

TWO WORLDS

JUNE 1978

91st Year No. 4013

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JUNE 1978

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The best magazine of its kind in the world

They experience eternity while here

EDITORIAL

IT is fascinating to watch how the directing intelligences in the spirit world achieve their breakthrough as part of a master plan. This thought emerges after reading a new book in which an American medical man quotes from hundreds of cases of people who visited the hereafter. They were either near death or "clinically dead" in hospitals.

The book to which we refer is the second one by Raymond A. Moody. It is a sequel to his first paperback, "Life After Life," which became a best seller and created a sensation when it was published.

The author is not Spiritualist but was brought up as a Baptist. To him it seemed it was by accident—we are convinced it was guidance—that his attention was drawn to cases of people leaving their bodies, viewing from some vantage point what happens to them and experiencing a preview of the after-life.

During these excursions it was a frequent happening to meet "dead" relatives and friends. In nearly every instance the people who had temporarily died were so enthralled by the reunions, and the radiant surroundings in which they happened, that they had no desire to return to earth.

When Dr Moody wrote his first book he believed these out-of-body experiences were isolated occurrences. By the time he wrote his second book he found they were far more common than people could possibly realise. Everyone he interviewed told of the profound impression their experiences had made. They realised, even when they previously were agnostics, that earthly life has a vital purpose

in which religion plays its part. Each without exception lost the fear of dying.

Thus what mediumship demonstrates and spirit teachings emphasise are confirmed by individuals who are not Spiritualists. Because out-of-body travellers were temporarily reunited with loved ones and friends who had preceded them, this proves there is individual survival after death.

As their loved ones and friends had survived, all human beings must continue to exist after death because natural law operates immutably for everybody.

Evidence for astral projection is not new. Accounts have been described in books written many years ago by Sylvan Muldoon and Hereward Carrington, two American researchers, and by Dr Robert Crookall, the British scientist.

They, however, pioneered truths for which the majority of people were not then ready. Now that science proves reality is to be found only in the invisible and that the apparent solidity of matter is an illusion, astral travelling is easier to be appreciated.

Other important factors arise from Dr Moody's latest paperback, "Reflections on Life After Life," published so far only in the US, but will doubtless be available in Britain.

People who vacated for a time their earthly bodies could see, hear, be aware of everything around them, and also function on another level of consciousness. This clearly demonstrates that the real you is not the fleshly form through which you express yourself.

Moreover, all these astral travellers were in
(Continued overleaf)

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Editor, Maurice Barbanell, who does not necessarily

agree with views expressed by contributors. They are given liberty to express ideas, however controversial, on subjects which are the province of this magazine. Truth, in our view, will be advanced and never hindered by the honest expression of different viewpoints.

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OUR allegiance is not to a Creed, not to a Book, not to a Church, but to the Great Spirit of life and His eternal, natural laws."

Wisdom from the
world beyond

Death cannot part those joined by love

A WOMAN, who had been bereaved by her husband's passing, was told by Silver Birch, guide of Hannen Swaffer's home circle: "It is better for your man to have gone and for you to stay than it would have been the other way round.

"You are the stronger and more capable of adjustment than he would have been. And you are aware because of your knowledge that he has not vanished for ever, and that those whom love has joined can never be separated. Physically you are parted. But the spiritual bond is far more permanent than any physical tie can ever be. You will meet again.

"You will pick up the threads. You will resume your life where it left off. You will have the ineffable joy of being together and experiencing all the wonders and beauties our world has to offer those who are ready to receive them."

Said the visitor: "I've already been told that and been reminded of it, but somehow one forgets because of living in the material world. But it's wonderful to be reminded that there is a reunion to which one can look forward."

The guide told her: "That is certain. You will find there is complete compensation. And

when you experience it you will not regret all the trials through which you have had to pass. I have never said that we can remove the problems of your earthly life. These you have to encounter."

"It's the loneliness more than anything else."

"You can gradually develop that awareness which will bring realisation of the closeness of loved ones to you. This takes time. But it is always worth while as you become increasingly aware of the tremendous powers that are round and about you. Alas, you can become immersed in the difficulties of the material world because you have to make provision for the requirements of your physical body.

"Never allow that to have priority, because you have spiritual requirements that also must receive attention. At least you can console yourself with the important fact that you were prepared for his coming to our world. Think of the many who are unaware of the reality of the spirit's passage through earth to achieve its birth into another aspect of life, and to continue, as all must, on the path of eternal progress.

"Your man does not leave you. He still

(Continued from previous page)

bodies that were as real and tangible to them as the physical counterpart they had left. Here is complete confirmation of the fundamental spirit teaching that you are not your body.

Another interesting factor was that some of these out-of-body visitors encountered individuals who were obviously earthbound entities living in a kind of limbo. Though physically dead, they were not spiritually awake because of attachments which chained them to earth.

A graphic passage in the book describes how an individual watched would-be spirit communicators trying in vain to get their messages to loved ones on earth who were completely unaware of this effort. It was clear that the mother, as she was in one case, sought to prevent a member of her family from repeating her mistakes which would hamper spiritual progress.

Then there were the suicides who realised that ending their physical existence had not

solved any problems, and there were penalties to be paid for taking their lives into their own hands.

All this is what the spirit world has been teaching ever since it achieved the major breakthrough over a century ago.

There is one other important aspect to consider. In many cases the astral visitors found they reached a boundary or border they could not cross because they had not died.

They were forced to return to earth irrespective of their desires. Others were emphatically told they had not died because that time had not yet come.

This indicates that human death is predestined. By whom or what we do not know. It could be, as some believe, that we decide or are aware of this important milestone before we incarnate.

Many crucial questions immediately arise involving, for example, fate and free will. But it will be a long time, if ever, before we know all the answers to all the questions.

shares your life. He is sorry he gave you so much trouble because of a long illness. He is aware of all the service you rendered. Try to forget the past. Live in the present. Welcome each morrow for the opportunities the new day brings. Do not become downcast. Hold your head high. Be an exemplar to others. Show how those with knowledge comport themselves when the testing time of bereavement inevitably comes."

Turning to a circle member who has suffered a similar bereavement by her husband's passing, Silver Birch asked, "What do you think?"

She replied, "Sometimes it's very difficult."

"I know. If it were not difficult it would not be worth having. You will learn, not in ease and comfort and when the sun is shining. It is when storms blow, the wind rages and the clouds hide the sun that you learn the real lessons that will be the most important for you. It cannot be any other way. If you want to progress, if you want your soul to develop, it can only do so in difficulty, trouble and challenge.

"You are never alone. Always you are in the presence of those who love you, guard, guide and sustain you, who bring you power, cheer and comfort. You are the fortunate possessors of a great and rich truth which should help you in all the difficulties that beset you on your earthly pilgrimage."

Returning to the visitor, the guide said: "Hold your head high. Look up, not down. Your man will help you. He will do his utmost to help solve your problems. He has learnt how to manipulate the necessary powers that will ensure you get the maximum help because he has a service to render, just as you rendered a service to him.

"Death brought him liberation when he was in a prison. The physical body could do no more. It had served its purpose. This is the inevitable part of life's pattern. The natural laws operate for everyone in your world."

When Silver Birch said, "Is there anything you want to ask?" she replied: "It may sound silly, but if we have a pattern in life, and we have a certain amount of time to be here, how does the healing help? People are ill, and healers help them. Doesn't that prolong their life?"

"When the time has come for you to say farewell to that body, it will happen. You have the free will to shorten the time if you are foolish enough to do that. But you cannot prolong earthly existence. The object of the healing is not only to relieve the pains and

The woman who paid her first visit to the circle later sent this letter:

THE personal joy, upliftment and encouragement I received from Silver Birch cannot be expressed in my words.

But I did leave with a lighter step, joy in my heart and the realisation that I was a very fortunate individual indeed to have sat and actually listened to his wonderful philosophy.

discomforts, but to restore the harmony that will help the soul. The soul is the pivot for the whole life of the body. Healing will help to restore that harmony which makes for health."

"We all love you so much," the visitor said.

"If I have earned your love then I am fulfilling my mission," the guide told her. "Love is part of all that is divine. Love is the way in which the law fulfils itself. Love is the Great Spirit in action. When the people of your world learn to love and not to hate one another, to have compassion, to be co-operative, to help, to serve, then indeed you have what it always could be, the kingdom of heaven on earth. Do the best you can, no more is expected of you."

The guide greeted the next visitor, who was prevented by illness from attending a previous sitting, by asking conventionally, "How are you?"

She replied, "I'm fine, thank you, Silver Birch."

"If you are fine, it's not due to me. I am sorry that you were not able to be with us the last time when your husband came. How are you getting on spiritually?"

"I feel as though I've come to a stop. I'm not getting on spiritually at all, as if I've fallen by the wayside."

"You haven't fallen by the wayside. You haven't come to a stop. I told your husband when he was here how richly blessed he was. Do you remember?"—"Yes, I do," he said.

