

Approved For Release 2003/09/16 : CIA-RDP96-00787R000500240023-8

A case for parapsychology

Mind-Reach

Scientists Look at Psychic Ability.
By Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff.
230 pp. New York:
G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$8.95.

By ROBERT ORNSTEIN

The scientific study of parapsychology has been with us for almost a century now, with little in the way of definitive results. One of the major problems in our acceptance of parapsychology, of course, is that we are quite resistant to new information and phenomena which we consider a priori to be impossible. We do not normally pursue scientific inquiry, for instance, into these areas. If I were to propose an experiment in training elephants to become peach trees I do not think much financial support would appear nor could I enlist anyone's enthusiastic help. People simply do not inform themselves about things they do not believe to be possible.

Such was the case within more conventional science with Copernicus's proposition of a universe that differed fundamentally from that of Ptolemy, with Harvey's discovery of the circulation of blood and even in the reporting of the Wright brothers' first air flight. Many newspapers, including The New York Times, simply refused to cover it because they did not think it was possible.

In parapsychology, we find this rejection to an extreme, unmatched perhaps in any area. Even the great 19th-century German physiologist Hermann Helmholtz, distinguished in the areas of optics, physics and the study of perception wrote, "Neither the evidence of my own senses nor the testimony of all the fellows of the Royal Society" would convince him

of the truth of parapsychological data. In a professional review of the work of Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff, authors of "Mind-Reach," an anonymous reviewer in The Journal of Electrical and Electronic Engineers wrote, "This is the kind of thing I wouldn't believe in even if it were true."

One of the basic difficulties in understanding parapsychology is that its claims are a distinct challenge to our contemporary world-view. If some people can perceive events before they "happen," if there are modes of interpersonal communication unknown to

many, if people can influence action and/or events at a distance greater than the range of normal influence, then perhaps we need dramatically to revise our conception of human abilities and/or conception of how events are registered by people. Since the burden of documentation, though, should be on those who claim that these capacities exist, their interpretations of the nature of their data should be accepted only after much evidence has been accumulated.

There seems to be a persistent fallacy regarding the work of parapsychologists that is based on a misunderstanding of the nature of scientific proof—an assumption that one demonstration, one example of a unique phenomenon should be enough to convince us that parapsychological or any other sort of scientific phenomena exist. William James expressed this proposition when he said that the appearance of only one white crow would dispel forever the idea that all crows are black. But that is true only in an extremely idealistic universe. We need much more evidence than one isolated instance to overthrow an accepted world-view. The existence of William James's white crow could well be dismissed by our statistics department as statistically insignificant. One bit of evidence ought to be enough but it is not.

"Every man is an exception," as Soren Kirkegaard wrote. We are all 4 billion-to-one shots and, as scientists, need much more than occasional long-shots to convince us.

Many publicizers of parapsychology have sought to counter their skeptics by Proclamation. They claim—and Targ and Puthoff are no exception—that there is a significant amount of incontrovertible, scientific evidence in favor of the existence of parapsychological phenomena. And the only reason these phenomena are not more widely accepted is because of hostile prejudices, because of preconceptions in the minds of readers and reviewers, and because of blindness.

"Mind-Reach" fairly straightforwardly describes the experiments carried out at the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, Calif., on so-called paranormal phenomena by Targ and Puthoff, who are physicists. The authors outline several of their own experiments in the book: One of these experiments involved "remote viewing," in which a person sequestered in a room is asked to describe a place chosen at random and not revealed to the subject where two other people have gone. These descriptions are then matched with "objective" descriptions of the places. Other experiments included a test of precognition, in which people were asked to guess a

random event on a machine and picture drawing, in which the Israeli psychic Uri Geller attempted to draw pictures like those previously sealed in envelopes and kept in a different room. All of these experiments are reported as successes by the authors but they provide very little evidence either in their book or in published journal articles that any of them can be repeated. Nor has anyone else reported similar results.

Here is the difficulty: If the experiments cannot be repeated by others we have the situation of the one white crow. It may be theoretically true (assuming we take his word that he saw one) that all crows are not black, but that is irrelevant unless he can produce another white one as proof. Again, parapsychologists labor under a fundamental misconception of the importance of the idea of chance, of the idea of science, and of the necessity for the verification.

"Mind-Reach," then, is a book slim in hard evidence. It is pleasantly written, and it is amusing to follow the thought of the authors as they work out their research and sometimes horrifying to see what their opposition has been. But it is ultimately an unsatisfying book lacking any indication of

the solidity of the findings and of the ability of anyone else to repeat them.

