Croydon SNU Church, Surrey.

Harold stated, through what Paul described as a trance medium of the highest calibre, one of his regrets when he reviewed his earth life.

"I would not have tied myself,



EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN: Her superb trance mediumship was responsible.

nor restricted my spiritual growth, in identifying so closely with the Spiritualist movement."

He added, "I look back and find it was a restrictive and somewhat limited way of dealing with a universal truth."

It is difficult for me to follow his reasoning. I do not see how his close identification with the organised Spiritualist movement should have restricted his spiritual growth.

For example, I do not consider that by editing a Spiritualist newspaper I am in any way limiting my spiritual growth or lacking an expansion of my consciousness.

I would even go so far as to say that I do not believe that my friend Paul Beard, because he is presi-

dent of the College of Psychic Studies, is in any way inhibiting his spiritual development. He could even be increasing it.

Paul, who has been a close friend and colleague for many years, has one of the finest characters of people I know.

Of course we could all be spiritually better because, as the Seventh Principle states, progress is eternal. There can be no period put to spiritual growth.

What I fail to understand is why being associated with Spiritualism in whatever sphere should prevent individuals from developing their spiritual nature. To me this is a non sequitur.

I have frequently quoted Emma Hardinge Britten, who epitomised a great truth when she said, "Spiritualism is divine, Spiritualists are human."

I do not see anything wrong with Spiritualism. I do constantly have evidence of behaviour by Spiritualists that is not consistent with their Survival evidence and its profound implications.

It has been obvious to me for many years, as it has been to others, that Spiritualists do not possess a monopoly of spirit power or divine inspiration. The will express itself wherever it finds the appropriate means to do so.

Paul quotes Vigurs as referring to the limitations of Spiritualism. I disagree. Limitations are in Spiritualists. But as I have already said, this is a question of semantics, and how you define Spiritualism.

Paul says, "To understand new truth, the only way is to change ourselves." I question the statement because I wonder if there can be any new spiritual truth. If there is, I would like to learn about it. It

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

- 1 The fatherhood of God.
- 2 The brotherhood of man.
- 3 The communion of spirits and the ministry of angels.
- 4 The continuous existence of the human soul.
- 5 Personal responsibility.
- 6 Compensation and retribution hereafter for all good and evil deeds done on earth.
- 7 Eternal progress open to every human soul.

seems to me that there are no new truths, but only fresh methods of presenting them.

Anyway, I am grateful to Paul for ventilating this question. It always does good, when we are challenged, to consider our convictions and to see whether they require modification. Spiritualists, of all people, should have nothing to fear from honest controversy.

Please cut it out

WHEN you see anything printed of psychic interest, it will help if you cut it out, mark it with the name and date of the publication, and send it to us.

SNU 1981 CONFERENCE DRAW

WINNING NUMBERS
57193; 22949; 51254;
61537; 37560; 54768;
36734; 57995; 51613;
29478; 58133; 58619;

10485
Any inquiries, which must be accompanied by sae, to D. J. Hopkins, 17 Ben Austins, Redbourn, nr St Albans, Herts, AL3 7DR.



Some of the electrical recording equipment Gilbert Bonner uses in his EVP research.

a normal answer to psychokinesis (objects' supernormal movement), in this case on molecular structure.

One noted American reincarnation researcher admitted to me he had no interest in Survival, a view I found hard to relate to his own investigations.

Only in the new physics can we

use scientific methods to demonstrate to scientists the EVP's reality.

Unfortunately the voices that answer back, and sometimes claim to be those of the "dead," are not the sort of evidence science seeks. Even so, by the back door, I have made some progress.

In 1975 Dr Ralph Detemeyer made experimental microphone recordings in the sound-proof studios of Westdeutscher Rundfunk Munster. He found later that tapes revealed additional voices — about 4,500 in a 15 minute recording.

I have since been able to confirm this. Many voices manifest at various frequencies.

Another technique demonstrates how some voices blend sounds to produce speech.

I was able to demonstrate this fact. By playing together two foreign languages replies came in perfect grammar and in English.

It seems to me that the EVP and out-of-body experience evidence must alter the views of any thinking person.

