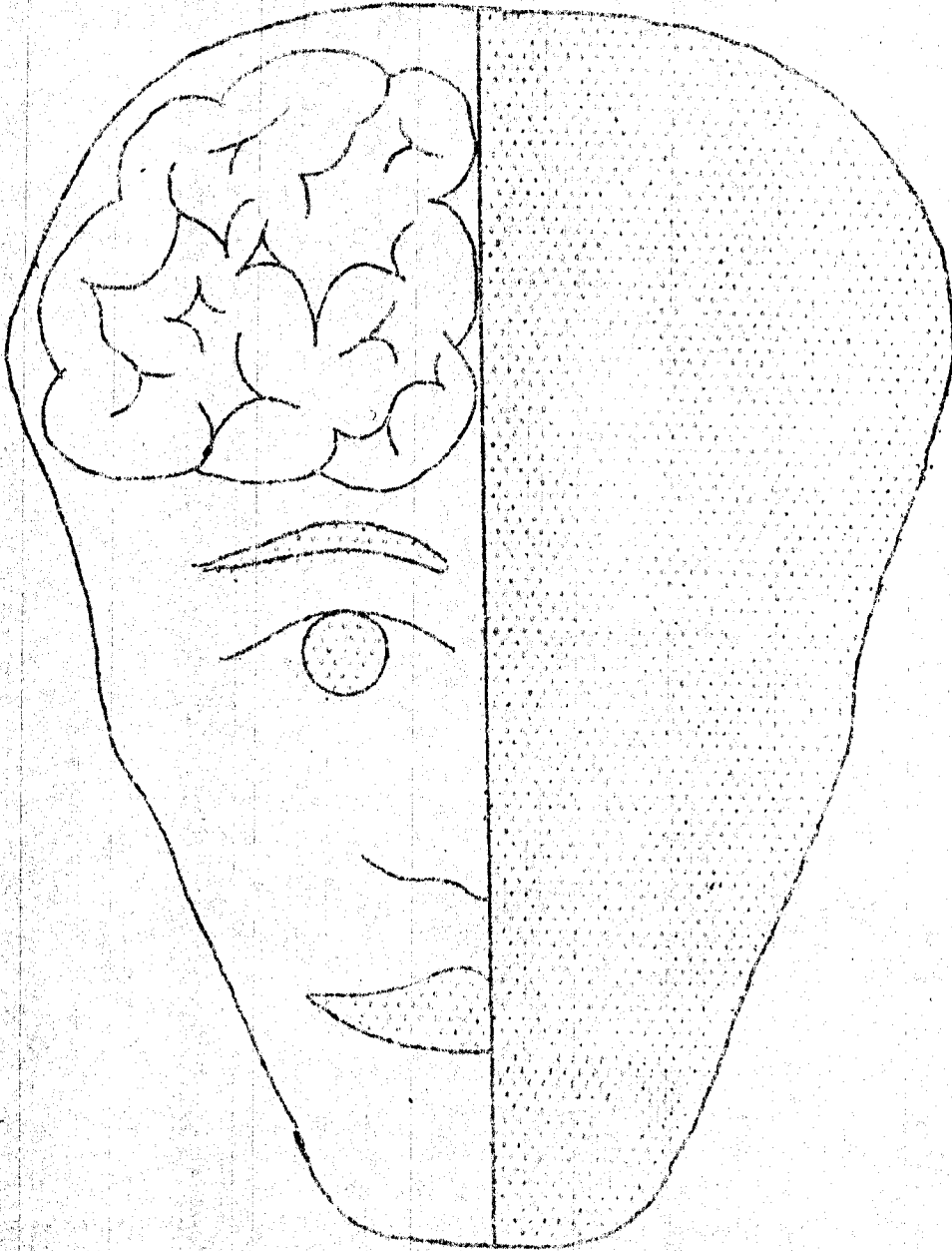


DIANETIC & SCIENTOLOGY SOCIETY
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

The
DIANEWS



THE DIANEWS

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HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE RIGHT?

I like Dianetics. I think it is a fine thing. And I am sure I am right in so thinking.

My friend doesn't like Dianetics. He thinks it is at best nonsense, at worst dangerous. He is certain he is right about it.

Another friend likes Dianetics, his version, objects to Hubbard as a person, and to the Foundation as being too authoritarian. Still another thinks Hubbard is about the smartest man ever born, and the Foundation beyond criticism. And both are sure they are right.

If we were all really correct in our opinions, we would all have the same opinion, for we are all considering the same reality. But even in considering this fact, we are all still sure that the answer everyone would have is our own answer--everyone but us would have to change his mind.

