

THE GIFT OF WATER FINDING

BY

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Many people are apt to look upon water finding as a very simple thing and only suitable for, say, a small cottage or country residence ; but I have discovered springs of water capable of yielding 40,000 gallons per hour, and this supply has been obtained in several cases.

Almost at the beginning of my official career, I carried out numerous experiments for the late Sir William Barrett, Professor of Physics at the Royal College of Science, Dublin. Sir William at the time was preparing a lecture on the so-called 'Divining-Rod' for delivery at the Royal Albert Hall in connexion with the Physical Research Society.

At that time many theories held the field as to why only one person among thousands should possess such a unique gift, or even why such a gift existed at all. One of these theories was called the 'Psycho-Physical' involving a power unconsciously conveyed to the brain of the water finder, he, being a shrewd, cunning sort of a man, would keep a sharp eye on the ground as he was walking over it, would notice a low place where the grass was greener than in any other part of the field, and when approaching this spot his twig would turn in answer to this unconscious power from his brain.

What about the finding of water in cities and towns like Birmingham, Wakefield and Barnsley? There are no green spots there or low places in streets and works. Another explanation was 'thought transference'. I went to Cheltenham to prove if this theory was correct or not. As a matter of fact the power of water finding does not affect the head in the least. It comes up through the feet, legs and back, over the shoulders, down the arms on to the twig ; and the negative and the positive meeting at the apex of the twig cause it to rise in the hands and revolve over and over, when over the head of the spring. If rubber shoes are worn, or even if the twig is split through the apex and securely bound with twine, the rod ceases to act, which seems to prove that the power is natural electricity.

No one has yet been able to overthrow my theory or replace it with anything better. Facts are stubborn things and one ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory ; and so long as abundant supplies of pure spring water are produced by this method, the theory is of but secondary importance. I have discovered hundreds of springs of water in places most unlikely from outside observation, and in districts where nothing but impure land soakage and surface water existed, and where duckweed had to be swept back on ponds before dipping in pails, no other water being available. During the extreme drought in the year 1887, I discovered a spring in the middle of a large arable field at only 6 feet depth from the surface ; now there are three feet of water in a reservoir of 12 feet diameter, and this spring supplied the need of the neighbourhood during the drought.

Great anxiety is felt in time of drought throughout England generally. It is a problem that becomes more acute every year. Springs of water underground have often connected with each other by subterranean water courses, and it is obvious that the more springs are tapped and drawn from, the more supplies tend to weaken, unless supplemented by snow or rainfall. A very curious incident happened recently at one of the English towns situated in a valley.

The streets had been flooded for a considerable time. Previous to this I had an engagement in the suburbs of this town to discover a water supply for a country residence and an open-air swimming bath 15 yards long, 6 yards wide and 9 feet deep. I was successful in finding a very strong spring which I estimated at 40 feet deep and yielding 5,000 gallons per day, at the foot of a plantation near a high hill. A well was sunk and water obtained at 30 feet deep, and to obtain the full supply the sinking was continued to 40 feet deep. The swimming bath had been constructed previously and everything was in perfect order, when quite suddenly, to the surprise of everyone, the water disappeared.

Having a second engagement to advise for a water supply at an adjoining village some little time afterwards, I visited and made a second test to ascertain the cause of this sudden disappearance of water and to my astonishment my rod was absolutely motionless where it had previously turned with such vigour and speed. I was dumbfounded. I determined if possible to find out the cause of this catastrophe. After a very careful search of the neighbourhood I found that several other supplies had vanished, and that Nature in one of her less kindly moods had allowed various springs to have their liberty by diverting the watercourses.

There are interesting points in connection with the subject of water finding that it may be useful to mention. This art is apparently confined to only a few though I believe the number is by no means as limited as is supposed. I have tested hundreds of persons of various ages and positions in life, but only in two instances have I found anyone who possessed the gift with sufficient confidence to be able to utilise it with any degree of success. It is true that water finders are born, not made. It is not a gift that can be acquired, or a profession that can be taught.

A very common feature in connection with this gift is the discomfiture experienced when close to a dynamo or electric light station, unless one is properly insulated. The body is like a battery, easily becoming charged with the current; then the only thing to do is to take a long brisk walk for relief. It is also advisable to have some occupation consisting of both physical and mental exercise to counteract the exhausting effects of being overwrought.

There is no magic or suggestion of charlatanism in the method of water finding. The operator is the instrument or receiver that responds or accepts the force generated in the earth by the underground springs. A portion of the power present in the running water underground is converted into a form of energy that has hitherto been unknown, but which possesses some of the properties of the other physical forces and responds to some of their laws. The principal property it possesses is that of stimulating

the nerves controlling the vital parts of the body in similar fashion to the tuning up and tautening of the strings of a harp or violin ; this causes certain movements, which are rendered visible by the V-shaped forked twig that has become so closely associated with the operations of water finding.

Thus the white thorn and hazel are chosen because of their reliability as an indicator, showing clearly and unmistakably the presence of the energy transformed by the working of the forces it is obeying, from the running water underneath. Some waterfinders in the past have used steel clock and watch springs in their operations, but I consider that these springs, being highly magnetic, tend to give incorrect estimates as to the depth and yield of water. I remember in one of my experiments using a long piece of copper wire, so long as the apex of the wire touched the ground at the head of the spring, and whilst the two ends of the wire were in my hands in the same way as I hold the Divining Rod my hand became hot and blistered badly ; so I ceased further experimenting on these lines.

In the Madras Forest College Magazine from the Statesman.

BORE-HOLE LATRINES

The *Madras Panchayat Bulletin* for October 1929 contains a note, on the relative merits of the different types of latrines and disposal of night-soil, which will be of interest to agriculturists and the general public :

The Registrar-General of Panchayats paid a visit to Madura and inspected the various types of latrines which have been constructed at Usilampatti and also the ' bore-hole ' and ' trench ' latrines in eight other places. The following types of latrines have been experimented with at Usilampatti :

- (1) Septic tank costing about Rs 2,000 ;
- (2) Sanded or dry-earth latrines ;
- (3) Deep trench latrines ; and
- (4) Bore-hole latrines.

In other villages, bore-hole and trench latrines have been experimented with.

2. A septic tank latrine with an impermeable cemented tank and a man-hole outside through which the faecal matter can be removed was found very satisfactory as regards cleanliness and freedom from odour. But it is costly and requires a permanent staff of *thotties* of a class who will handle night-soil to attend to it at regular intervals. It would be suitable for large unions and municipalities who can afford the initial cost and procure the necessary staff.

3. The dry-earth latrines which have been experimented with in the market are better than the ordinary open latrines so prevalent in unions and municipalities but require practically as much attention as removable bucket latrines and have the disadvantage that faecal matter lies exposed to flies.