

How profitable Scientology has become is one of the organization's most closely guarded secrets, but estimates of the personal worth of founder L. Ron Hubbard have ranged up to \$7 million. In 1963 the Internal Revenue Service claimed the church earned more than \$750,000 in the United States from 1955 through 1959, the year Hubbard moved international headquarters from Washington, D.C., to England. There, according to the Los Angeles Times, world receipts rose to \$140,000 weekly in 1968.

By RALPH LEE SMITH

In New York City, a seriously disturbed woman who was receiving psychotherapy heard about a wonderful new way to solve emotional problems. It was called Scientology.

"Step into the exciting world of the totally free!" Scientology leaflets read. "Scientology processing releases you smoothly and swiftly from the tensions, oppositions, frustrations and problems that sap your vigor and inhibit your abilities . . . Your gains will come quickly, easily."

The woman went to a Scientology center, was impressed by the sales pitch, signed a contract to be "processed," and informed her analyst that she was abandoning therapy.

"As you know," the enthusiastic new convert said, "Scientology and psychoanalysis don't mix."

In Washington, D.C., a man of modest means, living with his wife and family in a suburban home, fell under the Scientology spell. So far he has spent \$5,000 being processed.

"The only difference in him," observed a neighbor, "is that he has lost his sense of humor, constantly talks a language of gibberish that no one can understand, and is letting his family drift slowly into bankruptcy."

A Los Angeles housewife told a district attorney that she had spent \$4,000 on Scientology processing, on assurances that it would help her to overcome frigidity. The net result of her investment was that her husband divorced her.

Scientology is a cult which thrives on glowing promises that are heady stuff for the lonely, the weak, the confused, the ineffectual, and the mentally or emotionally ill. For a healthy fee, Scientology claims it can "help people do something about the upsets and travails of life. Hope and happiness can return again through Scientology."

Believers have established a firm foothold in the U.S. and in a number of

SCIENTOLOGY—Cult With Millions Of Followers Led by Man Who Claims He's Visited Heaven Twice



SCIENTOLOGY FOUNDER L. Ronald Hubbard uses cult's "electrometer" to find out if a tomato with a nail stuck in it feels pain.



DR. WILLIAM MENNINGER

Said that Scientology can do harm

officials testified that Hubbard entered school in 1930, took — and flunked — physics, was placed on probation after his first year, never returned after his second, and received no degree.

In the 1930's, Hubbard became a writer of science fiction and novels, using such hairy-chested pen names as Winchester Remington Colt.

In 1938, he finished the manuscript of a book called "Excalibur," containing the ideas that he later amplified into the concepts of Dianetics and Scientology.

In World War II he served in the Navy. After he left the service in 1947, he went back to work on his theories.

Dianetics, the fruit of his reflections, was given to the world in an article in the May 1950 issue of Astounding Science Fiction.

Soon thereafter he published a book entitled "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health," which became a surprise best seller. He subsequently made a few additions to his system and re-christened it Scientology, although the term Dianetics is still used.

His basic ideas are simple. The mind, he says, is divided into the analytical mind (which is similar to the conscious mind of psychology) and the reactive mind (which roughly corresponds to the unconscious). The analytical mind is rational; it perceives, reasons, figures things out.

The reactive mind, under certain stimuli, takes over, shorts out the analytical mind, and causes irrational behavior.

The object of Scientology is to bring the reactive mind under the full control of the analytical mind, thus achieving "total freedom" from nutty behavior.

A person who has achieved this state is called a "clear."

Hubbard, and Hubbard alone, has discovered how people can be "cleared." Scientology, and Scientology alone, is the avenue through which it can be accomplished.

According to Hubbard, the reactive mind stores "engrams." These are impressions made on the mind by an acute emotional shock or pain. When some incident in the present has elements that resemble some painful past experience, the appropriate engram is "keyed in." The reactive mind promptly takes charge of the person's behavior and causes him to act irrationally.

A third entity in the theory is called

(Continued on next page)

foreign countries. From its international headquarters in England, the organization oversees active groups in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

In this country, Scientology centers are operating in major cities including New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Detroit, Minneapolis, Miami, San Francisco, Seattle, Austin and Honolulu.

On street corners and college campuses, eager Scientologists press their literature into the hands of passersby. Widely advertised free lectures, films, and parties are given almost continuously at Scientology centers.

One Scientology source says that the cult is growing at the rate of 250 per-

cent a year in the U.S. Another enthusiast states that the total membership already is "in the millions."

Whatever the actual figures may be, it is clear that large numbers of persons are responding to Scientology's promise of a quick, easy road to mental and emotional health.

Unfortunately for many, the road may lead not to health, but to tragedy and disaster for themselves and their families.

The head of this activity is a solidly built, broad-faced, ruddy-complexioned American named L. (for Lafayette) Ron (for Ronald) Hubbard. Hubbard, 58, the inventor of Scientology and its predecessor, Dianetics, ruled over the world-wide organization until recently from Saint Hill, a magnificent 18th Century manor house near London. Now he keeps in touch with the group from his private yacht, which cruises endlessly in warm seas, since he "retired" in 1966 and sold the goodwill of his name to the movement for \$240,000.

