

# 'MAGICK IS OUR BUSINESS'

*Surrey Mirror & County Post*  
BY DORIS TURNER 26/10/1962

This is the last interview that we shall give to any newspaper. The speaker was Mr Charles Cardell, of Dumblecott, Charlwood, creator of mysterious Bella Cotta. He addressed me from the depths of a comfortable-looking armchair at his Queen's Gate consulting rooms in London. On a luxurious divan across the softly lit room sat his sister, Miss Mary Cardell.

In this ornately furnished flat, Charles and Mary Cardell, confidential psychologists, spend much of their lives in devotion to the cause of youth. They confidently claim to be the only people in Britain who are trying to prevent the spread of the dreaded paranoid schizophrenia in the youth of our country.

Here, in the restful depths of a large room from which all daylight had been excluded by heavy drapes, the couple spoke of their lifelong work in the treatment by psychology—namely, the sympathetic adjustment of the psyche or soul through the emotions and feelings.

The ancient term "magick" used by the Cardells—"Magick is our business"—is a romantic synonym for psychology. "It is as simple as that," said the extraordinarily dynamic man of 72 who has the appearance and agility of a person in his 50s.

To go back to the beginning then, I was admitted at the front entrance among Georgian pillars by a striking young woman who introduced herself as Miss Olwen Armstrong, Mr Cardell's receptionist. Attired in a full length gown of plum velvet, she greeted me with a charming smile and chatted to me as she took my hat and coat in the narrow hall.

She was frank and delightfully pleasant to talk to. I gathered that she had taken great risks and shown courage and ingenuity in some of the investigations she had undertaken into "black magic" and "witchcraft". Her age she revealed as 43 — astonishing in the light of her obvious youth and vitality.

Miss Armstrong said that she and her fellow investigators were a small band of dedicated persons who spent time and money on the many projects that would be discussed during my interview with the Cardells. I moved along the hall, Miss Armstrong knocked discreetly at a brightly coloured door and I came face to face with my hosts in the half-light of the large consulting room.

Completely shut off from the hubbub outside and transferred to shadow and warmth, my senses were immediately calmed to the vibrations of the two persons who came forward to greet me. We were surrounded by tapestries, rugs, deep carpeting; the discreet lighting gave off a soft, almost incandescent glow. I felt my nerve-ends tingling with anticipation as Mr Cardell bade me sit in a roomy armchair facing him.

Deliberately, slowly—almost sensuously — Charles Cardell spoke of his work. Of his long investigation into the occult and "black magic". He spoke of magick, blackmagic, witchcraft, hypnotism and spiritualism with frankness and clarity.

"Magick," Mr Cardell told me, "is the re-acting immediately and correctly to a situation without thought. Speaking from the heart and not the head. Magic is what intellectual people think magick is."

"The world is created for youth, and only through youth can the world be saved. When youth is allowed to follow its heart, there will be no more juvenile delinquents, no more beatniks, and no more paranoid schizophrenes among them."

Charles Cardell then passed to me a slip of paper on which the following challenges were typed over his sister's and his own signatures—

- "1. Charles Cardell, will pay the sum of £5,000 to anyone who can perform a successful act of so-called black magic";
- and "1. Mary Cardell, will pay the sum of £5,000 to anyone who can produce proof of the performance of one successful act of so-called witchcraft".

These challenges come from people who know. Their knowledge is not confined to books or teaching. They have experienced every trial to strip their

setting for any particular patient's own problems is prepared in advance. Here in an atmosphere of complete calm and quiet, mental fears are swiftly dispersed and the emotions are permitted to hold sway. "It is as simple as that," murmured Charles Cardell to me as I stood at the threshold of the room and admired its sleek simplicity.

Mary Cardell spoke to me at some length of her own experiences with so-called "high priestesses" of the occult world. At personal risk—as in the case of Miss Armstrong—she had entered into their "orders" so that she could get at the truth of their strange rituals. Recordings played back on tape to me in the Cardells' consulting room spoke more vividly of the evil practices their troubled patients had experienced.

In answer to my question about the seven pointed star which the Cardells use as a professional symbol, Mr Cardell demonstrated with a large gold-coloured star that great significance was attached to the way in which the symbol was displayed.

The points represent humility, respect, trust, kindness, truth, honour and dignity. They are the seven basic principles of magick and its modern equivalent—psychology.

Mr Cardell refuted any suggestion that he used hypnotism in any of his treatments. He knew a great deal about the powers of hypnotism, he told me, and could perform acts of hypnosis; but, he emphasised, he did not use it.

I then put questions to him about Spiritualism. In the softly-lit room, he gave me a practical demonstration of the kind of trickery commonly practised on the bereaved, the childish and the ignorant. His "performance" was so convincing that I was all but taken in by weird spirit faces moving across the room and in the air, by strange rustling noises and by a remote voice. Then Mr Cardell—a man who professes to have no brain but a very large heart — ruthlessly exposed these gimmicks for what they were.

Finally, in the fading hours of a fascinating visit, I was asked by my host if I would like refreshment before returning to rural Surrey. A picture set between curtains slid aside noiselessly to reveal a well-stocked and brightly illuminated cocktail cabinet. Drinks were fetched, and then—with no-one moving from their seats—the picture slid quietly back into place. I was quite convinced that "Bella Cotta" had flown up from Charlwood to take a hand in this mysterious procedure — until Charles Cardell explained the mechanics.

I said goodbye to my hosts, thanked them for a fascinating interview and left South Kensington in buoyant mood, sure that I had been privileged to meet two of Surrey's most remarkable citizens.

On Wednesday next week, at the Old Town Hall, Mr Charles Cardell, of Dumblecott, Charlwood, will be arriving "on his Magick carpet" to give a talk entitled "Magick is for Youth."

## *Surrey Mirror* MAGICK AND MAGIC

24/11/1962  
"Live through the heart and not through the head"—this was the advice given to Reigate and Redhill Young Socialists by Mr Charles Cardell in his talk "Magick is for Youth" on Friday.

Mr Cardell started his talk by explaining the difference between "magick" and "magic". Magic, he said, was an evil influence in causing paranoid schizophrenia. Life was the basic idea of every religion and philosophy but modern civilisation preached death.

As we went through life we were taught to live by the brain instead of the heart, went on Mr Cardell. Living by the brain meant getting more money. Happiness could not be bought by money, but came through the heart. "Money makes us old and causes neuritis. There is no need to get old because the spirit stays young."

In conclusion, Mr Cardell said that if everyone lived through the heart there would be no paranoid schizophrenia. His kind of Magick was the antidote to it.

During the last three weeks delegates from the group have attended the South Suburban Co-operative Society's conference on World Disarmament. There has also been a theatre visit to see Tennessee Williams's "A Period of Adjustment," at the Wyndham's Theatre. A team of three, A. Richardson, P. Lord, and E. Howick, came second in the first round of the National Federation of Young Socialists' quiz.

The meeting at Progress House, Garlands-road, Redhill, this evening will feature a talk "What is U.N.A.?" by Mr Baldwyn, branch chairman of U.N.A.