

The Newark Disturbances

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INTRODUCTION

Early in May, 1961, a series of ostensible RSPK disturbances (recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis or "poltergeist" phenomena) erupted in the apartment of a Negro woman, Mrs. Susie Parks, and her grandson, Arnold Brooks (pseudonyms are used), in a housing project in Newark, New Jersey. The disturbances began on May 6, Arnold's thirteenth birthday, and lasted slightly more than a week, after which he left the apartment to stay with his uncle, Mr. Harold Brown. There were recurrences later on in May, and in June and August when Arnold returned to his grandmother's apartment for short periods.

I first heard about the case from newspaper reports in May, but only became interested in it the following September when I met Dr. Charles D. Wrege, then assistant professor in the Department of Management at Rutgers, at the Parapsychological Association Convention and learned that he had been present in the apartment during some of the occurrences and had been unable to account for all of them in terms of known causes.

I visited the apartment on September 9 in the early evening with Mr. W. E. Cox, who was also in New York for the convention. Arnold was still staying with his uncle and there had been no disturbances since his last visit to the apartment a few weeks before. To determine if the case was active, I suggested that Arnold be brought back for the night. Mr. Cox and I then left. When I phoned the family later in the evening, I was told that occurrences had taken place. I returned and stayed in the apart-

¹ An essential part of the investigation of this case was undertaken by Dr. Charles D. Wrege of the Department of Management at Rutgers University. His collaboration is greatly appreciated. My thanks also to the following for their assistance: Dr. John Altrocchi, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, Duke University; Dr. John L. Artley, Department of Electrical Engineering, Duke; Dr. Ben W. Feather and Dr. Walter D. Obrist, Department of Psychiatry, Duke; Dr. I. H. Paul and Dr. Gertrude R. Schmeidler, Department of Psychology, City College of the City University of New York; and Dr. J. G. Pratt, Department of Psychiatry, University of Virginia. Dr. Donald S. Burdick, Department of Mathematics, Duke, assisted in the statistical calculations and his help is also gratefully acknowledged.

A part of the investigation was conducted at the Parapsychology Laboratory, Duke. The assistance of Dr. J. B. Rhine and others on the Laboratory staff is gratefully acknowledged.

Some of the material in this paper was presented at the Fifth Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, Durham, N.C., September, 1962, in a panel discussion.

ment until noon on September 10. I made two other visits, on September 13 and 15.

A psychological examination of Arnold was conducted at New York University on September 16 and psychological and other studies were carried out with both the boy and the grandmother in Durham beginning December 16 and lasting about a week.

The disturbances appear to fall into two categories: The first phase consists of the incidents that took place between May 6 and the middle of August, several of which could not be explained by the adults who were in the apartment. In the second phase of the occurrences, which lasted from September until December, some were known to be fraudulent and none occurred under conditions where trickery could be ruled out.

THE FIRST PHASE

I shall first present a list of the sixty-four events that were reported between May 6 and mid-August, 1961. After that I shall discuss some of the incidents which took place when Dr. Wrege and others were present.

The information about the occurrences was obtained from interviews by Dr. Wrege with Mrs. Parks and Arnold on May 12 and 13 and by my interviews with Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Mary Leiden on September 9 and 13. Mrs. Leiden is a neighbor whom Mrs. Parks called in for assistance when the disturbances began and who was present during several of the incidents. Newspaper reports by Mr. Douglas Eldridge and Mr. William Gordon in the *Newark News* for May 11 through 14 have been used for supplementary information about dates and about details not found elsewhere; for instance, regarding the origin of a moving object, and also information regarding incidents when the reporters were present. Mr. Eldridge, in order to facilitate the investigation, did not report incidents that happened after Dr. Wrege's arrival. Mr. Eldridge's accounts are generally conservative and consistent with information obtained by Dr. Wrege and myself. The newspaper articles also do not describe many of the incidents that happened prior to Mr. Eldridge's arrival in the apartment on Wednesday, May 10. One event described by Mr. Eldridge and not by Dr. Wrege was a movement of a small bottle on May 10 which Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Martha Knoll, another neighbor, described to Mr. Eldridge as one of four incidents that happened before his arrival. In the cases where there was a conflict about the dates of the events as reported by the family and other witnesses to the newspaper reporters and to Dr. Wrege or myself, I have assumed that the information provided at the shortest interval after the events was most likely to be accurate.

In several instances, however, the sequence of events and the dates when they occurred remain in doubt. When a rough estimate of the number of events was given by the witnesses, the lowest figure is used. The location of each disturbance in the apartment, the direction of movement, and the distance the object traveled are shown in Figure 1.

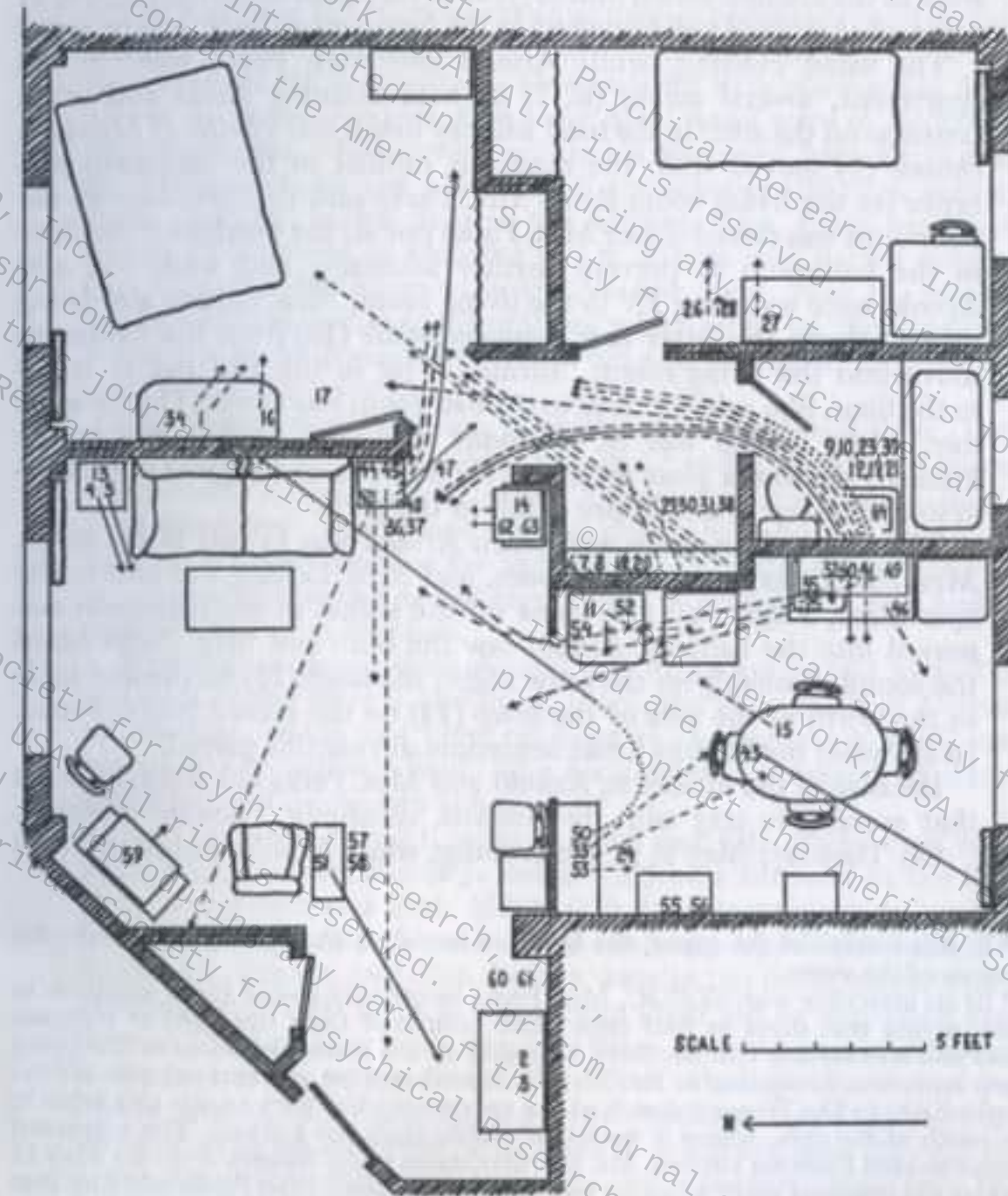


Fig. 1. Plan of Mrs. Parks' apartment showing the locations and chronological order of the disturbances. The numbers refer to the List of Events described in the text. The arrows indicate the approximate direction and distance of motion, when they were known, of objects displaced from their original position. Arrows drawn with a solid line refer to movements when adults were present and it seemed impossible or unlikely that Arnold could have caused the incident; arrows drawn with a broken line refer to occurrences when the boy was not supervised; and the dotted lines indicate the path of objects whose original position was in doubt.

List of Events

On Saturday, May 6, 1961, in the evening, when Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Knoll were in the living room, a noise was heard by them and a *small jar* (1)² from Mrs. Parks' bedroom dresser was found on the floor.

On the evening of Monday, May 8, while Arnold and Mrs. Parks were in the kitchen eating dinner, *four of six punch bowl cups* (2, 3, 4, 5) came off their hooks and crashed to the living room floor, one by one.

The same evening, while Arnold and Mrs. Parks were in the apartment, several *bottles* (6, 7, 8) with cleaning fluids and other contents on the shelf in the back hallway broke and a *bottle of Mercurochrome* (9) moved from the medicine cabinet in the bathroom and broke on the living room floor. Mrs. Parks said that the door to the bathroom was closed. After Mrs. Parks put all the bottles on the floor in the bathroom to prevent further breakage, and while she and Arnold were watching TV in the living room, Mrs. Leiden also being present there, the latter saw a *cologne bottle* (10) from the bathroom move into the living room, "turning a jig in the air" before it fell to the floor. She said the door to the bathroom was closed. On the same day, when Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Leiden was in the kitchen, she saw a *glass decanter* (11) move to the edge of the refrigerator. She reached it before it fell to the floor.

The night of the same day, when Arnold was in bed in his room, Mrs. Parks was in the living room, and Mrs. Leiden was also in the apartment, a *light bulb* (12) came off the socket in the bathroom and moved into the hallway. Arnold saw the bulb and Mrs. Parks heard the sound. Probably on the same night, the *lamp* (13) on the end table to the north of the sofa or the *lamp* (14) on the record player broke. In any case, both lamps broke sometime during this period.

Because of the incidents, Arnold and Mrs. Parks left the apartment that evening to stay with the Browns, returning Tuesday morning.

On Tuesday, May 9, in the evening, when Arnold and Mrs. Parks

¹In this section of the paper, the boldface numerals in parentheses refer to the number of the event.

²In an interview with W.G.R., Mrs. Parks incorrectly placed these incidents in June, saying that three or four cups came unhooked from the bowl at different times and also stating that the bowl belonged on the sideboard, close to the living room entrance. According to Dr. Wrege, Arnold said he saw two cups fly off the bowl which, in Dr. Wrege's sketch of the apartment, was then on the side table to the north of the sofa, where it would be visible from the kitchen. The sideboard cannot be seen from the kitchen. Mr. Eldridge states in the *Newark News* for May 11 that on the previous night when he was in the apartment, Mrs. Parks told him that on Monday, May 8, four of the six cups from the punch bowl had crashed to the floor one by one while she and Arnold were having supper. While Mr. Eldridge was with her, she took the bowl and the two remaining cups from the table and placed them on the floor for safety. Perhaps the chronology of events Monday evening is that two cups came off the bowl while it was in its usual place on the sideboard and that it was then moved, either for safety's sake or so that it could be watched from the kitchen, to the table next to the sofa, after which two other cups came off as Arnold watched from the kitchen. The analysis of the incidents to be presented below is based on this supposition.

were in the kitchen, a *saucer* (15) fell off the kitchen table and landed in front of the washing machine. Arnold said he saw this event. There were no other incidents that day.

On Wednesday evening, May 10, when Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Knoll were in the living room, a *small mirror* (16) on Mrs. Parks' dresser fell to the floor in her room. The same night, while the same three people were in the apartment, a *small bottle* (17) which had been left in the center of a dresser (probably in Mrs. Parks' room) dropped to the floor and a *light bulb* (18) from the shelf in the back hallway fell to the floor. This incident took place while Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Knoll were in the kitchen. Also that night, while Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Parks was in the living room, he saw a *bottle of Mercurochrome* (19) from the bathroom shelf fall to the floor in the hallway, Mrs. Parks hearing the sound. (This event as reported to Dr. Wrege may be the same one that Mr. Eldridge refers to in the *Newark News*, May 11, where he mentions that a bottle of disinfectant which stood on the window sill above the bathtub moved over the tub and landed on the bathroom floor several feet away.)

The same evening, when Arnold was in bed and Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Knoll, Mr. Brown, Mr. Eldridge,⁴ and a newspaper photographer were in the kitchen, a *cup* (20) from the rear of the shelf in the hallway was heard when it fell to the hallway floor. This cup had been on the same shelf as the light bulb. Mr. Eldridge had inspected the shelf about half an hour before, while Arnold was in bed, and had noticed the cup in its place.

Also that evening, when Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Knoll were in the living room, the same *bottle of Mercurochrome* (21), which had been returned to the bathroom shelf, again moved to the hallway floor. The incident was observed by Arnold and was heard by the two ladies.

On Thursday, May 11, when Arnold and Mrs. Parks were in the apartment, she saw the *large mirror* (22) over the sofa in the living room swing back and forth. She took it down to prevent its breaking. In the evening, when Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Knoll, Mr. Brown, and Mrs. Leiden were in the living room, a *jar of petroleum jelly* (23) from the bathroom shelf fell to the living room floor and broke. That same evening, when Arnold was in the kitchen, he said he saw a *pepper shaker* (24) "float" through the air and land beside him. (This may be the same incident which Mrs. Parks referred to in an interview with W.G.R. when she said that she saw a pepper shaker disappear from the open kitchen closet and then heard it fall to the floor by the kitchen window.)

Also during that evening, when Arnold was in the kitchen washing the dishes and Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Frances Coates, a neighbor, were

⁴Mrs. Parks thought that the phenomena had ceased Tuesday evening. When they started again Wednesday, she called her son-in-law, Mr. Brown, who in turn called the *Newark News* to ask for information about similar cases and for possible explanations of their causes. The paper sent Mr. Eldridge to the apartment.

in the kitchen or living room, a *drinking glass* (25) from the kitchen sink flew into the living room and broke. Arnold said he saw the glass in flight and the two ladies saw it as it broke. (According to the statements given to Mr. Eldridge as reported in the *Newark News* on May 12, the glass "swung around a corner" before it broke on the floor.) On the same evening, when Arnold was in his room, he said he saw a *light bulb* (26) from his floor lamp unscrew itself and smash on the floor, then a candlestick type glass *lamp base* (27) fly off his dresser and fall to the floor. Following this event, when Arnold was still in his room, and Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Knoll, Mr. Brown, Mr. William Gordon, and a fifth person were in the kitchen or living room, Arnold saw his *floor lamp* (28) fall against his bed. In another occurrence that night, when also Mr. James Moore (Assistant Director of Management for the Newark Housing Authority) and a reporter, probably Mr. Gordon, were present, an *empty bottle* (29) from the same shelf in the hallway where the cup had been, moved into Mrs. Parks' bedroom.