Silver Birch added: "You were brought to this knowledge at a time when you needed it. After all you are not, as your world counts time, very old. You received this great boon, this wondrous truth, which has been as a brilliant light where before there was only darkness. And when you look back you see how the finger of the spirit pointed the way for you. Step by step you were guided to a sanctuary, which lived up to its name, there came the illumination and the evidence that changed the

Here is the comment sent by the healer for whom it was his second visit: IT is always a thrill, as well as memorable, to speak to and hear Silver Birch himself, as well as to talk to the others there about our interests.

whole direction of your lives. That power has not departed from you."

"I sometimes wonder if it has, a lack of faith, I'm afraid."

"I tell my friends there are two important things. In the first place, as the Bible says, you must add knowledge to faith. This is because knowledge can provide a base that is far more sound than faith. Faith can be very flimsy sometimes, and too easily shaken and destroyed.

"Knowledge is a certitude, a foundation, a rock on which to build. But because you are human you cannot have all the knowledge, which like spirit is infinite. The amount of knowledge you can receive is restricted by your capacity for reception. A one-pint mind can receive only one pint of knowledge.

"You have to increase your capacity, and that is the process of development, unfoldment, growth, progress. As the receptivity increases, more knowledge can come to you. So inevitably, after the first few steps have been taken, you reach the stage where you have to add faith to knowledge.

"This is not credulous, unreasonable faith, but based on what has been revealed to you. Because of what you know the rest must follow. There is nothing in your world or in ours that can destroy your spirit. It is eternal. It has to grow so that the latent perfection constantly manifests in ever-growing proportions.

"Here you all are on earth with the tremendous perception that an infinite spirit gives you. But it's a step-by-step process. Sometimes you will feel as if you are growing rapidly. Other times you will feel you are getting nowhere fast, as you say in your world. But you are making headway all the time. You have not been deserted."

Said the husband: "That explanation has made it a lot clearer than it has been. We may just be a little bit more patient now than we have been."

"The people in your world are in a hurry. We have to wait patiently until you wake up spiritually. Then you say, 'Where do we go from here?' You will go to the right place. You cannot accelerate spiritual growth. You cannot take two steps but only one.

"It's a process of constant consolidation

because as the spirit grows it cannot go back. There is a tremendous difference between physical and spiritual laws. For example, if you have something material and give it away, you are that much materially poorer. But if you have knowledge and pass it on, you are not poorer. Spiritually you are the richer. You have not only enriched the life of another, you have enriched your own.

"You have nothing whatever to fear. You have gifts, which will unfold. You will be able to serve, as you have been served. If there's a fleeting doubt of any kind pause, reflect and realise that where you now are is due to the guidance you received. That guidance will continue.

"It is directed always to one aim, your unfoldment, your growth, your development, so that you can derive from life all the spiritual riches it has to offer. At the same time, try to help others to achieve a similar objective. Look up, not down. I've told my friends here many times that the Great Spirit constructed the head to be on top of the body, not below, so that you look up."

Here the husband said: "You have answered a question that was in my thoughts while we were talking. It was the interpretation of the saying that many are called but few are chosen. I think the explanation you have given this evening is perfect."

The guide commented: "To each child of the Great Spirit is given the opportunity of discovering life's fundamentals. None is left throughout the whole of earthly life without the chance of becoming aware of the spiritual realities, the truths of the spirit. They don't always follow through, as you say. The seed is not embedded firmly enough. It doesn't grow. There's nothing we can do about it.

"But when it does, then it will bloom in all the profusion of loveliness that is latent within it. The saddest part of our task is to see when those who are capable of giving service fail to do so. All that has been showered on them is dissipated. They, the ones who had the opportunities to serve, must inevitably pay the price. They were called, but they didn't choose to serve.

"We always serve whenever we can. When you come to see the final balance sheet of your earthly lives, you will find that you have received from us more than you could possibly give."

An old friend, the veteran medium Nella Taylor, expressed her delight at being present when Silver Birch welcomed her. "You will not fall by the wayside," the guide told her.

"You've had too rigorous a training for that."—"Yes, I have. It stands you in good stead though, doesn't it?"

"The trouble with the people in your world is they worry such a lot. If they could only realise that worry blocks the channels through which help can come to them."

Nella Taylor said: "You spoke so wisely about faith. Many people say they have it, but they haven't the measure of it. That's what we have to try and teach them."

"Those who reach conviction based on experience should use that as their base, to face without a vestige of fear, whatever the future may bring them. But the people of your world are very human."

The last to be greeted by the guide was a spirit healer who confessed: "I'm a bit of a worrier though. Your words struck home."

"There is nothing to worry about. Do the best you can is all that we expect of you, no more and no less. You can't do better than your best. Look how richly blessed you are. Would you change? Would you prefer to go back to the days when you were unaware of your gift?"—"No! No!"

"Think of those awful nights when you cried out for the way to be shown, and thought no answer would be forthcoming. Black despair seemed to envelop the whole of your soul. No, you would not wish to return to those days."

"There is a price to be paid for all the knowledge you receive. That price is responsibility. Because of it you must ensure that you do your best. Help those who come within your orbit. They will always be sent to you."

The healer asked the guide if he would deal with "a small technical thing based on experience, if it isn't too trivial. Can spirit people become somehow attached to material objects?"

"Yes, until they learn to cut the bond."

"Do they always know there is a bond?"

"No. It is not until they do that they can cut it. There are many people who come to us from your world whose whole outlook is centred upon material objects that to them seem to have a greater value than anything else."

"Presumably if you pray, that will help them."

"Prayer always does help. It is one means of encouraging a soul to release itself from any earthbound condition. Prayer is a vital and constructive force, unlike worry, which is a negative one."

Towards the end of the sitting the first

I RECENTLY found one book of Silver Birch's teachings. I was so impressed with and by it that when asked what I would like for Christmas by my family I replied, "Three more of Silver Birch's books." I am so happy with them. Every word touches my soul like a ray of sunshine.

If I can apply the teachings to my life I know I will have made good use of the years left to me on this poor planet. I am now 60 years old. For 50 of those years I was buried in the darkness of orthodox teachings, watching the heartache and sorrow that come from them.

In my search for the truth I have finally freed myself from them and I have to thank such messages as these for it.

I do not accept everything I read, only what speaks to my soul. Silver Birch plus a few others have done this.-(Mrs) Agnes Padgett, Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, San Diego, California, USA.

visitor who was greeted by the guide asked, "Has my husband made contact with his son?"

Silver Birch replied: "This was the greatest blessing of all for them. What else do you think would happen? If you were in my world, and your son was coming to join you, where would you be except waiting to receive him? Love cannot be parted from its beloved. Love is the Great Spirit in action. Love is the fulfilling of the law. Love is the uniting power that makes two souls one. Love is the attracting force. Where else would your son be than to

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greet his father? When you come to our world, your son and your husband will be there to greet you."

Addressing all the sitters Silver Birch said: "The light of the spirit brings its golden illumination to each one of you. That's why I say, do not worry. Do not have fear. They are bad counsellors. Banish them. Live in the sunlight of knowledge. Be positive. Be constructive. Have faith that all will be well. We will never abandon you.

"Together we are engaged on an important mission. We are part of the vanguard which is to help to free mankind, to end its misery and violence, its hatreds and rancours, its spite and greed, so that all may enjoy the wondrous benefits that the spirit has to offer. If, in the course of your earthly lives, you enable one soul to come into its own, then it will be worth the living.

"Let this knowledge be an incentive to each one of you to do the best you can. Set your sights high. Aspire to the highest you can possibly reach. Make yourself accessible to all the lustre, richness and grandeur that can be yours. Seek to obtain a closer unity with the overruling power that has infinite love to offer all who can receive it. May the Great Spirit bless you all."

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When we reach out to the highest

Here is the invocation with which Silver Birch opened the circle.

WE aspire to the highest we can reach, the Great White Spirit, the power that is the summit of perfect love and wisdom, responsible for everything that exists, be it majestically mighty or microscopically minute, be it complex or simple.

Each one of us, whether on earth, or in the worlds beyond, are living tributes to the reality of the Great Spirit, because part of that divinity was breathed into us, and enabled us to live in the first place.

We are aware of the supreme power that is responsible for all life in a universe whose bounds are not yet known, whose wisdom devised the whole cosmic plan and created laws to ensure that all would be within its scope.

Nobody and nothing can be overlooked, neglected or forgotten, because the power of the spirit runs through the whole gamut of being.

We have been privileged to obtain from the storehouse of knowledge, truth and wisdom much that has enabled us to have a clearer understanding of the supreme power and of ourselves. So we have banished the picture of a deity actuated by anger, a jealous despot who favours the few and ignores the many.

Instead we are aware of a Great Spirit of love. As a result we are able to partake of that love, and make it available to others who are unaware of it.

Our aim is to serve as we have been served, to help those less fortunate than ourselves. These are the ones who have lost their way and do not know where to turn, the weary and the perplexed, sufferers in body, mind and spirit, the bereaved who yearn for that which will enable them to know life is eternal, and that love is stronger than death.

This is the prayer of Thy Indian servant who seeks always to serve.

ANOTHER READER

Send us the name and address of a friend you think will be interested. We will forward a copy of *Two Worlds*. If you can afford it please include 39p to cover cost.

'It is here that the light of renaissance is being kindled'

Britain has a spiritual destiny

by PEGGY MASON

MY last two articles have been in serious vein. No one can deny that we live in serious times. I feel that all spiritually responsible people should recognise and face that fact, and indeed do all they can both through prayer and in their daily lives to evoke and spread the light.