Indeed, I have attempted, in collaboration with these authors, to repeat one of their experiments (published in Nature) and was unable to do so though I spent a large amount of time trying and had the same subject they used and the full cooperation of the authors. Instead of any real evidence that accords with the accepted standards of contemporary psychophysiological research, what we have in this book are a few minor, sketchy suggestions of how research in this area ought to proceed. The authors do make some useful points. We should stick to conditions which mimic those of everyday life, not useless, trivial situations (although they ignore their own advice in one of their experiments).

Further, even if it is granted that they have demonstrated "remote viewing," the phenomenon has been studied only on a very few people. When the authors attempt to "sell" that psychic abilities are found

in all people—the blurb of the book claims that they have documented that "some degree of psychic ability is universal"—they are engaging in the same sort of unjustified propagandizing they decry in their opponents. It is one thing to say that "here we demonstrate a minor finding in a few subjects which might be used by others," but it is ridiculous to ask us to believe that their minor, preliminary experiments prove anything about psychic abilities in the general population.

Throughout the book the authors state their hope that the study of parapsychology will become primarily a scientific one in which speculations are firmly grounded in the evidence. In their own writing, however, Targ and Puthoff almost always go beyond evidence and claim they have proven their case when they have done nothing of the sort. In writing this book, the authors have done more harm, perhaps, to their own position and to their field of study than they have helped. ■

Robert Ornstein teaches at the University of California Medical Center and is the director of Human Nature, a magazine to appear in the fall.

March 7, 1977

Mr. Harvey Shapiro, Editor
The New York Times Book Review
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

Robert Ornstein in his review of our book Mind-Reach in the March 13th Book Review implies that our experiments in Remote Viewing, the main concern of the book, lack "solidity" and cannot be repeated by anyone.

This is simply not true.

Our experiments in Remote Viewing have been widely replicated in half a dozen laboratories across the country. Three of these were published in the Proceedings of the Electrical and Electronic Engineers (October 1976) - a journal Ornstein refers to - and a fourth was presented at the August 1976 annual meeting of the Parapsychological Association, all well in advance of the book's review.

For Ornstein to state that there has been no replication is an inexcusable faux pas for a scientist supposedly knowledgeable in the field he is reviewing.

Our experiments at Stanford Research Institute are among the most severely monitored in the history of science. Literally dozens of qualified consultants and judges were involved in creating and evaluating the results described in the book. The evidence accumulated was solid enough to impress some of science's most responsible authorities, including Dr. Margaret Mead, who wrote the Introduction.

We are aware that Mind-Reach delves into a subject sensitive in science. In the case of this review, it turned out to be so mind-bending that several basic facts normally noted in any diligent critique were missing: that the book is Illustrated (with 48 drawings and photographs), that it includes the Mead introduction and Foreword by Richard Fach. You even gave it to the wrong publisher. Mind-Reach was published, with pride we are assured, by Delacorte Press/Cleanor Friede, not by the publisher you credited. The record needs setting straight.

Sincerely,

Russell Targ *Harold Puthoff*
Russell Targ Harold Puthoff

Stanford Research Institute
Menlo Park, California

ENC 3

THE CITY COLLEGE
OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10031

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

January 1, 1977

Dear Russell and Hal:

Happy New Year! And many thanks for arranging to have me sent a copy of your book!

I congratulate you on it. It's beautifully written, in such an easy style that I couldn't stop it once it was begun -- finished it in a single sitting. And it presents impressively so much that's important and interesting, that the content is a pleasure as well as the style. I should think it would bowl over the readers who didn't know about your work beforehand -- and am sure that parapsychologists will be grateful for it, because it puts all together in one place the corpus of work you've done.

The timing was particularly good for me. It came the same day as the galley's for my ms. for Wolman's Handbook, and I revised them to give two citations to the book.

Thanks again, and hopes that you'll carry on with all your bright ideas for what needs doing!