This curious conviction of correctness seems to be a universal human phenomenon--even the person who is neurotically sure he is always wrong is certain he is right in thinking he is always wrong! Hubbard recognized and described it, saying that the analyzer not only calculates correctly, even though faulty data may cause it to give wrong answers, but is conscious that it calculates correctly, hence "knows" its answers "must" be correct. The analyzer's mistake, like all its other mistakes, comes from not knowing about the wrong data which it, willy-nilly, is using.

We dianeticists, having learned about engrams, know that all of us, as aberrees, have wrong

data constantly being forced, unknown to ourselves, upon our own analyzers. We don't know when this happens or what the particular wrong data are, but we know it happens. We know, therefore, that the chances of our being often wrong, due to this wrong engramic data, are pretty good. So, to be wise, we ought to discount our feeling of being right, and apply a few checks to make objectively sure we are.

What kind of checks can we apply? Well, here are a few I've worked out for myself. Due to my own unrecognized aberrations, some of these checks may not be valid, and there may be others which I have not thought of which might work better. Can you improve on the following:

First, what kind of an emotional reaction do I have to a contradiction of my ideas? Do I take it calmly, or do I get all upset and excited? If I take it calmly, is this a matter it is reasonable to be calm about, or does it call for some emotion? If I get excited, is it reasonable to get excited about this, or is my reaction out of proportion to the situation?

In general, am I given to emotional reactions about my ideas which are way out of proportion to the situation, or do I have a reasonable reaction about them?

How do I feel about people who disagree with me? Do I feel that it is okay for them to hold their own opinions, or am I very annoyed with them and given to calling them names?

HOW DO WE KNOW
WE'RE RIGHT (CONT.)

Am I convinced that my ideas are absolutely right, and that there is no other possible answer, or do I recognize that both I and others may be partly right, and probably none of us are 100% right?

Am I afraid to discuss my ideas with others for fear I might have to change my mind, or do I turn discussions into one-man lectures, not listening to the other fellow at all; or do I listen to others receptively and make an effort to see their point of view?

On the other hand, do I switch opinions every time I hear a new argument, being always most influenced by the last argument I heard, instead of being reasonably consistent in my thinking?

Are my ideas on a given subject extreme or moderate?

Do I agree with those who have much more experience in a particular field than I, or do I sharply disagree with them, stacking up my opinions against their experience?

Do I agree with the majority, or do I find myself in a very small minority? (This has a limited validity, inasmuch as the discoverer must always be in a minority at first. But am I sure I am really a discoverer, or merely an exhumers of a notion already dead and buried?)

I do not ask myself if I have good reasons for my opinion. The analyzer can dig up "good" reasons for any opinion, no matter how aberrated. Ask a man who denies the world is round why he thinks it is flat, and he might come close to convincing even you.

This is not to say, even so, that your opinion is wrong if you come out on the unfavorable side of the above checks. But it might indicate that you had engramic reasons instead of rational ones for thinking as you do; which would indicate at the least the wisdom of avoiding dogmatism. Even

if one is certainly right, it is always easier on the other fellow's reality, anyhow, to say, "This is how I look at it," not, "What I tell you are the facts and you are all wrong if you don't agree with me!"

RESEARCH & THE FOUNDATION---II

In Volume I, #7 of the Dianews, I made statements to the effect that the Foundation is best fitted to do research and has in fact done a great deal of it. In the same issue, under the heading, "Group Activities", I reported on a proposal by the Valley Dianetic Association of N.J. for farming out research among amateurs and HDAs everywhere, and stated that we could not endorse it. This has led to the following interesting correspondence:

"Dear Mr. & Mrs. Forbes;

Thank you for the complimentary copy of the 'Dianews'. Enclosed is my check for a year's subscription, starting with the first issues when they are available.

Being high enough on the tone scale to quickly run out the lock caused by your comments on the suggestion made by our group for the advancement of research, let me repeat again the statement that the Foundation has been utterly lax in that field. Except for the work done by I, Ron Hubbard, what else can be said has been done by the Foundation, except the arbitrary authoritative action which has condemned such worthwhile work as has been done by Dianetic Consultants, Fischer, Naylor and the Sylvains. If we had to wait for the Foundation to research these theories they would never become available. When the Foundation reaches a high enough tone level it will be very gratifying to have research done thru that channel alone, but until such time, Hubbard and others really interested will have to carry the burden.

FOUNDATION RESEARCH (CONT.)

"Best wishes for continued success in your publishing endeavors.

A. Lindsay Mouna very truly,
108 Belmont Ave. Lindsay, HDA
"Editor for the NDA"

"Dear Mrs Lindsay,
Thanks for your letter, and your subscription to the Dianews. Both are much appreciated.

