

OPENING ADDRESSES

MARGENAU: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am Henry Margenau. All I wish to do is give the floor to Mrs. Eileen Garrett.

GARRETT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am very happy to see you all. You are going to have a very good conference. We have an excellent moderator; he does know how to keep you from talking too much. I think we are going to learn a very great deal from you, and I thank you for coming.

CAVANNA: Ladies and gentlemen: I owe you a few words of presentation and introduction, as I have planned and organized this meeting on behalf of Mrs. Garrett, President of the Parapsychology Foundation.

Our frontier discipline is passing through a very critical period. Its observations and experimental findings are challenged from many sides, and its chances to achieve a respectable scientific status are jeopardized by an indescribable heterogeneity of methodological approaches. This variety reflects one of the basic characteristics of the phenomena under study, namely their being dynamically conditioned and modulated by a wealth of factors pertinent to neighboring disciplines. These parameters at play in the psi equation—some weighing heavily, some just hinting—are very difficult to characterize. In order to evaluate their absolute and relative roles in the induction and conditioning of psi phenomena we ought to master those disciplines to a high degree of sophistication.

On the other side the converging interests of a variety of investigators with widely different personal backgrounds and beliefs may give us an excellent opportunity to redimension our field of investigation and to attempt to define a valid methodology in psi research. To do this, it will not be sufficient to apply conventional logical schemes, trying to fit psi phenomena on the Procrustean bed of classical scientific methodology, but it will be imperative to devise new experimental approaches and to formulate original conceptual schemes.

Our position is very delicate. On one side, our attempts to conceptually systematize this field and to discuss the heuristic validity of current

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psi research are bound to upset those investigators who pursue through psi the conquest of magical powers or try to satisfy their need for transcendence. On the other side, a whole school of thought, counting a number of competent and orthodox parapsychologists, disqualifies us because . . . we do not care to play cards.

Furthermore, official science keeps, at the very best, a skeptical attitude towards parapsychology. Conscious or unconscious fraud on the side of the experimenter is often invoked as the only acceptable explanation for some disturbing results.

Our position differs considerably from that of other parapsychology groups in our approach to this dialogue with official "respectable" scientists. In fact, the majority of the members of this audience *are* official, respectable scientists in their fields. Whilst I thank them for being here, I wish to point out that their participation was sought by us and was graciously granted by them with the understanding that their contribution would help us to map the territory we shall endeavor to explore in our quest for a valid methodology in psi research. We consider this multidisciplinary approach a basic requirement in such an awesome task.

At this point, let me emphasize that we do not imply, with our attitude, a lack of competence or of honesty on the side of the "classical" psychic researchers, nor do we wish to indiscriminately criticize the statistical approach in parapsychology. But, if we simply look at facts (with a slight Hegelian bias) we have to acknowledge a truth: in psi research as well as in the very occurrence of psi phenomena, an "historical" component seems to play an important role. Sittings with physical mediums were undoubtedly of great interest a century ago, and Rhine's "new" dimension might have been fruitful in the thirties. These approaches are no longer sufficient.

We are confronted with a dilemma: either to accept at face value an enormous amount of protocols accumulated in centuries of inquiries, or to make a critical selection and start breaking the ground for the construction of a solid body of knowledge, resting on unquestionably sound assumptions and conceptualizations.

In the first instance, we would endorse what I call the humanistic or poetic approach in psi research (and, believe me, it has fascinating aspects); in the second we would try to contribute to the enlargement of the boundaries of human knowledge, using a different creative language, that of science. Your presence here, ladies and gentlemen, is a clear indication of our bias.

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Let me warn you, though, that our interdisciplinary discourse will present serious difficulties. We do not have a common language, and semantic quibbles will bring us nowhere. For the sake of simplifying this aspect, I suggest that psi research be operationally defined as that branch of psychology dealing with a special kind of communication, in which information of varied nature and significance is transported and decoded without the intervention of known sensory channels. Let me tell you at once that I personally believe that the psi phenomena best amenable to scientific investigation and experimentation are those in which there is transmission of information—very often with an emotional tinge—from mind to mind, either directly or mediated through an object.

An interesting characteristic of psi is that in most cases the signal-to-noise ratio seems to be extremely unfavorable, and only in particular situations does the signal come through strongly and clearly. We have reasons to suspect that our usual states of consciousness, which allow us to be "present" and to function within the frame of physical and social reality, may be the least liable to give rise to the right central nervous system (CNS) configurations for the appearance and detection of psi occurrences. Therefore, during these meetings in our attempt to define various conditioning parameters underlying psi phenomena we shall focus on some "special" states of consciousness, which might reflect central nervous system functional configurations more favorable to psi occurrence and investigation.

