

Collected Works

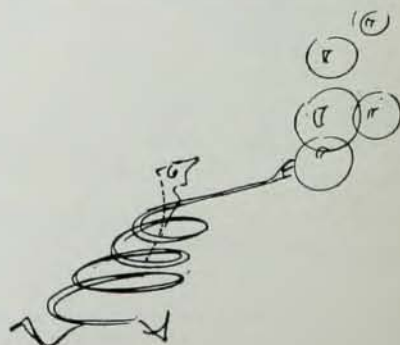
By H. K. and B. A. Henisch

About four years ago, there appeared in the Personal Column of the (London) *Times* an advertisement which invited readers to send "new, unpublished and unorthodox scientific theories to essayist-advertiser for purposes of evaluation and review". The response was more than gratifying and, in this simple way, some rich additions were quickly made to a collection which had been growing steadily but only slowly over the years.

One of the prize items in this collection is a lavishly illustrated \$25-calibre volume on *Occult Chemistry* compiled by the famous Annie Besant on behalf of the Theosophical Society. This gives an account of a notable piece of clairvoyant research, and probably the only one of its kind. In the course of this investigation, a medium went into a trance and made herself "mentally small", so as to be able to see the inside of atoms. The book represents a stenographer's record and an artist's impression of her comments. In this roundabout but effective way, the necessity of having macroscopic pictures drawn directly by a mentally submicroscopic medium was neatly avoided. That atoms consist of smaller particles came as no surprise, but of electrons, protons, neutrons, mesons, etc., no trace was found. Instead, the standard building brick of all matter was found to be a new particle hitherto unknown to orthodox science and henceforth called an "anu". To safeguard the tender susceptibilities of the undergraduate classical scholar, it is explained that the plural of "anu" is likewise "anu", despite a certain lack of scientific precision which this might occasionally entail. Those with a taste for research in depth will appreciate the medium's explanation that anu are essentially bubbles in the koilon. The fact that no koilon is ever complete without its bubbles may be considered to support this claim.

Einstein was, by virtue of his appearance and demeanor everyone's idea of the grand scientist, but his theories have never entered any territory that one might call common knowledge. To laymen generally he was incomprehensible, which is not altogether surprising, and to some he was for that very reason a charlatan. The collection now boasts the complete works of Pio Niro, an Argentinian who has spent a great deal of time and money on proving that Einstein, for his devious mode of argumentation, is nothing short of a "Zigzagador". Another contribution against relativity is presented in the form of a dialogue between the lay author who "believes in putting two and two together" and a hypothetical physicist, no grand-master of the syllogism and manifestly blinded by the orthodoxy of his past.

In honor of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, one of the correspondents invented, purposefully and without fuss, his Coronation Rays, which ingeniously combine the properties of all known forms of radiation. They are produced by the simple and somewhat anticlimactic method of mixing alum with water. In a series of well-illustrated *Bulletins of the Theory of Differential Periodicity*, a gentlemen in Ireland expresses his belief that the world, essayist-advertiser and all, is essentially a synthesis of Moiré patterns. Another ascribes the canals on Mars to electric currents on earth and deplores the lack of international cooperation which alone prevents all these currents from being temporarily switched off to clinch the



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proof. He also diagnoses our association with Satan and regrets, though not very much, our forthcoming demise in the Well of Lies, which an inadvertent display of scepticism has rendered inevitable.

There is a massive and elegant volume on the *Psychology of Physics*, destined in all likelihood to remain a closed book to physicists and psychologists alike. A Rudolf Steiner disciple makes a skilful attempt to link the activities of Lucifer and Ahri-man with the "recently announced D.N.A. breakthrough", mostly on the grounds that "the letters D.N.A. have a profound spirituo-scientific significance for the pattern of the elementary soul path". It is never explicitly spelled out, but there is a clear implication that the soul has more particle than wave characteristics.

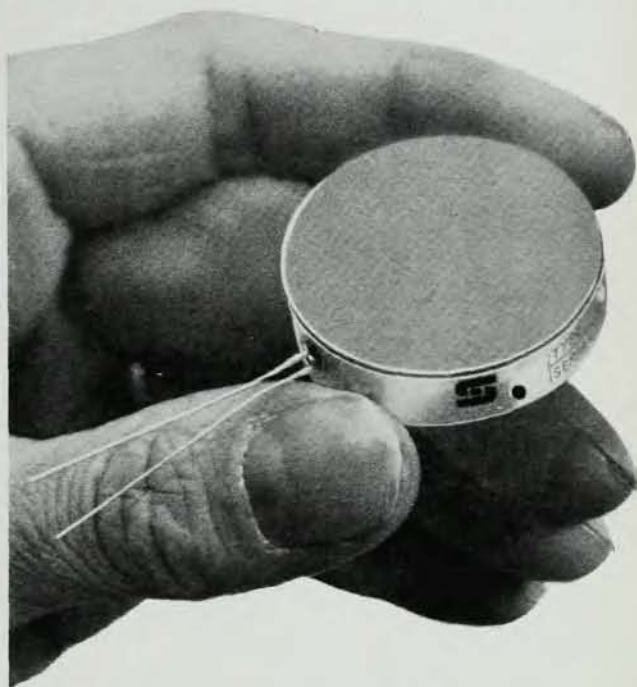
In a surviving fragment of the *Elsaessisches Literatur-Blatt* (alas undated), an indignant Professor of Philosophy goes to town against "the childish idea that the earth is small compared with space as a whole, however stuffed with light-years it may be". Another correspondent has a theory of the Flood in terms of the charge which the earth daily receives from the sun and which ordinarily keeps it at a constant voltage above the AEZ ("absolute electrical zero"). In a complicated manner which tends to baffle the casual reader, this charge also accounts for the existence of "Yama, a devil materialized by Tibetan wizards". The writer who, to be sure, means it kindly, claims to have come to his conclusions after reading the *Scientific American*.

From Osnabrück, Germany, there comes a triumphant report of a court case in which the internal temperature of the sun formed the subject of litigation. An ex-patent attorney and amateur astronomer, oblivious to all property interests on earth, had succumbed to the "Drang nach oben" and declared that the inside of the sun is inhabitable. The world of science is nothing if not conservative, and his view did not go entirely unchallenged. Needled by the opposition, he offered a prize of 25 000 DM to anyone who could prove him wrong. Academic salaries being what they are, this was too tempting an offer to ignore: three Professors promptly formed an Arbeitsgemeinschaft, prepared a Preisschrift and claimed the money. The patent attorney drew upon the last resources of his patience and gave the claim every conceivable consideration but, to nobody's surprise, found the thesis of the Preisschrift inadequate. The academic triumvirate promptly took him to court and there, in the maddening manner of newspaper cuttings and scrapbooks, our archives end, the case, the sun, and the dough permanently in suspense.

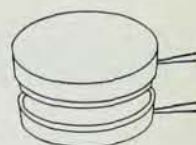
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