Now whatever changes are to come, involving the evolution of this earth, and of necessity involving the inhabitants of this planet, including all nature's kingdoms, one of the best and most therapeutic ways of spreading that light is to be *happy*! One can even call that our "duty."

To be happy, and to give happiness has nothing to do with material circumstances, possessions, whether we are rich or poor or what is termed "comfortable."

It stems from an implicit trust in the fact that God is love, and in the knowledge that whatever may befall, whether to ourselves or others or the world—in essence we are all one—"it is going to be all right." I quote the oft-repeated phrase of dear Alf, the door-keeper of the remarkable Norman Hunt home circle to which I have often referred.

The knowledge of our immortality makes all things easier to bear—whether it be pain, loss, bereavement, suffering on all levels from whatever causes, including the crippling or death of our physical bodies. The knowledge that there is a Plan, that we are never really alone or overlooked, including the proverbial sparrow, helps us to endure even the man-made horrors of wars and rumours of wars, destruction or desolation.

When I look back, not over my whole life which next year will reach three score and ten years, but just over the last decade since I started writing monthly articles for this magazine, I marvel how, despite dramas, suffering, upheavals in many forms, everything has worked out very much "all right," with the hand and guidance of the spirit quite obviously working behind the scenes for the benefit and spiritual advancement of all concerned.

Why should I marvel, knowing what I believe, or rather believing what I know? Because we poor humans are so negatively orientated and brainwashed by so many fears,

that when the darkness of night descends and we feel we have lost our path in the dense, seemingly impenetrable forest, we are apt to give way to despairing thoughts.

This is even when we *know* that if we are patient, don't panic or thrash about in the undergrowth and so lose our sense of direction, the dawn *will* come eventually, the sun *will* penetrate the dense foliage which overshadows us, and illumine the way ahead.

So it is, I believe—and we are told so from a high source—with the destiny of Britain, the little island called in the immortal words of the great master we know as Shakespeare, "This precious stone set in the silver sea. . ." At the moment all may appear dark, overshadowed. But let me quote excerpts from a message from this high source, received at Glastonbury:

"To many of her inhabitants it would appear that Britain is a declining country, that the qualities which led her to the heights of power when she controlled almost half of the earth's surface have disappeared and that the glory of Great Britain has done. Indeed, at the present time, as she is faced with crisis after crisis, it would appear that Britain is set upon a path towards economic collapse from which she will never recover. My purpose in speaking to you is to reassure you of the destiny of this truly great country, to show you why she is indeed still great and to tell you of her purpose in the destiny of the earth.

"Britain contains some of the most sacred and holiest points of divine power on the surface of this planet. Indeed, at the beginning of Creation Britain was a land inhabited solely by the angels and devic forces.

"When the first civilisation of man came into being in the area around the Dead Sea, the angels still walked the surface of Britain. It was the power flowing through the receiving centres of this land that inspired, motivated and empowered the first tentative steps of man.

"To those of you who are familiar with the history of ancient Britain it is evident that significant events took place long before the records of man began and that certain centres of power had been in existence before man

came and used them himself on the physical level.

"Great beings of the angelic realm, whom man cannot see because of the frequency on which he operates, did indeed dwell on the surface of this land. Many ancient legends which exist today are the stories of their doings, of their administering to this planet's needs.

"Britain, therefore, has always been the holiest of lands. It has been kept apart, separate, from the other land masses even through the cataclysmic changes that have taken place, for it is, truly, a dwelling place of the gods. There are three great centres of power on this earth, and through these centres the love of your Creator is grounded. One of them is situated in Tibet, another in the Holy Land, and the third in Britain.

"The triple aspect of the trinity rains down upon the earth through these centres. The Father is grounded in Tibet, the Son in the Holy Land, and the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit) in Britain. Therefore at varying stages in the earth's history great souls have come to this land to tap into and to use the power of the Holy Spirit.

"It is true when it is written that the Nazarene came to Britain as a young man in order to prepare his physical body for overshadowing by the Christ. It was by his physical presence in Britain, and in particular at Glastonbury, at this centre of great power, that he was preparing himself for the work that he was to do. Many other great Masters have also visited Glastonbury, although this fact is largely unknown to man today.

"Britain, therefore, is one of the great spiritual centres of the world. I cannot at this time go too deeply into the cosmic evolution of the earth except to say that it is decreed that during a coming of the Christ in order to fulfil the divine plan for evolution, the seeds shall

be sown for the next coming. As the next coming of the Christ has indeed been destined to take place in Britain, the Nazarene's visit to this land was intended to symbolise the next place of incarnation of the Christ *Light*.

"Those of you who have understood the significance of the Christ, who recognise that it is a light, a force, an illumination, not, as the religions of today would have you understand, a man, and that the Nazarene was indeed only an instrument through which the Christ operated, will understand that the next visitation of the Christ will manifest in similar form.

"The history of Britain as you know it might appear on the surface to be somewhat chequered. It is true that there are events in the history of this land of which no nation would be proud, but throughout its long history Britain has been truly preparing for the role which is to come. Indeed, through the establishment of the British Empire, Britain was unknowingly creating a federation of countries which are to be the backbone of the New Age.

"Though you may think that at the present time the links are weak, that the British Commonwealth no longer exists, truly the links are still there on a higher level of existence. There are, above all, the common factors of language, justice, government and a sense of values which are peculiar to the British alone. Nations have changed and evolved, but the basic gifts of this country have been bestowed upon a large part of the world.

"At the present time it would appear that Britain is on the verge of collapse. Certainly the way of life that has been pursued by the British is to change. The industrial and political systems which control this country are to disappear. From this situation there will arise a new British consciousness, a consciousness which possesses spiritual rather than material and political values.

"It is in Britain that the light of renaissance for the Aquarian Age is being kindled. Nowhere else in the world today is there so much activity on the spiritual front as in Britain. If the progress which is now being made is maintained it will be to this country that the other nations of the world will look in the future.

"Britain is to be the leader of the world, but not in the sense that she has led the world in the past, through force of arms, through the conquering of countries, but rather in the sense of a spiritual leader to whom other countries will look for guidance, for a source of

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knowledge and wisdom which they themselves do not possess.

"It has been written that Britain and America will be one. This is true. At the present time man cannot conceive of the situation whereby this could occur, but a union of these two countries is to come about in preparation for the new Root Race which is to establish itself on the western coast of North America.

"In the USA today you have much potential, much power, with the gathering together of many races within its boundaries, but also a lack of wisdom and a need for guidance. It is this which Britain will provide, for being prepared within this country now are the teachers and the masters of the New Age.

"Look upon the transformation of Britain and upon what is to take place within the next five years not as a disaster but as a blessing. Liken it to the process of childbirth which, whilst painful on the physical level, brings new life, new expectations and new hopes. What this country is now experiencing is a time of rebirth.

"It is therefore unfortunate that at such a time Britain should have chosen to attach herself in federation to other countries in Europe. As a nation she has free choice and may do as she pleases, but through attaching herself to Europe she has delayed the destiny which she has to fulfil.

"She will in time overcome this obstacle, and find release from that federation, for Britain has first to develop herself individually, just as do all other countries of Europe before they are able to federate themselves into a European Community.

"In the years to come you will see that the Common Market is not what you think it is, that, truly, the individual countries concerned have not yet learnt to sacrifice, and to place other countries before themselves, and that the motivation for entry into this union was not one of sacrifice but one of self-aggrandisement. Indeed, the motivation for Britain's entrance was not one of giving, but one of receiving, of trying to avoid that which was written in the economic future of the country.

"Nevertheless, in spite of this union having taken place, Britain will not avert an economic collapse. In Britain there exists a standard of civilisation, if I may call it that, which is unparalleled in any other country. All over the world there is admiration for British standards of justice, compassion and tolerance. These are some of the inherent qualities which Britain can give to the world, but she will not

be able to demonstrate these qualities fully until after she has harmonised herself.

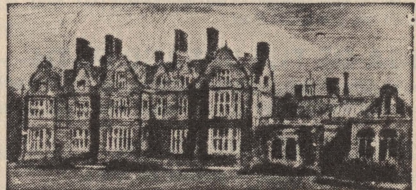
"At the present time Britain is preparing herself for her future role, and preparing with her are many levels of consciousness above the physical. Those of us of the hierarchy who seek to forward the plan for this earth are drawing very close to Britain at this time. Many powers are manifesting themselves upon the surface of this little country.

"You are present at one great power-point—Glastonbury. For the most part man today does not understand the significance of this power-point. Intuitively he rec-

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ognises the holiness, the sanctity of this place, not because of that which has gone before, but because of that which he feels today. He senses the magnetic aura of this place. That is why the young of today come here, for they are intuitively feeling the power which comes through this centre.

"Some of you are aware that within man's physical body there are seven centres of power, of cosmic energy, which are known as chakras. Countries have chakras similar to man's, and Glastonbury is one of the chakras of Britain. Other centres are London and Iona

"It is through these centres that the earth's higher spiritual bodies are manifested onto the material or physical plane. It is through this great power-point of Glastonbury that the power of the Holy Spirit flows.