Cordially,

Gertrude
Gertrude Schmeidler

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In quoting or excerpting, please refer to
THE KIRKUS REVIEWS
Date of Issue: 12/15/78

Targ, Russell &
Harold Puthoff
MIND-REACH: *Scientists
Look at Psychic Ability*
Delacorte \$8.95
1/? SBN: 440-05688-7

Superficially it would seem that physicists and engineers would be the least likely supporters of extrasensory phenomena. But here we have two physicists at the distinguished Stanford Research Institute who have been doing rigorous experiments and conclude that There is Something There and it is something that probably exists in everyman. That something is remote viewing: the ability of a subject at X to describe in words or drawings the details of a locale chosen by an experimenter miles away. They report on a number of experienced subjects, including Uri Geller, as well as some willing volunteers. All did better than chance would predict—even better in terms of drawings alone rather than verbal descriptions. Targ and Puthoff speculate that there may be some right hemisphere perceptual ability here that has gone unnoticed or shoved under the table in our rationalist analytic era. They also suggest that extremely low frequency electromagnetic waves may be involved, so that the phenomena need not remain beyond scientific ken. There is something very likeable about the pair: their attitude; their sophistication with regard to True Believers, to the possibilities of fraud and deception; and their understanding of the "loyal opposition" (e.g., Martin Gardner and others who wouldn't believe in ESP even if it were true). Margaret Mead has written an encouraging introduction showing she's ready to move with a shifting paradigm. Others, up to this point unconvinced, may be shaken up a bit (experience "cognitive dissonance" as the psychologists say). In any case, the results reported, confined to a small sample but with decent rigor, lob the ball squarely in the court of the nay-sayers. It will be interesting to watch the play that follows.



Recommended by *The Booklist*

MADELEINE L'ENGLE'S
NEW BOOK,

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"L'Engle's spiritual exercises over a year of seasonal changes and the Christian church calendar are shared in these reflections from her personal journal. As the author's beliefs inform everyday joys, frustrations, and conflicts, L'Engle determinedly comes to grips with herself, mankind, and her faith."—*ALA, The Booklist*

"... The most compelling parts of this sensitive book describe the author's periods of atheism and her fight to recover from 'cold isolation,' the terror of believing in nothing."—*Publishers' Weekly*

LC 76-46944 0-8164-0324-4 \$8.95

Recommended by *Library Journal*

JOHN COGLEY'S
AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A Canterbury Tale

Experiences and Reflections, 1916-1976

"In this gentle, low key autobiography, a longtime editor and columnist for the Catholic week, *Commonweal* vividly recalls one of the most turbulent periods in our nation's religious history... his lively narrative captures the reader's attention and holds it fast. This is American cultural history in the best sense of that term: colorful, interesting, and full of insights."—*Library Journal*

"A gem..."—*New York Times Book Review*

LC 76-21864 0-8164-0322-8 \$8.95

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... and the concept of
form of conscious memory or deliv-
erance. This volume repre-
sents three earlier books on cieties,
with updated bibliography. Despite
awkward syntax and digressive in-
tellectualizing, it would be appropriate
for psychology collections, especially
those lacking Mussen's earlier works.
*William Abrams, Portland State Univ.
Lib., Ore.*

Higbee, Kenneth L. *Your Memory:
how it works and how to improve it.*

Princeton Hall, 1977. ISBN 0-13-980144-8. \$9.95.
Pop. Spectrum. ISBN 0-13-980136-7. \$3.95.

PSYCH
This book provides a reasonable bal-
ance between the oversimplified popu-
lar books about mnemonics and the em-
pirical research on learning and memo-
ry. Following a general introduction
concerning the nature of memory and
techniques for studying it, Higbee (a
psychologist at Brigham Young Univer-
sity) discusses some basic principles of
memory improvement, strategies for ef-
fective learning, some general rules for
improving memory, and four specific
memory systems (link, loci, peg, and
phonetic). In addition, these are related
to some practical situations to illustrate
their effectiveness. The writing is clear;
technical references are cited but do
not bog the reader down in technical
jargon or unnecessary detail. The au-
thor is commendably cautious in repeat-
edly emphasizing that improving one's
memory is hard work.—*Charles L.
Brewer, Dept. of Psychology, Furman
Univ., Greenville, S.C.*

Kennedy, Eugene. *On Becoming a
Counselor: a basic guide for non-profes-
sional counselors.*

