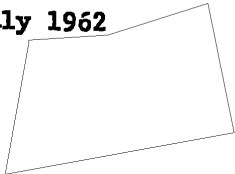


*JOPS!*

19 July 1962



**Report of ESP Research in England and Russia**

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(b)(3)

The purpose of the trip was to discuss with Stephen Abrams and his colleagues the progress of psychical research in England and the methods of investigation of these phenomena.

Mr. Stephen Abrams proved to be an excellent host. Not only was he a most capable guide, but also in his time at Oxford he has earned the respect and affection of a large part of British society concerned with this field.

Our first visit on Monday was to Oxford in the offices of Mr. Abrams at 7 Keble Road, in the building housing the Unit of Biometry. Mr. Abrams seems to be well housed with plenty of space for his experimental endeavors. Mr. John Scott, presently supervising for Mr. Abrams' Ph.D., is a lecturer in statistics. Mr. Jack Good, a better known Oxford statistician, is Mr. Abrams permanent adviser. He is presently visiting the United States as a consultant to IDA at Princeton. Mr. Scott spoke highly of Mr. Abrams' work, but I suspect this may have been more courtesy than knowledge, since he is only temporarily assigned the responsibility of thesis guidance.

We lunched with Mr. Theodore Crossman, Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at Oxford, whose main interest is



*psychic project*  
*p2 new methods needed*

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industrial psychology. He is presently developing models which will deal with judgment inputs for systems with lag in feedback. He has compared human judgment and actions in a factory situation with programs on a computer. The research shows considerable promise for automation of complex human judgments. His approach is related to that of Taylor at the Naval Research Laboratories in Washington.

Mr. Crossman and his associates seem quite interested in the Fund's research in diagnosis and sensitivity in interpersonal relations. He indicated that Van Lennep at the University of Utrecht had done some categorization of scientists also.

There was time for only a brief visit with Michael Argyle, who is concerned with juvenile delinquency and the concept of conscience. He said he might be interested in submitting a proposal to the Fund.

Conversation with Mr. Babington-Smith

Mr. Abrams and I chatted with Mr. Babington-Smith, who is one of the more senior professors of psychology at Oxford. Mr. Babington-Smith is very much interested in ESP work, particularly thought transference as it relates to Professor Jung's theories. Mr. Babington-Smith is quite well known for his work in perception. He feels, as do I, that card reading is not the most productive approach to the phenomena of ESP. We discussed the need for a different methodology to approach the problem besides the standard physical science methods. Although these methods may lend some authenticity to the research, they may also strangle the subject's sensitivity. We were not

saying that ESP experiments were too scientific, but rather that like experiments in olfaction or gustation, the fragileness of the experience may be destroyed by too rigorous and sterile techniques. Mr. Babington-Smith is not doing any formal experimentation at this time in ESP, but obviously has strong interest in Steve's work and has served as a consultant to him.

Experimental Session with Goggin and Aldred

Monday evening, Mr. Abrams invited two of his colleagues, Peter Goggin, a chemist, and John Aldred, a physicist, for an experimental session. Mr. Aldred very easily hypnotized Mr. Goggin. I suspect that their relationship is more than one of friendship. In fact, the control that Mr. Aldred influences over Mr. Goggin is somewhat "sick." Mr. Goggin, put into a trance, was first asked to follow instructions, such as clapping his hands when Mr. Abrams put his hand on his own knee. This was continued until the pattern was successful, and then he was asked to do it when Mr. Abrams merely thought of putting his hand on his knee. It is impossible to say whether or not Mr. Goggin was able to do this consistently on a thought command because we had no means of knowing exactly when Mr. Abrams was thinking a command. (Mr. Abrams said that Goggin's responses followed close on his thoughts.) We tried a series of experiments utilizing posthypnotic suggestions, which convinced me of two things: (1) that Mr. Goggin was extremely sensitive to other people's "thoughts" and (2) that we were not using a really systematic approach. Mr. Goggin is an excellent

subject but needs to be run under conditions, or methods, that protect his sensitivity and yet, at the same time, allow for proper measurement of the phenomenon. The instability of the subject, and his "control" (i.e. Mr. Goggin), caused me some concern, but evidently at Oxford one can accomplish such borderline research with less anxiety than one could here in the United States.