Hubbard's smile, gentle voice, silken-gloved iron hand and easy assurance befits a man who claims that he has been up on the Van Allen radiation belts, has dropped in on the planet Venus and has visited heaven twice.

Hubbard was born in Tilden, Nebr., on March 13, 1911. Scientology literature claims that he graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering from George Washington University and was "trained as one of the first nuclear physicists."

In a tax case involving a Scientology center in Washington, D.C., university



MANSION at Saint Hill near London is headquarters and training center for Hubbard's world-wide Scientology organization.

ENQUIRER

NATIONAL ENQUIRER 9 NOV. 1969

(Continued from preceding page) the "thetan," which roughly corresponds to the spirit. A person's thetan, says Hubbard, is immortal, and has lived in countless bodies, human and animal, on this and other planets, since the beginning of time. In its wanderings, it has picked up engrams like barnacles. To be cleared, a person must be released, not only from engrams created by traumas in his own life, but from all the engrams that his thetan has picked up since time began.

A person who arrives on the doorstep of a Scientology center is called a "preclear."

Processing involves regular sessions with an instructor, known in Scientology as an "auditor." The preclear is quoted a blanket price for a series of sessions that will bring him up to certain specified levels, and he is required to sign a contract for the full amount. The price works out to about \$30 for each one-hour session. A course that will carry the person up through the first four stages of release costs about \$1,000. Completion of all courses and levels offered by Scientology costs several thousand dollars. Police records cite the case of one wealthy Floridian who spent some \$28,000 on Scientology processing.

From the time that the Astounding Science Fiction article appeared, disturbed persons have been beating a path to Hubbard's door to press their money into his willing hands. Few have heeded the warning of the American Psychological Assn. that Hubbard's claims are "not supported by empirical evidence." They ignore the statement by the late Dr. William Menninger, one of the founders of the famed Menninger Clinic of Topeka, Kans., that Hubbard's system and ideas "can potentially do a great deal of harm."

In 1955, Hubbard and his third wife, Mary Sue, set up the "Founding Church of Scientology" in Washington, D.C. Three-week intensive processing courses were offered for \$1,250.

In the four-year period from June 1955 to June 1959, the center brought in \$758,982. It denied that it owed any federal taxes on this amount since it was a church. The Internal Revenue Service began an investigation.

In March 1959, Ron and Mary Sue moved to England to preside over the expansion of Scientology from Saint Hill Manor.

What goes on in Scientology auditing sessions? Preclears won't tell you — they are forbidden to discuss their experience with anyone.

However, the procedures used in Scientology auditing are easily obtained without imperiling any preclears. Hubbard goes into them in detail in his books.

The first step is to get a preclear "securely under the auditor's command." The preclear is required to answer very simple questions over and over again, or is ordered to move a small object around a table, starting it, stopping it, and changing its direction at the auditor's command. These exercises are carried on until the preclear responds to all questions and commands "quickly and accurately and without protest."

The auditor then begins to ask certain rather oddly worded questions, such as "Tell me something real," or "Can you not-know something about that person?" Following this confusing concept of "not-knowing," the preclear is led to deny the existence of objects around him.

"The auditor should not be startled when, for the preclear, large chunks of the environment start to disappear," Hubbard advised his auditors.

This mind-numbing questioning is "continued for 25 hours or even 50 or 75 hours."

Instead of discussing present reality, the auditor wishes to push the preclear into a world of fantasy. To help him, he uses a device called an E-meter, which consists of a meter and knobs

mounted in a small housing. In the sessions, the auditor and preclear sit facing each other across a small table. The E-meter is placed on the table with its face visible to the auditor only. The preclear is given two tin cans to hold in his hands. The cans are attached to the E-meter by wires.

As the preclear answers the questions, the auditor watches the meter's needle. Certain movements of the needle supposedly mean that the preclear is suppressing something. The auditor "listens, computes, and commands," closing in relentlessly until the preclear comes up with the "suppressed information."

When the preclear is eager to cooperate, is fully under the sway of the auditor's will and the apparently scientific verdict of the E-meter, he accepts the auditor's statement that he is suppressing something, even if he can't remember anything.

Sooner or later he begins to exhibit symptoms resembling those of schizophrenia. These symptoms are encouraged; the preclear is given to believe that the hallucinations he is experiencing are factual incidents of his thetan's past, and that his discovery of them is the high road to health and freedom.

Hubbard has published numerous stories that preclears have told in Scientology auditing sessions about their thetans' past histories.

One preclear said that his thetan had inhabited the body of a doll on the planet Mars, 469,476,600 years ago.