Crossroad, Seabury, 1977. \$12.95. PSYCH
This is an excellent and refreshingly
lively guide to dealing with adolescents
and adults in a helping capacity. Ken-
nedy's emphasis is on eliminating stress in
the relationship and on the importance
of the counselor's knowledge of self.
Descriptions of classical definitions of
personality types are impressively up-
dated and presented in a style suitable
for the lay counselor and student. The
end of the book, dealing with situations
such as grief, suicide, drug abuse, and
"emergencies," lacks the authority of
the chapters on personality, but the
whole book should be a useful
clergy, educators, and other non-
professional counselors as a lively,
practical introductory text with many
fine basic bibliographies. For under-
graduate and graduate education, psy-
chology, and social work libraries, and
for large cosmopolitan public libraries.
—*Anne F. Dykstra, Brooklyn, P.L.*

Luria, A. R. *Cognitive Development: its
cultural and social foundations.*

Harvard Univ. Pr., 1976. 175p. fwd. by Michael
Cole. Illus. index. illus. LC 76-2497. ISBN 0-
674-13731-0. \$12.50. PSYCH

This work, which appeared in its origi-
nal Russian in 1972, describes field
work conducted during 1931 to 1932
with the intent of studying the psycho-

logical differences between the
impact of the socialist revolution on the
remote and ancient Islamic culture of
Luria, a professor of psy-
chology at Moscow University, is re-
nowned for his work on the devel-
opment of language and thought. The
unique conditions of this investigation
allowed the author to compare from the
same culture both underdeveloped
groups and groups already beginning to
be involved in modern life. Luria stud-
ied differences in conceptualization in
terms of perception, abstraction, rea-
soning, and imagination, and the result-
ant analysis clearly shows the socio-
historical shaping of these higher men-
tal processes. Luria's procedure of
observation and carefully structured
questioning is elegant in its simplicity
and naturalness and represents a signifi-
cant advance in clinical field methodol-
ogy. An interesting treatise on cogni-
tion, having definite implications for
cultural anthropology and for the devel-
opmental psychology of cultural minor-
ities.—*William Abrams, Portland State
Univ. Lib., Ore.*

Ward, Alan J. with contribs. by H. Al-
len Handford, M.D. & Virginia M.
Leith. *Childhood Autism & Structural
Therapy: selected papers on early child-
hood autism.*

Nelson Hall, 1976. 222p. index. LC 76-23171.
ISBN 0-911012-56-7. \$12.50. PSYCH

This collection of 16 papers (all pre-
viously published) acknowledges only
lightly that the psychological nature of
autism is very much in question. Ward's
and his colleagues' bias is clearly a
psychodynamic one. Though he ap-
pears to accept the neurophysiologic
basis for many of the autistic symp-
toms, his treatment approach is based
on an ego developmental theory which
has, at best, an uncertain support in the
data on autism. Ward's book describes
structural play therapy as an ordered in-
cremental program for addressing the
observed developmental deficits of the
autistic child while at the same time in-
tuitively responding to his emotional
needs. He reports some success. How-
ever, the articles documenting this suc-
cess are exasperatingly redundant in
their discussions of etiology and defini-
tion, and in the repeated descriptions of
the technique and rationale of
structural therapy. Readers would have
been better served with a more con-
cise and focused presentation.—
*Thomas J. Charney, M.D., Dept. of Psychiatry,
Yale Univ. Sch. of Medicine*

Parapsychology & Occultism

Targ, Russell & Harold Puthoff. *Mind-
Reach: scientists look at psychic ability.*

Delacorte, 1977. 280p. intro. by Margaret Mead.
illus. index. ISBN 0-440-05688-7. \$8.95. PARAPSYCH

Since 1972 physicists Targ and Puthoff
have been carrying out parapsychology
experiments at the Stanford Research
Institute. *Mind-Reach*, a review and
summary of their research to date, re-
ports the results of "remote viewing"
experiments, in which the experimen-
ters asked subjects to describe their in-

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nal imaging of a target location, usually the destination of a third party, the researchers' competent experimental technique and impeccable integrity, combined with the obviously positive results of their experiments, provide unquestionably powerful evidence for the reality of parasensory perception. Targ and Puthoff demonstrate with this work that given proper conditions, anyone can obtain perceptions traditionally considered paranormal or impossible. In addition, they prove the facility of a positive setting for paranormal activity, and they demonstrate again and again the interference of the conscious mind with paraperception: only when confidence was inspired and analytical activity suppressed or ignored, were reliable results forthcoming. Targ and Puthoff do more than present laboratory observations. They describe the uncanny elusiveness of psychic phenomena, as again and again attempts to design controlled experiments were frustrated by unexpected, seemingly miraculous coincidences. Yet though the most convincing events took place outside the experiments, the authors consistently regarded only controlled experimental results as valid scientific data. Their book is highly recommended.—Edward H. Russell, *New York*