Glad my remarks weren't too much of a break. I regret the occasional times when I feel compelled to make adverse remarks in the Dianews about this or that, but after all one can't agree with everything and still retain convictions of one's own. If I don't hear differently from you, I plan to quote your letter to Waldo Boyd, Director of Publications at the Foundation, and ask him if he cares to comment on it for publication. This is a matter which requires more information than I have personally. Also I think the readers would be most interested in both your and Mr. Boyd's remarks.

Thanks again.
Dianetically yours,
Mary Eleanor Forbes"

"Dear Mr. Boyd:
In issue #7 of the Dianews I commented adversely on the proposal of A. V. Lindsay, of the Valley Dianetic Association of New Jersey, for setting up an amateur research organization in Dianetics independent of the Foundation.

I received a letter from him in rebuttal, and would like to have your comments, for the benefit of our readers, on the following quote therefrom:

(Paragraph beginning 'Being high enough' and ending 'carry the burden'.)"

If possible I would like to have a certain amount of facts and figures as well as general state-

ments on the subject. Number of case histories accumulated, what work has been done on E-therapy and by whom, etc., etc., are samples of what would be desirable.

Hope to hear from you as soon as convenient.

Dianetically yours,
Mary Eleanor Forbes
Editor, The Dianews"

THE ANSWER

"Dear Editor, The Dianews:
In answer to your letter of September 30, 1951:

The assumption seems to be made that Hubbard has been doing research in Dianetics, but the Foundation has done nothing. To separate the two is an impossibility. Hubbard works with the Foundation Staff in evaluating and elaborating new techniques and theories. The Foundation staff gives new ideas a pragmatic check before they are released to the field and they are valid and workable and not dangerous when they are released.

The Foundation is now releasing Effort-Processing, for example. It has been tested by 23 auditors on 78 cases and has produced specific results with all but one (a psychotic). How many other techniques have this much background before release?

Since the Conference in June, Hubbard and the Foundation have produced Validation technique, MEST processing, and Effort-Processing. With the techniques that are now tried and tested we can handle any case easily with standard procedure and we can secure at least a remission in any specific chronic somatic in a matter of hours. This, I submit, is not a bad record for three month's progress in the field of research.

Work was done on E-therapy in November & December of 1950, and for the two months following

FOUNDATION RESEARCH (CONT.)

of 1951. From this the technique of Chain Scanning was developed, as explained in "SCIENCE OF SURVIVAL". The original and second paper on E-therapy is being printed in the supplement to the new book, for dissemination to all who care to read. This will give it a readership of at least 20,000. The Foundation has tested the theory to its satisfaction, found it wanting, and has placed its attention on more immediate problems and research.

Sincerely hope this will serve your purpose.

Best of luck,
Waldo T. Boyd, Director
Publications Department

Thank you very much, Mr. Boyd. This clear and forthright statement should go far to clarify matters.

How about it, readers? Do you find Mr. Boyd's letter a satisfactory answer, or are there points you still want cleared up? Let us know what you think about it.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Mrs., Forbes,
I wish to thank you for the complimentary copy of the Dianews which you sent me.

Would the enclosed papers (though variously reprinted) be acceptable in exchange for a subscription?

I hope soon to be publishing an off-set printed booklet of about 60 pages incorporating the following:

The Mechanism of Life, A Scientific Synthesis (a paper now echoing thru Cal. Tech.)

Dianetics: A Scientific Restatement and Summary of Logic (still being requested)

The Mechanism of "Integration"
--A Molecular-Cellular Attack (re-

volutionary) (!) Health, Happiness and the Yawn and Yoga, etc., etc. The Atomic Roots of the Dianetic Revolution

Dianetics in Pictures. A picture chart showing mechanisms. Auto-Dianetics--Simple But Slower. A home technique.

The Buddha's Dianetics 2,500 Years Ago. (interesting for comparison)

And maybe other bits of my book draft.

But this depends on getting enough paid-in-advance orders to raise the capital. At \$1.50 (later price will be \$2.00) that should be a fair bargain--especially as the first paper alone threatens to be a "collector's item"--for groups ordering 10 or more. I'll need about \$200 to get the presses rolling.

Do you suppose your readers might be interested?

With best regards,

Dwight H. Bulkeley
350 So. Mills Ave.
Claremont,, Calif.

The proposed booklet sounds most interesting. It should be noted, however, for those who wish to play safe, that we do not know how closely Mr. Bulkeley's conception of Dianetics corresponds to Foundation-approved theory and technique, especially in regard to "Auto-Dianetics". Otherwise, to judge from the high caliber of what we have read so far, this booklet should be worth getting, though possibly in spots a bit over the heads of people without a technical training (like myself!).

Also, the price quoted is for group orders of 10 or more. Is there a price for individual orders, Mr. Bulkeley?

Does anyone know the home address of John W. Campbell, Jr.?

If anyone has had any experience with Dianetics which he would like to tell about, send it along!