"All those who come here are linking themselves with this energy, so that when they have departed, even when they are living in other countries, that etheric link will still be there. At the right time, as the power is increased, as the transformation of the earth takes place, they will be vitalised by that power . . . This linking is not for the past, but for the future. It is for work which is to be done.

"So, remember that Britain . . . is a most holy and sacred land. Truly the angels have walked and still do walk upon England's green and pleasant land. In the future Britain is to play a role which is without parallel, for which the people who now inhabit these shores have to undergo a period of transmutation, of transformation, so that in this change of the earth that is to come, in this cataclysmic rebirth at the turn of the century, she may be ready to fulfil the true purpose of her being: the resting place of the Christ light."*

Let us, then, brace ourselves anew, determined to play our part in whatever transmutation or transformation is to come (and which is *necessary*), remembering always Paul's inspiring words, that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God."

**I have quoted from "The Revelation of Ramala," by the Ramala Centre, Glastonbury, distributed by Neville Spearman, £3.50. I heartily recommend this book to readers. It is obtainable by post from Psychic News Bookshop at our address, £4.10/\$9.02.*

Your life has a purpose

But how you fulfil it is your responsibility

by M. H. TESTER

I SUPPOSE it is inevitable that a healer is treated by some cured patients as a guru. There is a popular misconception that because a man has a psychic gift, then he must be spiritually mature. It is not so.

There are many gifts. Some are the ability to paint, to draw, to sing, to make music, to produce living images from cold blocks of stone. Poetry and fine prose come as a gift, as does complete co-ordination and the ability to excel at some sport. The ability to act as a healing channel is also a gift.

There are many superb artists and writers who have achieved immortality for their works, but who were spiritually immature. Some of the world's great painters led personal lives that fell far below the standards of their times. It is so today. A man may have a gift. He may be a superb healer. It does not follow that he must be spiritually sophisticated.

Indeed, many are not. Some of the explanations I have heard healers give for the results they obtain are puerile. Many surround themselves with obsolete religious symbolism, and use rituals that vary from the impressive to the ridiculous. The people who are cured look upon them as enlightened beings, and seek guidance. This is wrong.

A healer's function is to heal. By that means he demonstrates there is a force beyond the material and the coldly scientific. Once this has been demonstrated it is up to the patient to seek the road he should follow to spiritual knowledge.

Each and every one of us is born at a different level of spiritual awareness. There are as many levels as there are people. Each is advancing at his own rate. Therefore, each of us must seek to find our road and travel on it as far as we are equipped to do so. The healer's function is to indicate where the road can be found, and at times to act as a signpost.

I am prepared to tell people what I believe. But I am not an evangelist. I seek to convert nobody. What you believe is uniquely your responsibility. Look for spiritual truths. Seek personal knowledge. What you discover for yourself you will remember. What you are told is secondhand and has not the same value.

My personal credo is a simple one.

There is a theory advanced by psychiatrists that God is but a fantasy of the human mind. I disagree fundamentally with this. I disagree too with those who visualise the Deity as a father figure, as an elderly gentleman with a white beard and a kind of nightdress who has a bad memory and has to be constantly reminded of our needs. To me God exists.

Around me I see evidence of design. In the smallest snowflake and in the greatest galaxy I see this design. I accept that where there is a design there must be a Designer. Whether you

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call this "God," "the Great Spirit" or "the life force" is purely a matter of semantics.

Scientists are finding greater sources of creative energy in this world. There is no limit seemingly to the energy we can release from the atom, the sun, the tides and from other and as yet hardly appreciated sources. Topping it all is the energy of life itself.

God exists. To me He, She or It is pure energy allied to creative design.

Each of us is linked with this divine energy. Each of us is a spirit occupying a body for a short while, but with an indivisible link with God. Each spirit is everlasting. In different lives its format may change. But the hard core that is the soul is linked with the source of life and energy just as every drop of water is part of the ocean.

Your life here has a purpose. I'll go further; all life has a purpose. You may not see the pattern that applies to you. Many never do. But to discern this pattern is your primary function in this life, and to go along with it.

Most unhappiness, most frustration and most ill-health are due to a person failing to see this design, or in seeking to impose on it a pattern foreign to it.

Life is not bestowed as a random gift. It has purpose. You may not be able to find the complete plan. In fact, I doubt if you ever will. But be assured the plan exists. Find as much about it as you can. Go along with it. Your spiritual evolution is the name of the game.

Your life here by most standards is short. Do not use this as a criterion, for all life is continuous. People are born and die. You may see the beginnings of life and what you think is the end, not only in people but in animals, plants and even ideas.

What you see is an illusion. Life is a process that goes on forever. The format may change, but life continues. There is no halting. We either progress at the right rate, or by our own actions slow it down so it may seem that we regress. But the evolutionary progress of life is a fact. It is endless and progressive, and you are part of this divine scheme.

Because life is a continuous process it needs to operate according to natural laws. This is inevitable. The laws are intricate. They are unfailing. Natural laws cannot be broken, cannot be amended, cannot be repealed. They are immutable.

There are many laws. They are not written down in holy books, or carved out of stone tablets. You have to ascertain them yourself. Some of the orthodox religions have discovered a few of these laws and have sought to

enshrine them. Remember, what you find out for yourself you know. What you are told may be suspect at some time.

Discover for yourself how the law of cause and effect operates. Maybe you have. Ponder on your own experiences that have demonstrated the law that "like begets like." Think upon what has happened to you and ask if you have "sown indeed what you have reaped." Look back and learn. Then look up and profit by it.

The natural laws are unfailing in their operation. You will violate many of them. You may not be aware of some until you have transgressed them and seen the results. If in doubt remember the basic rule that love fulfils the law. It is love for your fellows, for all creatures, for life itself that brings understanding of the laws closer to you.

You have been given one incomparable gift. It is a measure of free will. Your will is a great force. It gives you the power to go against nature, to take the wrong road, to project your efforts in a direction that is not right for you.

It also has no equal in the world when it is directed towards correct living, spiritual advancement and love. As in all things it is up to you. Do not blame others. You made your choice. You are responsible. You can never be a victim. You are the master of your soul and of your destiny.

These are the things I believe. I am human, weak and fallible. I do not live fully up to my ideals. But I am improving all the time.

I am not a guru. I am not a teacher. I am far from being one of the masters. I am a simple man on whom has been bestowed the gift of healing. With this I try to ease the suffering of those who come to me, and by doing so to open the door for them to the garden of spiritual awareness.

Whether they walk through that door, whether they explore the garden that is then disclosed, whether they benefit spiritually from that experience is not, and can never be, my responsibility.

The responsibility of how you live, how you think and the attitudes you adopt are uniquely yours and yours alone.

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'Where there is a will'—II

God's greatest gift to humanity

by MAURICE BARBANELL

YOU cannot command help from the higher forces. All you can do is to put yourself in the right condition to receive it. There is a saying in the East that when the pupil is ready the master appears. When you are spiritually ready, the higher powers will reach you.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth." It is obeying the laws responsible for its operation. It cannot and does not make mistakes. The power of the spirit, which the higher forces utilise, is reaching out always to find responsive channels through which to flow.

Being spirit, the dynamic of life, the essence of creation, it takes many forms. It is the divine fire which consumes the artist as, almost in a frenzy, he follows the unmistakable commands that come to him from the unseen. He has not called down the power. By a set of circumstances over which he has no control, the time and place are right and he is receptive.

One clergyman sits in his study, consults books of reference, makes copious notes and finally writes his sermon. Though it may be full of scholarship, classical allusions and display his knowledge of foreign languages, it does not move his hearers.

Another clergyman makes no preparation. He goes into the pulpit without any notes and speaks "as the spirit gives him utterance." He captures his congregation from the start. They recognise that he is inspired, the mouthpiece of some higher force that is responsible for the eloquence that provides food for their souls.

Every speaker and writer knows when he has been inspired. He recognises the tremendous difference between his laboured, stilted performances and those in which he has been the vehicle for the subtle forces which enable the right words to flow effortlessly from him.

I remember that once, while seated in a cinema, watching a gangster film, the opening words for a leading article came into my mind. Hastily, I took a scrap of paper and wrote them down, knowing from past experience that, unless inspiration is recorded immediately, it vanishes and becomes almost impossible to recapture.

That evening, before I went to sleep, I took

The words you read here are taken from "Where There is a Will," a book I wrote many years ago. Ever since I have been asked many times to reprint it, but declined. Instead it is being serialised in Two Worlds because, reading it again, it struck me that the contents can still help many people who yearn for fuller living.

a note pad, placed it on my knees, wrote down the words I had heard in the cinema, and immediately the rest of the leading article was written. The result was not in my normal style. The words had a beauty of expression and rhythm which, alas, I have found it difficult to duplicate.

Words are the most elusive tools. There are only twenty-six letters in the alphabet. Shakespeare wrote sonnets with them, while the majority stumble and fumble to find the right words to express shades of meaning. But then the Bard's pen was kindled by the divine flame to a degree that has never been equalled.

The beauty of Shakespeare's prose and verse is that every word is in its rightful place and it is impossible to substitute another for it—a profound tribute to the inspiration of which he was the instrument.

