

THE TWENTY-YEAR EXPERIMENTS AT UPPSALA AND LUND

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From 1930 to 1950 experiments with parapsychological implications were conducted at Uppsala and Lund, mainly among students, but including all trades and professions. About 30,000 experiments were observed, with 3,000 individual subjects.

The primary objective was to throw light on religious-psychological phenomena, such as are associated with ancient mysteriosophy, shamanism, Indian magic, primitive medicine-men, modern spiritism and mystics such as Therese Neumann. Could such phenomena be produced experimentally? They were, often in marked and convincing forms, susceptible of analysis and interpretation.

Students make ideal subjects. Most experiments took place under hypnosis. This was favorable for emergence of the psi-factor. But subjects were not selected for such aptitude, and the objects of the experiments were not suggested to them. It was found best to induce all phenomena at a stage less than deep sleep, with consciousness as little changed as possible. Appearance of the phenomenon is practically always *compulsorily* conditioned. The sensations assert themselves irresistibly, whatever the subject's own thoughts or feelings, and are of the character of pseudo-hallucinations. In certain cases an influence from the experimenter seems to condition emergence of the psi-factor. Some subjects are best suited for telepathic, others for clairvoyant and still others for psychometric experiment.

While others present may exert an influence, the most sig-

nificant factors in the emergence of phenomena lie in the subject's own personality. Observation of other experiments promotes appearance of phenomena. In simultaneous experiments with clairvoyance and telepathy, failure of one subject may affect the results obtained by the other. Subjects who react with somnambulistic sleep for one experimenter may remain practically unaffected by another good experimenter. Why certain types of personality, as organisms, more easily evoke the psi-factor than others is one of the most important problems within the whole field of parapsychology.

To educate and train subjects, one must make a pronouncedly "psychological" contact, not teaching schemes and systems, but apprehending their personalities from within. With such contact, subjects' psyches can be shaped in almost any way. Persons from 16 to 30 years make the best subjects; only rarely can an experimenter over 50 establish the necessary profound contact with this younger group. But if contact is so made, the subject enters the state of mind necessary for the psi-factor. It is a matter of extremely subtle conditions. White or dark wallpaper, the pitch of the experimenter's voice, an unknown visible object that arouses fear or wonder, can influence the nature of the phenomenon.

For many subjects in induced somnambulistic sleep, the psi-factor seems to be a *state*; they cannot experience anything otherwise than in this state. Some subjects can by direct instruction or suggestion learn to distinguish impulses with a psi-character from those deriving from feeling, fantasy or logical influence. Suggestions should be the simplest possible, not suggesting a specific outcome. Also, some subjects in the psi-factor condition may wander into strange borderline experiences akin to spiritism. It is important that subjects learn to recognize the psi-factor as an endowment or gift, not as a pathological defect. Often it can be traced through generations within the same family.