Because of the incidents Arnold and Mrs. Parks left the apartment Thursday night and stayed with the Browns.

On Friday, May 12, in the morning or early afternoon, when Arnold and Mrs. Parks were in their own rooms, the latter saw a *bottle of furniture polish* (30) from the shelf in the hallway slide across the floor of her room. During this same period, when Arnold was in his room (according to Mrs. Leiden, he was in the bathroom at the time), and Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Leiden were in the living room, a five-pound *electric iron* (31) moved from the shelf in the hallway and fell to the floor in the direction of Mrs. Parks' bedroom. Mrs. Leiden told W.G.R. that she saw the iron while it was in the air and noticed that its cord was stretched out stiff behind it. Also during that period, when Arnold was in the kitchen and Mrs. Parks was in the kitchen-living room area, Arnold saw the *cover of the sugar bowl* (32) come off when he reached for it, and break against the sink below. During this same period, when Arnold and Mrs. Parks were in the same rooms as before, the *saltcellar* (33) moved from the open kitchen shelf and hit Arnold lightly on the back. (According to Mr. Eldridge, as reported in the *Newark News* on May 13, this was a pepper shaker.)

In the evening of that day, when Arnold was in his room and Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Knoll, Mr. Brown, Mr. Eldridge, and Mr. Edward J. DeRusso (a building contractor who had come to exorcise the ghost) were in the living room, a *glass ashtray* (34) fell to the floor from Mrs. Parks' dresser.

On Saturday, May 13, when Arnold was in the kitchen washing dishes, Mrs. Parks was in the kitchen-living room area, and Mrs. Coates was in the living room, the *saltcellar* (35) from the open kitchen shelf made a right turn into the living room, hitting Mrs. Coates behind the shoulder. On the same day, when Arnold was seated at the south end of the sofa in the living room and Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Coates were in the kitchen, a *glass ashtray* (36) from the table next to Arnold fell to the floor. The incident was seen by Arnold and

heard by the others. Sometime later, when Arnold was in the same position, and Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Knoll, Mr. Gordon, and a photographer were in the kitchen, the same *ashtray* (37), which had been placed under a newspaper by a reporter, moved toward the front door. Again, Arnold said that he saw the incident; the others heard the noise.

Also that day, a *pint can of paint* (38) on the same hallway shelf where the furniture polish had been moved to the floor of Mrs. Parks' room. Another occurrence that day happened when Arnold was in his room, about one foot inside the doorway, and Mrs. Parks, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Ward Ulrich (a reporter from the *Newark Star Ledger*) were in the living room; the *Mercurochrome bottle* (39) from the bathroom shelf fell to the floor of Mrs. Parks' room. Arnold said he saw the bottle as it landed. Also on that day the *cover of the sugar bowl* (40) fell to the kitchen floor. (This incident may have been the same as the one reported by Mrs. Leiden to W.G.R. when she said that she saw a saucer used as a cover for the sugar bowl, presumably a replacement for the sugar bowl top that broke earlier, lift up and fall to the floor.) Still on the same day, when Arnold was in the kitchen and Mrs. Parks was in the kitchen-living room area, Arnold saw the *teapot cover* (41) in the open kitchen closet come off the pot and fall to the floor. Mrs. Parks heard the sound.

About 10:00 P.M. that night Arnold said he saw an *ashtray* (42) from the table in the living room fly through the air and crash against the wall near the TV set; Mrs. Parks and Mr. Brown heard the sound. Mr. Brown then phoned Dr. Wrege, who arrived at 10:35 P.M. Dr. Wrege asked Arnold to choose an object as a target for the RSPK forces. Arnold selected an empty mustard jar and placed this on the kitchen table. About 11:00 P.M., when Arnold was in the living room near the opening to the kitchen, Mrs. Parks was in her room, and Mr. Brown and Dr. Wrege were in the kitchen, the *mustard jar* (43) left the table and moved over the heads of the two men, crashing against the kitchen wall. Arnold said he saw the jar "float" over the heads of the two men before it picked up speed.

About 11:15 P.M., when Arnold was in the living room on the sofa and Mrs. Parks, Mr. Brown, and Dr. Wrege were also in the living room, a *glass ashtray* (44) from the table near Arnold moved to the floor of Mrs. Parks' room. Arnold said he saw this incident; the others heard it.

About 11:45 P.M., after Mrs. Parks and Mr. Brown had left the apartment and while Arnold was in the doorway to his room and Dr. Wrege inside the room, the *glass ashtray* (45) from the table next to the sofa which had previously moved, was heard to fall on the floor in Mrs. Parks' room. Shortly afterwards, when Arnold was in the kitchen with Dr. Wrege, who was about to pick up the telephone, a *drinking glass* (46) from the counter next to the kitchen sink was seen by Dr. Wrege as it fell to the floor.

A short time after this incident, while Arnold was standing in the kitchen to the right of Dr. Wrege who was next to the phone table, replacing the receiver with his left hand with his right arm around

Arnold, no one else being in the apartment, the lamp (47) on the table to the south of the sofa in the living room fell to the floor in the back hallway and smashed.

Later that night, while Arnold was in the back hallway holding a dustpan with both hands, and Mr. Brown (who had returned in response to a phone call from Dr. Wrege) and Dr. Wrege were cleaning up the broken pieces of lamp, Mr. Brown suddenly cried out and the glass ashtray (48) which had moved earlier that night grazed his chin and fell to the floor of Mrs. Parks' room. The ashtray belonged on the table to the south of the sofa in the living room.

Shortly afterwards, as Arnold went into the kitchen to put the lamp pieces in the trash can, and when Mr. Brown was in the living room close to the back hallway and Dr. Wrege was in Mrs. Parks' bedroom picking up the glass ashtray, a pepper shaker (49) struck Mr. Brown in the back. Shortly afterwards, when Arnold was in the hallway outside the apartment, Mr. Brown was preparing to turn off the kitchen and living room lights, and Dr. Wrege was in the hall inside the apartment close to the front door, Mr. Brown was hit lightly on the head by the saltcellar (50), which then struck the wall behind the sofa with great force, falling in back of the sofa. Immediately afterwards, when Arnold was still in the outer hall, Mr. Brown was turning off the living room lights, and Dr. Wrege was in the inside hallway close to the front door, a heavy ceramic ashtray (51) from a bookcase near the front door fell to the floor between Mr. Brown and Dr. Wrege.

The following events also took place in May, either before Dr. Wrege's arrival or later: While Arnold and Mrs. Parks were in the apartment, a glass tray (52) fell from the refrigerator to the washer or to the floor. While a friend of Mrs. Parks also was present, a saucer (53) fell from the open kitchen cupboard to the floor in front of the closet as Mrs. Parks was talking with her friend. Also in May, a bottle (54) on top of the refrigerator fell down and hit the washing machine.

During the same month, when Arnold and Mrs. Parks were home, at least one cup (55) and one glass (56) from the closed kitchen cabinet fell to the floor.

Later in May, while Mrs. Parks and Arnold were in the apartment, the bookcase (57, 58) in the living room fell over two or three times. Mrs. Leiden was present on one of these occasions (but she placed the incident in June) and told W.G.R. that the bookcase fell over one evening as they were putting on the lights in the room. On another occasion, when she and Arnold were outside the apartment and the boy was placing his key in the door, the TV set (59) fell over. No one was in the apartment.

In June, while Arnold and Mrs. Parks were home, the bottom section of the punch bowl (60), which had been placed on the floor for safety, broke. And in August, when the two of them were in the apartment, the punch bowl (61) itself, which was in the front part of the living room, broke, Arnold watching it go up into the air.

In mid-August, while Arnold and Mrs. Parks were in the apartment, the radiogramophone (62, 63) fell twice and broke. On one of these occasions, Arnold was in the bathroom with Mrs. Leiden. During the same period, a perfume bottle (64) fell to the floor from the bathroom cabinet. These three incidents took place when Arnold, who at the time was staying with Mr. Brown, had returned to the apartment for the night.

Dr. Wrege's Investigation

Dr. Wrege first visited the apartment in the evening of May 12. There were no occurrences. On the evening of May 13, he received a phone call from Mr. Brown, who said that an ashtray had fallen while Mrs. Parks, Arnold, and he were in the apartment (Event 42). Dr. Wrege hurried to the apartment where he arrived at 10:35 p.m. Beginning at 11:00 and lasting until around midnight, there were nine incidents (43-51). Some of these, namely Events 44-46, and 49, could probably have been done normally by the boy without detection since he was not under observation at those times. In the case of Event 43, trickery would have been more difficult. Dr. Wrege had asked Arnold to select an item from a kitchen cupboard and place it on the kitchen table in the hope that this might become an RSPK target while Dr. Wrege was watching. Arnold chose an empty mustard jar. About twenty minutes later, while Dr. Wrege and Mr. Brown were in the kitchen at the other side of the table, facing away from the jar, and when Arnold was in the living room close to the kitchen entrance and about six feet from the jar, this left its place, moved over the heads of the two men, and crashed against the southwest wall of the kitchen. In view of the fact that Dr. Wrege suspected that Arnold was the agent for the incidents and in view also of his special interest in the mustard jar, it would have been difficult for Arnold to move into the kitchen, throw the jar, and return to his place outside the kitchen without detection. Dr. Wrege saw the jar as it reached the wall: "The jar seemed to shatter before reaching the wall, but the event was so sudden that it might have hit [the] wall and shattered." Dr. Wrege also noted that the broken pieces were of uniform size and that they fell to the floor directly below the place of impact rather than scattering widely as might be expected had the jar smashed against the wall in a normal fashion. Arnold said he saw the jar as it "floated" over the heads of the two men after which it picked up terrific speed before it shattered.

In the case of three events, 48, 50, and 51, these apparently could not have been perpetrated by Arnold acting alone. Following the lamp incident (Event 47), which I shall refer to later, Dr. Wrege,

Mr. Brown, and Arnold were cleaning up the remains of the lamp. Dr. Wrege states that "Arnold was holding the dustpan handle with two hands as I swept the pieces into the pan. Mr. Brown was to my left by the door of Mrs. Parks' bedroom, picking up other pieces of the lamp. He suddenly moved back and there was the sound of a piece of glass hitting the floor of Mrs. Parks' room." Mr. Brown said the ashtray had grazed his chin. Evidently the only way in which the event could have been caused normally is if Mr. Brown himself threw the ashtray into the bedroom, while claiming that it had grazed him. This was the same ashtray which had moved on two occasions earlier that evening (Events 44 and 45). After the second of these, Dr. Wrege and Arnold found the ashtray in Mrs. Parks' room and returned it to the table south of the sofa.

At the time of Event 50, the two men and Arnold were on the point of leaving the apartment house. Dr. Wrege had told Arnold to go into the hallway outside the apartment. Dr. Wrege was inside the apartment in the hallway leading to the front room and Mr. Brown was in the living room at the point of turning off the lights when he cried out that something had hit his head after which there was a crash and Dr. Wrege saw a saltcellar as it smashed against the living room wall behind the sofa. Here too, the only possible normal explanation would seem to be that Mr. Brown only said that he had been hit and had, unseen by Dr. Wrege, tossed the object against the wall since the latter's attention was directed more toward Arnold than to his uncle. Immediately afterwards, when Arnold was still outside the apartment and Mr. Brown was again on the point of turning off the lights and Dr. Wrege was still in the inside hallway close to the front door, a heavy ceramic ashtray from a bookcase near the front door fell to the floor between Mr. Brown and Dr. Wrege (Event 51). Also in this case it seems that the only person who could have perpetrated the occurrence was Mr. Brown since Arnold was not in the room and could not have thrown anything into it without detection by Dr. Wrege.

There was one incident, Event 47, which could not apparently have been caused normally either by Arnold or by anyone else. This took place when Dr. Wrege and Arnold were alone in the apartment, Mrs. Parks and Mr. Brown having left around 11:30 P.M. At about the same time the ashtray fell in Mrs. Parks' room (Event 45), some drunks were banging on the front door demanding to see "the boy with the flying objects." A moment later a window pane in Mrs. Parks' room was broken presumably by a rock thrown by the same men. Dr. Wrege decided to call the police and went into the kitchen with Arnold when the water glass smashed by the sink (Event 46). Dr. Wrege then placed his call, holding the phone

with his left hand, the right arm he had around Arnold holding him tightly in order to comfort him and thereby pinning both the boy's arms to his sides. As he finished the conversation with the police department, "there was this tremendous crash in the living room. The closest lamp to us, one of two large crockery lamps, had crashed to the floor. Arnold could not have done this physically because of my control over him—but since neither of us actually saw the lamp fall (it was around the corner, out of sight) I suspected the use of strings and the like. I checked the remains of the lamp and the cord to see if any strings or wires were attached. There were no such objects and . . . I do not know how this event could be attributed to trickery." The lamp crashed to the floor about three feet southeast of the table where it stood (see Figure 1). Arnold seemed very frightened at this point (after the previous events Dr. Wrege had found him relatively unafraid). He asked that his uncle be called because he wanted to leave the apartment. Dr. Wrege complied and called Mr. Brown. Shortly afterwards the uncle and also the police arrived. The fact that Mr. Brown was on hand to take Dr. Wrege's call indicated that he was at home and not outside the apartment when the lamp fell and therefore could not have somehow caused the incident by strings or other means. Dr. Wrege examined the table on which the lamp had stood for traces of explosives or foreign matter but found none. He considered the possibility that the incident could have been caused from outside the apartment by an arrangement of strings operated by an unknown accomplice. The failure to find a string might be explained by the theory that it was pulled away when the lamp fell. There are two string hypotheses: The string could have been fastened to the lamp earlier in the evening or the string could have been placed in position by Arnold and passed to an accomplice outside the apartment after the lamp was examined by Dr. Wrege. Regarding the first theory, Dr. Wrege does not think he could have overlooked a string in his examination of the apartment prior to the lamp incident. He was on the lookout for concealed devices and finds it highly unlikely that he could have overlooked a piece of string. Regarding the second theory, Dr. Wrege reports that Arnold was always near him and that he does not believe that the boy at any time had the opportunity to fasten a string to the lamp and pass it through the door or a window to an accomplice outside. After the drunks threw the rock, Dr. Wrege was careful to place himself between Arnold and the windows in order to protect the boy. This would have made it even more difficult for Arnold to pass anything to accomplices outside.

Dr. Wrege and I both found it difficult to suppose that Mr. Brown was involved fraudulently in the phenomena. He is a draftsman by

profession and appears to be a responsible person. He seemed to be disturbed about the incidents and was doing whatever he could to alleviate the situation. The phenomena created some hardship for him and his family since they took Arnold into their home when it seemed that his presence in his grandmother's apartment engendered the occurrences. The Browns had two small children and the addition of Arnold to the household was a burden and responsibility which they felt it a duty to assume, but did not welcome.

