

dynamic way; for complex psychology, according to its very essence, is no closed system, but open to the world.

In order to give to it a 'clinical' basis, Jung, as has been said, shunned no field of human experience, and with the whole force of his personality investigated and expounded phenomena that were scorned and despised by the narrow, academic schools, by the worldly-wise and by the cautious. Because of this his work was subjected to frequent misunderstanding and malicious interpretation. Few were in the position to see, as he did, that by entering into matters that are still so obscure, what may appear to be a losing of one's way may hide within itself a possibility of finding oneself. Even within that most stubborn of mental illnesses—schizophrenia—Jung detected a tremendous urge towards healing.

Because he accorded individual respect to every man, he became not only a great doctor of individuals and collectivity, but also one of the most distinguished scientists. Of him it can be said—as of only very few people—in the words of Terence: 'I am a man, hence nothing human is indifferent to me'.

C. A. MEIER

Zurich

#### G. A. SMITH

Mr G. Albert Smith, a Life Associate of this Society, who died recently at a very advanced age, played a great part in the Society's work in the first thirty years of its existence. He was introduced to the Society as a young man of 19 by a man named Blackburn, a journalist who had conducted experiments with him in telepathy, or, as it was then called, 'thought-transference'. Smith is described in our *Proceedings* as a mesmerist, and there are reports in the first three volumes of *Proceedings* of experiments in mesmerism in which he took part. He also co-operated with the Committee formed at the Society's foundation to investigate the Reichenbach phenomena. Later on, he had sittings with mediums, one of which is described on pp. 225-8 of *Proceedings*, Vol. XI, and he investigated haunted houses. His reports on these activities, written with great vigour and clarity, gave proof of his critical judgment. For a time he acted as private secretary to Edmund Gurney.

He became, however, best known in consequence of the experiments in 'thought-transference' conducted by a Committee consisting of Gurney, Myers, Podmore and William Barrett. It had been the practice in the earlier experiments which Blackburn and Smith had conducted together for Blackburn to hold Smith's

hand or touch his forehead. The Committee reported that no unconscious pressure could have communicated to the subject the 'definite words and pictures' which they proceeded to enumerate, but they made it their policy to tighten up the control conditions in the experiments which they were themselves about to conduct. These are set out fully in the third report of the Committee, printed on pp. 161-215 of *Proceedings*, Vol. I. The experiments took a great number of different forms, including reproductions by Smith of a large number of fairly simple diagrams, the originals of which he had not been able to see, and the report contains numerous illustrations of the original diagrams and Smith's reproductions.

The Committee discuss (pp. 163-5) the possibility of the use of a code between Blackburn and Smith. During the experiments Smith had a bandage over the eyes and ears, and the Committee thought that this fact, together with other precautions taken by them, excluded the possibility of his having any normal visual knowledge of the diagrams, but they realized that the sense of hearing was but partially interfered with by this bandage. They were certain that no information could have passed between Blackburn and Smith by speech, but there remained 'the hypothesis of a code, consisting of audible signals other than oral speech; and it would, no doubt, be an exaggeration to affirm that the possibility of such signals was absolutely excluded. We shall endeavour so to vary the conditions of subsequent experiments as to exclude this hypothesis completely . . .'. They then proceeded to discuss in some detail whether a code depending on 'Shuffling on the carpet, coughing, and modes of breathing' could have escaped their notice; if so, whether it would have accounted for the results obtained; and they decided that no such code could have done this.

While the Committee considered these results of very great interest, Gurney, Myers, and Podmore, the authors of 'Phantasms of the Living', did not incorporate them into the case for telepathy that they put forward in that book, as they did not regard the conditions they had been able to impose as completely satisfactory. These experiments were by no means the only experiments in thought-transference conducted by the Committee or other members of the Society about this time. Gurney and Myers had had great experience of experiments of this kind before ever they met either Smith or Blackburn, and Gurney had given much thought to deceptive practices and ways of frustrating them.

Many years later, after Gurney and Myers were both dead, Blackburn, whose connexion with the Society had long ceased, wrote in 1908 and 1909 articles in *John Bull* making a 'confession'

that he and Smith, acting in collusion, had hoaxed the Committee, and these charges he renewed in an article in the *Daily News* of the 1st September, 1911, set out on pp. 115-19 of the *Journal* XV. He rashly stated, 'I am the sole survivor of that group of experimentalists, and as no harm can be done to anyone, but possible good to the cause of truth, I, with mingled feelings of regret and satisfaction, now declare that the whole of those alleged experiments were bogies.' The newspaper did not take the trouble to ascertain whether it was true that all the experimentalists were dead. In point of fact not only was G. A. Smith very much alive but William Barrett was also still alive, and both of them retorted in the same paper, contradicting the whole of Blackburn's statement. In this they were supported by Mrs Sidgwick, who, although not a member of the Committee, had, of course, been kept very fully informed as to its researches.

In any subject other than psychical research it would be a matter of surprise that a periodical of standing should print a long article imputing fraud to a man who happened still to be living, and incompetence in their special subject to persons of the distinction of Myers and Gurney, on the uncorroborated word of a man who, according to his own statement, had been a party to the fraud. This is perhaps the most significant feature of this curious incident.

Smith retained a great liveliness of mind long after he had ceased to take an active part in the Society's work. Members of the Society who visited him reported him as greatly enjoying to talk over his early experiences.

W. H. SALTER

### EXCERPTA

*From The New Scientist, 21 Sept. 1961, a letter from John Eber.*

... Man is still a new-born babe on the geological time-scale. This time-scale may be visualized by imagining a film of the history of the Earth made to represent 10,000 years by each minute of showing-time. The film would take exactly one year to show. If we started showing the film at midnight on December 31, we should have to wait until midsummer to see the origin of life, and until early December for the first vertebrates. According to Dr Max Petterson's figures ... mammals would appear on 17 December and *Zinjanthropus* about 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve. The last