

stir at the French Court by divining neither mineral nor water, but a murderer. Aymar was given some of the murderer's belongings, and using these as a sample, he tracked him half-way through France with his divining-rod. The murderer was so surprised that he confessed at once, and was promptly executed.

According to these books, there have in the last fifty years been so many advances in the science that anything from ghosts to infected tonsils can now be divined and in all sorts of circumstances. It is reported that the modern diviner is a man who has started at the bottom and learned the trade thoroughly; he still discovers metals and water, but he does it with far greater accuracy and much more comfort. He uses maps and photographs. So astonishing have been the results that some have earned the title of "Super-Dowsers." Moreover, they work not only in the present at any distance, but also in the past. A chair by the fire or a seat in an aeroplane—the results are as startling and as accurate.

Here is some of the work that diviners to-day claim to succeed with; complete diagnosis of serious illness, including cancer and different types of poisoning. (methods of operating or treatment are suggested). Find from any distance and in any country all rocks, ores, metals, and minerals. As with water, the depth and extent of the find can be accurately estimated. Analyse different kinds of water, chemicals, foods, and liquors. Pre-natal forecasts of sex. The writers mention that unfortunately they find it difficult to get the subjects over which to work. However, the sexing of eggs can be carried out without difficulty and with complete success (a

rooster's feather on the end of a string is the "rod" used). Dental diagnosis, which is more successful than x-ray. The finding of hidden treasures, and underground entrances to castles and the like. Determining the fertility of soil and seeds, and whether certain areas of ground would be suitable for crops, and if so, what types.

Missing persons, both dead and alive, can be located, and criminals apprehended without trouble. Animal tracks may be followed through any type of country and with no apparent traces (perhaps there is even the possibility of a master of foxhounds using not a pack of hounds but a dowser with two hairs of a fox's brush). The sex of an artist can be determined from a picture. The claims, all apparently proved, are endless.

Dowsers even admit to occasional failures (many of which have occurred when they have been put to the test by sceptical physicists), but these failures can be understood easily when it is explained by the diviners that the rays which emanate from the subjects on which they work sometimes become mixed with the rays from other nearby materials. However, a Super-Dowser always uses the necessary care.

The methods are many, and the apparatus used by different dowsers ranges from the forked hazel-stick to "a sensitive potentiometer with a free line and two impolarisable electrodes." Some Super-Dowsers use nothing mechanical, relying solely on their reflex actions. The explanations of the rays and forces and things are as varied. The one that appealed to me most was that the Good Pixies guided the diviner's rod to whatever he wanted to find.

QUESTIONS ON THE NEWS

An island off the west coast of Italy, conquered by France in 1802, and ruled in 1814 by the "mighty somnambulist of a vanished dream," was invaded by French troops in June. What is it?

The war news from Italy referring to Assisi, Florence, Verona, Arezzo, and Pisa may remind you of the following historical personages: Galileo, Dante, St. Francis, Petrarch, and "Romeo and Juliet." Pair the towns with the individuals (*Answers on page 27.*)