

REPORT FROM THE READERS

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it all with individuals, particularly from India, adding to the basic Theosophical belief system.

The establishment ridiculed H. P. Blavatsky because once or twice she performed some psychic tricks. All psychics who are gifted to start with and then get public recognition have to resort to trickery and dramatics to gain recruits.

Annie Besant, a devoted Blavatsky follower, believed in her philosophies to the extent that she accomplished many reforms of the appalling conditions in England at that time, described in Dickens' novels. Annie Besant is listed in every *Who's Who* and similar lists as one of the few women who have accomplished miracles in social reform — *Vera D. Heaslip, Buffalo, N. Y.*

AN EARLIER DESCRIPTION

Among the most important articles FATE has published is "Extrasensory Perception of Subatomic Particles" by Stephen M. Phillips (April-May 1987 FATE) regarding the clairvoyant investigations of atoms, begun in 1895, by Annie Besant and Charles Leadbeater.

Surprisingly, a description similar to theirs of an atomic particle was published earlier, in 1876, by the American teacher and physician Edwin D. Babbitt in his *The Principles of Light and Color*. A condensation by Faber Birren was published in 1967 by Citadel Press, Secaucus, N.J. (price \$9.95), and is probably still available from Health Research, P.O. Box 70, Mokelumne Hill, Calif. 95245.

All three investigators agree on the form of the fundamental unit of matter: A shape resembling an elongated apple is delineated by a band of 10 "wires" of

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force making  $2\frac{1}{2}$  turns. The wires continue to spiral through the core and rejoin; hence, each wire is continuous. Three wires are more prominent than the other seven.

Besant and Leadbeater accepted Babbitt's description as "fairly accurate" (*Occult Chemistry*, 2nd ed., page 10). That they did not copy it is evident from their greater-detailed description and from areas of disagreement. Babbitt thought the particle was an atom; Besant and Leadbeater said it was an ultimate physical atom (UPA). — *Benson Boss, Deming, N. Mex.*

## REVIEWER TALKS BACK

Michael Grosso's response to my review of his book *The Final Choice* is misleading ("Author Gets Last Word," May 1987 FATE).

First, I did not engage in *sophistry* (deceptively subtle reasoning or argumentation) when I stated, "By his own admission, Grosso's book lacks a clear and precise methodology." It does. Moreover, Grosso's "Note to the Reader" wherein he writes, "About method, my rule is to be bound by none," highlights the major flaw in his book. Since he claims not to be constricted by any methodology, he does not take into proper consideration the numerous counterarguments that can be posed against his transpersonal interpretations.

Grosso postulates theories which have little, if any, scientific recourse to "data testing." For example, there is no clear, unambiguous proof to substantiate the psychic origin of the Shroud of Turin. Hence, to build an argument upon its possible authenticity demonstrates both

(Continued on page 128)