The use of hypnosis to investigate these phenomena seems to be an effective technique. We suggested that in the future one might be able to increase the sensitivity of the subject through hypnosis by leading him to "believe" he was in the most favorable environment for demonstrating his sensitivity, thus eliminating some of the sterile laboratory atmosphere. The potential of this technique needs to be explored, but I am not sure that Mr. Abrams has the self-discipline, or the inclination, to be sufficiently systematic to do this research. I cautioned him on the dangers of engaging in research with such unstable individuals because of the potential aftermath of such a session, that is, anything that happens after the session, such as an automobile accident, might be blamed on hypnosis. Mr. Abrams is aware of this problem and said he would take steps to protect himself legally. I believe these unorthodox people and sessions are essential to explore the potential of such individuals, but eventually more systematic and controlled conditions must be utilized to determine the repeatability of the phenomena. I remained until well after midnight with the two subjects and found them extremely bright and interesting college students.

Meeting with Professor Price and Mr. Devlin

Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Abrams and I met with Professor H. H. Price and Mr. Peter S. Devlin. Professor Price is an extremely well known philosopher whose publications deal with perception, thinking and Hume's theory of the external world. He has long been interested in ESP and has served as an adviser to most of the research people at Oxford dealing in this area. We discussed the possibility of reconceptualizing ESP phenomena in a motivation model, rather than the thinking model proposed by S. G. Soal. Professor Price seemed interested and indicated he would write to me about it at a later time. He seems to put great stock into Steve's work, particularly the Shackleton studies that were conducted in the last five months. Price worked with Shackleton previously and believes he is one of the most sensitive subjects he has known in the last 40 years. (A later section of this report describes Abrams' work with Shackleton.)

Also present was Peter S. Devlin, a Ph.D. candidate in psychology at Oxford under Michael Argyle. He is on a Government grant as a research assistant to Argyle in juvenile delinquency work. This allows him little time for his own research. Devlin is one of the brightest students I met at Oxford. He has a good background in philosophy and social psychology, and considers himself a "psychocosmologist." Strongly interested in ESP phenomena, he has done some outstanding thinking in the area.

He promised to send me copies of his presentations to the experimentalists meetings at Oxford.

I think Devlin would like to get out of Oxford, since he is not a great admirer of Argyle's. Although a man of wild demeanor -- intense, garrulous, with unruly red hair -- he has the type of mentality that I think is worth backing for a year or two. He has an inquiring mind. In discussions with Professor Price and myself, I found him stimulating, even brilliant. We agreed in this discussion that ESP research has less need to appear respectable by adopting the methods of the physical and social sciences, than to concentrate on developing methodology that would permit the exploration of ESP in its natural and unique environment. Devlin did a beautiful job of describing Soal's conceptualization of ESP, to which Price seemed to concur.

Later in the evening, Celia Green and a compatriot, joined the group. These two young ladies were former candidates for doctorates in Zoology. Both failed their examinations because of extreme interest in ESP work. Miss Green appears to be interested in setting up a laboratory similar to Dement's in New York, utilizing the Kleitman technique for measuring dream behavior through eye movements. She professes to be concerned with ESP in the dream state, but to the embarrassment of all of us flatly refused to discuss her research plans. She seems to be well regarded, in spite of domineering her female associates. (Professor Price characterizes her influence over female associates as "maniacal.")

She is entranced with ESP, but seems to have little training, or experience, in conducting the types of studies in which she seems interested. Even Sir Alister Hardy seemed upset that she had sacrificed her degree for ESP research.