Other Events When Arnold Was Not in Area

There were several instances when Mrs. Parks and other adults stated that Arnold was not present in the area where an occurrence took place. The four cups from the punch bowl fell to the floor while Arnold was in the kitchen having supper with his grandmother, nine feet or more away, and when no one else was present (Events 2-5). Mrs. Leiden told me that while Mrs. Parks and Arnold were with her in the living room watching TV, she saw a bottle of cologne that belonged in the bathroom move into the living room "turning a jig in the air" as she watched it, and then fall to the floor (Event 10). On that same day, when Arnold was in his room, Mrs. Leiden, who was in the kitchen, said she saw a glass decanter on top of the refrigerator move to the edge (Event 11). She grabbed it before it fell. She also once saw a saucer which had been placed over the sugar bowl as a replacement of the sugar bowl top which had broken earlier, lift up and fall to the floor (Event 40). On another occasion, Mrs. Leiden said that when she was with Arnold outside the apartment and no one was inside, the TV set fell over when he put his key in the door (Event 59). Another time, she said that Arnold was in the bathroom with her when the radiogramophone in the living room fell over (Event 63).

In summary, most of the sixty-four occurrences could have been perpetrated normally by Arnold without detection. In fourteen, however, an adult stated the boy was in one room or area of the house while the incidents took place in another. In five cases this person was Dr. Wrege.

With regard to the events that could have been caused by fraud, neither Dr. Wrege, Mr. Eldridge, nor any of the other investigators and visitors ever uncovered any evidence that trickery was used or attempted.

The possibility that non-personal physical forces were responsible seems to be ruled out by the fact that the occurrences were restricted to Mrs. Parks' apartment and to periods when Arnold was present; the neighboring apartments in the project were unscathed

by whatever energy was operating in Mrs. Parks' home. Moreover, the Housing Authority of the City of Newark examined "every inch" (2) of Mrs. Parks' apartment and the basement of the building. Nothing was found to explain the events.

There is a tendency when something strange happens to interpret commonplace events in terms of the unusual occurrences. It is possible that some of the less striking events, such as the glass decanter that reportedly slid across the top of the refrigerator (Event 11) or the incidents with the sugar bowl lids (Events 32 and 40) were normal household accidents which became exaggerated and dramatized because of the other occurrences.

All sixty-four events, however, are used for the analyses to be reported later in this paper. If any of them are spurious, it is to be hoped that they are in the minority and will not seriously alter the interpretation of the overall results.

THE SECOND PHASE

When I first visited the apartment on September 9, Arnold was still staying with Mr. Brown. I told Mrs. Parks that RSPK cases are generally short-lived and suggested that Arnold return to the apartment so we might determine, while I was still in the area, whether or not the case had died down. Mrs. Parks agreed with the plan. That same night I was called back to the apartment with the news that the disturbances had resumed. When I arrived at 11:00 P.M. I found that in the period between 9:35 and 11:00 P.M. a glass plate, an ashtray, a toaster, a can of tobacco, and a small bottle had broken or had moved various distances. Mrs. Parks and Mr. Brown, who were in the apartment at the time, left shortly after my arrival while Arnold and I remained there for the night. The single incident that evening was when a lamp bulb fell to the floor in Arnold's room when he was in bed and I was in Mrs. Parks' room. The next morning, September 10, shortly after eight o'clock, when Mrs. Parks had returned and was in the kitchen and while Arnold was in his room and I was in the bathroom with the door closed, I heard a sound from the hallway and found a brush from the hall closet lying on the floor. The door to Arnold's room was shut. Arnold said it was also closed during the incident.

Later in the morning Arnold told his grandmother, "You better put that mirror in the bathroom away, that might go." Shortly after that, while Arnold was seated on the sofa in the living room, he remarked to his grandmother, "I saw your bag open and close." This bag lay on a chair in Arnold's room and was visible from his position on the couch. Mrs. Parks examined the bag and found that

a purse containing fifteen dollars had disappeared. About half an hour after the loss was discovered, when Mr. Brown (who had arrived shortly before the purse disappeared), Mrs. Parks, and I were in the living room and while Arnold was in the hallway looking for the wallet behind the curtain in the hallway closet, a sound was heard from Mrs. Parks' room and the wallet was found on the floor, minus the fifteen dollars. Arnold was then sent downstairs with the garbage; when he returned he brought two dollars which he said he found by the front door. Mrs. Parks asked him, "This isn't a trick, is it Arnold, you are not playing a prank, are you?" She said that recently, during Arnold's visits to the apartment, wallets belonging to her daughter (Mrs. Brown) and to two friends had disappeared. During this period Arnold had found about forty dollars in cash and various other objects, including a baseball bat and a baseball. Mrs. Parks tended to interpret these events paranormally. However, she was not wholly credulous; ten minutes after the boy had found the two dollars, she said, "Arnold, come here a minute." She then emptied the boy's pockets looking for the remainder of her money, but found nothing except his belongings. After that she asked him to go to the cellar again to see if more money would appear when he returned. He brought another two dollars which he said he had found outside the front door. Arnold was then sent out for the newspaper and a few minutes afterwards Mrs. Parks discovered that a picture had fallen to the floor in her room. When the boy returned from his errand he handed over three dollars which he said he had found by the door. During the next five minutes he first found one piece and then the remainder of a ten dollar bill, probably the one that had been in Mrs. Parks' wallet. This brought the total to seventeen dollars, somewhat more than the amount Mrs. Parks remembered having had.

I discussed the incidents with Arnold to see if he had any awareness of reasons or motives for them, but his remarks suggested none. In order to explore this question further and to determine whether posthypnotic suggestions for RSPK incidents might be effective, I began a hypnosis experiment with the boy. But before I was able to induce a trance, Mr. Brown, who had left a short time before, returned, wishing to take Arnold out to play. Shortly after this I left.

I returned to the apartment on September 13 in the evening, staying for some hours and discussing the events with Mrs. Parks. Arnold came in shortly after 7:00, but there were no incidents. My last visit was on September 15, in the evening. The previous evening, I was told, three ashtrays had moved and Mrs. Parks' wallet had again disappeared. On the morning of the 15th a box of moth powder, a bottle of Windex, and two bottles of shampoo

moved various distances. Also in the morning, as Arnold left for school, he said that a Vaseline jar and a bottle of liniment fell in front of him in the courtyard outside the apartment.

In all these incidents, and in those that happened earlier that month, Arnold was or easily could have been at the place where the movements originated. There were no cases when Mrs. Parks or others stated that Arnold was in one part of the apartment while something happened elsewhere.

It was evident to me at this stage that privacy was a preferred condition for the phenomena and that I was a particularly inhibiting influence. After Arnold had arrived in the evening of the 15th, I left the apartment for short periods on various pretexts. At 8:43 P.M., while I was returning, coming up the steps outside, a shampoo bottle from the table to the south of the couch, where Arnold was seated watching TV, moved to the back hallway. Mrs. Parks was in the kitchen at the time. At 8:45 P.M. I was standing next to the door outside the apartment when there was a crash. I rushed in and found the dish from the top of the TV set broken on the kitchen floor. The boy was sitting quietly on the couch. At 9:00 P.M., when I was again outside, there was another sound. I again rushed in and found a green ashtray still moving on the floor. It belonged to a self-righting ashtray stand in the area between the TV and the sofa. The ashtray had hit the control button on the TV, turning it off. Arnold was still on the couch. A minute later the same ashtray fell under similar circumstances. At 9:05 P.M., when I was again outside, I entered the apartment, though I was not consciously alerted by any noise, and saw the ashtray stand rolling on the floor. Arnold was sitting quietly on the sofa as usual. It would have been difficult for him to have set this stand in motion and resumed his seat without detection.

In the course of these incidents, I seemed to be getting progressively closer to seeing an object start to move. While I became more hopeful and excited, the renewal of the disturbances made Mrs. Parks increasingly more anxious and insistent that Arnold leave the apartment. At 9:45 P.M. I was in the kitchen helping Mrs. Parks clean up the pieces of the broken plate and trying to persuade her to let Arnold remain, promising that I would pay for further breakages and also pointing out that whatever the cause of the disturbances was, nobody had been hurt. I said, "It doesn't hit people." At that moment a small bottle grazed Mrs. Parks and hit me squarely on the head. The bottle came from the side table at the south of the sofa, next to where the boy sat, and about eight feet from me. At the time of the incident, I was facing in his general

* In any case an unconvincing statement in view of Events 33, 35, 48, 49, and 50.

direction, but not looking at him. I looked up at once and found Arnold as usual, unmoving and stoical.

A few minutes after 10:00 P.M. Arnold left the apartment, returning immediately afterwards with a small bottle belonging to Mrs. Parks, which he said had hit him on the head. He then left again, but came back shortly afterwards with Dr. Wrege whom he had met outside, the boy saying he had been hit by another bottle. Shortly after that, when Dr. Wrege and Arnold were to leave again, we searched the boy and found a piece of wood under his shirt, of which he disclaimed any knowledge. Dr. Wrege and I speculated that this was to be the next object to be "found" outside and that his shirt front was the hiding place for the objects that followed him out of doors and perhaps for the money he said he found in various places.

The discovery of the piece of wood, together with the losses and findings of money, which seemed uncharacteristic of RSPK occurrences, and also the fact that nothing happened while I or others had Arnold under observation, suggested that the earlier ostensibly parapsychological phase of the disturbances had been replaced by a fraudulent one. I therefore decided to terminate the parapsychological part of the investigation and returned to Durham on the following day after arrangements had been completed for Arnold to take a series of psychological tests at New York University. After these, Arnold returned to his uncle's home.

On November 1, 1961, Mr. Brown sent Arnold back to his grandmother's apartment, saying he could keep him no longer. Shortly after, Mrs. Parks' TV set, the washing machine, the refrigerator, and the kitchen cupboard fell over. Mrs. Parks then brought Arnold to a friend's home where an ashtray went and to a second friend where a vase fell, and then, finally, to a hotel where he stayed for the night. On the morning of November 3, he returned to the apartment when the refrigerator again turned over. This piece of equipment belonged to the housing project, and from being a family problem, the poltergeist now mushroomed into a problem for the housing project and thereby the county authorities. Arnold was brought to a temporary shelter for children, after which the State Board of Child Welfare took over.

In all of these incidents Arnold was alone at the time and could easily have caused them normally. Whether or not the events were fraudulent, they suggested that the psychological tensions which I assumed were behind the incidents, spurious and genuine alike, still existed. It was therefore decided to carry out a more thorough study of Arnold by bringing him to the Parapsychology Laboratory at Duke University. The visit to Durham was arranged through Miss Marjorie Cummings, Supervisor of the New Jersey Board of

Child Welfare, and Mrs. Rose Lemberg, Casework Supervisor at the Board's Essex District Office. Since the poltergeist incidents seemed to depend on the presence of Mrs. Parks, it was arranged for her to participate in the psychological studies. Also, if there were still genuine RSPK incidents, Mrs. Parks' presence would hopefully stimulate these under controlled conditions of observation. Arnold and his grandmother arrived in Durham on December 16. This was the first time since November that they had been together and that same afternoon there was an incident. I had gone out of my office at the Parapsychology Laboratory and Arnold and Mrs. Parks had just left it and were walking along a narrow hallway, when a book that had earlier been on my desk fell to the hallway floor. As with other recent events, Arnold could have caused it normally since he was not watched at the time and could have picked the book up when he was leaving the room before throwing it. Nevertheless, this episode gave me two cues I had been hoping for: the "poltergeist" was still active and was ready to be confronted on laboratory territory. However, there was not enough time for more studies that day. I brought Arnold and Mrs. Parks to the Jack Tar Hotel, saying that they should get in touch with me if anything further happened. When I reached home I found a message that the incidents had resumed. I returned to the hotel and learned that an ashtray had fallen to the floor and that a glass in the bathroom had smashed while Arnold was in there. Shortly afterwards a lamp, which had been placed on the floor for safety's sake, turned over and the phone fell to the floor. Mrs. Parks said she saw the phone when it landed, at the same time watching Arnold, who was seated on the floor holding the TV set to prevent it from falling. It seemed possible, however, that he might have pulled the cord without detection. Arnold told me that while he was in the bathroom he saw the toothpaste leave the shelf and fall into the bathtub. I remained with them for a couple of hours in the hope that there might be additional incidents. At 10:20 P.M., while Arnold was in the bathroom, there was a crash and I found the light fixture in the sink. The plastic frame covering the bulb was bent in a way that would be consistent with someone having grabbed it and pulled it from the wall. Since the phenomena were becoming destructive of hotel property without occurring under conditions that allowed for observation, I brought Arnold home with me. Nothing happened at the house that night or for the rest of the week Arnold stayed there.

The fact that even the Parapsychology Laboratory failed to inhibit the "poltergeist" offered an opportunity for closer observation than we had been able to achieve so far. Though the episodes from September on were suggestive of trickery and though the case had

become atypical as an RSPK case, extending for such a long period of time and over such a wide terrain, there was no proof of fraud. But the events on December 18 caused me to reject the parapsychological hypothesis for the later phase of the occurrences. The Parapsychology Laboratory possessed an experimental suite with a one-way mirror between two of the rooms. Dr. J. G. Pratt cooperated as the observer in one of these and I brought Arnold and his grandmother into the other, asking them to remain there while I attended to some matter. After a while, when Mrs. Parks left the room for a moment, Dr. Pratt saw Arnold take two measuring tapes from a table and hide them under his shirt. Mrs. Parks returned and left again, at which time Arnold tossed the two tapes after her. Mrs. Parks then called out to me that there had been an incident; she showed no suspicion of her grandson.

This incident confirmed my doubts regarding the occurrences that had taken place since September. Until Arnold had been seen throwing the two tapes, it had been at least conceivable that the act of observation, particularly by outside witnesses, interfered with the phenomena and that this might be the reason why none were reported under good conditions of observation. The most reasonable view now seemed to be that all or most of the later incidents were fraudulent.

THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION

The discovery of fraud convinced me that the paranormal aspects of the case had passed. However, it opened up a new avenue in the study I hoped to conduct with the "lie detection" method. In this, a series of questions is asked while the subject is attached to a polygraph which measures his neurophysiological reactions. If he tells a falsehood, this is likely to result in a reaction on the graphs. The procedure was planned for an earlier RSPK case (3), but could not be carried out. I was particularly anxious therefore to use the method in the present case and to determine how useful it might be as a part of our RSPK procedures. Since we now had an incident, Arnold's throwing of the two tapes, which was definitely known to have been caused fraudulently and since he disclaimed any knowledge about it, I planned to question Arnold while he was attached to the polygraph in the hope of demonstrating that he was telling a falsehood when he asserted ignorance of what caused the tapes to move. Such a record was important for comparative purposes for the polygraph interview about the first phase of the disturbances. I decided to choose the most convincing of these disturbances, the lamp incident (Event 47). If Arnold disclaimed

any knowledge of how this event was initiated and if the polygraph record supported his claim but indicated that he was lying when answering the question about the tapes, then this would give added support to his claim of innocence regarding complicity in the lamp occurrence. Following the interviews concerning the lamp and the tapes, I hoped to be able to throw light on the other incidents in the case.