A friend of mine, a gifted speaker and a writer, who was conscious of the source of the inspiration which came to him, was able to practise telepathy regularly with his wife, a phenomenon which he proved to me on one occasion.

He told me that he could always distinguish between telepathic impressions and those which came to him from higher sources. He illustrated the difference by saying that the telepathic communications were like being prodded with a stick, while the inspired messages were akin to a warm breath on his brow.

This always made me think that inspiration is related to the creative forces of life. After all, the literal meaning of "inspire" is to "breathe in," which, of course, is life, while to "expire" is to "breathe out," which is death. When you are inspired, you are "breathing in" the more subtle forces of life.

Unfortunately, man has always sought to

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canalise and to restrict the higher forces, to compel them to flow into channels of his making. The history of religion is one long conflict between inspiration and theology, or, put another way, between the ideas of God and those of men.

The founders of every world religion were individuals who were inspired from on high. They were moved by the power of the spirit. Their followers sought to limit the divine revelations, to codify them, to make them conform with accepted beliefs, to reduce them to orthodox tenets.

Theology supplanted inspiration. And so it became necessary for another burst of inspiration to descend, to reinstate what had been smothered by the orthodox whose one concern was to try to force the new wine into old bottles.

There are too many living today who are afraid to stray beyond the accepted idea. They are wedded to Orthodoxy. Their minds and souls are closed. They feel safe behind the walls they have erected. The familiar, however barren and sterile, is enough for them.

New ideas are not welcomed. They are afraid of them. They resist the new just because it is new. They cling to the old just because it is old. They are scared of being disturbed. Adventure is not for them.

What was good enough for their father is good enough for them, they will tell you. Or they boast, "I have always held these opinions and I will always hold them." What they really mean is that these opinions will always hold them.

But nature abhors a vacuum. You must either go forward or backward. Rigidity is death. The closed mind is a curse in every aspect of life. The story of progress is one long fight between new ideas and old fears in art, religion, literature, economics, medicine and, indeed, in every form of human activity.

Knowledge, like truth, is infinite. Nobody knows everything. Knowledge has to be pursued and attained. It will not come to you without effort. The son of a scholar inherits no knowledge from his father. He has to seek it for himself. The son of a philosopher does not inherit philosophy from his father. He must acquire it for himself.

The mind does not unfold spontaneously. It must be used and stimulated. The more it is exercised, the more proficient it becomes. The less it is exercised, the less efficient it will be.

Knowledge does not conform to material laws. When you share it with another, you have not lost anything. On the contrary, the

process of sharing will enrich you, for you learn more in so doing.

Reason is a divine gift. God gave you the ability to think and you are intended to use your reason. To accept tenets or doctrines, because others have believed them for years, when they seem unreasonable to you, is to betray your divine inheritance. A rigid mind is as harmful as a hard artery. They both spell death.

Learn to open out, to unfold all your faculties, spiritual, mental and physical, to the maximum of their development. That is how you qualify for the "more things in heaven and earth." The sunflower turns its face to the sun, the source of all its strength, growth and life. Turn to the infinite power, the source of all your strength, growth and life.

You cannot live without the power which fashioned you, which made you in its divine image and which has made provision for all your needs. Live with it. Harmonise your will to the divine will. Allow its radiance to flood your being.

Once you have united yourself with the divine plan, life becomes rich, full and abundant, simply because you have harnessed yourself to the infinite source. You receive the divine illumination which transcends all physical senses.

Your life is then guided, from hour to hour, by the greatest power in the universe. You have come into your own. You have learned to have perfect confidence in the laws behind life, knowing that they cannot fail.

You, too, will then say, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." All your inner faculties, stimulated by the power within and without, will be at work. Your inner eyes will see. Your inner ears will hear.

You will not fear or flinch because of problems or difficulties. You will *know* that as they arise, guidance will provide an immediate response and solution. You will *know* what is best for you to do.

You will learn how to retire into the silence of your own soul and to listen to the voice of divine truth, always striving to make itself heard by those who have ears to hear. You will be able to distinguish between illusion and reality and not mistake the husk for the kernel. You will know what it is to feel radiantly alive, to welcome every new day with zest because it provides opportunities for fulfilling your part in the divine plan.

You will not cringe, demean yourself, boast or be vainglorious. True humility will be yours. You will walk in the light and not in the

shadows, conscious always of the everlasting arms around you, knowing that you are wrapped in the cloak of divine love.

As you become more receptive to higher forces, so your body become less coarse. Refinement of mind and soul lead to refinement of body. Grosser foods will not appeal. Your appetite will change and your body will demand more delicate sustenance. You will not require the artificial stimulants that so many think are essential to their welfare.

You will have discarded much useless lumber, material, mental and spiritual, that has cluttered up your life for too long. You will know the difference between your wants and your needs.

You will have rid yourself of much that is superfluous, a thousand and one encumbrances that civilisation had foolishly persuaded you were essential to your being. You

will not retain what you cannot use. You will know that you were not intended to be a glutton, a miser or a hoarder.

Life will be brighter, happier, richer, fuller and healthier because you know how to live. Having found the way, you will desire to share your joys with others, so that they may learn how the infinite power, to which you attune yourself, is always present and always in operation, just like the natural laws, which never fail to regulate all universal activity.

This infinite power is waiting to illuminate them and everybody else in the world. It is always available, without charge, anywhere and at any time, making no distinction between colour, caste, creed, clime, language, race or nation. It is God's gift to humanity, the means by which it can establish the kingdom of heaven on earth.

(Concluded)

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Science has built-in limitations—4

Why go cap in hand to scientists?

by E. A. TOOKE

NOW let us have a look at a respectable, well-authenticated particle, the neutrino. This travels virtually unhindered through practically everything in its path, despite having no weight. It has been described as a "massless, disembodied spin."

Yet neutrinos have been detected and trapped; mind-particles or will-particles have not. This elusiveness speaks eloquently of their greater powers of penetration—assuming, of course, that they exist at all.

Prof Bondi, in his Halley Lecture at Oxford in 1962, stated that the neutrino had a very small "interaction cross-section"; in other words it doesn't interact with matter very easily. Hence the difficulty of capturing it. This, said Bondi, might mean that it has no sense of time. (Time and space—and therefore matter—are closely interrelated, as Prof Minkovski showed on the basis of Einstein's Theory of Relativity.) The neutrino, then, "might possibly be used to look into the future."

It is an interesting speculation. Time is not the straightforward entity we are accustomed to regard it as. "When we think about it in a detached way," said Bondi, "we begin to feel terribly unsure of our ground."

It is interesting to note that Prof Feynmann received the Nobel Prize for his theory of particles which outrage common sense by making time occasionally run *backwards*, but which is essential to modern nuclear physics.

The reason why "mind-particles" have not been detected, then, could be because their "interaction cross-section" is even smaller than that of neutrinos. Following Bondi's reasoning, this could mean that they too lack a sense of time. Such a theory would explain very neatly why mind does not seem to be limited (as matter is) by space and time. We can see how prediction might take place, as in forecasting the fall of Zener cards in ESP tests.

The significance of all this is that even adopting a physicalist approach, we discover mind to have an aspect which takes no notice of the familiar laws of cause and effect with their strong space-time character.

Effects may occur earlier in time than their

Our distinguished contributor has spent well over a year's spare-time research in writing this new series which covers much ground. A basic theme, Complementarity, underlies the varying subject matter.

He says the approaching new age is one of fusion, when contradictory opposites merge in a new and higher unity.

causes. Thus, far from showing that mind may have a material basis, it seems that certain aspects of matter themselves reveal an embarrassing immateriality.

This is tacitly acknowledged by Niels Bohr when he suggests that the "minutest phenomena of nature" might not be included in a space-time framework at all.

But if this is so, can we sensibly talk of mental causes *reaching out* and producing material effects? We have seen that the fact they have not yet been located could well mean they lack a *space-time* aspect. In these circumstances, any talk of mind *reaching out* must involve us in verbal contradictions. This implies *travel* and travel involves time and space. If mind is timeless, how can it ever reach out?

A timeless, spaceless mind-particle such as the "mindon" postulated by the astronomer, Firsoff, cannot then be thought of as travelling anywhere.

A similar point did not escape the notice of the physicist and mathematician G. N. M. Tyrrell who worked with Marconi on the development of radio and was a past president of the British Society of Psychical Research. He felt that nothing could travel from brain to brain in ESP because as minds do not occupy space there is distance separating them.

It should, perhaps, be mentioned in passing that the subject of mind-particles and their lack of time-sense could raise certain objections from the scientific purist. The issues are too involved to be discussed here without risk of boring the reader.

Let it be said merely that the objection would involve time running simultaneously at two different speeds according to where we are when we measure it. As such a paradox itself makes a mockery of matter with its

cause-and-effect laws, it does not affect the arguments used above.

Other "mind-particles" have been postulated in addition to Firsoff's mindon. We will discuss them briefly in order to stress the meaninglessness of all physical theories of mind; thus suggesting by inference mind's metaphysical nature.

One such particle is the "psitron" of the mathematician, Adrian Dobbs. This possesses "imaginary mass" and travels faster than light.