religion

Comay, Joan. *The Hebrew Kings.*

Morrow, 1977. 168p. illus., maps, index. LC 76-44606. ISBN 0-688-03139-0. \$8.95. 105L1011
 This well-written introduction to the Hebrew kings spans the period between the election of Saul (c. 1020 B.C.) and the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians (c. 587 B.C.). The text includes a short section dealing with the authorship of the Bible and a discussion of the nature of prophecy. Also useful are maps of the Holy Land illustrating tribal and enemy boundaries; a chronology of kings, prophets, and general history; black-and-white reproductions of several historic works of art depicting the kings; and photographs of several of the archaeological sites presently known to be related to biblical places of interest. Comay has written other books of Jewish interest among them *The Temple of Jerusalem*. *IJ* 11:15/75, and *Israel*. *IJ* 6/15,69, and was an editor of *Encyclopedia Judaica*. This short text would be useful in religious schools and in Y.A. collections.—Moshe H. Spero, *Sch. of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland*

al-Ghazali. *On the Duties of Brotherhood.*

Overlook, dist. by Viking, 1977. 94p. tr. from Classical Arabic by Muhtar Holland. LC 76-8057. ISBN 0-87951-046-3. \$6.95. 105L1011
 Al-Ghazali (d. 1111) was one of Islam's most important theologians. His seminal *Revitalization of the Religious Sciences* was a comprehensive, fundamental treatise which presented a philosophy of Islam with Sufism. This volume pre-

sents one chapter of that work, a manual of being "thy brother's" spiritual and material "keeper": lofty ideals expressed in down-to-earth fashion to guide the reader in his daily life. Al-Ghazali's lucid style and the readable translation render the contents accessible despite difficult passages. However, the entire *Revitalization* is available for \$12. From Books on Islam, Ltd., 240 W. 72nd St., N.Y.C. 10023. (The same company's *Catalogue and Guide to Books on Islam*, 68p., \$1.50, in which *Revitalization* is listed, is a fully and thoughtfully annotated, wide-ranging, extremely useful sales catalog and bibliography which every collection on Islam should have on its shelves.)—David W. Littlefield, *Library of Congress*

International Symposium on the Holocaust. *Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1974. Auschwitz: beginning of a new era? reflections on the Holocaust.*

Ktav, Mar. 1977. 469p. ed. by Eva Fleischner. LC 76-4809. ISBN 0-87068-499-X. \$17.50, pap. \$8.95. 105L1011
 Nearly three years ago Jewish and Christian intellectuals met in New York to discuss upon the meaning of Hitler's Holocaust. The 26 papers given at that international symposium make up this large book. Their authors analyze fundamental questions raised by the organized murder of six million Jews, an evil of such unprecedented magnitude that the world prefers to forget it. Approaching the challenge from almost every perspective, it is plain that neither an easy hope nor an easy faith is possible any longer, for Jew or Christian. So accustomed have we become to violence since Auschwitz that indifference is again the common response. This is not a book for the casual reader, but it is indispensable to any serious student of Holocaust history. The voices raised are often at odds, but they bear witness to "the chief counter-testimony of the Holocaust: the preciousness and uniqueness of every human being."—Milton Meltzer, *New York*

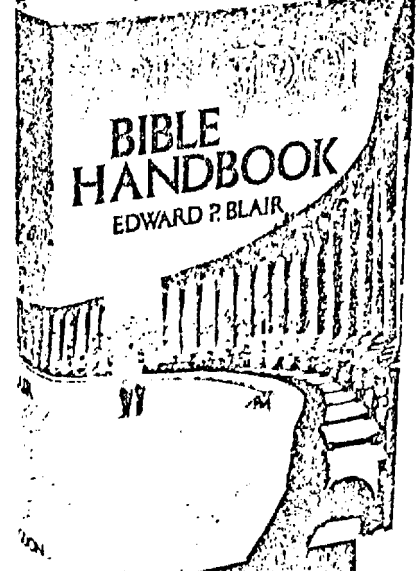
O'Connor, Elizabeth. *The New Community.*

Harper, 1976. 121p. illus. LC 76-9964. ISBN 0-06-066337-5. pap. \$3.95. 105L1011
 O'Connor has written a thought-provoking book on the various aspects of Christian community as it is lived in her Church of the Saviour (Washington, D.C.). She shows that one cannot sustain community without both inner, personal transformation—through giving up "safe" ways of acting and thinking—and transformation of the outer world—through joining the struggle of the oppressed by positive action, while avoiding both racism and condescension. Emphasis is on the need to communicate and on the worth of all of God's children. Suitable for church and public libraries.—Judith R. Lovester, *Lansing P.L., Mich.*

Owens, John H. And Sarah Laughed: the status of women in the Old Testament.

