

This man's whitewash is dangerous

NO WITCHCRAFT IS FUN

DR. GERALD BROUSSEAU GARDNER is an authority on witchcraft.

It is through him that many people get their first mistaken ideas about witchcraft.

He runs a museum of paraphernalia. He writes factual books on the subject. He has written fiction on the subject.

He is a self-confessed witch and a practising

by **PETER HAWKINS**

dévotee of a witch coven in Britain. But he is also a whitewasher of witchcraft.

He puts around the, to my mind, dangerous idea that witchcraft is not evil.

He seems to overlook that what may begin as an innocent dabble in search of excitement may lead eventually to devil worship.

When the *Pictorial* first began to review the extent of witchcraft in Britain three weeks ago, I wrote of its practitioners:

"They are sincere in a satanic belief that theirs is the ancient religion of Britain; they claim it is older than, and superior to, Christianity."

'Not Evil'

IN books Gardner has written and in his lectures, he goes out of his way to dismiss the idea

dates for some of the present-day witch covens say is meted out to them.

Blood

CEREMONIES of this kind, and worse, are known to be held in Britain.

Gardner admitted, too, that some witches find great power in new-spilled blood.

Aleister Crowley, the self-styled Beast who spread devil worship in Britain, used to spill his own blood at black magic ceremonies.

Mrs. S. Jackson, the ex-witch, told last week how cockerels were knifed to death at initiation ceremonies so that the blood could be drunk by the devotees.

I saw Gardner in the Isle of Man where he has a museum of magic and witchcraft.

Knowing what I now

know, the museum seemed to me to be "selling" witchcraft as a harmless and persecuted religion.

Gardner admitted that new members are sometimes recruited as a consequence of visits to his museum.

The jacket of his novel published in England in 1949 carries a drawing of a naked girl with robed and cowled attendants.

The author's name is given as Scire. This is a pen-name for the same Gerald Gardner.

In one of the lurid passages, he gives this conversation with a female witch:

"Tell me the truth," he said suddenly, "this altar used at your gatherings . . . in Spain, I saw the living body of a woman, and they practised abominations on it."

"Yes," she replied simply. "At the Great Sabbath the living body of a priestess DOES form the altar."

"We worship the

divine spirit of Creation, which is the Life-spring of the world, and without which the world would perish.

"Are we then so abominable? We count it is not so. . ."

Surely even Gardner can see that the type of person likely to be duped and snared into witchcraft in Britain is likely to prefer this foul bait to the whitewash of his other book?

And, indeed, to expect it from the coven he joins?

Danger

THERE is no doubt at all that there are satanic devil-worshippers in Britain who are ever ready to provide this type of sexual perversion to capture the men and women they wish to make their slaves.

That is why I believe that his books, in the wrong hands, can be dangerous.

AND THERE IS NO WAY OF STOPPING THEM FROM GETTING INTO WRONG HANDS.

'Not Evil'

IN books Gardner has written and in his lectures, he goes out of his way to dismiss the idea that witchcraft in Britain is in any way diabolical.

He claims that this is a stupid notion deliberately fostered by the Church and is absolutely untrue.

Nowhere in Gardner's book, *Witchcraft Today*, could I find descriptions of any horrible and degrading ceremonies.

The book is, in fact, a whitewashing of witchcraft.

It leaves the reader with no idea that anything evil may lie beyond.

And yet when I challenged Gardner last week he admitted that most people would be shocked by witchcraft ceremonies which include:

ONE: Men and women dancing in the nude.

TWO: Praying to a horned god.

THREE: Stimulation through wine, music and drumming.

He agreed that in ceremonies in some parts of the world it is necessary to have a nude girl on an altar.

Private

IDREW Gardner's attention to another book published under his name and privately printed which is on sale in London.

In this book, which is sold as fiction, is a detailed description of initiation into the witch cult.

The ceremony is performed in the nude.

Afterwards the candidate, blindfolded and feet tied together, is scourged.

Finally, after giving an oath never to reveal the "secrets of the Art," the candidate is touched with a "magical" sword.

Reluctantly, Gardner admitted to me that this description of initiation was "broadly correct."

Of course it is. It is, in fact, the kind of erotic treatment which candi-