From the Lorentz Contraction (a mathematical tool used by Einstein) this suggests that it must travel backwards in time. Hence if psitrons are the cause of the Uri Geller phenomenon, one feels that metal should start bending before he even arrives on the scene!

Another proposed "physical basis" for psi phenomena is the "tachyon." This is a hypothetical particle which, according to the mathematical theories of a physicist, Gerald Feinberg, travels faster than light and therefore backwards in time just like the psitron.

As we are told that the light barrier is impenetrable from either direction by any particle having physical characteristics, it raises

the problem of how a faster-than-light particle can interact with the world of matter. The term "physical basis" therefore becomes a misnomer.

To be rather unkind, the fact that such particles are unlikely to be located in an unequivocal manner by physical instruments makes them very convenient "mind-particles" for harassed materialists to invent!

One is reminded of the "apologetics" of the Christian Church in the 19th century. Forced on the defensive by a rampant scientific materialism they had to fight a desperate rear-guard action to preserve their self-respect, modifying religious thought to meet scientific requirements.

Now the wheel has nearly turned full circle. Materialism is on the defensive, desperately adapting the physical nature of matter in the face of the psychic onslaught.

The only other general theory of ESP, apart from a vague Russian idea of "fluctuations in a theorised field," whatever that may mean, is the "synergistic effect." This impressive name refers to the notion that psychic communication is a "higher order" effect resulting from a combination of brain waves, heart rate and galvanistic skin response.

The term "higher order" reveals the theory's weakness. The use of such a vague term tells us nothing of how three *physical* ingredients produce a *psychic* influence. Inventing new names for old problems does not solve them.

As Spiritualists we should be wary of scientific jargon; often it is shallow and meaningless. If we attempt to use it ourselves, as some of us are prone to do, we often do so in a vague, rambling way. The insidious idea which has grown up in our minds is that we *have* to make our phenomena acceptable to scientists: as if *their* sanction is necessary for our respectability!

This might have been true when science's authority was supreme—back in pre-Quantum days. It is not true now, when science itself flounders in a maze of uncertainties and contradictions.

Our cap-in-hand attitude is probably due, at least in part, to an excessive reverence for the views of our scientific pioneers; to the failure to realise that even their great knowledge was merely relative to the times in which they lived and hence cannot be regarded as sacrosanct, beyond change and adaptation.

Even such intellectual giants as Sir Oliver Lodge were inevitably conditioned to some

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extent by 19th-century mechanistic concepts.

Unlike most of his contemporaries, Lodge realised that man was much more than a physical mechanism. His views developed to accommodate some of the new physics during the latter part of his earth life.

In an earlier presidential address to the British Association in 1913, however, we find him referring to the Principle of Relativity as "a principle of negation—a negative proposition" because it states that the "observation of certain facts can never be made."

He also objected to that aspect of Max Planck's Quantum Theory which suggests discontinuities in physical nature.

Five years after Lodge's death the basic tenets of Relativity were horrifyingly vindicated when the first atomic bomb was exploded at Alamogordo, New Mexico. The Quantum Theory now explains mathematically many problems of radiated energy which were completely beyond the understanding of the older physics.

If Quantum principles did not apply, the universe would disappear in a flash of radiation. We are, incidentally, now aware that the very discontinuities in physical matter and energy proposed by Max Planck created a blur of uncertainty at the heart of the atom. They made possible the concept of randomness and free will in the universe, virtually crushing the mechanistic determinism of which Lodge himself was a staunch opponent.

A short digression may be made here to deal with an objection raised by some Behaviourists. They point out that randomness in operation is not the same as free will. This is quite correct, but what we call randomness (such, for example, as the indeterminate disintegration of atoms in radioactive materials) is an acknowledgement of the fact that *something* is happening whose cause cannot be examined by physical instruments.

Behaviourist theory does not rule out that this cause could be a mental or psychic one. In fact Behaviourists are caught between Scylla and Charybdis. Either they adulterate materialism by admitting that its cause-and-effect laws are not universal in application and do not apply to "random" events, or they undermine it still more by leaving open the option that causes, though present, cannot necessarily be detected and, therefore, might sometimes be psychic ones, and thus beyond physical analysis.

A glance through Lodge's book, "Phantom Walls," especially the chapter headed, "The New Outlook in Physics," shows the degree

to which some of his views changed during the intervening 16 years. Nevertheless he still supported the idea of "mechanism of a glorified kind" operating in the universe.

The authority of mechanisms of *any* sort in Nature, however, is undermined by the Theory of Relativity. Einstein got rid of Newton's idea of "forces acting at a distance" (which produced the abortive ether theories) by substituting the notion of space-time geometry.

Thus gravity, for example, is best regarded as "a geometrical warp in the space-time continuum." I mentioned earlier that Relativity does not lend itself to conceptual clarity!

By inference the same concept applies to other forms of energy than gravity—and hence to matter itself, for Einstein showed the equivalence of matter and energy.

The behaviour of any phenomenon, then, is the result of its geometrical pattern and the way in which this interacts with adjacent patterns.

It helps us to retain our mental balance if we remind ourselves that Relativity does not describe *reality*. It deals merely with *relationships*; with the way we observe reality from our varied and limited frames of reference.

An analogy should make this clear. Imagine a man who can see only surfaces and not depths. To account for the nature and causes of waves on an ocean would be beyond his abilities. All he could do would be to use



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geometrical expressions to show how one wave is related to the next.

He could contact neither the water below the surface nor the wind and lunar gravity acting from above it—vital factors for any real understanding of waves.

Apparent mechanisms in nature, then, tell us very little; causes appear to lie outside matter's three-dimensional limitations. We find ourselves trying unsuccessfully to explain them inside a framework they actually transcend.

An example of the difficulty of finding mechanisms in nature is given by the failure of biologists to discover a time-keeping mechanism or "biological clock" in the human or animal organism. Yet *something* governs the bodily rhythms whose disturbance can give rise to serious illnesses such as cancer.

The researches of Dr Janet Harker in this connection were discussed in an article in *Two Worlds* some years ago. Great advances have been made since then. Professors Brown, Piccardi and others have discovered that the body rhythms are not independent of cosmic rhythms. The universe is a master clock that keeps the individual clocks in harmony.

There is a trend among biologists towards the belief that living beings have no specific sense organ or mechanism concerned with time-keeping, but that "the body as a whole may be a biological clock." Thus a pattern and not a mechanism is involved.

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We can see how all this fits in with the concept of man as not only an individual but a dependent part of the whole of creation. If we like to think a little more deeply about it we can see why the old conflict between free will and determinism can never be finally resolved.

As individuals we have a degree of freedom which, however, is very much subject to external influences which may determine the main trends in our lives. We exist as individuals in our own right, but also as subordinate units in the interdependent totality of *all* life and being.

Lodge upheld the notion of mechanisms and the sequence of "cause and effect." He declared: "Rational the universe has always been and rational it assuredly is . . . There is a rational process behind everything. It is possible for us by patient investigation to ascertain the working of this process and to study the laws of its operation."

Elsewhere he stated: "The psychic region can be studied and brought under law too . . . Occurrences now regarded as occult can be examined and reduced to order by the methods of science."

Two pages later, however, we read: "The universe is a larger thing than we have any conception of, and no one method of search will exhaust its treasures . . . Our methods are, as we know, incompetent to detect complete uniformity."

This seems to contradict the previous statement. We sense a very great scientist reluctant to abandon the authority of the scientific method with which he had been brought up, yet vaguely appreciating that it is not enough.

Lodge's appreciation of the limitations of current ideas and methods, however, puts him in a class far beyond his contemporaries. He emphasises that one "should not be completely bound by the shackles of present-day orthodoxy, or limited to beliefs fashionable at the time."

A belief "fashionable at the time" was that of a universe governed from atoms to constellations by material laws of cause and effect. As we now know, the classic principles of cause and effect cannot always be applied to *physical* phenomena, let alone mental ones. Such enigmas as "anti-matter" and "short-duration virtual processes" suspend the normal laws of nature which apply in the larger world we can see and measure.

(To be continued)

Mystery of the mission that had to be accomplished

She kept her tryst with a 'dead' man

by JARED WILLIAMS

AT 1.20 am on Monday, October 16, in the year 1893, John Bishop, parish clerk of Snettisham, in the county of Norfolk, opened the heavy oak door of the village church and shone his flickering lantern into the black interior.

"Are you sure you want to go through with this?" he asked.

"Absolutely certain," replied a woman's cultured voice from the shadows behind him, "I've an appointment with a gentleman from beyond the veil."

John Bishop led the way down the aisle and left Mrs Goodeve standing beside the tomb of Robert Cobb. In the dim light of the lantern she could read the inscription on the stone, "In Memory of Robert Cobb, Gentleman, who died on the 15th of May 1743, aged 67."

"Leave the lantern with me," whispered Mrs Goodeve. "Go back to the porch, lock me in, and wait for 20 minutes. Then rap on the door."

John Bishop did as he was asked. For 20 minutes he shivered outside in the frosty night air. Then he rapped three times and opened the door.

"Are you all right, Mrs Goodeve?"

"Yes, perfectly, Mr Bishop. Come in. My mission has been accomplished. Let's go back to your house."

