

**SCIENTOLOGY,
WHAT HAPPENED
TO DIANETICS?**

By John C. Piggott

Remember 1950? Truman was president, the North Koreans invaded the tiny Republic of South Korea, and ladies skirts were a fashionable ten inches below the knee.

In 1950 too, a book hit the bookshops — soared to the top of the best seller lists and stayed there. The book? *Dianetics — The Modern Science of Mental Health*, created a trend and almost a fad. Luminaries of the day hailed the book with its promise of freedom from the problems and crises that beset the human mind as the greatest advance in human study since Freud. Walter Winchell was quoted as saying that "*Dianetics is a milestone for man comparable to his discovery of fire, and superior to his inventions of the wheel and arch.*"

As is common with any sudden success, the "anti-group" vociferous and authoritarian proceeded into the picture and much of the subject matter became clouded by opinion and cabal. Dianetics however continued, here, in Europe and in other countries. It grew up, it expanded and is now an established subculture in today's society.

Known now as Scientology — the overall philosophy of which Dianetics is a small part — this philosophy and — in its original sense, religious epistemology stands firm in every continent, and the United States has offices in every state in the Union.

Locally, the Orange County center, with headquarters in Tustin, attracts over 100 people weekly, and provides full services to its membership.

People from all walks of life attend. I have talked to a Catholic priest, one of the two who have taken courses in Scientology, to better their ability to serve their flock. A local D.C. states that through his studies and application of the techniques, he can now handle the problems of his practice and his life

smoothly and effortlessly — his practice has grown and he himself is a changed being.

A young mother recounts how she now handles her children with understanding and firm control, yet never losing patience. A business man in charge of a sales organization points with pride at the graphs of his results — slumps have gone — personnel are producing more rapidly and more qualitatively with less waste. "I can now proceed and handle the posts of three men without loss in efficiency," he stated.

An anesthesiologist commented: "What you actually do, while not interfering in the field of medicine, makes much of the theory of medicine seem like something out of the dark ages."

A professional engineer, a school teacher, a college student all came up with basically the same statement "Scientology works — it enables me to increase my own ability and brings about a greater sense of freedom and responsibility."

Show business people too have gone into Scientology and increased their capacity — I found that two stars of this season's T.V. programing both were undergoing counseling and study, but unlike the Maharishi fad Scientology is somewhat loath to reveal these names as it could be taken as a "band wagon" parade.

I also found a couple of critics of Scientology too, but on investigation I discovered that one person had never had any personal contact — and the other had been asked to leave because they would not disconnect from drugs.

I also heard some wild rumors — they got wilder the further out from actual Scientology activity I went.

A "member of Military Intelligence" reported that the founder L. Ron Hubbard was anchored three miles off the California shores and was refused entry — potently untrue since he is an American citizen and is currently in European waters doing some oceanographic research.

There is also a rumor that "All American Scientologists have been thrown out of England." It turns out that an advanced school was opened in Edinburgh and many of the students who were in England went North — to Scotland.

Last week, I was at the Orange County Center. I saw for myself a group of people — enthusiastic — cheerful and sharing a greater understanding of life than I have seen in other groups.

What happened to Dianetics? — it grew up!



SCIENTOLOGY ORANGE COUNTY

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• ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS DIGEST

DIANETICS The Modern Science of Mental Health by L. Ron Hubbard Price \$1.25

A hefty volume for a paperback with a vivid purple exploding volcano, announcing the release, for the first time in paperback, of a book which has sold over a million copies in hard covers. The forward by J. A. Winter, M.D., states that "Dianetics will help a person eliminate psychosomatic illnesses and achieve at least one third more than the present capacity for work and happiness." And after reading the book, I must confess that if only half of what the book states is true this would be a vast understatement.

Dianetics, from the Greek: di-anoetikos; meaning 'through mind' is in fact a handbook containing all of the data necessary for the handling of interpersonal relations and the understanding of the mind. It takes the subject of the common man's everyday thoughts, anxieties and fears and leads him down through the hitherto impregnable fortress of the subconscious, only to discover that the demons which we fear are actually, simply, half seen and unseen memory recordings dating back even to the embryo period.

This prenatal memory, of course was frequently mentioned by Freud and others, but the Dianetic investigation goes further and discovers the prenatal 'engram'. An engram being 'a moment of pain and unconsciousness.'

The book written in a forth right style is both compelling and powerful. And I would strongly advise the reader to go several times over the preamble titled: "How to read this book."

Hubbard describes *Dianetics* as 'a voyage into Terra Incognita.' And certainly a person attempting to read this book without being willing to evaluate and if necessary, change certain fixed opinions about himself and his fellow would experience difficulty. But if the book is read to gain further enlightenment it becomes increasingly clear that a lot of man's physical and social ills are explained in this one small volume.

So we're left with the single question, "Has someone really figured us all out?" According to *Dianetics*, Modern Science of Mental Health, it would seem so.