Inside the

sanctuary

of sinister

slave cult

EXCLUSIVE: THE EXPRESS PROBES THE CHURCH BRANDED BY A JU

By MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY

AN ENGLISH country garden. Beautiful lush lawns, flower beds of startling colour. But a young, dark-haired girl presents a bizarre spects de as she sits cross-legged on the lawn eating her funch oblivious to the summer storm pouring down on her head.

Two other girls lovingly entwined in each other's arms march past in the shadow of the 18th century Manor House.

All wear a naval-type uniform, dark blue with lashings of gold braid. The while scene is surreal, like something from the puzzling

TV series The Prisoner. The clone-like girls have a mission toda to prove to me that the Church of Scientology bra. ded corrupt, sinister and dangerous by a High Court inder this week -lives a spiritual love, not hate.

Influe tce

Siung by the 'udges comments Mr Ju lee Latey also said Scientology is a shave cult sofficials opened the door of their sandumy in East Orinsjead, to me.

Here, deep in the heart of rural Sussex, the church is well-established, powerful. And founded L. Ron II ubbard's luftence is everywhere, although he is

Big, bluff, smiling Ron-his pictures are everywhere —has vanished. A equit in America claims 280 million of the clurch's flunds have gone too.

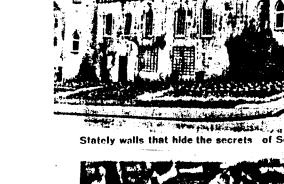
So where is the man painted "A Hitler" in the High Court? My guide Robert Springall, 33, a biochemistr, quaduate, said: can have hine Lityacy."

Improved

We so on with the tour. A huge banner floats across the driveway, dripping rain. The slogan reads:

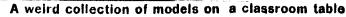
JOIN THE I WANT TO
GO OT CLUB."

OT? My guide explains: "That's an Operating Thetan. A new word for spirit. An Operating Thetan





Stately walls that hide the secrets of Scientology



is one whose abilities are improved as a spirit."

Confusing phrases and words seem to be a sort of 'In" cook. Dianelies, a poster proclaims. Is it a word? Mr Springall says, it means "the modern science of mental health" from which Scientology sprang.

Founder Ron wrote a book about it apparently, in

Mr Springall spoke reverentl oyf Ron Hubbard. Yet in the Family Division cuse, Mr Justice Latey refused custody of two children because he is a Scientologist.

The Hubbard portrayed around Saint Hill Manor House, is mostly in his Commodore role, goldbraided cap, and smiling.

Hubbard's pictures dominate: There are four in this classroom

I am taken to the Pavillon, a domed building near the castellated edifice the Scientologists are building for classrooms.

Legend

On the wall is a legend: "This was once a space used by L. Ron Hubbard to conduct some vital research on the growth of plant life under different conditions. It produced more tomatoes

per bunch than ever before and corn litt tall. . . .

Record tounto crops, corn lift tall! Is there nothing L Ron Hubbard is capable of? Outside the troops are marching; strident drlll calls echo. The Scientologists in their uniforms are on parade.

"The keynote of Scientology," Mr Springuil explains, " is self-betterment, stemming from a philosophy and understanding of man as a spirit."

And wearing a uniform? I ask. He replies: "The Church Army and the Salvation Army wear a uni-form. Ive got one." He

paused: "But it's not suitable today."

They have lots of activities, competitions, and in one classroom they mould Plasticine figures.

Theory

"The models," Mr Springall says battlingly, "illustrate a basic principle of theory".

Talking of theories, I said, what about L. Ron Hubbard? My guide said of the 73-year-old cult chief: "He's not wanted by the police and he's not dead he is working for us all."



Smiling Ron: "venished"