* * *

What was this strange appointment that Mrs Goodeve had after midnight in that village church? Who was the gentleman "from beyond the veil" she was to meet? Did she meet him? And in what way was her mission "accomplished?"

The answers to these questions, as far as these are possible, form one of the best documented case histories of the supernatural on the files of the Society for Psychical Research. No less an authority than F. W. H. Myers, the famous investigator and founder member of the society, was in charge of the inquiries. So we may accept the story as substantially correct.

Mrs Goodeve was described as "a little,

fragile woman of comfortable means." She was a widow, had several children, and lived in London. She was also a natural psychic.

The story begins when Mrs Goodeve stayed as a guest with friends in Clifton. The house, 5, Rodney Place, was reputed to be haunted. The daughter of the family claimed she had seen the ghost. This was a woman, she said, who answered in appearance to a former occupant, a Mrs Seagrim.

On the Sunday night after her arrival, Mrs Goodeve took a candle and went to bed. She was suddenly awakened by a cold breeze blowing across her face, though the door and windows were closed.

To her amazement she saw a woman's figure leaning over her. The face seemed drawn and thin, with a shawl over the head.

"Follow me," the phantom whispered.

Mrs Goodeve followed the figure into the drawing-room. There she stopped in front of the furthestmost wall.

"Tomorrow," the apparition said in a low voice, and then promptly vanished.

Greatly puzzled, Mrs Goodeve went back to bed.

Next day she told her hosts about her strange midnight visitor. "Oh, that was Mrs Seagrim," they said. "She died of a wasting disease and always wore something round her head."

The following night Mrs Seagrim, who again wakened Mrs Goodeve, seemed very agitated. She said:

"I've come. Listen."

Mrs Seagrim then made a certain statement which Mrs Goodeve would not reveal. She says it was too confidential.

"If you don't believe me," said Mrs Seagrim, "the date of my marriage was September 26, 1860." This was later found to be correct.

At this point Mrs Goodeve noticed a second apparition standing on Mrs Seagrim's left. He was tall, dark, well built, of healthy appearance, about 60, and dressed in ordinary day clothes.

"My name is Henry Barnard," he said. "I

was buried in a little village called Snettisham in Norfolk."

Mrs Goodeve had never heard of this village.

"I want you to go there and check the parish registers," he added. Then he gave the dates of his marriage and death.

"If you find these correct," he told her, "I want you to go to the church after midnight. Wait in the south-west corner of the south aisle, near the tomb of a certain Robert Cobb who died on May 15, 1743, aged 67."

Mrs Goodeve was astounded. But her knowledge of psychic matters gave her great courage. She was to need it in plenty.

But Henry Barnard had more to say: "When you arrive at Snettisham, the collector will inadvertently omit to take the outgoing half of your return ticket. He will direct you to a dark man whom I used to know on earth.

"If you describe me to this man he will remember me and will help you. You will lodge with a woman whose child was recently drowned."

At this moment Mrs Goodeve became aware of a third figure standing near Henry Barnard. He seemed in great trouble, covering his face with his hands.

During the next week Mrs Goodeve told all this to witnesses whose corroborative statements are filed by the SPR. All these prophecies came true.

On the Thursday Mrs Goodeve returned to London, resolved to go to Snettisham if it existed. On the Saturday, having verified there was a Snettisham, she bought a first-class return ticket at St Pancras and started her fateful journey.

At Snettisham she asked the ticket collector if there was anywhere she could lodge.

"There's a fair on," he said. "It won't be easy. Try John Bishop, the parish clerk. He lives down there."

Distracted perhaps by Mrs Goodeve's inquiry, he failed to take her ticket! So that, too, was available as corroborative evidence.

When Mrs Goodeve met John Bishop she recognised him immediately as the dark man. He and his wife offered her a room. They had recently lost a child by drowning!

On the Sunday Mrs Goodeve attended service in the village church, saw Robert Cobb's tomb, and also Henry Barnard's grave in the churchyard. She then examined the registers and found full confirmation of the details Barnard had given.

Now her big problem was how to get into the church after midnight. The vicar was

away. The curate would not hear of it. After much argument, during which John Bishop took Mrs Goodeve's part, the curate washed his hands of the whole affair. He told the clerk he could do as he liked as long as he left him, the curate, out of it.

So Mrs Goodeve went into the church after midnight!

* * *

Just what *did* happen? Mrs Goodeve refused to say. "It's all too confidential between the Barnards and the Cobbs. I was asked by Mr Barnard to take a certain course of action for him. I did so, and was highly pleased with the outcome."

That was all they ever got out of Mrs Goodeve. So the investigators had to go elsewhere among the older inhabitants of Snettisham. Certain most interesting facts came to light.

Firstly, Robert Cobb was a gentleman. He lived at Cobb Hall. Henry Barnard, however, was a farmer who had amassed considerable wealth. *He also managed to acquire Cobb Hall* under circumstances which some local inhabitants thought were dubious!

The second surprise was that Mrs Seagrim turned out to be a former member of the Cobb family!

The third surprise, which may or may not throw some light on that midnight rendezvous, came on the next day when Mrs Goodeve went to Cobb Hall to see Henry Barnard's daughter who was still living there.

With her came a bunch of white roses. She told Miss Barnard that her father had instructed her to gather these roses from his grave and to take them to his daughter at Cobb Hall. The two women were known to have parted on friendly terms after a long chat.

Mrs Goodeve then went back to Mr and Mrs Bishop's house to say goodbye. Her parting words were, "My task is now finally and happily complete."

She caught the next train back to London and passed out of our story.

* * *

So ends one of the most intriguing and true ghost stories on the SPR files. We are left with conjectures. Was Henry Barnard unable to rest until he had made amends with the Cobb family? If so, why did Mrs Goodeve have to be brought in? Couldn't he have made amends "over there"?

Did Mrs Goodeve actually meet Henry

(Continued overleaf)

We are all spiritual channels

by ALISA ADIV

JUST as it is the job of plants to absorb and transmute the minerals of the earth for our consumption, so it is *our* task to channel the spiritual power available all around us for the enlightenment, not only of this planet, but of the entire universe.

We are all physical, mental, emotional and spiritual beings in reverse order. In each of these manifestations we play the role of channels, transmuting one form into another. All of us are, actually, alchemists.

Physically, we transmute our food into cells and wastage, releasing energy. Our daily work, too, is a transmutation. The housewife changes disorder into order. The mechanic changes broken-down machinery into machinery that works. The telephonist helps to channel requests into achievements. The builder changes stones into houses. All of this involves energy, and the list of transmutations is endless.

Mentally, we transmute thoughts into actions, just as an architect changes ideas into plans. The energy involved here may seem—to us—less tangible, but it is doubtlessly very potent energy.

Again, mentally, we are responsible for choosing the thoughts we channel. Thus we take on direct responsibility for our emotions. These, in turn, govern both our mental and our physical health. Here, too, the energy involved may seem intangible to us, but it certainly has far-reaching effects, physical and non-physical.

Spiritual channelling is probably mostly

(Continued from previous page)

Barnard in the church after midnight by Robert Cobb's tomb? And did Robert Cobb appear as well? It is fascinating to imagine them shaking hands after all those years, thanking Mrs Goodeve for her good offices, and leaving her highly satisfied with the outcome of her mission.

But the truth, alas, we shall never know for certain because Mrs Goodeve would not reveal it.

"The Snettisham Ghost," by the Rev. R. W. Maitland. By post from Psychic News Bookshop at our address, 20p/45 cents.

being done unconsciously, during sleep. However, many people are now trying to do spiritual channelling even in their waking hours. It may be done during prayer, meditation and healing—and even during everyday, down-to-earth life.

They try to bring the results of their meditations into daily use, be it in the street, bus, office, kitchen, field or shop. This involves a still higher and even more potent sort of energy. Its effects, though generally slow to emerge physically, will yet have the most far-reaching results.

This is very similar to the potency of homeopathic medicines, the less physical they are the stronger they become.

Swallowing the right foods to keep our bodies in good shape is certainly important, but it is only a small part of the job. Thinking the right thoughts, and acting on them, is even more important, because it helps to transform (seeming) evil into good. It also lets our glands work the way they should.

However, the most important thing of all is to become spiritual channels, letting the power of love stream through us into all we touch and think of during our daily lives. Remember Midas; everything he touched turned into gold. Let everything we touch turn into love and understanding.

Let us become real channels and good instruments in all our daily transmutations. Prayer and meditation help to channel the all-encompassing spiritual powers which are at our elbows all the time. These powers must pass through us to be properly utilised. This, again, releases ever more energy.

Whether beginner, advanced student or disciple, as long as we do our best, loving, understanding and helping each other, realising—and releasing—the spark of God in each of us, we help the powers of light to shine through us. Thus we add to the slow but sure evolution of the universe.

Let us do it humbly—like those herbs.

ANOTHER READER

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The possessing entity may be a lost soul needing compassion, healing, prayer and release

Clerical exorcism is hellish

by REV THOMAS MADDOCK

EXORCISM would seem to be a very painful process for all concerned, the person being exorcised and, needless to say, for the poor devil who is being banished to outer darkness.

Associated Press reports, regarding the showing of the film, "The Exorcist," in Australia, gave graphic accounts of "young men and women staggering into theatre lobbies fainting and vomiting as they flee from seeing more of this sensational film." The reports added, "Others just faint in their seats and lie there."