My expectations were not fulfilled: the interviews supported Arnold's claim of innocence in connection with the lamp, but there was no clear evidence of deception when he denied knowing how the tapes moved, as observed by Dr. Pratt. This did not come as a complete surprise, however, because in a hypnosis interview conducted by Dr. Ben Feather prior to the polygraph examination, Arnold showed no awareness of the tape incident. Dr. Feather therefore was of the opinion that the boy threw the tapes while in a state of dissociation. Since the polygraph method is incapable of revealing acts for which the subject has no conscious memory, Dr. Feather predicted that it would fail.⁶

ANALYSES FOR AGENCY

In poltergeist disturbances, the victims often suppose that "spirits" are responsible. Mrs. Parks' worry about the disturbances was caused not only by the destruction of her belongings but also by apprehension that the deceased Mr. Brooks, Arnold's father and her son-in-law, might be responsible. This person, reportedly a man of violent temper, had been shot and killed by his wife during a family argument two years before and Mrs. Parks wondered whether he had come back and was causing the incidents in order to get Arnold away from her.

However, as already indicated, the incidents seemed to point to a living agent; namely, Arnold himself. This conclusion was based on a study of the temporal and spatial distribution of the incidents. These analyses, and the search for other patterns in the disturbances that may reveal their nature are guided by the same considerations on which the study of the Lessing case previously reported in the *Journal* (3) was based. For the sake of brevity I shall not repeat in full the rationale underlying these methods, but refer the reader to the earlier paper.

⁶ A detailed report on the polygraph investigation of the case is available from the author upon request.—Ed.

Temporal Distribution of the Occurrences

The occurrences began on Arnold's thirteenth birthday, May 6, 1961, with a single occurrence in Mrs. Parks' room. However, most of the sixty-four occurrences were clustered in the following week (see Table 1). The day-to-day grouping is statistically significant,

Table 1

TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF OCCURRENCES

Time	Days of the Week							Totals
	Su.	M.	Tu.	W.	Th.	F.	Sa.*	
12:00 midnight — 7:59 A.M.								0
8:00 A.M. — 3:59 P.M.						4		4
4:00 P.M. — 11:59 P.M.		12	1	6	7	1	11	38
Time Unknown		1			1		7	22
Totals:	0	13	1	6	8	5	18	64

Distribution of Occurrences over Days: $X^2 = 33.96$ (6 d.f.); $P < .0001$

Distribution of Occurrences over Hours: $X^2 = 62.26$ (2 d.f.); $P < .0001$

* Events 48-51, which took place on the evening of Saturday, May 13, may have occurred at 12:00 midnight or shortly after.

but uninformative since we do not know if there was anything unusual about the activities of the two occupants of the apartment to correlate with the groupings.

As a rule, the exact times of the events were not reported. A large proportion happened in the late afternoon or evening. Though it is possible that some of the incidents for which no times are given took place in the morning or early afternoon, there seems to have been a preference for the later periods. This distribution is also significant. The times of inactivity coincided with Arnold's school hours. Mrs. Parks, however, had no fixed periods when she was away from the apartment. There were no disturbances late at night when the family could be presumed to be deep asleep. But since we do not know the exact times for most of the disturbances, it is not possible to determine if there were any when Arnold, but not his grandmother, was sleeping. However, the fact that they were restricted to periods when he was home from school, points to him as the agent.

Spatial Distribution of Occurrences

If we count the disturbances which happened when Arnold was in the outer hallway with those that took place when he was at home,

there were sixty-four incidents when Arnold was in the vicinity. However, there were eight disturbances (Events 45-51 and 59) when Mrs. Parks was known to be absent. Assuming that presence in the home suggests agency, Arnold rather than Mrs. Parks is indicated.

If proximity to the events is taken as another sign of agency, we may take the average distances from the origin of the movements of the two persons in the house and compare them. In the case of Arnold, his location at the time of a disturbance was reported in many instances. With regard to Mrs. Parks, often it is only stated that she was in a given room but not where in this room. In those cases where Arnold's and Mrs. Parks' locations were indicated in this manner, the distance from the center of the room in question to the disturbance was measured.

There were forty events when the distance between Arnold and the origin of the movements was known or could be inferred. The sum of their distances from him was 317 feet. His average distance from the events consequently is $(317/40 =) 7.9$ feet. In the case of Mrs. Parks, there were twenty-eight events where her distance or approximate distance could be determined. Her average distance from the events was $(306/28 =) 10.9$ feet. If proximity is an indicator of agency, the figures suggest that this role should be assigned to Arnold. This impression is strengthened if we look at each event separately. Of the twenty-eight disturbances where an estimate could be made of both Arnold's and Mrs. Parks' distances from the events, in nineteen Arnold was closest, in eight Mrs. Parks was closest, and in one their distances came out the same. The difference between the figures for Arnold and Mrs. Parks is significant at the level of $P = .03$ ($\chi^2 = 4.48$; 1 d.f.) and supports the other indications that Arnold rather than Mrs. Parks was the agent.

A spiritistic explanation is of course still possible. It is conceivable that some incorporeal entity had attached itself to Arnold and caused the disturbances. However, such a theory is more complex since it postulates both the existence of such an entity and its ability to cause disturbances by PK, while the hypothesis that Arnold was the sole agent only requires the latter supposition and therefore is more acceptable.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS

Attenuation Effect

If Arnold was the source of the PK energy responsible for the events and if this energy obeys similar laws as other forms of energy in nature, then we might expect the force or energy to be weaker

the greater the distance in space from Arnold. One way in which such attenuation might appear would be in a decrease of incidents the greater the distance from the boy. As already stated, there were forty occurrences where Arnold's distance, or approximate distance, from the events could be determined. These have been reduced to groupings of occurrences at 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, and 21-25 feet from Arnold. The number of occurrences for the five categories was fifteen, fourteen, seven, two, and two. A linear regression analysis shows the decrease to be statistically significant ($t = -5.66$; $r = .95$ (3 d.f.); $P < .025$).⁷ Evidently, the disturbances were attenuated with distance from the agent.

As stated in the earlier paper (3), attenuation effects can arise as artifacts in various ways. I have referred to these as "motivational artifacts," "observation and target-grouping artifacts," and "fraud artifacts."

Motivational artifacts: It is possible that objects in the visual field of a person are more likely to become RSPK targets than those that are concealed from view, say in a different room. As a result there might be more incidents close in space than further away. There were seven instances (Events 4, 5, 26, 27, 32, 41, and 61) where Arnold apparently saw both the origin and termination of movement and therefore must at least have been looking in the general direction of the object when it began its flight. Then there were another seven cases (Events 15, 25, 28, 36, 37, 43, and 44) where it is possible but not certain that he saw the beginning of the incident. Thirdly, there were two instances (Events 24 and 42) when he saw the object in flight and then saw it as it hit the floor or wall. Finally, there were four cases (Events 12, 19, 21, and 39) where he evidently only saw the terminating stages. If we subtract the fourteen cases where it was possible that he watched the object as it took off (actually only thirteen since Arnold's distance from Event 61 was not known) from the original set, the distribution comes out as five, thirteen, seven, two, and zero. This causes the first category to drop from the attenuation picture while the last category fits somewhat better.

Observational and target-grouping artifacts: An attenuation effect could result from a deficiency of RSPK targets at the greater distances from Arnold or to a failure by observers to notice disturbed objects at these distances from him. If Arnold's movements in the apartment brought him close to sensitive objects or if

⁷ In linear regression analyses the degrees of freedom are $N - 2$ and not $N - 1$ as in single restraint chi-square calculations. In the present case the d.f. are therefore $(5 - 2 =) 3$. In the Lessing study (3, p. 269) this value was incorrectly given as $(6 - 1 =) 5$. It should have been $(6 - 2 =) 4$ and the P should consequently be .005 rather than .001.

Mrs. Parks and the other witnesses were especially attentive to occurrences in Arnold's immediate vicinity, we should expect the events to be concentrated in the close proximity groupings.

No occurrences were reported from the apartments adjacent to or above Mrs. Parks'. Since her neighbors were alerted to the occurrences, it is to be expected that they would have reported anything unusual at least to the Housing Authority, which made an attempt to discover the cause of the disturbances. However, no such reports were made. Undoubtedly, the targets for Arnold's RSPK abilities were limited to his grandmother's apartment. If Arnold was in his bed at the southeast end of the apartment (see Figure 1), for all practical purposes the greatest distance at which an event could be observed would be about twenty-six feet from him, the positions of the TV set in the living room and the sideboard in the outer hallway, which both figured in the disturbances. There were no occurrences that far away, the most remote events falling into the 21-25 feet category. If the phenomena decrease with distance solely because the available targets exist in a limited area and regardless of Arnold's position in that area, then we should find a decrease with distance also in the case of Mrs. Parks. The distribution of the twenty-eight occurrences when her distances from the events could be calculated were as follows in the five categories: four, eight, twelve, four, and zero. To compare these figures with Arnold's, both sets have been converted to percentages of the totals for each person and are shown in Figure 2.⁸ It is clear that the figures for Mrs. Parks do not decrease in the same regular manner as those for Arnold. However, the lack of occurrences in Mrs. Parks' 21-25 feet category and beyond suggests that the scarcity or absence of occurrences also in Arnold's case might have been a result of the rather small area in which his RSPK abilities were operating rather than the limitation of these abilities to that area.

A large proportion of the occurrences took place while Mrs. Parks was 11-15 feet away. This concentration is due mainly to events in the back hallway and in the bathroom which took place while she was in the kitchen or living room and Arnold was in his own room.

As far as can be determined, Arnold was not likely to be in close proximity to "sensitive" objects any more often than Mrs. Parks. On the contrary, the latter was probably more active in the back hallway where cleaning liquids and similar materials were stored and in the kitchen where there were also many incidents. If there

⁸ The distances of the events from visitors to the apartment are not shown since there were too few cases in which these were known to make the distribution informative.

were groupings of potential targets in areas frequented particularly often both by Arnold and his grandmother, this should have resulted in a preponderance of events close to them both and, as we saw, there was no tendency for Mrs. Parks to be close to the origin of the disturbances.

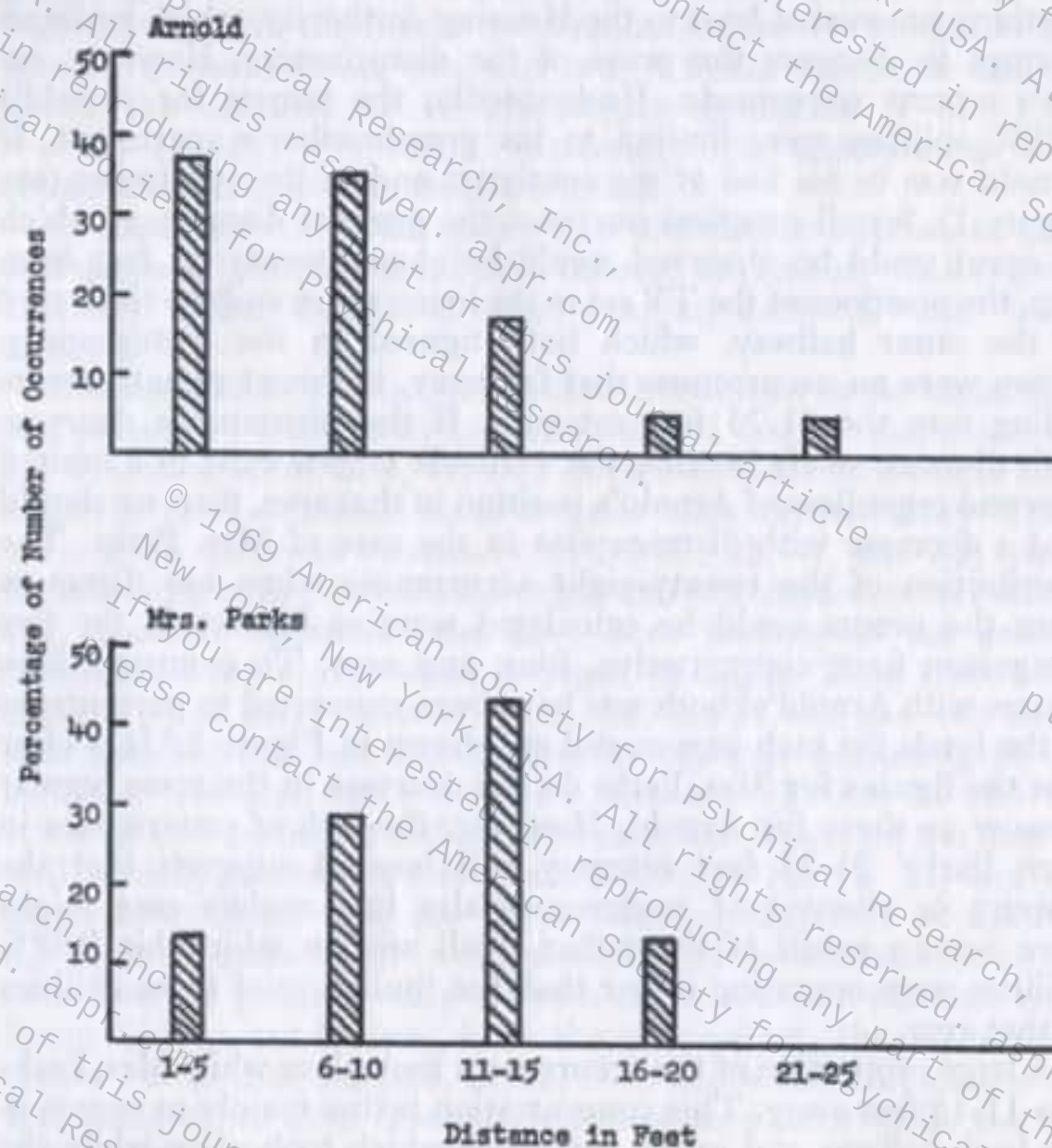


Fig. 2. Percentage of number of occurrences in relation to the distance from occurrences of Arnold and Mrs. Parks.

It is conceivable that both target-grouping and motivational artifacts contaminated the results. In that case both the close and remote distance categories might have been affected, resulting in a gradual decrease in incidents such as was observed in this case.

Fraud artifacts: If Arnold caused some or all of the incidents fraudulently, we might expect the largest number to happen in close proximity to him since it would generally be easier to interfere

fraudulently with objects close at hand than those further afield. There were fourteen incidents when Arnold was with an adult at the time of the occurrences and when this adult was of the opinion that Arnold had not caused the event normally. These are distributed as follows over the five distance categories: two, six, four, zero, and two. Most traces of attenuation have disappeared. This is not surprising because as a rule it is only when the observer was with Arnold in a different room from the one in which the disturbance took place that he could satisfy himself that Arnold was not perpetrating it normally.

