

## PERSONALITY CHANGES UNDER MESCALINE

ROSALIND HEYWOOD (*United Kingdom*)

If, as we hope, the study of psychedelics enlarges the field of research into psi, the light it throws may make a wider range of apparent extra-sensory perceptions of interest to investigators. (Recently, the Society for Psychical Research in London has been making a collection of spontaneous cases of apparent ESP. We did not get the number we hoped for as the inquiry went out for well-evidenced cases. These are unlikely to be contributed by less well-educated people, and nowadays the highly educated, for one reason or another, seem to fight shy of admitting to psi experiences.)

Others have described experiences under LSD in which consciousness, so to speak, appeared to split into two. Years ago I had a similar experience, though not under a drug. I was lying in bed thinking about an agreeable but selfish action I ardently wanted to take. Suddenly I appeared to split into two, one of me very idealistic and impersonal, who stood at the foot of the bed—I can remember noticing the wooden footboard in front of me—the other entirely egocentric, who remained lying in bed. These two “mes” had a heated discussion and I remember vividly that the standing “me” looked upon the selfish one with cold contempt and that the selfish one in bed angrily called her a pious prig.

I have also recently met a woman who had a similar experience. She had sent in another experience in response to the S.P.R. inquiry. In this she felt that she had left her body and gone to visit a man of whom she had, years before, been very fond. But they had both married other people. On this visit she found him gravely ill in bed, but they appeared

along the lines of guessing numbers and pictures on cards. I am even doubtful if such forms of "telepathy" are real. I am however convinced of the reality of the faculties of clairvoyance and clairaudience in those who have these gifts innately given or later developed. Future research with drugs cannot begin until persons with the psi faculty can be identified and studied in the hope that as a first step some measure might be given to their average standard of performance in the absence of drugs. In the development of the psi faculty further consideration should, I believe, be given to training in the practice of active introversion.