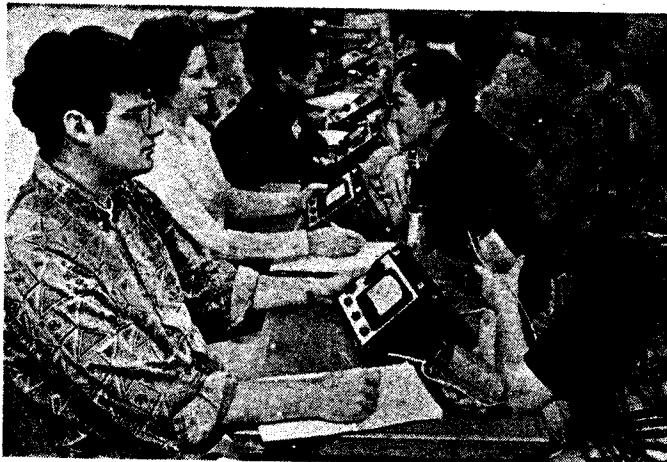
Another preclear recalled that he had been Mark Anthony.

A woman patient remembered that she had once been a male lion that had gotten an engram by eating its keeper. This enlightening discovery, says Hubbard, cured her psychosis.

As each trauma in the thetan's past is "discovered," the auditor pushes the preclear for all the details he can supply. The event is then discussed until the preclear no longer reacts to it emotionally, and until there is no movement on the needle of the E-meter. The engram caused by the event is then considered "flattened," or erased.

To anyone but a Scientologist, it need hardly be said that the E-meter cannot register, record, or assist the memory in recalling incidents of one's past.

Far from being a triumphant product of space-age science, the E-meter is simply a Wheatstone bridge, a circuit that has been used in quack medical devices for decades. All its wiggling needle registers is the body's varying resistance to a current provided by a small battery. In its tax case against the Founding Church of Scientology, the government said that E-meters cost \$12.50 to build, and were



BRAINWASH: Scientology student auditors practice method of breaking down followers' wills on other students at Saint Hill.



STAGES of release from Scientology problems are explained to two newcomers by instructor using mockup of clay figures.

a paragon of wisdom and knowledge. He also experiences what he believes are sweeping "insights," and feels that he is making dramatic progress.

One of the many fundamental differences between Scientology and psychotherapy is that a genuine therapist or analyst knows that these feelings are illusory, and that they must be transcended by the patient on his way to real emotional health.

The analyst is not a god, a lawgiver, or a great discoverer, but a fallible human being. Genuine insight comes with painful slowness, and feelings of swift progress are nearly always an illusion.

By contrast, Scientology keeps the patient in this illusory state and exploits it for profit. Instead of being totally free, a clear is a person who believes totally in Scientology and who totally reveres Ron Hubbard. The clear feels, with happy certainty, that he now relates to the world with complete success.

But this view usually is not shared by the world. To his family and friends, the person who enters ever more deeply into Scientology seems

to drift further and further from reality and to live more and more in the special in-group world that Scientology has created.

Communication between the converts and the rest of the world lapses and fails.

The Scientologist believes that he is privy to exclusive truth, while everyone else suspects that he has gone over the deep edge.

In the summer of 1968 a furor arose in Great Britain about the ever-swelling flood of Americans coming to Saint Hill to be cleared. The British Ministry of Health received some 65 letters of complaint from disillusioned former Scientologists and from relatives and friends of persons who were actively involved in the cult.

While the authorities had no power to close down the operation, they barred Americans from coming to Britain on student visas to study at Saint Hill. Scientology, warned British Health Minister Kenneth Robinson, is "socially harmful . . . Its authoritarian principles and practices are a potential menace to the personality of those so deluded as to become followers."

Unfortunately, the numbers of those "so deluded" apparently are increasing. Before it finally goes the way of all cults, Scientology may leave behind a legacy of tragedy unmatched in the annals of fads and fallacies in mental health.

Such attitudes are familiar to every psychotherapist and psychoanalyst. In the early stages of treatment, the patient usually regards his analyst as

sold to Scientology auditors for prices ranging from \$125 to \$144.

Scientology makes an active attempt to lure people away from psychotherapy and psychoanalysis.

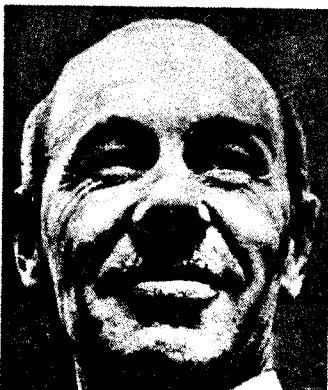
Scientologists are amused by the idea that different kinds of problems may require different kinds of treatment. "We use exactly the same process for each person," the Scientology auditor told me. "It is a science."

In fact, such sessions with nonprofessional personnel are likely to further confuse rather than help a psychologically disturbed person.

In Australia, a government board of inquiry listened with dismay in an adjoining room as a Scientology auditor processed an emotionally upset woman. She floundered her way through the nightmarish session, then feebly said she felt it had helped her. Nine days later she was committed to a mental hospital. The investigators discovered that other Scientology clients also had been turned over to mental institutions after processing.

In my visits to Scientology centers I encountered many enthusiastic persons who evinced total belief in the system. Their attitudes toward their auditors, toward persons running the Scientology centers, and above all, toward Ron Hubbard, bordered on reverence.

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KENNETH ROBINSON
British Health Minister