In the present case the decrease of incidents with distance can be accounted for in terms of a combination of motivational and target-grouping artifacts or by supposing that Arnold was using fraud in all or most cases in which fraud was possible without detection. The analysis of the attenuation effect to be discussed shortly as well as the other studies of the sixty-four incidents rests on the assumption that most of them were genuine and that the decrease was not due to extraneous factors.

Psi-Field and Exponential Decay

A mathematical study of the attenuation effect was made by Dr. John L. Artley. Figure 3 shows four curves, a freehand estimate

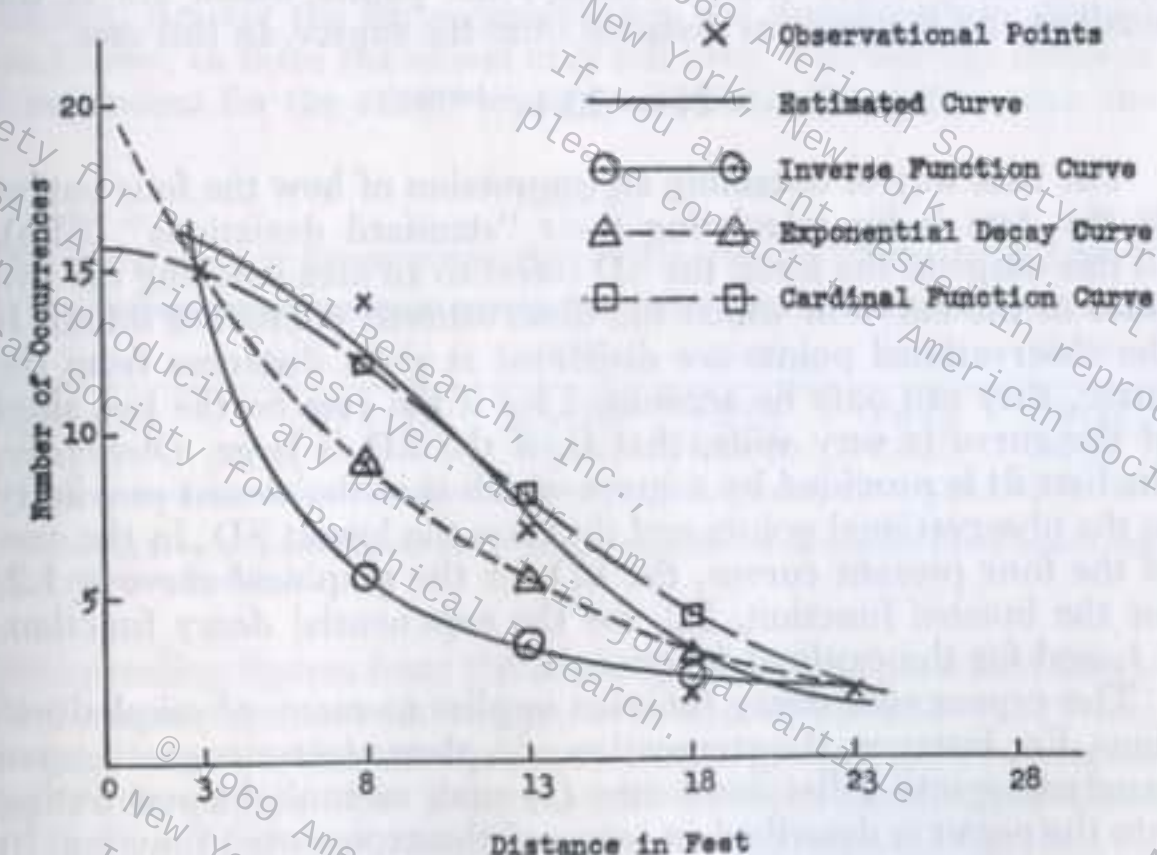


Fig. 3. Number of occurrences in relation to Arnold's distance from the occurrences.

of a smoothly decreasing curve which fits the five observational points, a curve of the inverse function, an exponential curve of decay, and a curve of the cardinal function. As is to be expected, the freehand curve fits the data best but has no theoretical implications. The inverse function does not fit the observations very well. This function describes the way in which energy is disseminated with increased distances from point sources. For instance, the attenuation of light with increased distance from an electric bulb follows the inverse function (though only approximately since the bulb is not a true point source).

The cardinal function and the exponential decay function both fit the data reasonably well. The cardinal function gives the better fit, but so far it has not resulted in any meaningful theoretical view of the phenomena.

The function used to express exponential decay is written:

$$N = K_1 e^{-K_2 R}$$

where N is the number of occurrences, e is the base of the Napierian logarithm system, K_1 and K_2 are parameters which are used to fit the observed points and R is the average distance from the agent. In the present case, K_1 and K_2 have been chosen so that the exponential decay curve passes through the points which are at the smallest and the greatest distance from the source. In this case

$$N = 20.4 e^{-0.007R}$$

The best way of obtaining an impression of how the four curves fit the data is by calculating their "standard deviations" (SDs). In this usage of the term, the SD refers to an area covering the two sides of the curve in which the observational points are found. If the observational points are dispersed at great distances from the curve, they can only be accounted for if the area on the two sides of the curve is very wide, that is, if the SD is large. Obviously, the best fit is provided by a curve which is in the closest proximity to the observational points and thus has the lowest SD. In the case of the four present curves, the SD for the graphical curve is 1.2, for the inverse function, 5.2, for the exponential decay function, 3.1, and for the cardinal function, 1.9.

The exponential decay function applies to many physical situations. For instance, the attenuation of a plane electromagnetic wave penetrating into a flat conductor (1) such as sunlight penetrating into the ocean is described in terms of the exponential function. In this example the "decay" consists in the conversion of light to heat energy. With regard to the RSPK occurrences, there evidently was a conversion of psi energy to kinetic energy.

It makes good sense that it is the exponential decay function rather than the inverse function which provides the better fit for the data. In RSPK disturbances kinetic energy is produced. If the phenomena follow known rules, then the creation of this energy should result from the conversion of some other energy form and the number of such energy conversions should diminish with increased distance from the source in the same manner as other processes in nature that involve energy expenditure. The inverse function, on the other hand, is concerned with the dispersal of energy in space rather than with its conversion into other forms and should therefore not provide as good a fit for the data.

As mentioned before, the decrease could have been due to artifacts. However, the fact that the exponential decay curve, which makes sense logically, should provide a good fit seems to support the view that the attenuation is due to the nature of the energetic process itself rather than to extraneous factors.

Other Attenuation Effects

If psi energy is similar to known energy forms, there might be attenuation with distance not only in the number of incidents observed but also in the amount of energy expended on each incident. Among the forty cases where the distance from Arnold was known, in three the object only fell over. The average distance of movement for the others is shown in Table 2 together with the

Table 2

AVERAGE DISTANCE OF MOVEMENT IN FEET IN RELATION TO PROXIMITY TO AGENT*

	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25
Newark Case	5.4 (14)	7.9 (12)	7.0 (7)	1.0 (2)	2.0 (2)
Lessing Case	5.8 (11)	7.6 (3)	8.75 (8)	4.0 (1)	2.0 (1)

* The figures in parentheses refer to the number of incidents from which the averages are calculated.

corresponding figures from the Lessing case (to be discussed later). The longest movements occurred in the 6-10 and 11-15 feet categories and the shortest in the two distant groupings. The lengths traveled by objects close to Arnold fell between these. Since there are too few objects to base any conclusion on, especially in the two last categories, and since the longest motions occurred in the 6-10 and 11-15 groupings rather than in the 1-5 grouping, there is no smooth attenuation curve here. However, there was perhaps a

preference for lighter objects over pieces of furniture. Also, when the latter were disturbed, they only fell over and did not move any measurable distances as did the smaller items. This seems consistent with other energetic processes where the amount of kinetic energy required to displace an object a given distance is related to the mass of the object.

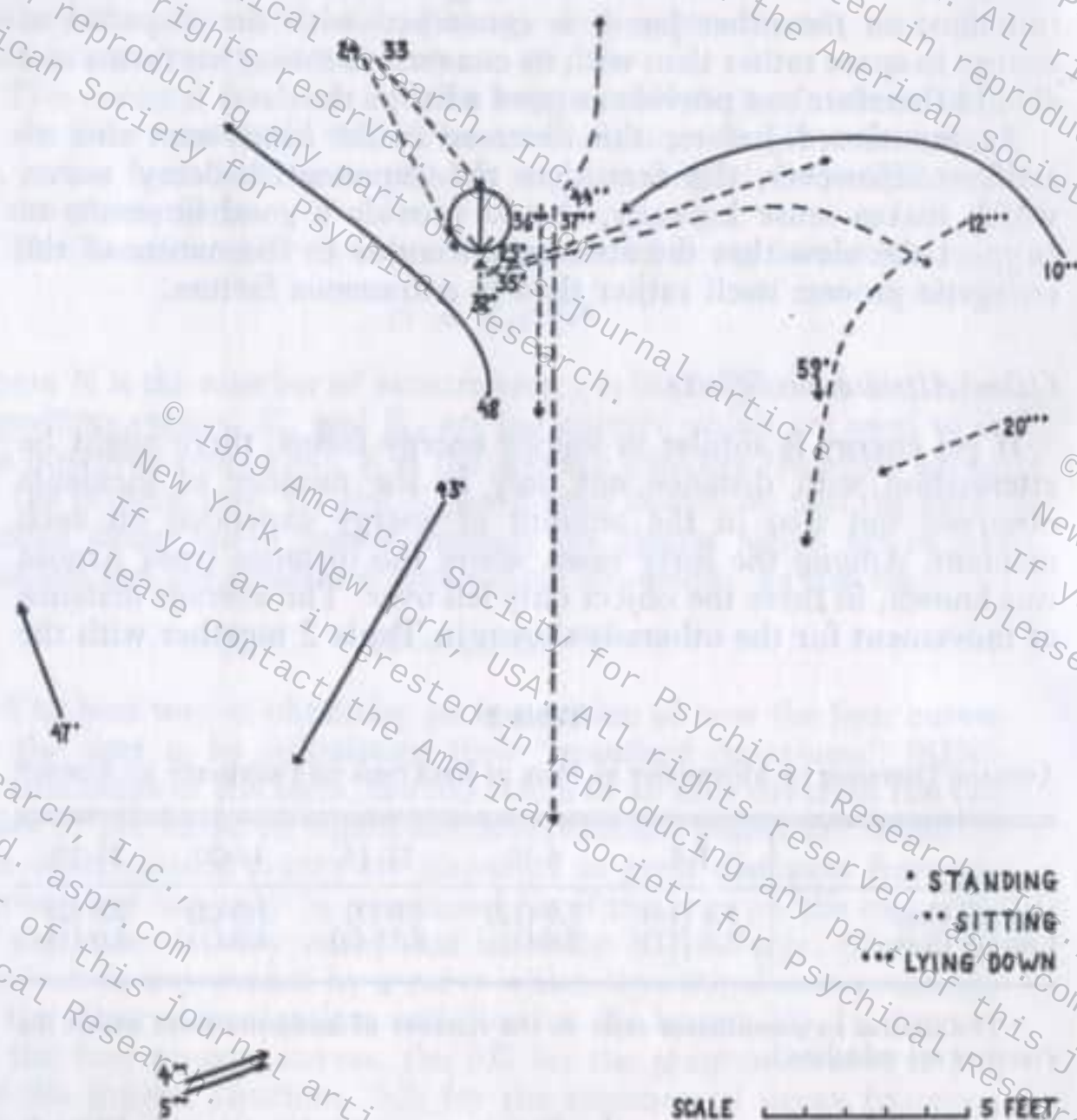


Fig. 4. Origin, length, and direction of movement of objects in relation to Arnold's position. The position and the way he faced is indicated by the large circle and arrow at the center. The numbers refer to the events and the dots following the numbers indicate whether he was lying down, seated, etc., when this was known. (Since the large circle indicates his head, about four feet should be added to obtain an estimate of the position of his body when he was lying down.) The solid lines show movements when it seemed difficult or impossible for Arnold to have caused the events normally.

Psi Field Vectors

In Figures 4 and 5 the origins, directions, and length of movements are shown when Arnold's position in relation to them was reported or could be inferred. These movements can be regarded

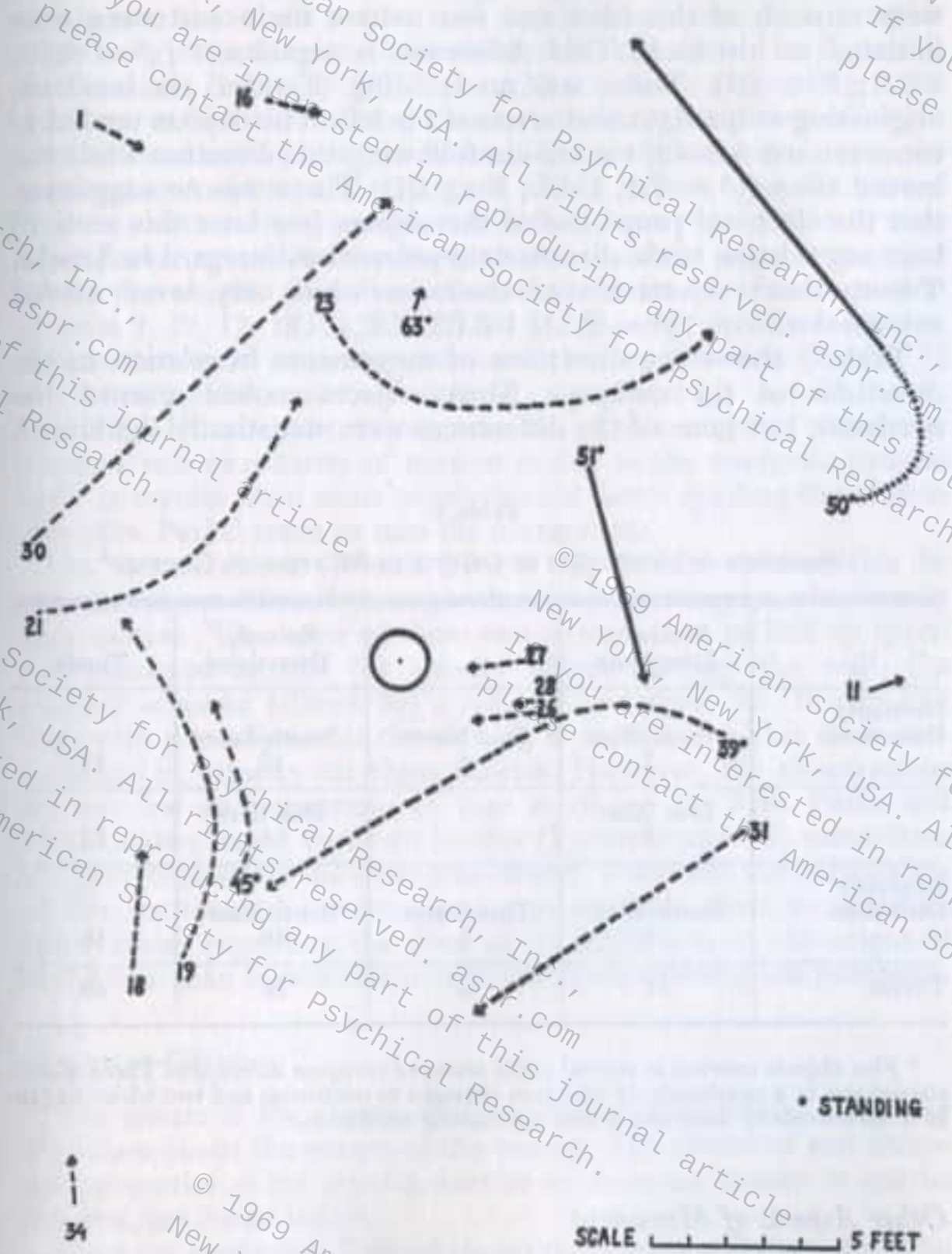


Fig. 5. Origin, length, and direction of movement of objects in relation to Arnold's position when it was not known which way he faced. (See also explanation to Figure 4.)

as vectors in Arnold's psi field. In Figure 4 Arnold's location and the way he faced are shown by the circle and enclosed arrow at the center. In Figure 5 movements are indicated where it was not known which direction Arnold faced at the time.

