

The Seeing Eye: The Seeing I - Renee Haynes. Hutchinson, 1976.

Reviewed by Douglas Collard.

Renee Haynes, who was editor of the Journal and Proceedings of The Society for Psychical Research, says in the 'first paragraph Of this excellent book "... all the same it is essential to know what one is talking about ..." This rule is followed strictly throughout the book. It is lucid, never dogmatic: always presents theories tentatively and quotes authorities generously in the different fields with which it treats. Each chapter is followed by a bibliography which enables the reader to see the sources easily.

The author defines the meaning of Psi and qualifies her definition by adding: "What it is ... is and may always be a mystery, at present more startling than its twin mystery of sensory perception because it is rarer ..." Miss Haynes clearly and rightly acknowledges the existence of mystery in our lives.

Miss Haynes carefully separates the religious from the para-psychological and in her chapter on: 'Healing and Growing' goes into some detail on the subject of 'healing', i.e. 'non-medical' healing which we hear a good deal about these days. She examines types and actual cases of healing and of presumed miraculous healing. In some well-attested examples the possibility of Divine intervention seems inescapable."

Chapter 10 (Psi and the theory of reincarnation) gives some interesting new interpretations of data which have sometimes been used to support belief in reincarnation. These include "the occurrence of telepathy between mothers and their unborn babies, of telepathy inside and outside the family group, and of telepathy between hypnotist and patient; precognition and retrocognition; the growing child's propensity to daydream fantasies about other people and itself; and the fulfilment, in a vision of the past, of the craving for meaning and for mystery, 'far away and long ago'."

I was reminded of Wittgenstein as I read chapter on 'Words and Interpretations'. His practice of examining his students' statements to see how meaningful they were or if in fact they had any meaning at all is Miss Haynes' own method of studying the sometimes loose vocabulary used in psychic studies. Miss Haynes attempts to do for parapsychology what

Professor J. C. Wiles is doing for religious vocabulary in trying to ensure that each word used has an identical connotation for all readers in that discipline. Miss Haynes gives examples of obscure terms used by some writers on parapsychology and spiritualism. An interesting theory of the possible origin of the oriental and Indian names by which some mediums refer to their 'guides' is also offered.

This is an extremely comprehensive and valuable book and particularly so for those who retain belief in the Christian Faith but who wish to constantly purify and enrich it by reason and new knowledge: processes which still leave God present in their lives. Miss Haynes wrote in an article in *The Christian Parapsychologist* (Vol. 1 No. 2) referring to the work of Lambertini (later Pope Benedict XIV); "... He links it (parapsychology) first of all to religion, carefully distinguishing between the paranormal and the divine ^{and}. In her present book Miss Haynes has done just that.

Douglas Collard was a British diplomat, Director of the AngloArab Association and Honorary General Secretary of the College of Psychic Studies.