Westminster, Apr. 1977. 260p. biblic. index. 105L1011
 Owens demonstrates that women of the

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 —The Bible and Bible Handbook
 —Edward P. Blair (1975)

"The value of such a book as this depends upon its authorship, its readability, its religious depth, and clarity of statement. And indeed of these aspects the Handbook meets the highest standards."
 —Religion (1976)

abingdon

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jects—politics, charity, arts. Go to work for and learn at his feet—and so on. This might have been a practical manual in the go-go conglomerate years of the 1960s, but today it's whimsy. [January]

MORTAL LESSONS:

Notes on the Art of Surgery. Richard Selzer. Simon and Schuster, \$7.95 ISBN 0-671-22356-9

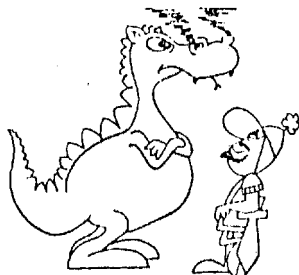
In this strange and remarkable book, Richard Selzer, a surgeon at Yale Medical Center, juxtaposes reflection with information, anatomy with literature, horror with humor and surgery with poetry (just occasionally marred by whimsy), all in language that's as sharp as a scalpel. He takes us into the operating room and into the patient's very innards; talks beguilingly about bones, liver, kidneys, skin and other parts of the body (skipping those much-touted organs the brain and the heart); and provides essays on baldness, smoking, Chinese acupuncture and abortion, as well as some lighter pieces on his youth in Troy, New York. He ends, not as inappropriately as might seem, with a charming piece on birdwatching. Even Selzer's grisliest anecdotes are transformed in the telling by his belief that the surgeon's function overlaps those of the poet and the priest. Old drawings. [January]

BLYE, PRIVATE EYE:

The Real World of the Private Detective. Nicholas Pileggi. Playboy Press, \$8.95 ISBN 0-87223-475-4

This slice of life is an honest picture of what a private detective's work is all about; it is revealing and fascinating. Irwin Blye has been a private investigator for 20 years in and around New York, and he is a good one. His job consists not of chasing Maltese falcons for sexy blondes, but of helping lawyers shepherd people through a system that is bureaucratized, bungling and indifferent. Here we follow him as he works on three cases: looking up wit-

Perform a
death-defying act.



Stop smoking.

Give Heart Fund
American Heart Association

nesses for a man caused in a South
ascertain her husband's income in case
there is a divorce, and working on an
instance of a landlord's negligence. The
rape case has an outcome, but the other
two trail off, leaving loose ends. It all
has the ring of truth and Pileggi does an
admirable job of telling the story. [January]

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM

AND THE BAT: Baseball Samurai Style. Robert Whiting. Dodd, Mead, \$10 ISBN 0-396-07317-4

American baseball fans will find this book irresistible. Whiting has done an outstanding job of showing how the Japanese national character has shaped the diamond game in that country. In spring training, players are put through a regimen that would make a chain gang seem like a vacation. Throughout the 130-game season the two six-team major leagues demand from their team members a combination of "fighting spirit" (which does not include aggressive baserunning or beanball pitches) and traditional respect for authority figures (apologies to coaches, managers and fans are commonplace). *Besuboru* is truly the Japanese national game, with several daily papers devoted exclusively to it and the TV networks saturated with it. Of course the nation looks forward to the day of victory over the U.S. in a true World Series. Photos. [January]

MIND-REACH: Scientists

Look at Psychic Ability. Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff. Delacorte Press (An Eleanor Friede Book), \$8.95 ISBN 0-440-05688-7

In a no-nonsense report to which Margaret Mead has lent her scientific imprimatur with a brief introduction, physicists Targ and Puthoff describe a series of parapsychology experiments as dramatic as any ever undertaken. That these experiments, conducted at Stanford Research Institute, have generated much publicity is partly due to the participation of psychic wizards Uri Geller and Ingo Swann. Yet most of the participants were ordinary people who were presumably able to accurately describe "target drawings" hidden from view as well as distant geographical sites. The authors furnish transcripts of the experiments, hints for would-be "remote viewers" and one or two new hypotheses. Most striking are the photographs of the "targets" juxtaposed with the volunteers' sketches so that readers can form their own opinion. Index, etc. [January]

THE IRRATIONAL SEASON.

