

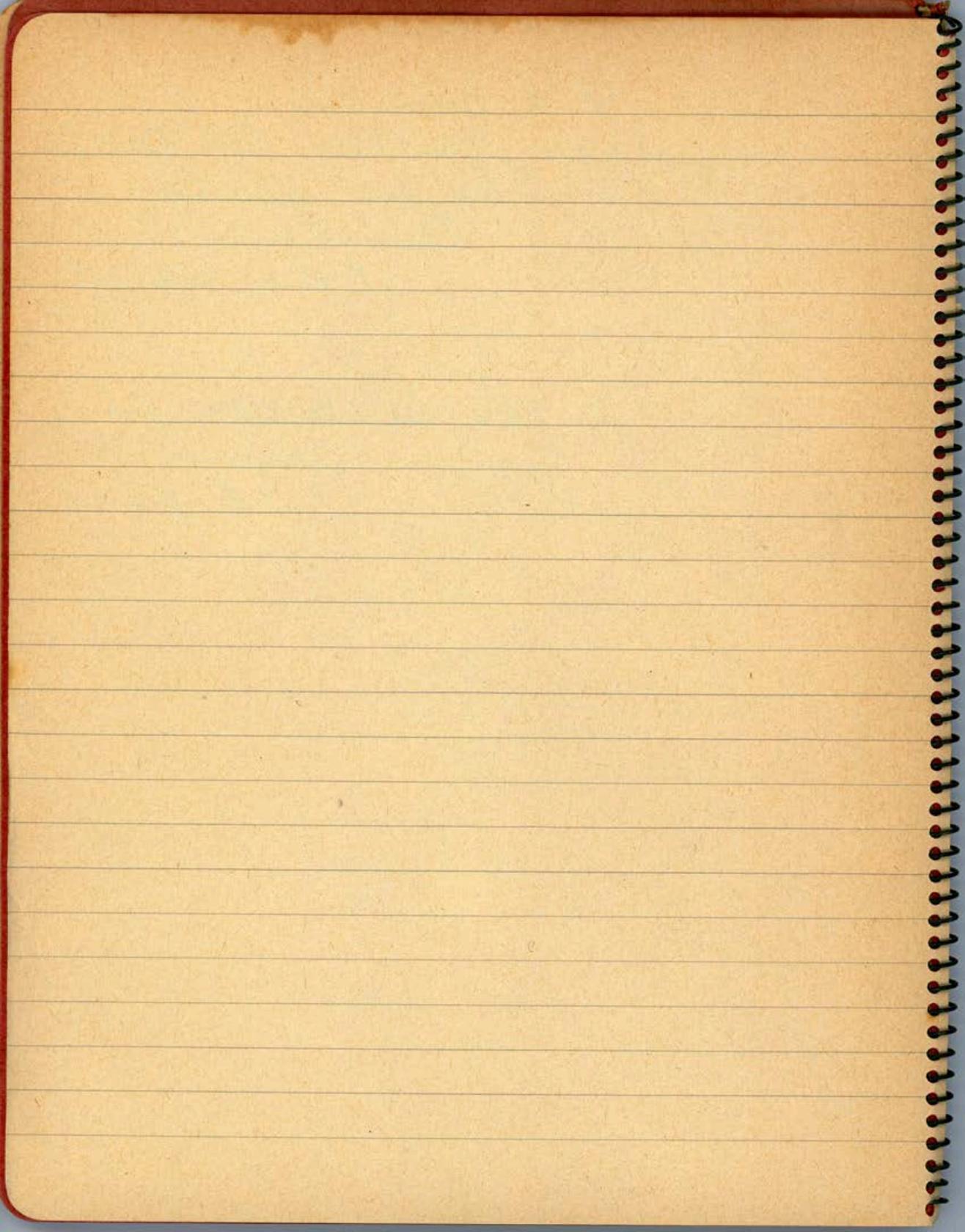
Notes on conversations  
with Paul Brenton,  
1970.

