

DECEMBER 8, 1963

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AUSTRALIANS LOOK INTO SCIENTOLOGY

Ask If Preclear and Entheta Constitute Medical Fraud

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Special to The New York Times

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec. 7—Can a preclear gain somatic release through enmeth, entheta, lock scanning, dubins and rock-slams?

A special board of inquiry appointed by the state of Victoria is looking into this and equally absorbing questions in its investigation of "scientology" that began here yesterday.

The board was named to investigate "very serious allegations" made in Victoria's Parliament about the practice of scientology here.

Among the charges was one by John Galbally, the Labor party floor leader, that scientologists are "a group of charlatans who for monetary gain, are exposing children of tender age, youths and adults to intimidation and bankruptcy."

According to the Australian continental headquarters of the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International, which has its office here, scientology is "the common people's science of life and betterment."

Help for a Preclear

More precisely, scientology helps a preclear ("one who is discovering things about himself and who is becoming clearer") to become a clear ("one who has straightened up this lifetime") through auditing sessions ("sessions given by a trained auditor who is governed by ethical codes and technical skill, who directs the preclear's attention to areas which, when examined by the preclear, will cause a release of sufficient charge to cause tone arm action, thus reaching the eventual state of clear").

The scientologist auditor uses a "electroencephaloneuromentiograph, familiarly known as an "E" meter. Mr. Galbally contends that an "E" meter can be made with two jam cans, a piece of wire and a battery.

The "E" meter would appear to be essentially a lie-detector, although Peter Williams, Australian continent director of scientology, maintains it is far more than that. He calls it a "truth detector."

He terms the recent charges "despicable and undemocratic" and says, "we simply try to improve people by raising their I, Q's and developing their personalities."

Scientologists elsewhere, however, have made much bolder claims. They contend scientology can cure up to 70 per cent of all illnesses, including arthritis, coronary diseases and radiation sickness.

Medical authorities here, including psychiatrists, have been disturbed by such claims, particularly when they are made in public advertisements.

Dr. Cunningham Dax, chairman of the Mental Hygiene Authority, has warned that such advertising could "result in schizophrenics failing to get treatment," in suicides and in "people with hysterical symptoms becoming extremely anxious."

Mr. Galbally goes even further. "There must be thousands of neurotics in Melbourne in desperate need of proper medical care who are seriously damaging their chances of recovery by associating with scientology," he said.

At the first session of the board of inquiry yesterday a boiler attendant testified he had organized a "College of Ability Development" here in 1960 after having studied briefly with the association.

Scientology was founded about 25 years ago by L. Ron Hubbard, an American magazine and film writer. In 1940 he organized the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International, which today operates from an old baronial mansion in Sussex, England, where he now lives.

From Saint Hill Manor the association sends literature to its offices in the United States, France, Germany and Australia.

Movement Has Branch Here

There are between 50,000 and 100,000 practicing scientologists in the United States, according to Harold DeFord, a minister of the Scientology Founding Church of New York, 200 West 24th Street. It is the official arm of the Hubbard movement in the New York area and has several hundred members here, according to Mr. DeFord.

The Scientology Center of New York, at 1345 Third Avenue, is franchised by Mr. Hubbard to help in research and give out information.