#### Visit to the Society for Psychical Research

On Wednesday morning we visited the Society for Psychical Research in London. The principal administrator, Sir George Joy, discussed the history underlying the Society's present endeavors. Sir George is the retired Governor of the Island of St. Helena, and volunteers his services to SPR. During his civil service career, he became impressed with many unexplained incidences of ESP-type experience, particularly among primitive cultures. He was honest enough to say that he did not believe that irrefutable evidence of these phenomena exist, but the Society has tons of reports which indicate that such phenomena probably exist. For some reason or other, Sir George finds few good subjects today in comparison with 10 years ago, and therefore, at present, the Society is conducting few serious investigations. It was my impression that the Society is effectively administered and that investigations are conducted conscientiously and with the best scientific advice available. W. Grey Walter is on the advisory staff, along with C. D. Broad. This organization is probably financially poorer now than it has been in a number of years, but is still able to serve as a repository of the history of psychical research in England.

Conversation with Mrs. Rosalind Heywood

Wednesday afternoon was spent with Mrs. Rosalind Heywood, author of the book, Beyond the Reach of Sense: An Inquiry into Extra-Sensory Perception, recently reviewed favorably in "Contemporary Psychology." Mrs. Heywood is an eminently sensible and cautious lay investigator of ESP phenomena. She makes no claim to being a scientist but has been interested in this area for 30 or 40 years, and has an extensive background dealing with individuals who have had unusual experiences. She is considered an expert in this area and has conducted many of the investigations for the SPR and other organizations interested in this work. She obviously believes in clairvoyance and thought transference, and evidently is a fairly sensitive subject herself. She related several examples of the difficulties involved in investigating spontaneous cases of ESP. At times one deals with neurotic and psychotic individuals experiencing delusions, not ESP. She is a compassionate person, who knows the danger of rejecting sensitive subjects and the need for guiding them to appropriate expression of their experiences while sparing them exposure to unscrupulous or jeering individuals.

We discussed Mr. Abrams' experiences with commercial television. He was featured on a program devoted to ESP, and has an offer to do three additional half-hour shows. His first show dealt with the Russian research in distance hypnosis, as well as a general history of ESP research. Mr. Abrams received international publicity on



this first program and appears enamored with the prospect of greater recognition and financial reward. Mrs. Heywood and I were in complete agreement -- Mr. Abrams is neither qualified, nor prepared, to handle three more programs without resorting to stage demonstrations potentially damaging to the cause of legitimate ESP research. Mrs. Heywood was particularly concerned that such programs would encourage a multitude of letters from people who think they have ESP powers, or experiences, and that Steve would be unable to give the time, energy, understanding and skill necessary to follow up these cases effectively. Mrs. Heywood, always charming, was extremely blunt with Steve on this matter. I believe she dissuaded him from making a mistake which might remove him from the category of scientist to that of a performer, or stage hypnotist. Mrs. Heywood obviously thinks a good deal of Steve, and would like to help him to do serious scientific research rather than play the fool for commercial television. We are fortunate that Mr. Abrams has such sensible advisers to guide him through this morass of all types of individuals connected with ESP.

Mrs. Heywood later tried to arrange for me to see Francis Huxley, the son of Julian, but he was not in town. She expressed great interest in the concept of human ecology and felt that the Fund's support of Steve was most excellent, particularly if we would continue to guide him scientifically, as well as financially.

Visit with Professor Eysenck

Thursday morning we called on Professor Eysenck at Maudsley Hospital outside of London. Professor Eysenck, an extremely gracious individual, discussed at length the research project supported by the Human Ecology Fund. We went over the general plan of the study, which involves differentiation of performance of high and low motivated trainees of one of the local factories. The data Dr. Eysenck showed me are most impressive. I think, in general, his work shows a unique approach to the problem of motivation in a fairly applied situation. The motivation is not artificially bought but is rather subtlety built into the training program of the factory. The findings are not consistent with Hull's theory. I am not sure at the moment Professor Eysenck has developed a theory that fully explains his results, but I would say that the work has been well worthwhile supporting as a scientific endeavor. Next year he hopes to get into more careful analysis of individual differences in motivation, and although we did not discuss it, I suspect he would like to have Fund support continued. Certainly, if we are interested in having an illustrious scientist in our grant program, this gentleman is a good candidate. It was a most rewarding hour of pure science. There was little time, because of the difficulties of driving out to Maudsley, to see more of the hospital. Professor Eysenck seems to be interested in Steve's work, and has offered to collaborate on an experiment with him next year.