The child in the film seems to suffer convulsions during the exorcism, suggesting that more pain is felt during the extraction of a demon than would be the case during the extraction of a tooth.

And, as for the entity being extracted, well, he has a devil of a time.

There are various forms of words used to command the departure of the illegal tenant, and none of them is polite. Here is one of a number suggested in the book, "Exorcism," the report of a commission convened by the Bishop of Exeter. This form of exorcism is from page 45 of the report:

"I command you, unclean spirits . . . that you come out and depart from this person N— . . . Remember your sentence and your judgement. Remember the day to be at hand wherein you shall burn in fire everlasting prepared for you and your angels. . . ."

So the poor devil is seeking refuge from the fiery furnace, the scorching burns in the lake of fire and the melancholy prospect of an eternity spent in the depths of hell!

Is it any wonder that he asked for political asylum? It was naughty of him, of course, to take up a tenancy where he wasn't wanted. But I ask you, what would *you* have done in similar circumstances? What would the Bishop of Exeter have done in similar circumstances?

In a foreword to this book, the bishop states: "A programme for the training of clergy has been drawn up. We are in touch with experienced clergy who are prepared to give this course in any diocese of the Church of England where the bishop asks us to do so."

So there will soon be a band of trained clergymen in England and elsewhere, who will be fully equipped to banish demons from possessed people and send them (the demons) back to the fires of hell.

So you will get a situation where a nice, pleasant, mild-mannered and quietly-spoken priest, who would recoil with horror at the idea of sending a dog to starve in the bush—this reverend gentleman will be asked to banish some poor devil to the depths of hell, wherein he shall burn in fire everlasting!

You may say: "It's very sad. But with regard to devils and demons that's surely where they belong, the rascals."

But let me remind you of one thing. So-called devils and demons are people. They're persons, like you and I. In many respects, like the Bishop of Exeter.

Now, it's with great relief that I turn from the cruel injunctions of Anglican exorcism to a more humane kind of exorcism. I refer to a book reissued in London, a classic of Spiritualism called, "Thirty Years Among the Dead," by Dr Carl A. Wickland.*

Dr Wickland was an American physician of integrity and high repute. He was also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His wife was a remarkable medium. They collaborated in curing psychic obsessions and liberating earth-bound spirit entities. The book is a record of that collaboration.

In a review of it (in "Psychic News") Canon Pearce-Higgins states: "The exorcism by the clergy tends to be a rather savage procedure. It is directed against 'demons' who are consigned to outer darkness. Wickland has shown that they are 'lost souls' who need compassion, healing, prayer, and release."

In another review in *Two Worlds* W. H. Mackintosh says: "It makes reading which is . . . grim, sad and disquieting. Those tormented souls, wandering blindly and hopelessly in a cold grey world of unimaginable despair, seemingly unaware that they have shed their

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physical bodies, are strange, pathetic figures."

These poor souls are often confused, to put it mildly. As Mackintosh says: "For example, a discarnate entity, who is male, takes control of the psychic female, but remains completely unaware of the fact that he is controlling a woman's body. He believes that this body is his own and is surprised to find himself with long hair."

With Dr Wickland the treatment was always the same. The patient was brought to the Wicklands' American home and placed in a chair. A current of electricity generated from a hand-operated Wilmshurst machine was placed up and down the spine and over the patient's head.

Ten minutes of this treatment was enough to cause the controlling entity to leave the patient, to take control of the entranced Mrs Wickland and speak through her. Dr Wickland then explained to the entity that his or her proper place was in the spirit world, and off the entity went to the relief of all concerned.

"In this way," Canon Pearce-Higgins adds, "Wickland questioned and talked with the obsessor, obtaining details, often exactly verified later, concerning a usually frustrated earthly life. The entity had somehow become entangled in the patient's aura and by control-

ling the victim's mind and body was causing great injury."

So, you see, "demons" are not always what they seem. The word is of Greek origin and originally meant "a god, a deity, a superior power." It was only later, when the early Church Fathers were happily engaged in slinging dirt at the so-called "heathens," that the word was downgraded to "malignant demon and evil angel"! Such was the power of the Church to malign its progenitors!

It was in the sense of a "a superior power" or, as we would say, "a guide or control," that the Greek philosopher Socrates proudly spoke of his possessing entity. When he had an important decision to make he consulted his demon. And then he followed the demon's advice unwaveringly.

It seems to be the Church's attitude that *all* demons are nasty and only fit to be banished. But it was Paul who advised us, "Try the spirits, whether they are of God" (1 John 4, 1).

The chances are, of course, that the possessing entity is just "a lost soul who needs compassion, healing, prayer and release."

That's something I would like all clergy to keep in mind. Spare some thought for the poor devil you're sending about his business. For, who knows, one day in the future, when an exorcism is taking place, the unfortunate "demon" in the case may be *you*!

BOOKS TO READ

Prices include postage and packing

On the Edge of the Etheric. By Arthur Findlay. Spiritualism's best-seller is subtitled, "Survival after death scientifically explained." £2.85 \$6.30

Out Of This World. By J. Bernard Hutton. Famous author's exciting psychic experiences. £1.80 \$3.95

Penny and the Kingdom by the Lake. By Winifred Dwyer. Children's story of spirit truths. Highly commended by Lady Dowding and Beverley Nichols. £1.60 \$3.55

Philosophy of Silver Birch. Edited by Stella Storm. Definitive study of this famous guide's teachings. £2.85 \$6.30

The Psychic Life of Jesus. By Rev Maurice Elliott. Yesterday's "miracles" are today's psychic events. £1.80 \$3.95

Reincarnation—Based on Facts. By Karl Muller. Hundreds of remarkable case histories. £2.40 \$5.30

Rhyme and Reason. By Sylvia Barbanell. Here and hereafter in verse. 80p \$1.75

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The Scripts of Cleophas, through Geraldine Cummins. Famous chronicle of Apostolic times written by one who lived then. £3.10 \$6.80

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The Snettisham Ghost. By Rev R. W. Maitland. Factual report on famous haunting. 20p 45c

The Spirits' Book. By Allan Kardec. Millions of copies of this classic have been sold. £3.10 \$6.80

Spirit Teachings. By Rev W. Stainton Moses. This exposition has rightly become a classic. £3.60 \$7.95

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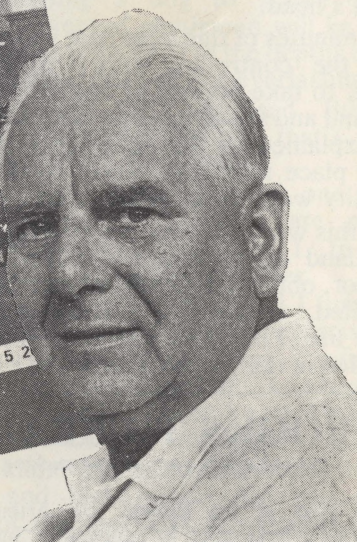
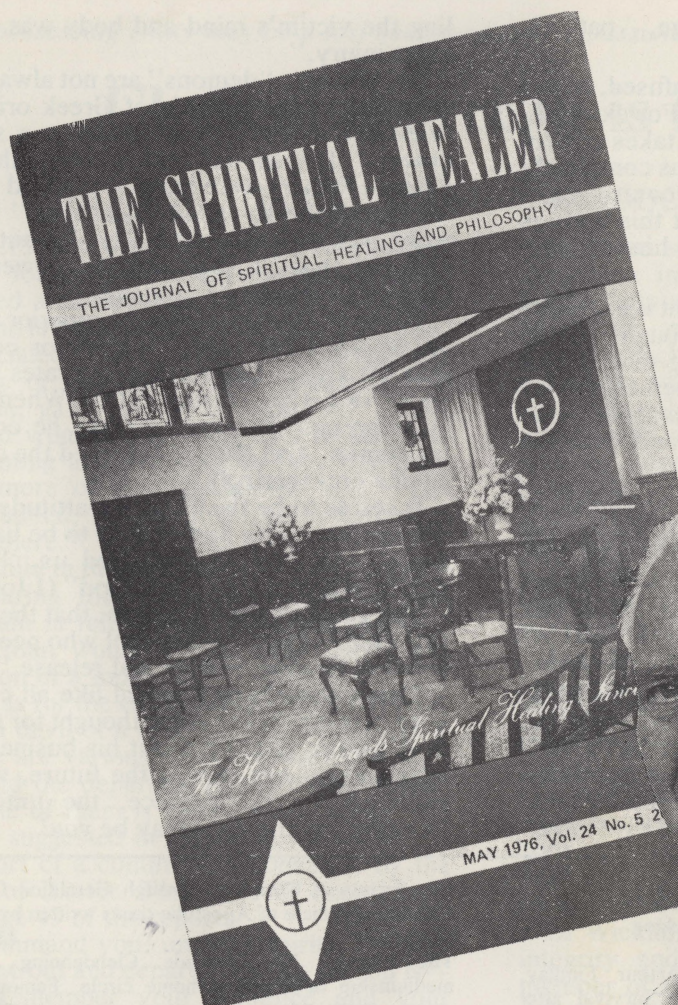
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