The movements generally originated in front of Arnold. There were thirteen of this kind and four where the occurrences were initiated at his back. This difference is significant ($\chi^2 = 4.76$; 1 d.f.; $P < .03$). There was no favoring of sides, six incidents originating at his right and seven at his left. The objects tended to come toward Arnold, twenty-six following this direction while ten moved away ($\chi^2 = 7.1$, 1 d.f.; $P < .01$). There was no suggestion that the electrical properties of the objects (see later this section) bore any relation to the direction they moved with regard to Arnold. Twenty-three objects moved clockwise while only seven moved counterclockwise ($\chi^2 = 8.53$, 1 d.f.; $P < .01$).

Table 3 shows the directions of movements in relation to the directions of the compass. Most objects moved toward the northeast, but none of the differences were statistically significant.

Table 3

DIRECTIONS OF MOVEMENTS OF OBJECTS IN RELATION TO COMPASS*

	Westerly Directions		Easterly Directions	Totals
Northerly Directions	North-West 2	Due North 4	North-East 12	18
	Due West 6		Due East 6	12
Southerly Directions	South-West 6	Due South 2	South-East 10	18
Totals:	14	6	28	48

* Five objects moving in curved paths changed compass directions. Three which started out in a northeasterly direction changed to northwest and two which began in a northwesterly direction ended up moving northeast.

Other Aspects of Movement

In two instances, the objects seemed to rotate or turn. Mrs. Leiden said that a bottle was "turning a jig in the air" (Event 10) and Arnold said he saw a lamp bulb unscrew itself (Event 26).

In several instances, the objects apparently moved in a curved path. At least such a motion has to be assumed if the points of origin and termination of the motions were correctly reported. It is conceivable that the objects ricocheted off the walls hereby turning corners but there is no evidence for this. It seems most reasonable to suppose that their motion was a curvilinear one. It is possible that there were more such motions than are shown in Figure 1. For instance, Events 29, 30, 31, and 38 are shown originating at the southern end of the hallway closet, but the exact places of origin of these movements are not known. If the objects came from the northern end of the closet, they too would have to describe curved lines in order to have terminated in the places reported in or near Mrs. Parks' room. At the least, therefore, there are eleven cases where the objects describe a counterclockwise curvilinear motion (Events 9, 10, 12, 19, 21, 23, 39, 44, 45, 48, and 50). There are two objects that went in the opposite, clockwise, direction (Events 35 and 49). This difference is statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 6.23$, 1 d.f.; $P < .02$). However, it is not possible at this stage to determine whether this peculiarity of motion is due to the energetic process itself or results from some psychological factor guiding the objects into Mrs. Parks' room or into the living room.

On two occasions (Events 24 and 43) Arnold claimed that he saw the object "float" through the air suggesting an abnormally slow motion. The latter of these two objects then picked up speed and shattered against (or shortly before hitting) the wall. On another occasion (Event 50) a saltcellar touched Mr. Brown and then with great force hit the wall. It is conceivable that there was a change in velocity for these objects. However, the observations are too few and uncertain to base anything on. Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Leiden stated that two bottles (Events 9 and 10) came from the bathroom while the door was closed. These are the only claims of this nature and it seems easier to attribute them to mistaken observations regarding the door to the bathroom or the origin of the bottles than to postulate additional parapsychological processes.

Nature of Objects

The nature of the objects that are disturbed in RSPK cases may give clues about the nature of the energy. The electrical and chemical properties of the objects, insofar as these are known or can be inferred, are listed below.

Electrical properties: Table 4 shows the objects and their electrical properties as far as these can be determined. Objects consisting mainly of metal or having substantial metal components were listed as conductors or probable conductors, respectively, while objects

Table 4

ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES OF OBJECTS

Object Disturbed	Number of Occurrences	Conductors	Probable Conductors	Dielectrics	Probable Dielectrics	Combined Conductors and Dielectrics
Empty Glass Objects	20			✓		
Furniture Polish Bottle	1				✓	
Cleaning Fluid Bottle	2				✓	
Mercurochrome Bottle	4				✓	
Cologne and Perfume Bottles	2				✓	
Bottles and Jars with Unknown Contents	4				✓	
Glass Vaseline Jar	1				✓	
Glass Salt Shaker	3					✓
Glass Pepper Shaker	2					✓
Mirror	2					✓
Light Bulb	3					✓
Glass Lamp Base	1					✓
Empty Porcelain Objects	8			✓		
Porcelain Lamp	3					✓
Wood Bookcase	2			✓		
Metal Floor Lamp	1	✓				
Radiogramophone and TV	3	✓				
Electric Iron	1	✓				
Can of Paint	1	✓				
Totals:	64	2	1	30	14	17

of glass, porcelain, and wood were listed as dielectrics, or if they contained something or had a component which was possibly a conductor, as probable dielectrics. Some objects seemed to be combinations of conducting and dielectric components. A fifth category has been introduced for these. There were many more dielectrics and probable dielectrics than conductors and probable conductors. Since we do not know the relative abundance of the two types of objects in the home, it is not possible to be certain that there was a preference for non-conductors. However, if the principle of selection had been entirely random, there probably would have been a few pots and pans or knives and forks among the eighteen objects disturbed in the kitchen, yet there were none. There may therefore have been a preference for dielectrics. If there was such a preference, it is of course possible that this was not due

to their electrical properties as such but resulted from other factors, such as their chemical composition.

Chemical elements: In determining the chemical composition of the objects, a rough estimate was made based on the commonly known constituents of the kinds of objects that were involved (see Table 5). The method is outlined in the previous paper (3).

Table 5

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF OBJECTS

Principal Materials	Glass	Carbohydrate	Clay	Iron	Copper	Aluminum	Miscellaneous and Unknown Metals	Hydrocarbon	Salt	Polymer	Abundant in Organisms*	Not Found in Organisms	Number Occurrences with Each Element
Number Occurrences with Each Material	49	5	11	4	10	6	18	11	3	4			
Main Elements													
Hydrogen	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	81
Oxygen	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	70
Carbon	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	70
Silicon	✓		✓								✓	✓	60
Calcium	✓										✓	✓	49
Sodium	✓										✓	✓	52
Aluminum	✓					✓					✓	✓	17
Iron				✓							✓	✓	4
Copper					✓						✓	✓	10
Miscellaneous and Unknown Metals							✓				✓	✓	18
Chlorine									✓		✓	✓	3

* (✓) = less than one per cent by weight.

Hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon headed the list of elements present in the disturbed objects. The possibility that an object containing such elements is more sensitive than others because the same elements are abundant in the biological sending system, in this case Arnold's body, is discussed in the previous paper. For the time being it is not possible to decide whether the large number of RSPK episodes with such objects is because they are more sensitive than others to PK energy or simply because they are more common in household objects than non-organic materials.

FOCUSING EFFECTS

In the Lessing case there seemed to be a marked tendency for certain objects or types of objects to be repeatedly disturbed (3). An attempt was also made to see whether the psi effects were concentrated in certain areas of the house. I referred to these effects as "object focusing" and "area focusing."

Before we can determine whether certain objects or areas are associated with more disturbances than others, because they are endowed with a special sensitivity to the psi energy, we need to know whether these occurrences could be due to other factors, such as their increased exposure to the energy by virtue of proximity to its source.

In the Lessing case the RSPK occurrences were clustered in the 1-5 feet category but in the present study we find there are about equally many in the 6-10 feet grouping. On the assumption that the greater number of episodes, including repetitions, within this area may be due to greater psi energy close to the agent rather than to any special sensitivity to this energy by the objects, we shall first examine repetitions beyond the 1-10 feet range. In these analyses only the repetitions with the same object or kind of object or in the same area are given; the first event is not listed.

Object Focusing

Individual objects: In Table 6 I have shown repetitions of disturbances of single objects in relation to their distances from Arnold. In each case the first check mark indicates the first disturbance of that object, the second check mark, the second disturbance, and so on. Seven objects were involved, accounting for eighteen incidents of which eleven were repetitions, somewhat less than one-sixth of the total of the sixty-four occurrences. If we ignore repetitions within the 1-10 feet range, only one remains; namely, one of the saltcellar episodes (Event 50). Apparently there is no evidence of focusing in the present case other than what can be attributed to the proximity factor.

If any of the five repetitions where the distances were not known occurred beyond the 1-10 feet range, the evidence for focusing would be stronger. There is perhaps some indication of focusing in the four cases where the repetitions happened immediately after the first occurrence with that object (Events 37 and 45) or with only one intermediary event (Events 21 and 35). Undoubtedly, there were other objects in Arnold's immediate vicinity that could have been affected in addition to the object that made its second performance. These four events (six, in case Events 58 and 63 closely followed the first episodes with these objects) suggest that the

objects were endowed with some special quality which made them more sensitive to the PK effects than other objects in Arnold's immediate surroundings. However, I have not been able to assign a statistical value to this phenomenon.

Table 6
FOCUSING ON INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS

Object	Occurrence Number	Distance of Occurrence from Arnold					Number Repetitions
		1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25 ?	
Bottle of Mercurochrome	19 21 39		✓ ✓ ✓				2
Salt Shaker	33 35 50		✓ ✓		✓		2
Ashtray	36 37 42**		✓ ✓			✓	2
Ashtray	44 45 48		✓ ✓	✓			2
Pepper Shaker	24 49		✓			✓	1
Bookcase	57 58***					✓ ✓	1
Radiogramophone	62 63***			✓		✓	1
Totals: 7	18	7	5	1		5	11

* Possibly not the same ashtray as 36 and 37.

** Object broke.

*** Not certain that this event followed immediately after previous.

Types of objects: The analysis for focusing on kinds of objects in the apartment is shown in Table 7. With regard to the individual objects repeatedly disturbed, which are shown in Table 6, only the first incident with each object is entered in Table 7 to keep this analysis independent of the other. If we again ignore episodes in the 1-10 feet area, there was no evidence of focusing on types of objects. It is of course possible that several of the twenty-one events whose distances were not known occurred in the greater distance categories and that there would have been evidence for focusing could these distances have been established.

Table 7

FOCUSING ON TYPES OF OBJECTS

Object	Distance of Occurrence from Arnold					Totals
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	
Containers:						
Cleaning, Polishing		1			2	3
Perfume, Cologne			1		1	2
Vaseline, Mercurochrome		2			1	3
Unknown Contents				1	3	4
Can of Paint					1	1
Empty Bottles and Jars		1			1	2
Totals:	4	1	1		9	15
Tableware:						
Punch Bowl Set		2			2	6
Saucers and Plates	1				2	3
Sugar Bowl and Teapot Covers	2				1	3
Drinking Glasses	2				1	3
Cups			1		1	2
Salt and Pepper Shakers	2					2
Decanter			1			1
Totals:	7	2	2		7	20
Miscellaneous Objects:						
Lamps	2		1		2	5
Ashtrays	2	1		1		4
Mirrors			1		1	2
Light Bulbs	1	1	1			3
Iron		1				1
Totals:	5	3	3	1	3	15
Furniture:						
Bookcase					1	1
Radiogramophone					1	1
TV Set	1					1
Totals:	1				2	3
Grand Total:	12	10	6	2	21	53

In some cases, events with the same kinds of objects followed so closely on each other as to suggest some selective principle other than proximity or chance. This is true for Events 3, 4, 5, 7, 28, and 36. However, except for Events 4 and 36, the objects disturbed were located in the same places in the apartment as the objects previously involved. This suggests that it may have been the area rather than the object that was the focal point in these cases.

Area Focusing

Table 8 gives the distribution of events over the areas of the apartment. If we subtract object repetitions, events in the 1-10 feet

Table 8

FOCUSING ON AREAS IN THE HOUSE

Areas	Arnold's Distance from Occurrence					Totals	Less 1-10 Feet and Distance Unknown
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25		
Living Room	4	6	1		2	9	22
Kitchen	8	1	2			7	18
Hall Closet		3	1			5	9
Bathroom		4	2			2	8
Mrs. Parks' Room			1	2		1	4
Arnold's Room	3						3
Totals:	15	14	7	2	2	24	64
							11

range, as well as cases where the distances from Arnold were not known (since there were so many of these), there seems to be no evidence for area focusing. The most extreme figures are three and zero, representing the three incidents each for the living room and Mrs. Parks' room and none for Arnold's.

However, the picture changes if we consider the *sequences* of events. In many instances the repetitions followed immediately on each other or with only one intervening event, suggesting that something other than proximity or chance was responsible. If we disregard recurrences which might be due to focusing on individual objects (Events 21, 35, 37, and 45) or on types of objects (where this could not in turn be attributed to area focusing, namely Events 3 and 5), and if we also disregard those cases where it is not known whether events listed chronologically in fact followed each other, and if we restrict ourselves to events immediately following each other or with only one intervening occurrence (one-interval repetitions), the following picture emerges (see Figure 1). In the living room one incident (Event 48) followed immediately on the preceding one and another (Event 44) after one interval. Moreover, these two episodes took place in the same place in that room, namely on the table at the south of the sofa. Also, though the consecutive order is uncertain, the concluding events of the case, except for Event 64, all appeared to occur in the living room (Events 58-63). In the kitchen, there were four such recurrences (Events 25, 33, and 50 being immediate, and 43 a one-interval repetition). In addition we have a sequence of events whose order is not known but which may have taken place at about the same time (Events 53-56). Also, five of the events in the hallway closet were immediate (Events 7, 8, 30, and 31) or one-interval repetitions (Event 20). In the bathroom there was one immediate (Event 10) and a one-interval repetition

(Event 12). In Mrs. Parks' room there was an immediate repetition (Event 17). Finally, two of the occurrences in Arnold's room were immediate repetitions (Events 27 and 28), these events also happening in the same part of his room as the first one which took place there.