Madeleine L'Engle. Crossroads/Scabury Press, \$8.95 ISBN 0-8164-0324-4
It's hard to imagine readers failing to get a spiritual lift from L'Engle's new

offering, no matter what their faith or lack of it. With the thrust behind the women's movement, the book is especially valuable, for it's an exploration of L'Engle's life as a professional woman, wife, mother and grandmother. Combining anecdotes, poetry and a discussion of human relationships, the text is infused with feelings humorous and sad—sometimes tragic. Mostly the author reaffirms her commitment to Christianity, a faith which has frequently been weakened by doubts for solid reasons, not all personal. In fact, the most compelling parts of this sensitive book describe the author's periods of atheism and her fight to recover from "cold isolation," the terror of believing in nothing. *Seabury's Lenten selection for 1977.* [January]

HONEY: The Life

and Loves of Lenny's Shady Lady. Honey Bruce with Dana Benenson. Playboy Press, \$8.95 ISBN 0-87223-435-3

Most readers won't know whether to applaud the candor of this "true confession" of the woman who was Lenny Bruce's wife or be turned off by its emphasis on matters sexual with every *i* dotted and every *t* crossed. Those whom it does not affect violently one way or the other will find it the story of a lower middle-class girl who became a stripper, thought she had found love in a lesbian affair and then met and married the rising young comedian who later became so controversial. The sections dealing with Honey's show business career are so jejune that they sound like parody; the passages dealing with Lenny and their stormy, drug-obsessed life together are always interesting and at times absorbing. Most affecting is the picture of Bruce after his busts for obscenity had started—a paranoid, monomaniacal, frenetic wreck. [January]

WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE:

The Life of Abraham Lincoln. Stephen B. Oates. Harper & Row, \$15.95 ISBN 0-06-013283-3

The blurb for Oates's highly readable, dramatic life of President Lincoln suggests that it's an exposé of the "real" Lincoln which emphasizes his disdain for parental background, lust for political power, etc. Such points are made only fleetingly as the author is swept along by the tide of epic events which tried and tested Lincoln and bore him to glory. This book has the appeal of a good novel with no distracting footnotes. But it's clear from an appendage of notes at the end that Oates has studied all sources—the flood of biographies and memoirs on the Civil War president with which his book will be inevitably compared. Oates has done an admirable job with this portrayal of Lincoln's life and character, the con-

Newsweek

From
CHARLES PANATI

Dear Hal and Russ,

I just finished your book and think it is wonderful. Beautifully done.

I'm filled with curiosity to see how it is received--what with the impressive data, the sober presentation, the introduction by Margaret Mead, everything-- I particularly liked the chapter on the "Loyal Opposition." You put the facts straight and put everyone in his place-- all the while be level-headed and gentlemanly (more that can be said for the Loyal Opposition).

Thank you for mentioning the Geller Papers. I regard it an honor to have my name in your book. I wish you more than luck, you both deserve it.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Charles

...me movement, some institu-
...viewed by those excluded from
...confident, enlightened, sensi-
...class liberalism, like that sus-
...and controlling this book, has
...been as nothing less than a move-
...institution—perhaps a com-
...movement at that.

...the point of largest substance
...restorations is the thing posi-
...dedded, present now, absent be-
...that which forces, by its star-
...presence, a reconsideration of
...and where you are. In letters
...an authority that depends alto-
...upon inwardness with the
...character of the times, that can
...without winking, say—as a cur-
...fashionable novel speaks—of
...as "the most profound moral
...of our time." There's another
...ity derived from an instinct for
...tioning; in its books, regardless
...times, sanity is a rule not an
...and shamelessness invariably
...ned shame. "Responses" recov-
...outline of the latter kind of
...ity, and it is, to repeat, a cleans-
...ght. ■