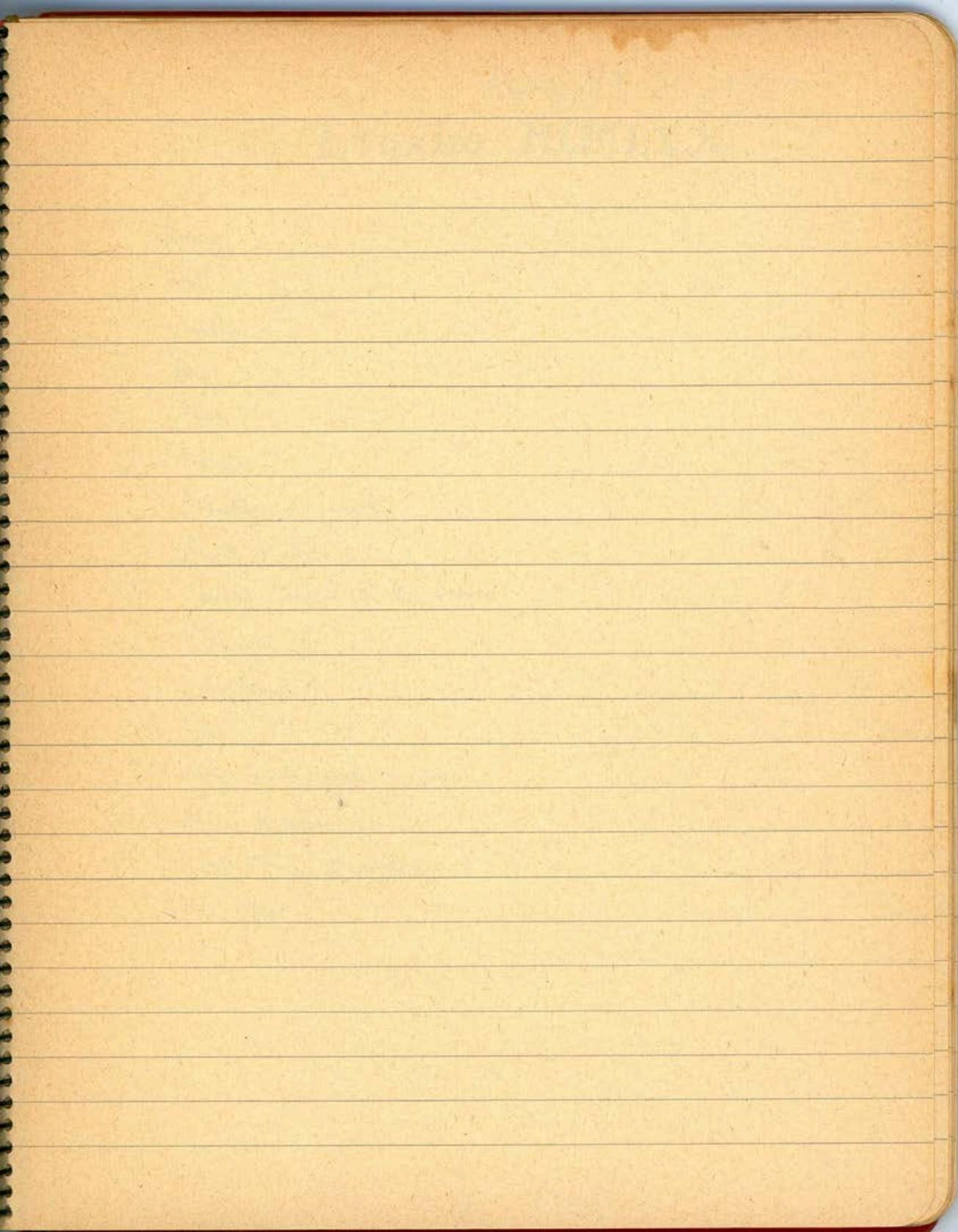
Joselyn Godwin

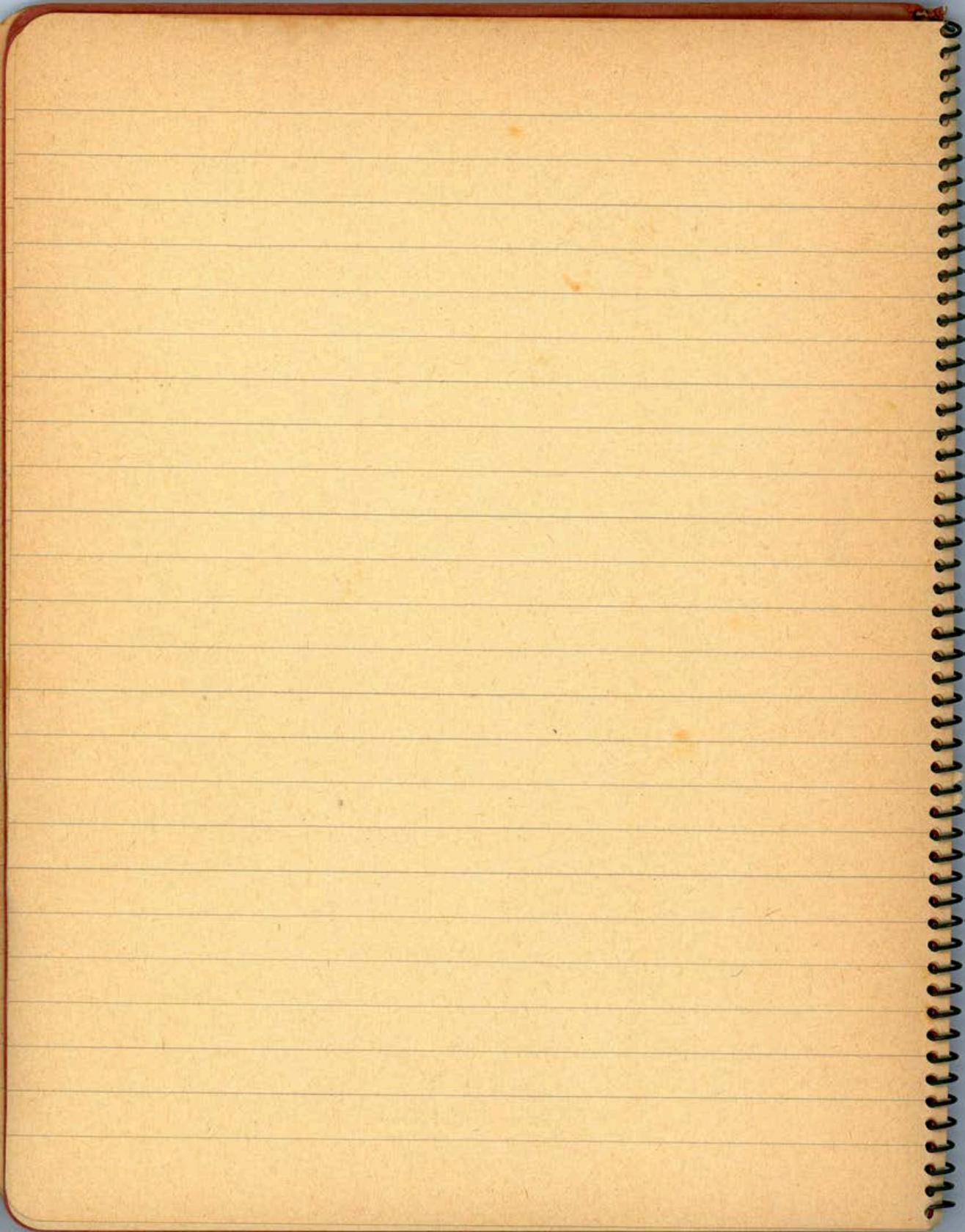


J. R. Godwin  
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♀  
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Oxford  
England