Adding together the repetitions for the living room, kitchen, hallway closet, bathroom, Mrs. Parks' room, and Arnold's room, the number of recurrences are eight, eight, five, two, one, and two. Though there seems to be evidence that the occurrences were concentrated in one area at a time, the unequal distribution over the apartment of such clusterings is not necessarily to be interpreted in terms of focusing on the favored rooms. We might expect large numbers of recurrences in the living room and kitchen because these rooms contained so many potential PK targets and target sites and because Arnold probably spent many of his waking hours there. However, the scarcity of occurrences in his own room, where he undoubtedly also spent much of his time, suggests that this lay outside the general target range.

Of course, there was clear evidence for area focusing insofar as the disturbances were restricted to Mrs. Parks' apartment, at least in the first, ostensibly genuine phase of the occurrences. There seemed to be something in the home which liberated Arnold's PK abilities which was not found elsewhere.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

In the previous parts of this paper I have discussed the RSPK process in terms of its end product, the movements and disturbances of the objects in Mrs. Parks' apartment. I shall now turn to the apparent source of the events, to Arnold, in the search for factors which might give a clue to the origin of the energy responsible for the events.

Personality Studies

Psychological tests were given to Arnold by Dr. I. H. Paul at New York University on September 16, 1961. The tests administered on that occasion were the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, the Rorschach test, the Thematic Apperception Test (TAT), and figure-drawing tests. While Arnold and his grandmother were in Durham, December 16-20, three psychiatric interviews were conducted with him and one with Mrs. Parks by Dr. Ben W. Feather at Duke University. In the same period, Dr. John Altrocchi, assisted by his graduate students, Mr. Leonard

S. Fink, Mr. Bruce Grossman, Miss Lou Hicks, Miss Margaret Nicholls, and Mr. David Sandler, gave Arnold the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), a word-association test, and an Interpersonal Check List in which Arnold was asked to describe himself, his ideal self, his grandmother, and his ideal grandmother. Mrs. Parks was given a general interview, a TAT, a Rorschach, an MMPI, and an Interpersonal Check List in which she was asked to describe herself, her ideal self, Arnold, and her ideal Arnold. In addition, they were both given a brief situational test and two lengthy interviews.

Dr. Paul's Report: Except for the results of the intelligence test, Dr. Paul's main findings are discussed by Dr. Altrocchi so this part of his study will not be quoted here. With regard to Arnold's intelligence, Dr. Paul observes:

The tests show him to be somewhat below average in intelligence. He falls into the category of dull-normal; though his Verbal IQ is average (99), his Performance IQ is well below average (80), and his total IQ is 90. In general, his functioning is likely to be uneven and spotty. He may occasionally show an ability to do rather well at tasks, but at other times his performance may deteriorate. His thinking tends to be rather concrete, and he sometimes shows poor discernment and sensitivity to reality. His ability to test reality is not well developed. At the same time he is imaginative, in that he can give free rein to the play of a rich and varied imagination. In fact he is probably a daydreamer. But when it comes to organizing and structuring his thinking, his capacity seems weak, and he is apt to be too impulsive and preoccupied. Moreover, while he can apply himself earnestly and persistently to problems and tasks, he is liable to be too rigid and mechanical; instead of trying to analyze and understand a task, he goes at it with trial-and-error. . . Freedom from his severe emotional stresses may . . . heighten his potential.

Dr. Feather's Report: In his interviews with Arnold, Dr. Feather noted that Arnold, when telling about his past,

left out any real personal references, such as statements concerning his feelings for the significant people in his life. He has had a rather traumatic childhood in that he has been raised by several different families other than his real parents. He has lived for varying lengths of time with his mother, with his grandmother, an aunt, and an uncle. During his first two years of life he was raised in part by an aunt, and he is unable to give any real reason for not being cared for by his parents. His description of his father is of a harsh, cruel man who frequently beat Arnold and his mother and spent a great deal of time in jail. Two years ago one of these battles between Arnold's parents culminated in his mother shooting his father. His mother has since been in prison but is due to be paroled soon. Arnold expresses no

feelings of remorse over his father's death, and in fact, says that he felt glad when it happened for he had feared that his father might kill his mother. In a later interview, however, he did begin to express more feeling of admiration and fondness for his father, and I got the impression that in the first interview he was echoing attitudes toward his father expressed frequently to him by all of his mother's family. Throughout the three interviews with Arnold the most striking feature was the degree to which he used denial and repression as defenses. There was considerable evidence of an intense, underlying anger toward his grandmother, but he was never able to verbalize this. When encouraged to do so, he would relate many instances of his grandmother setting rather stringent restrictions on his activity, such as not permitting him to play with the neighborhood children his age, going to movies, watching television, etc., and nonverbal cues of his resentment and anger were quite apparent. Yet when it was gently suggested that he must feel quite annoyed at his grandmother at times, this was immediately denied, and he would attempt to change the subject.

At the present time, he is living in a children's shelter separated from his grandmother and the rest of the family. He appears to like this home for children very much and does not speak of returning home when he leaves here, but rather, returning to the shelter. He adds, almost as an afterthought, that he would really like to live with his grandmother and if only those objects would stop flying through the air he would be able to return to her. One definitely gets the impression, however, that he is quite happy to be away from her and has no desire to return.

On the third interview, Arnold's defenses had been raised considerably and he remained quite guarded throughout the hour. He was quite anxious and eager to leave the interview. Most questions were answered with "I don't know" or "I can't remember." During this third interview I hypnotized Arnold and asked him to recount the details of one of the more striking of the poltergeist episodes. He did this without changing in any way his previous stories. When pushed for more information about it he was unable to give any. The level of hypnosis was deep enough to sustain induced anesthesia, and amnesia for the hypnotic trance was induced.

I interviewed Mrs. Parks, Arnold's grandmother, on two brief occasions. On the surface she appears to be very puzzled about the strange events that had been occurring in her apartment, but at a deeper level she seems to believe that Arnold is entirely responsible for them. There is evidence of considerable annoyance and anger toward the boy with a need to deny these feelings. She also feels guilty about her consciously admitted wish to have Arnold live elsewhere and I attempted to relieve some of this guilt and assure her that for now at least this seemed to be the most practical arrangement.

Arnold's mental status has not revealed any evidence of organicity or of disordered thought processes, hallucinations, delusions, or paranoid ideas. He is well oriented in all spheres and appears to be

of average to borderline intelligence. He shows very little affect during the interviews but this appears to be more a culturally determined phenomenon than a true disorder of affect.

There is no direct information about the nature of the poltergeist phenomena, but due to his tendency toward repression and denial, it is quite likely that some of these phenomena have occurred in dissociative states and that he is, indeed, unaware of what he is doing. If such is the case, the motivation is most likely the wish to act hostilely and destructively toward his grandmother and to effect their separation and yet to be able to do this in such a way that the intense nature of these feelings need not be fully admitted to awareness.

Dr. Altrocchi's Report: Dr. Altrocchi's report includes, in addition to the work conducted by himself and his students, the main observations made by Dr. Paul. He was aware of the simulated poltergeist disturbances at the Parapsychology Laboratory and of the hypothesis developed by Dr. Feather that this and other occurrences might be dissociative in nature and therefore not remembered by Arnold. Dr. Altrocchi writes:

Looking first at Arnold's personality, the most striking feature emerging from this examination is his massive use of repression and denial. For instance, he is the only person I have ever examined with no discrepancy between self and ideal self on the Interpersonal Check List. Even more dramatic was his thorough denial of feelings in general and anger in particular during my interview with him and his grandmother together. . . . At one point, both his grandmother and I were pressing him rather vigorously on a point in such a way that it was almost certain that he would have some feeling reactions. And indeed, tears came to his eyes. But even with tears in his eyes he denied having any feelings whatsoever. There is evidence in the test materials of an underlying sadness and fear of separation (Arnold has grown up in at least four homes) but he denies feelings in this area too. Under some pressure and direct questioning, he did admit to feelings of anger when picked on by other boys. When asked when he had been most angry in his life, he said that he was most angry when he was beaten by his father as a child. It became clear that at that early age, no matter how furious he was, he felt completely helpless and unable to express or act upon the anger. It is as if this way of dealing with—or not dealing with—anger has persevered and generalized so that it pervades his personality now.

Pursuing the theme of anger a little further and bringing in some interview and test evidence concerning his identifications, it is interesting to note that his grandmother describes him as timid, like his mother, so that it is conceivable that he has the idea that if he should ever let any anger out he would kill somebody as his mother did. Yet there is also some evidence of identification with his father. Mr. Brooks was a boxer and Arnold is a special fan of heavyweight

champion Patterson. . . . Whether the events were carried out by trickery, or by dissociation, or are genuinely paranormal, their overall effect is certainly to dismay and upset the grandmother so that Arnold's hostility toward her becomes important.

Arnold seems to be a shy, inhibited, and rather withdrawn boy and, while I have not examined many Negro boys his age, I would suspect that these qualities cannot be entirely attributed to being examined by strange white people in hospitals and laboratories five hundred miles from home. The underlying complex forces in his personality seem to have emerged most clearly in fantasy—in the TAT stories he told to Dr. Paul. These long and detailed stories include themes of achievement and glory, kindness and vengeance, rejection and loneliness, robbery and murder, guilt and awakening adolescent sexuality, disastrous events and happy endings. It is also important to underline Dr. Paul's inference that there is a great need on Arnold's part to be the center of attention, "to be admired and noticed by others, to achieve spectacular success and renown . . . a poignant desire to be wanted and loved, especially by his mother." One has to admit that, however the events concerning the flying objects have occurred, Arnold has spectacularly succeeded in making himself the center of a great deal of attention (although he is not receiving the basic love he presumably desires)—a particularly hard task for a rather shy and inhibited boy.

Other data about Arnold's personality that might be useful in understanding the poltergeist phenomena include the word-association test. Arnold had particularly long reaction times, or unusual associations to the words "birthday," "home," "trick," and "money." In this regard it is especially interesting to note that his grandmother first started paying attention to the strange poltergeist phenomena when a small jar on her dresser fell to the floor and this occurred on Arnold's birthday—a time when one might think that he wanted and needed but felt he didn't receive love and attention.

In a general psychodiagnostic sense, Arnold's degree of repression and denial is remarkable enough to put him outside the usually defined normal range. Also, as pointed out in Dr. Paul's report, the content of his Rorschach responses (e.g., eyes, faces) and the mediocre form adequacy of his responses suggest potential for paranoid tendencies and even for a schizophrenic breakdown if life stresses grow without a concomitant growth in his ability to satisfy his needs. I see him as a boy who badly needs the kind of growth that might be provided by psychotherapy, but whether he is motivated to enter into a therapeutic relationship or feels in enough distress to get started in psychotherapy is much more doubtful.

Mrs. Parks' level of personality adjustment would probably fall within the generally accepted normal range. While there is no evidence that she is generally a very anxious person, there were many behavioral evidences of anxiety during our examination. One would thus infer that she was very anxious about and threatened by the situation of being here in Durham, examined by strange white

people, and especially because she felt that the focus of the examination should be on Arnold and her orientation was much more toward hoping that we would help them than toward their helping us in a research sense. Furthermore, while Mrs. Parks' ego-strength seems generally adequate, her ability to form Rorschach percepts that fit the form of the blots deteriorated somewhat under the stresses of continuing examination and the complexity of having to deal with several colors in the blots. Thus she would not be expected to react in a highly mature manner to stress. This seems confirmed by her reactions to the current, admittedly rather difficult situation with flying objects. In addition to this degree of immaturity she has strong dependency needs which are probably less gratified now that her husband is dead. . . . The strong dependency needs combined with the death of her husband a year ago raises the question of whether she might be focusing more of her needs onto Arnold now that her husband is dead and thus placing more than usual stress on an already tenuous and difficult relationship.

There seems to be some basic distrust and pessimism (as in a dog-eat-dog world) in Mrs. Parks' life orientation. Furthermore, she is much less inhibited and more impulsive than Arnold. A high degree of underlying hostility is quite apparent and emerges into her behavior much more easily than is the case with Arnold. She was able, for instance, to march into my office once and ask me what was taking us so long. She is able to release some of this hostility by chiding and criticizing Arnold and some of the rest of it seems channeled into controlling him.

With the background of these two separate personality sketches, we can look more specifically at the relationship between Arnold and his grandmother. I was able to observe very little real communication between them. One can say that they really do not understand each other very well. I would say in general that the relationship between these two people is significantly more pathological than either of them are as separate personalities. When one is able to cut through the denial and defensiveness on the part of both Arnold and his grandmother about their relationship (at first she described him as an unbelievably good boy), one sees that she describes Arnold as too dependent and not assertive or loving enough. (Again this raises the question of whether she may be trying to substitute the boy for his grandfather in some unconscious way.) She wants to know more about what he thinks and feels and does, and she asks him directly about these things. At such a point one sees a good example of the difficulties in their relationship, for Arnold answers her in some very brief or noncommittal way, such as "I don't know" or "Yes," which leaves the grandmother thoroughly unsatisfied. Her reaction is to press further and he continues to balk and she gets very angry very quickly, and there are then at an impasse. I spent some time in my last interview with them trying to help them start to improve their intercommunication but whether or not I made any impact on them is hard to tell. Finally, concerning their relationship, it should be

pointed out that the overall effect of the flying objects is to put a large wedge in this relationship. While both of them overtly profess the desire to continue living together, it is clear that there are motivations on both sides to live separately, and I think the greatest help we can be in advising the Newark authorities is to tell them that it would probably be helpful all around if Arnold and his grandmother lived separately.

In conclusion, I am very impressed with the degree to which the evidence from this examination is congruent with Dr. Feather's hypothesis that Arnold is subject to dissociative episodes and that many of the events concerning flying objects may be caused directly by him without his having any conscious memory of them. One way that such a hypothesis is important is that it leads to the prediction that the polygraph results would suggest "innocence" (as I gather happened in this case) because the boy really is telling the truth as he knows it when he denies causing the events. It would be most interesting to see whether other poltergeist cases involve potentially dissociative people. Whether the events involving the flying objects are paranormal, trickery, or dissociative, it seems that there is considerable motivational and interpersonal background which might help explain some of the psychological forces behind such events. I refer specifically here to an extremely neurotic relationship between these two people where real emotional communication, especially from Arnold toward his grandmother, is completely blocked. Adding to this the high degree of anger underlying his quiet exterior and his massive use of repression, one can easily imagine rather explosive forces that would be expected to be triggered in this relationship—especially at times connected with such events as a birthday and an increasingly intolerable relationship between Arnold and his grandmother.

EEG Examination

An electroencephalographic (EEG) examination of Arnold was made by Dr. Walter D. Obrist on December 19 at Duke University. Dr. Obrist states:

The subject was quiet and cooperative; he responded appropriately to questioning. There was some restlessness during the examination, especially persistent movements of the mouth. Slight drowsiness, but no sleep, was obtained.