...in 1911 (at the age of 48) when
...nsformed the literal Alexandrian
...of his poems into a "metaphor-
...," Keeley traces the evolution
...poet's mythic model through
...gressive stages as "sensual city"
...mythical Alexandria," which in-
...xpands to embrace the entire
...l of Hellenism"; from there the
...nally attains a "universal per-
...ve." Fortunately, Keeley under-
...that what the critic reads as
...sal qualities are less than con-
...ly wrought by poets, and his
...chapter shows how the detached
...vision of some of the late poems
...springs out of, is possible only
...e of, the poet's meticulous and
...nt working-out of his personal
...cal structure. The complex and
...nd integrity of Cavafy's model,
...st produced by a modern poet,
...ealed by the demonstration of
...t that each of its phases is sub-
...in its successors. Thus Keeley
...y shows how the eroticism of
...ems of the "sensual city" not
...xists on the two planes of the
...t and modern worlds where
...parallelism denotes the continui-
...hedonistic ethic and the radical-
...erent social status of its practi-
...s, but that it also joins with his
...major themes to contribute to
...s final vision of the human
...n under the aspect of eternity,
...lebrate it still for the passions
...l, even as one sees the death
...s." ■



The Mind Field

By Robert E. Ornstein.
128 pp. New York: Grossman/Viking.
\$6.95.

By JEFFREY KLEIN

Laughs come easy nowadays to those who never believed in the human potential movement. Most students of higher consciousness have either become zombies in some corporate growth enterprise or themselves joined the ranks of the disillusioned. As with American political radicalism, it is extremely difficult to maintain a responsible, forward course. Teachers, like Robert Ornstein, who pointed out the limits of the Western mind, have been outflanked by cultists of all stripes, united only by their mindlessness. It is thus understandable why "The Mind Field" is inspired by utter dismay.

Professor Ornstein wants "to separate the current lofty metaphysical inflation, the goofiness, the outright lies, and the commercialism from the real possibility and discipline." Although he speaks from the platform of academic psychology, he is not addressing just his colleagues. The bogus scientific "validations" of Transcendental Meditation upset him both because they are professionally sloppy and because they obscure the purpose of spiritual pursuits.

While Ornstein admits TM may have some beneficial relaxing effects, nothing angers him more than the use of the esoteric tradition as a form of psychotherapy. He believes that Freudian hydraulics are not only a poor explanation of human problems, but that attention to personal problems now leads us off the main evolutionary track. "In an undegenerated esoteric tradition, the ordinary self is not to

Jeffrey Klein is an editor of Mother Jones, a new national monthly of politics and the arts.

affirmed, or even 'observed,' but merely set aside as an unreliable judge of

While each of "The Mind Field" critiques—of secret Gurdjieff groups, mystical sport centers, Carlos Castaneda, Uri Geller—is sensible, the continual scolding tone becomes unpleasant. The sighs of dismay breathing throughout this book collect into a whine. Eventually Professor Ornstein presents his choice of an esoteric psychology for all seasons: contemporary Sufism. "The Mind Field's" final section is a guided reading of 11 Sufi tales selected from the recent anthologies of Indries Shah.

Yet for all Professor Ornstein's talk about intuitive wholistic understanding, his map of the mind field is surprisingly flat: it lacks any political dimension. He never considers that there could be reasons particular to America why our psychological explorations become desperate personal quests or become reified into "consciousness" for conspicuous consumption. The frustrated yearnings for community behind such quests are never examined. Ornstein writes: "It is an unfortunate accident of the 20th-century that those most interested in personal knowledge and in an extended conception of man tend to be those least suited to gaining or using them." An unfortunate accident? Instead of analyzing why we produce timid professionals on the one hand and unprincipled quacks on the other, Professor Ornstein seems content to scold.

On the West Coast at least, Robert Ornstein is justly well-known for experiments which show that intuition or "right brain thinking" probably has a physiological basis. Because he is a respectable scientist, he has been looked to by many as a consciousness expert. "The Mind Field" seems born out of too many lecture tours, too many dinners and symposia and parties full of curious strangers. It is as if, having been asked the same grand questions too often, Professor Ornstein finally lost his temper and said: "All right, you want to know what I think of all these damn movements, well let me tell you. . . ."

How-not-to guides rarely help beginners. Those readers who are just now becoming curious about Yoga, Zen, biofeedback, parapsychology and the like would be better off turning to Ornstein's earlier book, "The Psychology of Consciousness." It is a comprehensive and often graceful introduction to esoteric psychology. Those readers who already appreciate the esoteric tradition will have to look beyond "The Mind Field" for mature leadership. As yet we do not have a contemporary American "Guide for the Perplexed." ■