June 23-28, 1970

## LVGANO MCMLXX

Personal

Foot

Marriage

Drugs

Music

Science

Miscellaneous people

Saints & Sages

Ramana Maharshi & the Ashram

Ithacans

Columbians

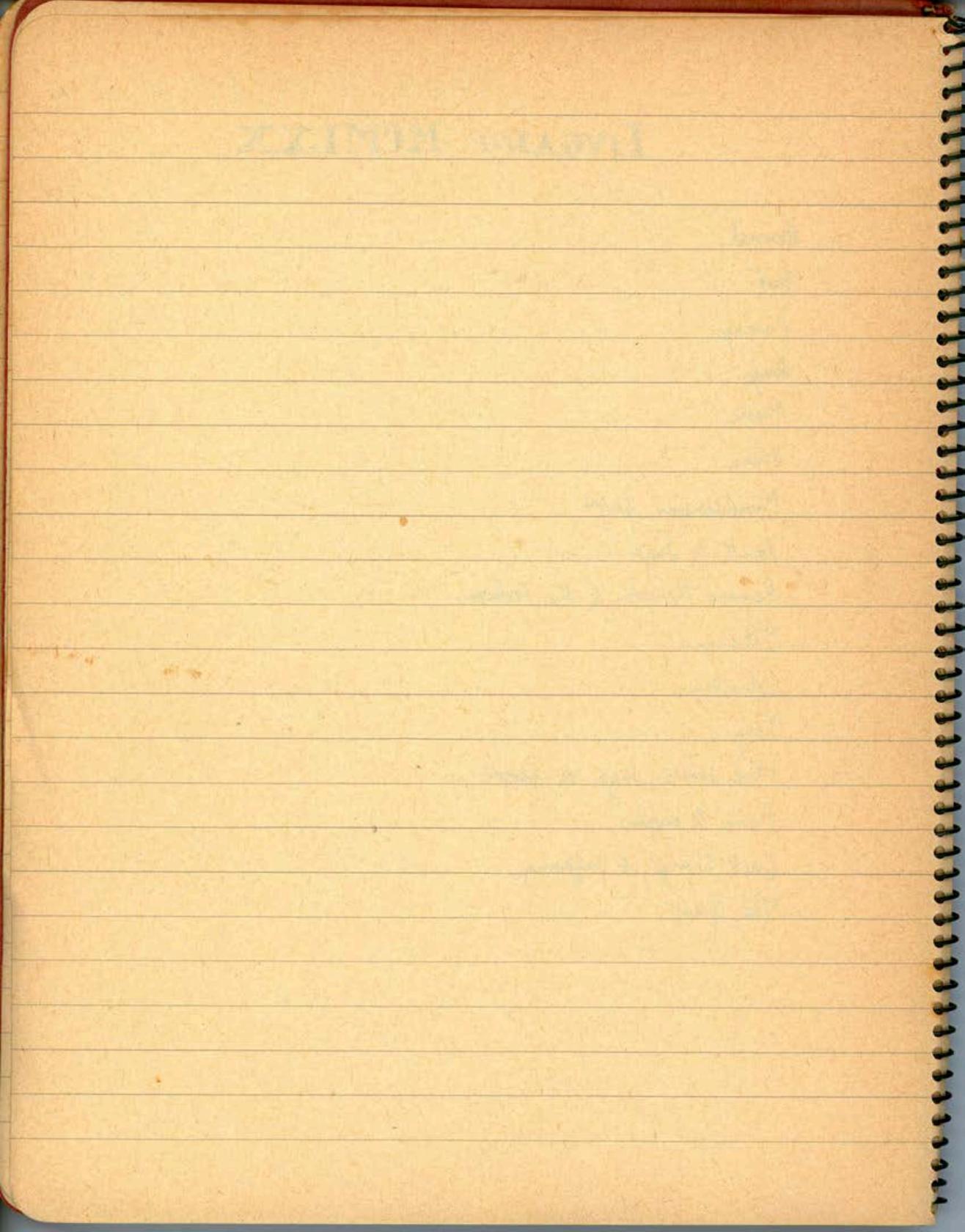
Tony

More saints, sages & people

Places & peoples

Last Things, & Suffering

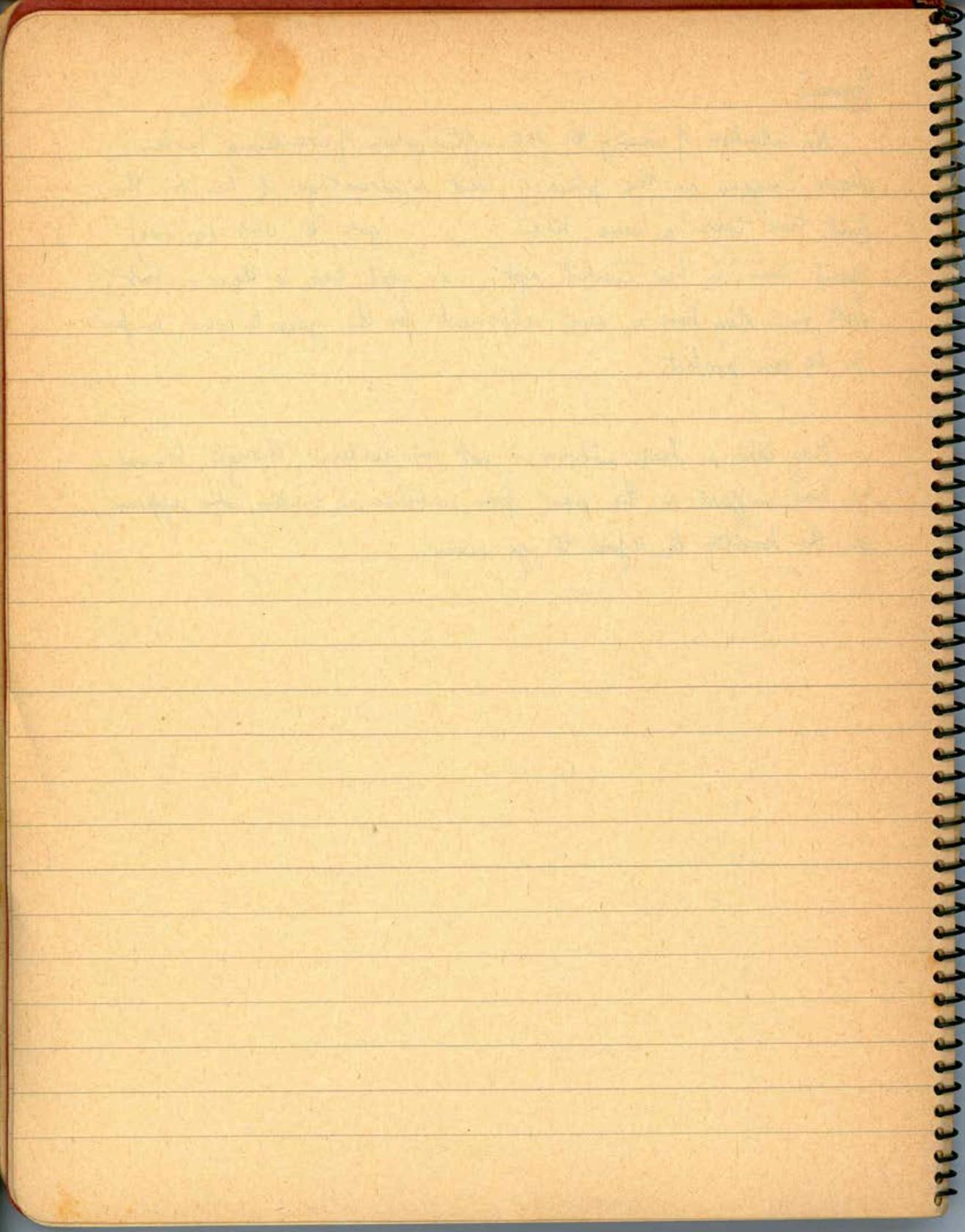
The Quest



## Personal

No intention of coming to USA: after years of wandering he has chosen Lugano as the place of least disadvantages, & has for the first time taken a lease. When he goes to USA he may spend time in her Zurich apt. - a week here & there - but will now stay here in semi-retirement for the years to come, so far as he can predict.

May take a Swiss address - not his residence, though, because he has suffered in the past from unbalanced visitors who appear on the doorstep & refuse to go away!



## Food

Ideally - tho' probably never on this planet - man shd. live on fruit that falls into the hand. Natural gravitation away from meat as spirituality increases - though the Dalai Lama only gave it up last year! PB gave up meat 50 years ago when starting on the path; then eggs - & says one may in time notice a distinction btw. sterile & fertile eggs -; only after liver trouble in India did he forego milk, butter, & with some regrets cheese. Honey regarded as a "semi-animal product".

Tea better than coffee - a high with no "low" following. But brews only v. briefly, using egg-timer!

Eskimos, living entirely on meat: "Look at them - they're ~~very~~ half-animals". Nature is clearly giving them a hint to get out of such rotter surroundings, unfit for humans, but they are obtuse.

Zen macrobiotic diet - no fruit but bananas. Wonders why. His own likeness, but to avoid acidity.

