

## ELECTRO-ENCEPHALOGRAPHY OF METAPSYCHICAL STATES (TRANCE)

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The Electro-Encephalogram (EEG) represents the recording of the electric activity of the human brain, and especially of the cortex. Early work in the measuring of such activity with regard to persons in a metapsychical state (trance) were undertaken in 1939 by Dr. H. L. Franke, neuropsychiatrist (Haarlem, Holland) and Engineer J. L. Koopman (Amsterdam). Their findings were reported in the *Revue Metapsychique* under the title "The Functioning of the Human Brain during Metapsychical Phenomena."

The two subjects under study went into a sleep of somnambulistic type through auto-hypnosis. One of them revealed artistic gifts: he painted pictures during this state, something which he never did when awake (artistic pseudometagnosis). The other person went into a state of deep trance, but positive metagnosic results were not recorded. The characteristics of these experiments were slow rhythm and high voltage.

At the outset of their article, the authors explained that they had no intention of considering whether metapsychic phenomena exist or not, which may be regarded as a fundamental error in plan, since they proposed to study phenomena of this kind. Secondly, they did not record the electric activity of the brain during the metapsychical state, since they recorded only secondary stages of somnambulistic types from which it is impossible to obtain positive results of extra-sensory perception.

We carried out our first electro-encephalographic recording on Nov. 11, 1942, in Santa Lucia Hospital in Buenos Aires,

on the person of the sensitive Mr. Eric Courtenay N. Luck. The experiment was witnessed by Dr. Ramon Carrillo, Argentine Minister of Public Health.

The sensitive was seated or lying down, resting, eyes closed, muscles relaxed, mind calm, etc. The experimenter then told him to go into his usual metapsychic state, which varies in each subject as to duration, quality and depth. The sensitive lifted his finger to indicate the moment when he believed his trance state had ended, and described his reactions.

One cannot always specify this point exactly for three main reasons: 1) because a sensitive sometimes comes out of the trance state into semi-consciousness; 2) because the images do not take shape rapidly; 3) because these stages are not always sharply defined. The results obtained from each experiment were almost entirely positive. This was important, as it suggested that the metapsychic faculty's action set up an electric activity with sharply individualized characteristics.