Meeting with Dr. John Rees

I had lunch with Dr. John Rees, psychiatrist, former Director of World Federation of Mental Health. We discussed H. P. David's research proposal, which Dr. Rees fully supports and believes to be original in this area. I suspect the World Federation will offer all the encouragement possible to David, but as usual, they are short of research funds.

Dr. Rees asked if we were interested in supporting psychiatric studies in Africa in an attempt to learn more about pure African psychiatry and medicine while it still exists. I told him about Dr. Prince's study, and although he knew of the work, he did not know we were furnishing funds. I indicated that because of our effort with Prince I doubted that we could contribute much more money for the study of psychiatry in Africa.

Dr. Rees has retired from full time activities with the Federation but continues as one of their more prominent consultants. He is presently back in private psychiatric practice and is being encouraged by his many international associates to write his memoirs. He probably knows more about international mental health problems than any other single individual. Dr. Rees is not well physically, and appears to be at loose ends since his retirement. A man with amazing experience in mental health, he served as psychiatrist to Rudolf Hess during his incarceration in England. Out of this experience, he wrote a book, The Case of Rudolf Hess. It was a

pleasant but somewhat sad lunch to see such a great man in retirement.

An evening with Sir Cyril Burt

Thursday evening I paid a visit to Sir Cyril Burt, one of England's finest statisticians and an expert in exceptional children. As it turned out, we had many mutual friends among his former students. It was fascinating to discuss McDougall's research in thought transference with an individual who had actually been McDougall's co-worker. Sir Cyril, although extremely active in teaching and writing at the University of London, is 82 years old and has lived much of the history of psychology about which we read. He has written broadly in the area of telepathy in children and still retains a keen interest in ESP research. He seems thoroughly convinced that the phenomenon exists and believes that Steve's general approach, through hypnosis, is a good one. Interestingly enough this technique was used by McDougall and Burt 50 years ago. Sir Cyril is fully acquainted with Steve's research and has arranged for access to all the experts in the area. He works very closely with Mrs. Heywood in the investigation of spontaneous cases. Plans are on foot to invite Sir Cyril on a scholar program to the Parapsychology Laboratory at Duke next year, but he is not quite sure he is up to the trip. This was a most rewarding visit. Saturday on my return to London, I found a letter and reprint at the hotel from him encouraging our interest in the general field.

Visit with Mr. Ronald West

Friday Mr. Abrams and I drove from London to Cambridge. We visited Mr. Ronald West at The Institute of Criminology (formerly with SPR). Dr. West, a psychiatrist principally interested in criminology, has for some time been concerned with ESP and has actually done some experimental work. West worked in collaboration with G. W. Fisk. Fisk was very partial to ESP, and a sensitive subject himself. Dr. West felt he was more objective, and unlike Fisk, was an extremely poor ESP subject. They both ran the same subjects on card sorting and obtained significant differences in their results -- West's showing no ESP, Fisk's showing significant success in sortings. Participation of the investigators was limited to arranging the cards randomly (both doing it the same way), handing the cards to the subjects and recording their responses. West claims complete integrity on the part of Fisk and, of course, on his own part. Unfortunately, West never followed this experiment with others. These results appear to be most intriguing and, I believe, should be re-investigated. If the study was conducted as reported, it would seem to indicate a relationship between subject and experimenter akin either to thought transference or to the type of experimenter bias or influence Martin Orne has been investigating. West is writing a book on the status of ESP to be published in England in six or eight months. He seems to be a serious investigator and yet the fact he did not follow up such a promising lead confuses

my image of him. When I tried to dig into the experiment a bit, he seemed to not care to discuss it. This attitude, I found, is fairly general. The people I interviewed are interested in discussing ESP, but they are not willing to get down to the nuts and bolts of the individual experiments or experiences. They prefer to treat the topic conceptually or philosophically. Steve feels this may be due to shyness, but I get the impression that detailed discussion of experimental procedures is not customary. I would not question their sensitivity nor their desire to reach the truth in these matters, but I suspect such detail bores them. The remainder of my conversation with West concerned the work of others, but the comments were too general to merit reporting here.