The EEG is characterized by an intermittent 10.0 to 10.5 cps. occipital alpha rhythm, averaging 30 to 50 microvolts, and bilaterally symmetrical. This rhythm extends to the parietal and posterior temporal regions. The frontal and anterior temporal areas revealed low voltage fast waves mixed with irregular low-to-moderate amplitude theta activity (4-7 cps.). The latter was not considered excessive for his age.

Five minutes of fairly strenuous overbreathing resulted in a slight buildup, which recovered promptly. Very brief sections of drowsiness were uneventful. At no time were there any seizure patterns, focal disturbances or other specific abnormalities.

Dr. Obrist's general impression was that Arnold was within the normal limits for his age.

As I was preparing this material, I asked Dr. Obrist if he had anything to add to his report. He replied that there was a burst of 14 per second positive spikes during a short portion of the record when the boy was drowsy. If this effect had been more pronounced it would have indicated a form of epileptic discharge which is common in adolescents who have behavioral problems, including dissociative episodes. However, in Arnold's case the effect was too small to provide anything but the barest suggestion of this disorder. In view of the evidence of dissociation from the other studies, the finding becomes more suggestive and will at least make us attentive to EEG responses of this type in future RSPK investigations.

Psychological Data in Relation to Occurrences

Perhaps the clearest finding from the psychological studies was the evidence of Arnold's repressed hostility toward his grandmother. It seems reasonable to interpret the destruction of Mrs. Parks' belongings in terms of an expression of tensions which could find no other outlet. Let us now consider whether the psychological material throws light on any of the disturbances or the nature of the movements.

Focusing effects: When we took into account the time sequence of the episodes, there were a few clusterings with regard to individual objects and types of objects. These forms of focusing involved a Mercurchrome bottle, a saltcellar, two ashtrays, and the punch bowl cups. This is skimpy material to build on, but we may speculate that the disturbance of the medicine bottle and the tableware were symbolic expressions of the boy's dependency needs.

There is evidence for area focusing insofar as the objects often flew from the same site in short succession, but it was not possible to interpret this in terms of any general preference or avoidance for the rooms in question except with regard to Arnold's own room, which was less often the scene of disturbances than we might expect. This of course is consistent with the psychological picture which does not suggest that Arnold's emotions were directed against himself to any unusual extent.

Direction of Movement

Figure 1 shows a tendency for the objects to move toward or into Mrs. Parks' room. These intrusions into Mrs. Parks' living space seem consistent with Arnold's hostility toward the grandmother. On the other hand, Mrs. Parks was never actually hit by any of the objects, though others were. The objects in several cases moved toward Arnold, and on one occasion (Event 33) he said he was actually hit by one. Once a saltcellar (Event 35) hit a neighbor, and when Dr. Wrege and Mr. Brown were in the apartment, an empty mustard jar (Event 43) flew over their heads crashing in front of them. Later, an ashtray (Event 51) fell between the two men. The same night, Mr. Brown had been hit by another ashtray (Event 48) as well as by a pepper shaker (Event 49) and a saltcellar (Event 50).

It seems strange that Arnold, Mr. Brown, a neighbor, or other visitors to the apartment all at one time or another were targets for the missiles, but never Mrs. Parks, who apparently was the focus for the boy's aggressions.

Agent's Activities

In order to determine whether Arnold's activity was related to the disturbances, his behavior at the time of the occurrences (when this could be determined) has been entered in Table 9. During two

Table 9
ARNOLD'S ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO OCCURRENCES

Activity	Objects Disturbed				Total Minus 1-10 Feet and Distance Unknown
	Con- tainers	Table- ware	Miscel- laneous Objects	Fur- niture	
Lying in Bed		1	1		2
Seated, Eating		4			4
Seated, Watching TV	1				1
Seated, Activity Unknown			3		3
On Haunches Holding Dustpan			1		1
Standing, Washing Dishes		2			2
Standing, Reaching		1			1
Standing, Opening Door				1	1
Standing, Activity Unknown	2	3	3	1	9
Totals	3	11	8	2	24

The Newark Disturbances

events he was lying down in bed, in eight he was seated, and in thirteen he was standing. If we follow the rule of ignoring episodes within the 1-10 feet range, all figures are greatly reduced with no clear indication of favoring activities.

Unconsciousness of Phenomena

Arnold's responses in the hypnotic interview and in the polygraph examination suggest that he was not consciously aware of having caused the movements and breakages of objects in his grandmother's apartment. However, some of his responses in the word-association test raise the question whether he was entirely innocent of everything that went on. Several of the words were meant to refer to the disturbances and the means by which they might have been caused normally. Arnold's responses to "money," "trick," and "hide" were followed by delays suggesting an emotional reaction. His replies to the three words were "pocket-book," "game," and "find." It will be recalled that in the second, apparently spurious phase of the occurrences, money belonging to Mrs. Parks and others mysteriously disappeared from their pocketbooks, later to be "found" by Arnold. It was my opinion at the time that this was simple trickery. His responses to the words are consistent with this view and suggest that at least these episodes did not occur in dissociated states.

Three other words referred to the disturbed objects. These were "lamp," "dishes," and "television." Arnold's responses were immediate and common, namely "table," "sink," and "radio." The words "kitchen" and "bathroom" referred to places where incidents had taken place. Also here, there were no delays and the replies of "bathroom" and "living room" were ordinary. There were also words which described the manner in which the objects might have been disturbed, namely "throw" and "toss," to which he immediately gave the stereotyped responses of "catch" and "throw." The words "crash," "hit," and "clean," which referred to the effects of the incidents, produced the normal responses of "bang," "strike," and "dirty" with no delays.

In short, the word-association test supports the view that Arnold was unaware of any involvement in the movements and breakages of objects. However, as pointed out earlier, there were fourteen instances where, according to Arnold's accounts, he may have seen the objects take off and where it seems possible that his looking at or attending to them may have been a causative factor. If this is the case, some involvement with these disturbances is suggested at least at the periphery of consciousness.

CONCLUSION

In this study, as in most other RSPK investigations, only a few of the events occurred under conditions which allow us to be reasonably certain that we are dealing with genuine psychical effects. As with other puzzling events in nature, the best assurance that they are real is when they show characteristics which turn up elsewhere. Shared patterns hopefully also point to the *modus operandi* of the process. It may therefore be of interest to conclude with a comparison between the present and the Lessing case previously discussed in this *Journal* (3).

In both cases, the agents were boys about the same age, Michael being twelve and Arnold thirteen. The Lessing phenomena lasted about six weeks and the Newark case about fourteen. By a curious coincidence there were sixty-four reported disturbances in both (three unexplained sounds bring the total for the Lessing case to sixty-seven incidents). However, more information was available about the Lessing than about the Newark occurrences and it is possible that the latter included phenomena additional to those reported, especially in its beginning and concluding phases. Again, the incidents that were known could often not be described in as much detail as was the case for the Lessing disturbances.

In both cases, the day-to-day and hourly distributions of the events are statistically highly irregular. There is little similarity between the daily groupings, but the hourly distributions resemble each other. In the eight-hour intervals beginning at midnight, the figures for the Lessing case are six, fourteen, and forty-four, and for the Newark case zero, four, and thirty-eight. In neither case were there any known incidents when the boys were away from their homes nor when they were deep asleep.

When we turn to the spatial relationships we find that in both cases the boys on the average were closer to the events than other members of their families. We also find a significant gradual decrease of number of incidents with increased distance from the agents. If we suppose that objects in the visual field of the agent are more likely to become RSPK targets, we find that Arnold reported that he was looking at several of the objects in his immediate vicinity at the time they began to move while Michael apparently never did. The possibility that "observation and target-grouping artifacts" caused the attenuation seems unlikely in both cases because the episodes did not show a gradual decrease in relation to the other members of the family, except for the most remote distance groupings which therefore were probably affected by the limited area in which the phenomena took place. It is possible, however, that the attenuation could arise as a by-product

of fraudulent interference since this was most likely to go undetected in close proximity to the boys.

On the assumption that the two curves were not entirely due to artifacts they were studied from the point of view of known energy processes. In both cases the exponential decay curve was found to give a good fit. Since this curve is found in natural processes where one form of energy is converted to another and since it is reasonable to postulate such conversions to explain the kinetic effects observed in RSPK occurrences, it makes good sense that the pattern of events follow this function. The fact that this curve also fits the Newark disturbances, which seem more open than the Lessing case to explanation in terms of motivational and fraud artifacts, gives some added assurance as to the genuineness of this case as a whole.

In neither case, however, was there a reduction in the length of movements with increased distance from the agents as we might expect with familiar energy sources. However, there is some similarity between the two cases as shown in Table 2. In both, the longest average flights occurred between 6-15 feet, followed by the 1-5 feet category, with the shortest movements recorded in the 16-25 feet groupings. However, it is premature to attempt interpreting this effect until we see whether it occurs in other RSPK cases.

Also, in both cases only a few pieces of furniture were involved and they only turned over without moving any distance.

When we look at the directions of movement, we find that in both cases there was a significant tendency for the disturbances to originate in front of the agent and in neither case was there any favoring of sides. There was an insignificant tendency for the objects to move away from Michael but a significant tendency for them to move toward Arnold. There was a significant trend for the movements to be clockwise in relation to Arnold and a similar, but insignificant, tendency with respect to Michael.

In both cases more objects moved in a northeasterly direction than in the other compass directions, but the tendency was only significant for the Lessing case. This flight pattern is probably to be interpreted in terms of the location of psychologically significant rooms in the two homes rather than to any preference for this compass direction as such.

In the Lessing case the removal of caps from bottles as well as three personal observations of the incidents suggested that the movements were affected by a circular or rotating force or, possibly, by a force moving in a straight line which struck the sides of the objects, thereby causing the circular movements. In the Newark case two observations suggested that the objects moved in a circular manner. In addition, curved paths of motion seem the most reasonable way of describing several of the movements since the

objects could not have followed straight lines to arrive at their destinations. There was no indication from the Lessing case that any objects traveled around corners.

In both cases there were many more dielectric objects than conductors, and hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon headed the list of elements composing the disturbed objects. Whether the selection of such objects as RSPK targets has anything to do with their physical characteristics or is a chance effect due to the abundance of such objects in the two homes remains in doubt for the present.

In the Lessing case, there was considerable evidence of focusing on individual objects. The twenty-four repetitions amounted to three-eighths of the total of sixty-four occurrences. In the Newark case there were only eleven repetitions or somewhat less than one-sixth of the total. In both cases some of these recurrences were in close consecutive order. With regard to focusing on types of objects, the Lessing phenomena showed a tendency for containers and perhaps figurines to be affected. In the Newark case, possibly because the distances of many of the incidents were not known, there seemed to be no evidence for such focusing which could not be attributed to the proximity effect. When we examined the Newark episodes for temporal clusterings, it appeared that most of these were associated with sites in the house rather than types of objects. Neither case contained definite evidence of focusing on any of the rooms which could not be accounted for by other factors. However, in the Newark case there seemed to be a marked tendency for the occurrences to follow each other in certain places. Having found this effect in the Newark case, I looked for it in the earlier case and found it well represented also there.⁹ Apparently, objects and areas became sensitized to the PK energy so that an occurrence was likely to herald additional events with that object or in that place.

When we compare the two psychological pictures, again there is much similarity. Both Michael and Arnold showed evidence of repressed hostility. In Michael this seemed to be a pervasive element of his personality and expressed itself in themes of violence and aggression in his Rorschach and TAT stories. In Arnold there is also some evidence of aggression in this material but on a much lower key. I showed Arnold's responses to Dr. Gertrude Schmeidler

⁹Disregarding object focusing, there was one one-interval recurrence in the Lessing living room (Event 34), two immediate repetitions in the dining room (Events 36 and 52), and five in the bathroom (Events 4, 8, 15, 19, and 20). In Michael's room there were also five immediate recurrences (Events 28, 29, 48, 57, and 58) as well as a one-interval repetition (Event 45). Finally, in Mr. and Mrs. Lessing's room, there were two immediate (Events 13 and 24) and two one-interval recurrences (Events 26 and 51).

in the hope that she might detect something bearing on the interpretation of the case as she had in the previous study. She found little to add to the psychological reports. With regard to the Rorschach and TAT responses, she said, "I would never have guessed the poltergeist from this. Childhood naughtiness which he conceals, maybe—but deep inner hostility, no" (4). The other tests and interviews did show that Arnold had strong feelings of aggression which he was incapable of either expressing or acknowledging, but these were only significant in his relation to his grandmother. Outside this situation, he seemed an ordinary and normal boy.

In the Lessing case, the selection of objects appeared to be symbolic of the boy's psychological needs. The Newark disturbances seemed psychologically more random. Perhaps Michael's richer and more violent fantasy life was reflected in psychologically more interesting disturbances such as the "bottle poppings" and the flights of figurines.

In both cases the directions of movements tended to point toward the rooms of family members which were the main objects of the boys' feelings of hostility. But when somebody was in the object's path, in neither case was this the disliked family member. It seems that even on the "poltergeist level" of the personalities of the two boys, it was not possible to turn the incidents into instruments of direct threat or harm to the disliked persons.

We do not have as much information about Arnold's activities at the time of the disturbances as we do about Michael's. However, in both cases there were incidents when the boys were lying in bed, when they were eating, and when they were seated or standing and engaged in various activities.

We do not have any EEG data on Michael so a comparison with Arnold is not possible.

The Lessing study strongly suggested that whatever Michael's role in the disturbances was, he was unaware of it. This came out especially strongly from the word-association and Rorschach tests. The Newark case is similar. A hypnotic interview, the polygraph examination, and a word-association test failed to provide any evidence that the boy was aware of having caused the phenomena in his home.

In addition to shedding light on the psychological aspects of the phenomena, these findings are relevant to the question of conscious fraud. In this connection it is also interesting that the boys' performance IQs were relatively modest. Arnold's performance IQ (of 80) was even lower than Michael's (109) and neither makes it easy to suppose that the boys could have installed, operated, and removed the instruments which would apparently have been necessary to produce fraudulently the occurrences that

took place when they were watched by adult visitors and investigators.

From the point of view of the people most directly involved in the disturbances, the Lessing family and Mrs. Parks and Arnold, the main purpose of the investigation was to obtain aid in dealing with the occurrences, the problems which had engendered them, and the problems which they in turn produced. The Lessing family seemed to gain some insight into the tensions within the family which appeared to be at least a contributory cause of the disturbances. Arnold's psychological and psychiatric reports were sent to the Board of Child Welfare of New Jersey. On January 22, 1962, Mrs. Lemberg wrote:

... we are pleased to report that Arnold has been placed in a group setting, in accordance with your recommendation and our own feeling about the situation. Upon his return from Durham, Arnold was placed in a temporary foster home for a period of two weeks until these plans could be worked out. Arnold adjusted very well in the foster home, the foster mother is a particularly competent person and was able to meet many of Arnold's needs during this period. Arnold had an opportunity to visit the group placement before permanent placement there, and appeared to be very pleased with it.

Arnold's relatives will be able to visit him while he is there. However, our Worker made it clear to Arnold that he could decide who he would like to visit him.

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