These particular states of consciousness can best be studied with the tools of several neighboring disciplines. Two of the most promising techniques in this area seem to be hypnosis, and the use of several consciousness-altering chemical substances discovered during recent years. Both topics deserve a whole conference: this time we shall limit ourselves to the discussion of some psycho-physiological techniques which seem to present open vistas for psi investigation.

I wish to inform you that these proceedings are integrally tape-recorded in view of publication. Therefore, you are kindly requested to identify yourself before each intervention.

I regret to announce that two invited participants will not be able to attend: Dr. Gulyaev from Leningrad, and Dr. Harry Harlow.

The Parapsychology Foundation has most thoughtfully agreed to dedicate this conference as well as its printed proceedings to the memory of Raúl Hernández-Peón. I discussed the organization of these meetings with him, and I received stimulation and encouragement. He strongly

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avored an interdisciplinary approach in parapsychology and advocated the use of neurophysiological techniques and conceptualizations in psi experiments. His interest in problems of communication had prompted him to accept the post of Director of the Division of Bio-communication in the newly founded National Institute of Communication in Mexico City. Dr. Manuel Cerrillo, organizer and Director of that Institute, whose research program is the most encompassing and far-reaching ever planned in this field, honors us with his presence at this conference, representing Dr. Hernández-Peón's scientific and human personality.

MARGENAU: Thank you, Dr. Cavanna. I think that was an excellent statement of our platform. If I were to vote, you would surely get the nomination.

My own ignorance of parapsychology, ladies and gentlemen, is extreme, even though I am engaged in an intense effort of learning, and I am greatly honored by being included in your counsels.

Three aspects of this conference will carve themselves vividly into our memories. First, the splendid hospitality of our gracious lady who made it possible. Secondly, the enchanting beauty of the countryside, and finally, the success of our deliberations. There is nothing we can do about the first two of these items, but we can exert ourselves to make the results of our sessions memorable. One of the chief concerns of our discussions is to be methodological in a rather specific sense of the word, and it is to be my somewhat singular and unpleasant task to enforce this. I would therefore urge that all speakers in presenting their information expose those elements which make their findings scientifically acceptable and convincing. In other words, tell us how you would persuade a skeptic of the significance of your account. I, myself, shall play the devil's advocate. Even in instances where my own sympathy with your research would normally forbid me to ask incisive questions, I shall often do so.

Our time is limited, especially today when an extremely rich fare is available to us. I will be forced to use radical means to enforce adherence to time limits.

Today the discussions of individual items will be merely preliminary. We shall have an opportunity of delving into them in greater depths in the succeeding four days.

PARTICIPANTS' BACKGROUNDS AND INTERESTS

MARGENAU: Next, I think we shall all profit from a self-introduction of all participants. May I therefore request that each of you identify yourself with respect to name, affiliation, and research interests.

Emilio Servadio: I am a psychoanalyst, member of the International Psychoanalytic Association and current president of the Italian Psychoanalytic Society. I have been interested in parapsychology for many years and have published a good number of works on the subject. I have mainly studied the psychodynamics of psi occurrences, and extended the psychoanalytic approach to parapsychological phenomena.

Jan Ehrenwald: I am a psychiatrist and a more or less unfrocked psychoanalyst, actually never having taken the first vows. Nevertheless, psychoanalysis is still close to my heart. So is parapsychology, in which I have been interested for more than thirty years. I do not know how far I got, but I know one thing, I got as far as being here to discuss my ideas with you—and this is certainly a rewarding experience in itself.

John Beloff: I teach psychology at the University of Edinburgh. My interest in parapsychology is to try and find a repeatable experiment and my approach to this is entirely eclectic. I think that I hardly need add that I have not yet been successful, but I am still trying.

Ramakrishna Rao: I am professor and chairman of the Department of Psychology and Parapsychology at Andhra University in Waltair, India. For several years I have been more or less a full-time investigator in parapsychology.

Robert Van de Castle: I am a clinical psychologist and Director of the Sleep and Dream Laboratory at the University of Virginia Medical School. I am primarily interested in the personality correlates of ESP and in content analysis of dreams.

Thelma Moss: I am a clinical psychologist at UCLA, Neuropsychiatric Institute. My chief interest is telepathy, and I have done controlled experiments using emotion as a primary source to get a message across.