#### Tea with Professor Broad

Professor C. D. Broad invited Steve and me to tea, a very formal and interesting experience. Professor Broad completely dominated the entire meeting, even to the choice of jam for our toast and the strength of our tea. The Professor chose the topics for discussion, dwelling principally on Russian ESP work. He asked insightful questions and obviously was much interested in trying to understand why the Russians should be concerned with this area. By the end of the tea, Steve and I felt a bit as though we had taken our Ph.D. orals. The only other topic discussed was the Cambridge scholarship for psychical research, which has existed for a number of years. A recent endowment has increased the stipends considerably.

I think Broad was interrogating Steve and myself mainly to evaluate Steve's qualifications for this appointment in a year or so. The amount of money is not large, but evidently the appointment carries considerable prestige. Steve could accept the appointment without having to move to Cambridge, and thus could retain his position at Oxford. Professor Broad is deeply concerned with ESP phenomena from a philosophical point of view. He is a member of the Advisory Board for SPR, and I suspect, is a rigorous critic of ESP research and spontaneous cases. He seemed quite impressed with Steve's work and has obviously kept up with his endeavors. I did not feel I gained any great insight into Broad's philosophical attitude toward ESP, but I suspect this can be obtained through reading his publications. The experience of spending a few hours with Professor Broad was worthwhile.

#### Arrival of Dr. Joseph Pratt

On Saturday, Dr. Joseph Pratt, Dr. J. B. Rhine's chief associate at Duke, arrived at Oxford to visit with Steve and some of the people I had already seen. Hopefully, he was to leave for Leningrad (if he could get a visa) the following Thursday. Steve's trip to the Soviet Union had made such an impression that Professor Rhine felt that the parapsychology laboratory at Duke should also send a representative. Dr. Pratt, a very congenial person, has been working in Rhine's laboratory since 1946. He has a Ph.D. in psychology from Duke ('36), and has been associated with General Motors and the Bureau of Personnel, United States Navy Department.

Besides his interest in parapsychology, he has done considerable work in animal orientation. He has had, for some time, a grant from ONR for studying pigeon navigation. He seems to be a reputable scientist, seriously investigating ESP phenomena. I was interested that on meeting me he immediately extended Dr. Rhine's personal greetings and an invitation to attend the Parapsychological Association meetings at Duke in September. Our support of Steve's work seems to have accredited us to the closed circle of the ESP world.

Our discussions with Dr. Pratt that day concerned Steve's work, Pratt's pigeon work and Russian ESP research. Dr. Pratt privately indicated that he had considerable respect for Steve, but was concerned that his efforts were terribly diffuse. He would like to see Steve approach ESP in a systematic and perhaps narrower fashion with one well planned experiment, followed by the programming of others. To many of Steve's associates this general pattern of diletantism is obvious and they seem concerned that his capabilities and talents are not as yet sharply focused. They promised to chat with Steve after I left to help orient him toward a few solid experiments.

Dr. Pratt told of an experiment at the University of London employing a tachistoscope to present visual stimuli subliminally. The experimenter, a girl, first presents visual stimuli, conditions the subjects to certain of these, and then presents the stimuli subliminally to determine whether they elicit conditioned responses. Dr. Pratt indicated that the methodology had some weaknesses,



particularly in the subliminal presentations. The investigator will continue this work next year at Stanford University under a Stanford Psychical Research Grant. Accounts of her research indicate competence, and I believe her work should be followed up next year.

We also discussed the trip to Russia by Mr. Ebon, administrator for the Parapsychology Foundation in New York City. Mr. Ebon has no professional training as a psychologist, but has been a prominent member of the Foundation staff for some time. I have gathered that his reputation is somewhat unsavory. His recently published article on the trip to the Soviet Union received adverse comment both from Dr. Pratt and Mr. Abrams. The article was published in Parapsychology Foundation Journal called "Tomorrow." I will attempt to obtain a copy of it soon.

