

Hello there!

Well, here we are with that letter you have been waiting for. All you have to do is read and understand it to be one step ahead of me - I've only read it.

One of Ron Hubbard's glib ideas that means too much to some people deals with the utter uselessness of "authority" as a reference. As some of his followers would interpret this, one should completely avoid information not gathered by personal observation of physical phenomena. To most of us, personal observation with no pertinent background data to aid interpretation is just as apt to lead to false conclusions as is blind acceptance of someone's statement. Further, with a, so far, limited lifetime, we cannot personally check all the data we need to use. We must learn how to evaluate for use data presented by others. A factor frequently of help in this regard is some knowledge of the background of the person making the statement. All this is a brief introduction to my favorite subject - ME.

Born in New York City too many years ago, I early convinced my parents that I was a budding genius. Unfortunately, the bud has not yet matured, but with dianetics there still is hope. Georgia Tech provided a degree in Chemical Engineering while the depression provided seven years experience in running a farm. For some eleven years I have been with duPont; the last five in charge of a group of methods engineers. Our job includes developing, evaluating and selling new ideas to operators, supervision and management of one of duPont's largest plants. I have been interested in dianetics since the appearance of the original article in ASF, but I have done relatively little auditing myself. So much for me.

As a sponsor of new ideas, I have been appalled at the lack of acceptance of dianetics during its 30 months life. For various comments in the dianetic press, it would seem that many feel that something isn't "clicking" in the field. So far no one seems to have studied the problem of selling dianetics. Instead we have spent our time berating the general public for their indifference and lambasting fellow dianeticists for their inability to recognize "Technique X" as the final word. Since it is apparent that the mountain is not coming to Mohammed, let us see what obstacles are in the way.

The scope of dianetics is tremendous. Perhaps that is part of the problem. Newton's law of gravitation is understood, at least in general, by most people. Einstein's theory of relativity is not incomprehensible to an intelligent adult who takes the time to examine it. But how many understand Einstein's general field theory? Yet the former are just facets of the bigger whole. In the same way dianetics encompasses such separate fields as:

1. Increasing the reasoning ability of intelligent preclears.
2. Alleviating psychosomatic illnesses.
3. Relieving neurotic worries.
4. Straightening out psychoses.

The preclears vary in age from six to sixty and beyond. They cover a wide range of available mental power and have an infinite variety of data in the memory banks of more or less doubtful reliability. And what is more baffling to an auditor, they run the gauntlet from antagonism thru indifference to full cooperation. One theory may well cover all limitations on the inherent abilities of the mind, but short of "Psycholytics" no one technique seems to open every case.

To a large measure public indifference is due to the curial nature of publicized dianetics. While some of us may secretly buy Sitting Bull's Genuine Indian Snake Oil to use on our dandruff and athlete's foot, we tend to shy away from extravagant claims that offer more than we have found reasonable to expect in one package. As dianeticists we can ignore this common datum or we can take it into account. I for one find no fun in consciously emulating a billygoat. I say let us reduce the size of our bargain to where people will believe in it. Let us, for example, take some item where dianetics works in a manner that is easy to measure and compile the data necessary to sell this one point to that portion of the public that may be interested. Then take another item and get another segment of the public sold and so on. For the same amount of energy a searchlight can be seen further than a floodlight.

One of the most common ailments said to be at least partly psychosomatic is poor vision. It is also one of the easiest physical troubles to measure, and cures are immediately noticed by the patients friends. I would like to hear of cases of poor vision that have been helped by dianetics. Send in your data. Ask your friends to send in data regarding cases of which they know. A number of cases where auditing resulted in better eyesight would serve as a selling point to anyone who wears glasses. I'll summarize what you send along. How about it?

As of this writing I have received the communiques of Messrs. Fortune Calkins and Hand. While it may not be creative, it is fun to criticize (my apologies, Harry) so here goes. Re Fortune; I doubt that it is necessary to completely refrain from critical examination of what is being said in order to be creative while writing. As I write reports I find myself measuring my words to see if they fit the audience I have in mind. Obviously, before this point I have gathered my data and have done the creative job of reaching a conclusion, but I believe the job of composing the final report is also creative. For the most part I am critical enough of my writing as I write so that I do not have to make extensive revisions. Of course the main problem is the third step "allowing a free flow of ideas to come", and if someone will come forth with some specific comments and techniques on this point, I'll see if they make sense to a group of engineers whom I hope are writing non-fiction in their reports.

Just a few words about Ed's missive. Item 3: how do you proceed when the best available solution to the present time problem does not seem to be good enough, and time marches on? With some problems the solutions seem to be like the rainbow's pot of gold - always in sight but never quite at hand. And after a while this gets discouraging.

E. P. Pope

3.

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There doesn't seem much to say about Fred's work with the skin galvanometer. I question if such a tool is much help to an Auditor who has time to really build ARC with his preclear, but we don't always have enough time. I am glad to see that some checking is being done and that this is one item that is not being accepted on the basis of authority.

On glancing back I find that this missile has had a slight tendency to wander. In fact it brings forth:

A flea will jump from spot to spot
While where he lands he careth not.
Just like the flea I'm want to say,
Here tomorrow, gone today.

If you don't burn my letters unread in the future, then your woes are on your own head. You can't say I didn't warn you - and MY data IS reliable.



Ernest P. Pope
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P.S.

I trust the tone of this letter has not seriously hurt someone's dignity. If it has, let me know and I'll send you some of mine as I have little use for it. Uh, uh. I feel another poem coming on.

Some think this world's a serious place,
And so they run and hide their face
From any thought of joy or fun.
Ere it begins, their life is gone.

'S'muff

P.P.S.

Next time I'll have a word about Analytical Procedure with particular reference to Negative Processing and SET Point Processing.