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Allan Rechtschaffen: I am a psychologist at the University of Chicago. My concern is with sleep and dreams.

Stanley Krippner: I am Director of the Dream Laboratory at Maimonides Medical Center, New York City, and I teach in the graduate school at Wagner College. My interest in parapsychology dates back to my undergraduate days at the University of Wisconsin, where Professor Harry Harlow inadvertently brought me directly into the psychical research field, as many of you know.

Arnold Ludwig: I am Director of Education and Research at Mendota State Hospital and am also affiliated with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin Medical School. My primary interests are the artificial production of altered states of consciousness and the conceptual aspects and methodological problems associated with them.

Donald Webster: I am an industrialist and, in addition, I am a trustee of the American Schizophrenia Foundation. I expect to spend the next thirty years actively involved in parapsychology.

George Owen: I am a fellow and lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge. I am interested in improving the scientific status of parapsychology, and in the investigation of spontaneous phenomena.

Dieter Brill: I am associate professor in physics at Yale University. I am interested in theories of space. I am quite new to parapsychology and interested mainly in its connections with physics.

Monte Buchsbaum: I am a physician interested in psychophysiology, with the Laboratory of Psychology in the Intramural Program at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Manuel Cerrillo: I am a mathematician, currently engaged in organizing the National Institute of Communication in Mexico City. We are interested in scientific parapsychology as a promising area of investigation in the comprehensive research program of our new Institute.

Joe Kamiya: I am currently a research psychologist at Langley-Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute, University of California, San Francisco Medical School. My interest is in trained self-control of electroencephalographic activity, and other physiological correlates of altered states of consciousness.

Julian Silverman: I am Chief of the Section on Perceptual and Cognitive Studies, Adult Psychiatry Branch of the NIMH. My research interests are studies of altered states of consciousness such as psychedelic intoxication and schizophrenic reactions.

Donald Lindsley: I am a physiological psychologist from the University of California at Los Angeles whose training has been in

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neurophysiology and psychology. I am interested especially in the neural mechanisms underlying perception, learning and emotion.

Edward Maupin: I am a psychologist at Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California. I am interested in the organization and integration of body experience.

Karl H. Pribram: I began as a neurosurgeon but am now a physiological psychologist at Stanford University. My work concerns the relationship between brain, behavior and psychological processes. Most of my laboratory experience is with primates. My theoretical interests encompass perception, memory, motivation and emotion.

Inge Strauch: I am a research associate in the Department of Psychology at Freiburg University. My interests in parapsychology are psychological aspects of paranormal phenomena, paranormal dreams and methodology in psi research.

Montague Ullman: I am Director of the Department of Psychiatry and of the Community Mental Health Center, Maimonides Medical Center, New York. My research interest has focussed on the psychology and physiology of dreaming, and more recently on the problem of extrasensory communication and dreaming.

W. Grey Walter: I am a neurophysiologist at Burden Neurological Institute, Bristol. I am interested in the CNS mechanisms underlying hypnosis, illusions, apparitions, guessing, and interpersonal influences.

Allan Angoff: I am an editor and librarian, affiliated with the Parapsychology Foundation since it was founded eighteen years ago.

Douglas Johnson: I am a sensitive from London, and am here as an observer.

Roberto Cavanna: I am a neurochemist associated with the National Institute of Communication in Mexico City. I am interested in the application of scientific methodology to parapsychology.

Antony Flew: I teach philosophy at the University of Keele and have been interested in parapsychology for about thirty years, almost entirely from a theoretical point of view. This theoretical concentration has been increased by what experiments I have been involved in. I seem to be a class one goat—absolutely nothing happens when I am around.

Henry Margenau: I am a part-time physicist and part-time philosopher. Some physicists claim that I have gone wrong because I have associated myself with the camp of philosophers. My interest in parapsychology arises because I happen to be one of those who believe that, after all, a rational and scientific explanation of psi must exist, if it occurs at all.

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Charles Tart: I am a psychologist at the University of California, Davis. I am interested in altered states of consciousness, hypnosis, sleep, dreams and ESP (in different combinations to facilitate each other) both on a theoretical and on a practical level.

MARGENAU: I wish to thank the young ladies, Miss Gloria Gomez, and Mrs. Ann-Charlotte Cavanna, who are extremely useful in recording these proceedings, and keeping us happy.

I will now turn the meeting over to Mr. Tart, who will discuss the definition and description of psi-favorable states of consciousness. Incidentally, forgive me if in referring to your illustrious persons I omit all titles.