Dr. Pratt informed me that Dr. Karlis Osis, Director of Research of the Parapsychology Foundation, and Mr. Douglas Dean, his associate, are both leaving the Foundation this summer. I understand Osis will join the research staff of the Society of Psychical Study in New York City. (Mr. Dean's plans are not known.) It is fairly evident that the Parapsychological Foundation is not greatly respected in England or America. Mrs. Garrett, who heads the Foundation, appears to be an unstable former medium who receives funds from a wealthy woman -- a Mrs. Bolton, I believe. These funds may be short-lived and the Foundation will probably collapse upon the loss of Mrs. Bolton's support.

Sir Alister Hardy

In the afternoon, Dr. Pratt, Mr. Abrams and I had tea with Sir Alister Hardy, one of England's most noted biologists and recently-retired Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at Oxford. Sir Alister participated actively in the Shackleton experiments with Mr. Abrams. He drew the pictures and attempted to transmit his sketches to Shackleton in another room. He is very enthusiastic about this particular technique, and about experimentation with thought transference. Next year he plans to do a series of experiments again using the transmission-of-sketches technique. He has less faith in other aspects of ESP, but feels strongly that the evidence for thought transference is irrefutable.

Most of the discussion concerned Shackleton and his experiments, although Sir Alister did go into his work in marine ecology in some detail. He was very interested in the Human Ecology Fund and its objectives, and wrote later to indicate further enthusiasm. Sir Alister appears to be an extremely capable, serious scientist. He feels that Steve's general approach will eventually bear fruit. He called my attention to earlier studies in the area of thought transference that he believes are extremely significant. More than anyone else, he was willing to discuss experimental procedures in detail. He has been invited to the University of Miami next year, but it is doubtful that his research will permit him to come.

### Soviet Research

Interlaced with the meetings reported above, Steve and I chatted about his efforts in considerable detail. Probably the most critical part of our discussion concerned Soviet research in the area of hypnosis at a distance, thought transference, and general ESP studies. I encouraged Steve to send us a full report of his trip within the next couple of weeks. He had indicated in his letters that such a report was being written, but I find he has done nothing on it. He promised to send it to us shortly.

I will attempt to summarize some of the things that he told C. D. Broad and me about the Russian work. First of all, I don't think Steve feels that a great deal is being done, but there is considerable interest in the general ESP area. Most of it seems to be done in Leningrad, although there are small groups looking into the problem in Moscow, as well. The principal investigator seems to be L. L. Vasiliev, Professor of Physiology at the University of Leningrad, a former student of Bekhterev's. A. Alexandrov, Director of the University of Leningrad established the laboratory for parapsychology for Vasiliev. It is associated with the Laboratory of Biological Electronics in the Physiological Institute. Because the Academy of Science doubted the value of his work, a committee was formed to determine whether such research should be supported. E. A. Asratian, Director of the Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and Neurophysiology of the Academy of Sciences, headed the committee. A decision was made to support the work, and the parapsychological

laboratory was established officially in 1962. The research fundamentally has a physiological orientation. The staff consists of physiologists, electronic specialists, physicists, cyberneticists (Goulyaev), and a psychiatrist. No psychologists are known to be on the staff.

One of two important persons associated with this research is Juri Tupitsin, a psychiatrist with a recent doctorate from the University of Leningrad. Steve predicts he will succeed Vasiliev. Steve is arranging to invite Tupitsin to lecture at Oxford, and he hopes to have Pratt and Rhine invite him to spend some time at Duke. Pavel Terentiev, Professor of Statistics - Biometry, is also connected with this research and is considered a key man. The administrator of the laboratory is Olga Lenz, a "hard nosed" woman, quite a Party type. All Vasiliev's letters go through her and she seems to run the laboratory directly.

