

This Spiritualist's MBE makes good Reading



DOUGLAS LAWRENCE, MBE

He successfully healed his son.

OUTSPOKEN, a vigorous campaigner and one of Spiritualism's most practical advocates, Douglas Lawrence, president of Reading National Spiritualist Church, Berks., was made a Member of the British Empire in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Lawrence, 65, is a clerical officer at the Royal Corps of Signals in nearby Caversham. He has lived in Reading all his life, said "Reading Evening Post," and has been church president for 14 years.

He attracted attention in 1953 by forming the Lawrence Healing Centre in Wimbledon, London S.W., with a heart-rending story behind its inception.

Five years earlier he had looked on, helpless, as his 16-year-old son writhed and moaned on the floor in the grasp of an epileptic fit. Desperately he obeyed an urge to place his

hands over his son's body, his lips moving in prayer. The writhing and moaning ceased.

A surprised Lawrence continued the treatment regularly. Gradually the attacks grew more infrequent. By 1953 the fits were a rarity.

Lawrence grew as a controversial figure. Sunday mornings saw him on a rostrum in London's famous Hyde Park, proclaiming spirit truths to the milling crowds.

Despite obstacles which seemed apparently insurmountable, he battled to establish his clinic. The huge, impersonal BBC didn't frighten him, either. He once sent them a strong 63-word telegram protest objecting to a "fantastic and grotesque" television play he considered a grave insult to Spiritualists.

Lawrence uses biochemistry in his healing, saying the body must be treated correctly in order for healing to be efficient. He wrote

a booklet, "Divine Healing and your Body Chemistry," in 1954.

His long service to Reading church was recognised in May, 1965 when he received the Spiritualists' National Union, long-service award, and a gold wrist watch on behalf of officers and members.

Lawrence did not rest on his laurels at that point. The next year he organised an enthusiastic Spiritualist team — and built York Lodge Spiritualist Church, a £40,000 project, brick by brick! One church member, a professional surveyor, guided their building.

He has fearlessly attacked sub-standard mediumship, and has been criticised for actually intervening during a poor demonstration.

Psychic News congratulates Douglas Lawrence for his ambition, enterprise and initiative. He is a worthy holder of this distinguished title.