Though it might be argued that the EVP does not prove Survival, it certainly does provide some of the best scientific evidence.

I believe this can be very important. Upon such research the future of Spiritualism may depend.

You are invited to attend as a Observer of the Healing Minute every evening at 10pm. There are no fees. Write for your Evening Tryst enrolment card and brochure to the Healing Minute Secretary, The Sanctuary, Burwood, Guildford, Surrey, enclosing a large 14 x 11 cm addressed envelope.

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Colston Hall

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Town Hall

31 JULY — SOUTHAMPTON
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REVELATIONS ABOUT HOUDINI'S RETURN

★ From page 1

suggest that "during their *intimate* (my italics) talks," Ford persuaded Mrs Houdini "to confide much more than the French phrase and the inscription on the inside of her wedding ring," which both featured in the magician's afterlife evidence.

Yet again, where is the author's evidence that Ford extracted details from Mrs Houdini?

Then he claims that Bess "repudiated Ford's messages as genuine," which resulted from a journalist's blackmail and malice. This is hardly a "full account." Where and when did she pronounce these disclaimers?

But FitzSimons makes a vital omission in not giving the background to the "Graphic's" exposure, which resulted from a journalist's blackmail and malice. The full story occurs in a pamphlet, "The Houdini messages," by businessman Francis Fast.

From the moment Bess described Ford's messages as genuine, "there began a flood of attacking rants from the vindictive to the vicious," he writes.

"Any and all weapons from bribery to blackmail and been brought into use."

"It was hardly conceivable, however, that an incident having no remote connection with the message, the medium, or Spiritualism would be employed as the tool for the first and so far most vicious of these attacks, emanating from a certain tabloid newspaper."

Houdini and Bess had befriended an elderly man, a former city editor of a New York newspaper, says Fast. Mrs Houdini's "kindly attentions" continued.

"Unless Ford exerted pressure on Bess to release the letters, the woman would expose the messages as a fraud."

"Unwilling to be intimidated or to become a party to a plan to blackmail Mrs Houdini, Ford terminated the conversation with

The journalist "repeated her views and pleadings." A day before the Ford sitting "he begged for the letters which she said she had been instructed to get at all costs. She was again put off."

The matter uppermost in Bess' mind was a letter she received containing ten words of the yet undecoded message. The journalist asked to be present at the vital Ford seance.

"Her request was granted," says Fast. "She wrote a full and accurate account of it for her paper that evening, making no mention of the fact subsequently claimed that she had the message complete 24 hours earlier."

"Instead, and in the presence of all the other sitters, she asked the only other press representative present to hold back his account for an hour, explaining that she had not yet been able to write her account."

"Next day the journalist again 'teased' Bess for the letters, and endeavored also to get her to sign over the rights to her life story as well."

"Becoming angry, Mrs Houdini ordered the woman from the home."

"The journalist threatened to 'get even' by writing that the whole message was a 'hoax.'"

"Frustrated thus far," says Fast, "he suggested the idea of the possibility of using Ford by a process of intimidation."

The reporter phoned Ford on the pretext of having some "important news" for him. Arthur had a lecture engagement that night and declined to see her.

Bess, she explained, had ordered her from her house. The reporter had promised her chief to extract the much-wanted letters that night.

"Unless Ford exerted pressure on Bess to release the letters, the woman would expose the messages as a fraud."

"Unwilling to be intimidated or to become a party to a plan to blackmail Mrs Houdini, Ford terminated the conversation with



This is a psychic photograph which Houdini, seated in front, never tried to explain away. The picture was taken by his friend Alex Martin, a psychic photographer, of Denver, U.S. The extras are clear. Houdini did not try to duplicate this kind of psychic evidence. Nor did he ever attempt to "expose" Martin.

three short words," says Fast. "In revenge, and true to promise, the tabloid printed a fictitious and lurid tale next morning to the effect that Ford had 'confessed' the message as fraudulent before three of the paper's representatives the night before."

"Bold as it was, the story fell apart of its own weight and was ignored by the reputable press of New York, who had treated the news of the message with dignity and fairness, refusing altogether to print any of the offensive tabloid matter."

"Four days later the same reporter made a second blackmail attempt," this time on a member of the Ford group.