The Russians appear to Steve to be reasonably well acquainted with the American research. However, a great influence on their approach is the early French, since Bekhterev was a student of the French school, a protege of Charcot's. They use ESP cards emphasizing moods and colors rather than symbols. They are most interested in measuring ESP directly in the form of radiated energy from the brain. They plan to use an electroscope similar to the Gray-Walter toposcope, where up to a hundred measurements are made on the cranium.

Because of their interest in radiated energy aspects of the problem, the Russians have gone to great lengths to encase their experimenters in shielded rooms during experiments in hypnosis at a distance. This appears to have no effect. Individuals who have been previously hypnotized can be placed in nonadjoining rooms at various distances from the hypnotist and sink into trance upon thought command. This ability evidently can be transferred to other hypnotists, but they must have met the subject. This does not appear to be the result of a simple posthypnotic suggestion. Shielding the hypnotist has no effect. What seems to be involved until more adequately explained is some type of thought transmission. There is absolutely no evidence that a person not previously hypnotized can be induced into a trance.

Persons interested in ESP in Moscow, where the electroscope equipment is located, are: B. B. Kazhinski, a physicist, who is working with the Faraday Cage. Mirza of the Institute of Neurophysiology is concerned particularly with subjective states. Fadeev gives lectures on telepathy. It seems to be Steve's opinion that the Russians believe that they have evidence for ESP phenomena.

Steve is getting along extremely well with Vasiliev. He is writing an article for the proceedings of the Leningrad Institute and hopes to be invited to spend a month at Leningrad in research before Tupitsin comes to Oxford. I asked Steve whether he had any indication that the Russians were using hypnosis in the training of

astronauts. He said he did not believe that they were. However, they did tell him they were using yoga training, which would seem perfectly logical.

#### The Experiments with Shackleton

The most significant thing that Steve has done from a research point of view are the Shackleton experiments. Shackleton is a middle-aged photographer-adventurer well known evidently for his ESP sensitivity. He has been utilized and studied at least informally by most of the people I visited. Steve's experiments, although not too systematic, are probably as good as any done with Shackleton. Unfortunately, the data have not been analyzed and may very well defy analysis by any method now known. As mentioned previously, the principal experiments consisted of Sir Alister drawing pictures representing words selected at random from the dictionary. The pictures were drawn in one of four quadrants on a sheet of paper. Shackleton, in another room, was to reproduce in the appropriate quadrant the picture that Sir Alister drew. Going over the data, there are some interesting similarities, or possibly coincidences, but when one starts to determine criteria of reproduction of a drawing, I suspect we run into several imponderables. Steve has several statisticians working on the problem and hopes to write up this work in the near future.

In addition to the Shackleton work, Steve has been testing his hypnotic technique on various subjects to determine the extent to which one may isolate or reproduce sensitivity through hypnotic

control. The ESP phenomena must occur under certain conditions and with appropriate substrata. The ecology or environment appropriate to maximizing sensitivity needs much more systematic study than it is receiving at the moment. I believe Steve's dilettante approach has been fully appropriate up to now. He has worked intensely with a few sensitive people. Now, however, as I recommended to him, he needs to sit back and to program his research to discover the ecology of this sensitivity and to approach each variable, or set of variables, methodically to determine those that are truly critical. It is my personal opinion the sterile laboratory conditions with dice shaking, card sorting, as demonstrated by Rhine's approach will not pay off. The artist to create a beautiful painting needs the appropriate physical setting, psychological mood, lighting and perhaps even a degree of suffering before his sensitivity can be felt and demonstrated. We do not smell the essence of the flower in a pigpen. ESP, if it exists, must also have its optimal ecology, and I suspect the antiseptic atmosphere of the laboratory is not it. It is possible, through hypnosis, drugs, sleep, alcohol, abnormal emotional tone, or even extreme rapport conditions, to enhance this perception. Once we can identify and control these variables we can, perhaps, begin to apply an appropriate methodology to the experimentation of the phenomenon itself. Those skeptics who say that acceptable proof of ESP lies in demonstrating its existence under all conditions -- anywhere and at any time -- are confusing scientific method with control of environmental variables contributing to the essence of the experience.