

# Walter Scratch's Scratch Pad

**"Encyclopedia of the Unexplained"** edited by **Richard Cavendish; McGraw-Hill, New York. (\$17.95)**

Eighteen eminent authorities on subjects which baffle most of us have contributed articles for this book, each in the field in which he specializes. Typical of the contributors is J. B. Rhine, founder of the science of parapsychology, who in the introduction tells how to cope with mysteries discussed in the book. He advocates an open-minded approach and the careful avoidance of pre-determined conclusions.

In explaining why the book is important, Dr. Rhine says, The ideas collected here, wild as some of them will appear, have largely to do with theories of the nature and destiny of man, with his place in the universe and what he can do about it.

Approximately half of the book is concerned, to some degree, with faith healing. Individuals associated with faith healing or spiritual healing are covered in brief biographies and highlights of their achievements and views are given. Healings in which currents of energy are involved, as in acupuncture, are included with types of spiritual healings in which there are no mechanical aides.

Mysticism is examined from sources as remote as the Cabala and Tarot as well as from current experiments in extrasensory perception.

The theory of orgone energy propounded by Wilhelm Reich, which gained some adherents and landed him in jail, is explained together with modern movements extending from Theosophy to the Order of the Golden Dawn. In these groups the individuals featured include Aleister Crowley, W. B. Yeats, Gurdjieff, Krishnamurti, Rudolf Steiner and Pak Subuh.

The book's editor is the son of a Church of England clergyman. He was educated at Oxford. He is an authority on magic and occultism. He and his family lived in Los Angeles in the 1960s but returned to England and now reside in London. Professor Rhine and his wife, Dr. Louisa R. Rhine, achieved fame at Duke University's Parapsychology Laboratory.

**"The Avila Gold"** by **David Westheimer; Putnam, New York. (\$7.95)**

Los Angeles residents will be fascinated with David Westheimer's novel about two UCLA professors on a treasure hunt. Their quest was a fortune in rare old coins supposedly buried under the historic Avila Adobe on Olvera Street.

Professor Arthur McDowell was involved in Spanish-American history when he discovered an old letter, written in Spanish, which mentioned the treasure.

His friend, Steve Susman, who conceived the idea of digging for the coins, was interested in their monetary value. Nothing could stop him, after the first coin they found was valued at \$1,700.

Getting at the loot wasn't easy, because they had to keep their quest a secret. They decided the best plan was to rent a basement near Olvera Street and tunnel for the treasure. They engaged

a Colonel Pike, former Army officer, to help. He tried to turn the job into a military operation with hilarious consequences.

The author knows his subject well. He resides in Beverly Hills. He is a former editor on the Houston Post. While serving in the U.S. Air Force as a first lieutenant he won the Distinguished Flying Cross. This is his 12th book.

**"The Dictionary of House Plants"** by **Roy Hay, F. R. McQuown, Gillian and Kenneth Beckett; McGraw-Hill, New York. (\$17.50)**

Garden enthusiasts who read this book will be thrilled by the reproductions, in color, of more than 500 beautiful and exotic plants.

The information will be appreciated by those who have a sense of the decorative value of house plants, a reverence for growing things, an appreciation for living and green things or who like to try their skill at helping plants grow. The material describes more than 1000 species and varieties of plants suitable for all types of indoor garden-

ing. It ranges from plants on windowsills, mini-jungles at one end of the living room or, for the more ambitious, a greenhouse or conservatory.

The color plates fill 96 pages. There are also seven pages of black and white illustrations.

The authors explain all aspects of growing lush and healthy plants indoors. There is specific data on matters like planting, watering, potting, feeding, light, air, humidity, temperature and the cure of plant pests and diseases. For the

cactus enthusiasts there is a special section on cacti and other succulents.

The entries are arranged alphabetically by genus, under which each species with its common name is listed in alphabetical order.

**"The Ultra Secret"** by **F. W. Winterbotham; Harper and Row, New York. (\$8.95)**

In 1939 Polish Secret Service obtained a copy of the German highly secret and complex coding system known as Enigma. This system was delivered to the British who used it throughout World War II.

All through that war, the British knew every important plan and move of the Nazi high command.

Almost every important dispatch between Hitler and his generals was copied and studied by British intelligence within a few hours of its issuance. When the United States entered the war this system and information were placed at its disposal by the British.

F. W. Winterbotham, then a group captain of the Royal Air Force, was in charge of the British operation known as "Ultra." He was under orders, until he wrote

this book, to keep his information secret. This is the first full disclosure of his information.

The importance of Ultra is indicated by many incidents. For example, when the Nazi high command decided to destroy the city of Coventry in England the plan was known to the British high command almost immediately. There was time to abandon Coventry before the huge bombing raid which destroyed it. But this would have revealed to the Nazis that their code had been broken. Thousands of Coventry's citizens

had to die because their country's fate hung in the balance.

Numerous Allied authorities are quoted as stating that Ultra was their most vital weapon against Hitler.

The story reveals many other facts, such as Hitler's conviction that Britain would surrender after France fell, making a Nazi invasion of England unnecessary. It also emphasizes British qualities which enabled them to survive. One was the British tendency to remain calm during ordeals which would terrorize most people.

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**CLC Seminar for Executive Training Slated**

THOUSAND OAKS — Executives will have the opportunity to learn how to deal effectively with employee relations in a special executive effectiveness training seminar offered by the continuing education program at California Lutheran College on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 15 and 16.

The seminar will focus on communication skills, problem solving techniques, counseling skills, and methods for productive conflict resolution.

The seminar grants one unit of continuing education credit. Questions should be directed to the continuing education office at (1-805) 492-2411, extension 361.