"In other cases money was offered for false testimony that the code had been known by one person or another and was so divulged."

Fast says Mrs Houdini's attitude was that "of an honest septic who had no alternative but to accept a message since it was the one agreed upon."

"She has stoutly maintained in the face of the cruellest opposition that no one but herself could possibly have known the contents

of the message sealed in her vault."

Even close friends suggested she should deny Ford's evidence as correct because it would refute all that her husband wanted for her.

"It was what she wanted to do as I am doing it," she told them. "Nothing will change my belief until it is proved some other way."

Mrs Houdini affirmed conclusively that no one but she and her husband could have known the cipher's arrangement of wording, that neither "overly nor covertly could it have been guessed."

Ford, Fast, repeated no financial gain, even though "considerable sums" were offered by magazines and others.

In his first public address after the message was received, Ford stated:

"I asked to say on oath whether I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that I actually got the Houdini message, I could not do so except on the basis of Mrs Houdini's statement."

Later he wrote: "Frankly, I do not know whether I got the Houdini code message or not. Mrs Houdini says I did. The matter rests there."

Doubts are ended on Doughty Street

THE future of 51 Doughty Street, the SNU's prime location London headquarters, which for years has caused rows within the union, has been settled. Last week PN received a copy of a scheme approved by the Charity Commission.

A charity, the London Headquarters Fund, has been established in connection with the SNU.

Its object is to promote Spiritualism in the London area and "generally" advance it as a religion.

The SNU is the custodian trustee. Managing trustees are three representatives from the union's two London district councils. These "six competent persons" must hold "at least two ordinary

meetings in each year."

Each trustee has been appointed for four years. At meetings three will form a quorum.

Subject to any orders made by the Charity Commission, the trustees are empowered to sell the premises. Unless directed otherwise, the proceeds would be vested in the charity.

It was in 1974 that the dramatic decision, since overturned, was made to sell Doughty Street's freehold premises.

Another idea was to lease the building for £240,000. Part of this would have been transferred to the union at national level to bolster funds. This scheme could have saved the premises. Using 1974 figures, a 99-year lease could have raised over £3 million.

Arthur Findlay's famous book ON THE EDGE OF THE ETHERIC

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PSYCHIC NEWS BOOKSHOP

GUTTED CHURCH GETS FURTHER DONATIONS

A FURTHER £255 has been donated to the committee of the fire-gutted Barrow-in-Furness SNU Church, Cumbria.

PN reported (May 9) how a 12-year-old boy was committed to local authority care after breaking into the church and setting fire to curtains.

The church had met at the stone-built, slate roof Harley Street property for over 50 years. After the fire only the rostrum's outline and a sink were left.

Services and healing are taking place in temporary accommodation while the church, which was insured, is being rebuilt.

Church secretary Kathleen Leach told PN last week that in addition to donations of over £1,000 already received further contributions of £250 have arrived, thanks to the appeal organized on their behalf by Joyce Steedman of Coventry. Another local church added a £25 cheque.

"I'd like to thank the many people, near and far, for their good wishes and generosity," said Kathleen.

★ From page 6

Going on holiday

- ROGNOR SNU CHURCH**
Fisher Road, Sussex
Sun. 8.30 AM, 10.30 AM, 12.30 PM, 7.30 PM
Mon. 7.30 PM
Tue. 7.30 PM
Wed. 7.30 PM
Thurs. 7.30 PM
Fri. 7.30 PM
Sat. 7.30 PM
- BRIGHTON SNU CHURCH**
100 Edward Street, BN1 2JZ
Sun. 11.0 AM Service
9.30 AM, 11.0 AM, 1.30 PM, 7.30 PM
Wed. 7.30 PM, 9.30 AM, 11.0 AM, 1.30 PM
Thurs. 7.30 PM, 9.30 AM, 11.0 AM, 1.30 PM
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Sat. 7.30 PM, 9.30 AM, 11.0 AM, 1.30 PM
- BOLKNEVEN SPIRITUALIST CH.**
18 Bath Road
Sun. services, 11.0 AM & 7.30 PM
Mon. 7.30 PM
Tue. 7.30 PM
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- BRIGHTON SNU CHURCH**
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