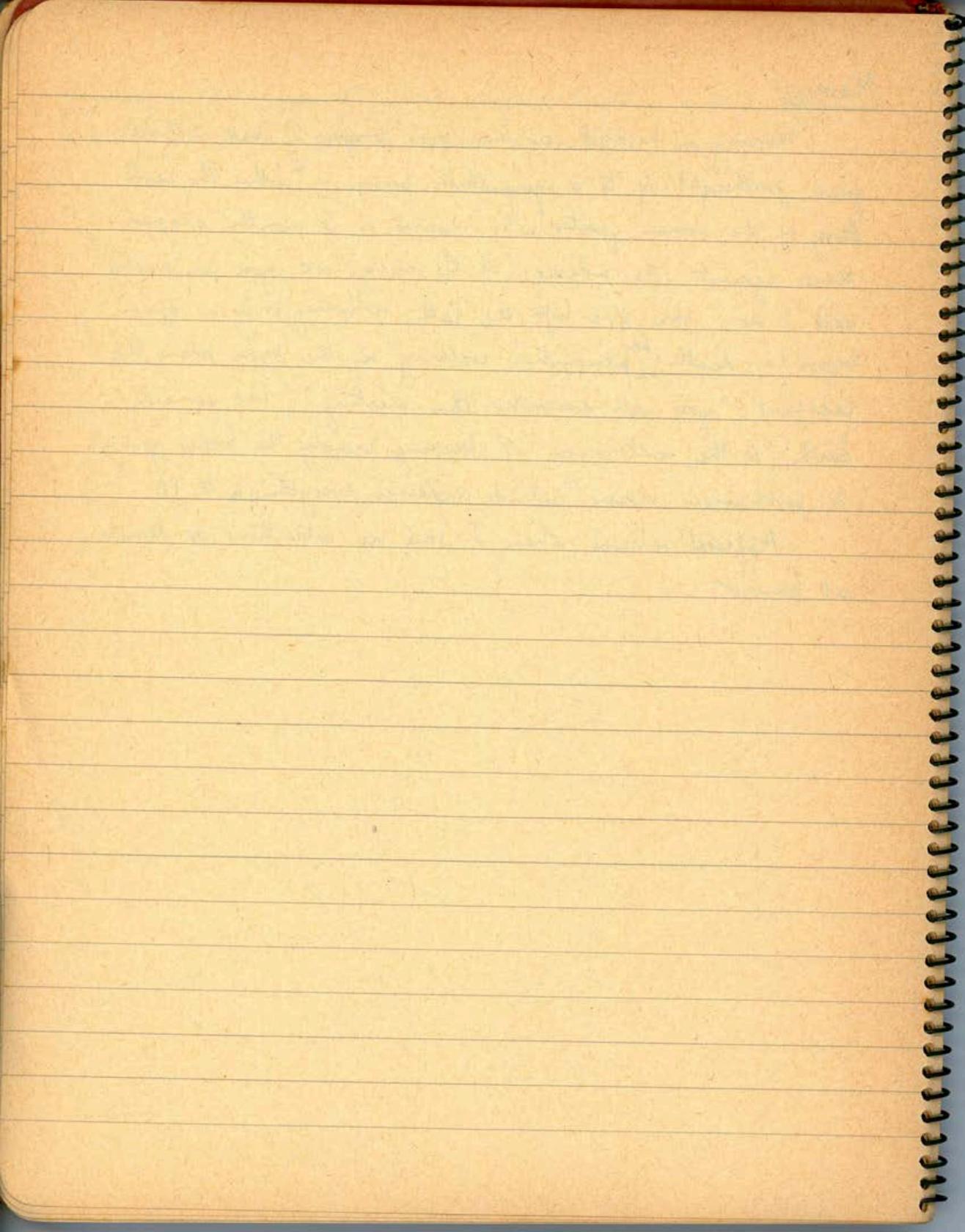
He drank beer a little in Australia where nothing else was ~~available~~ available at times; not nearly so harmful as spirits. The story of the bar in the outback: PB stops to refresh himself; only the barmaid (60) & one customer there,

arguing as it happened about religion (customer anti-). They  
ask PB for casting vote to settle the matter.

## Marriage

Warning on how it can mar one's progress if made without great forethought & to a sympathetic person - "within the caste." Story of the woman gester who married a 3 months' acquaintance against PB's advice: "if it's really love, you can surely wait 6 mos." How she left the Path, returning only a year before her death; <sup>her</sup> ~~her~~ premonition walking in the snow along the lakefront: "you will remember this meeting"; her coma & death (& the uselessness of keeping merely the body going) & posthumous vision "which explained everything" to PB.

Appressed relieved when J. said no intentions or desires at present.



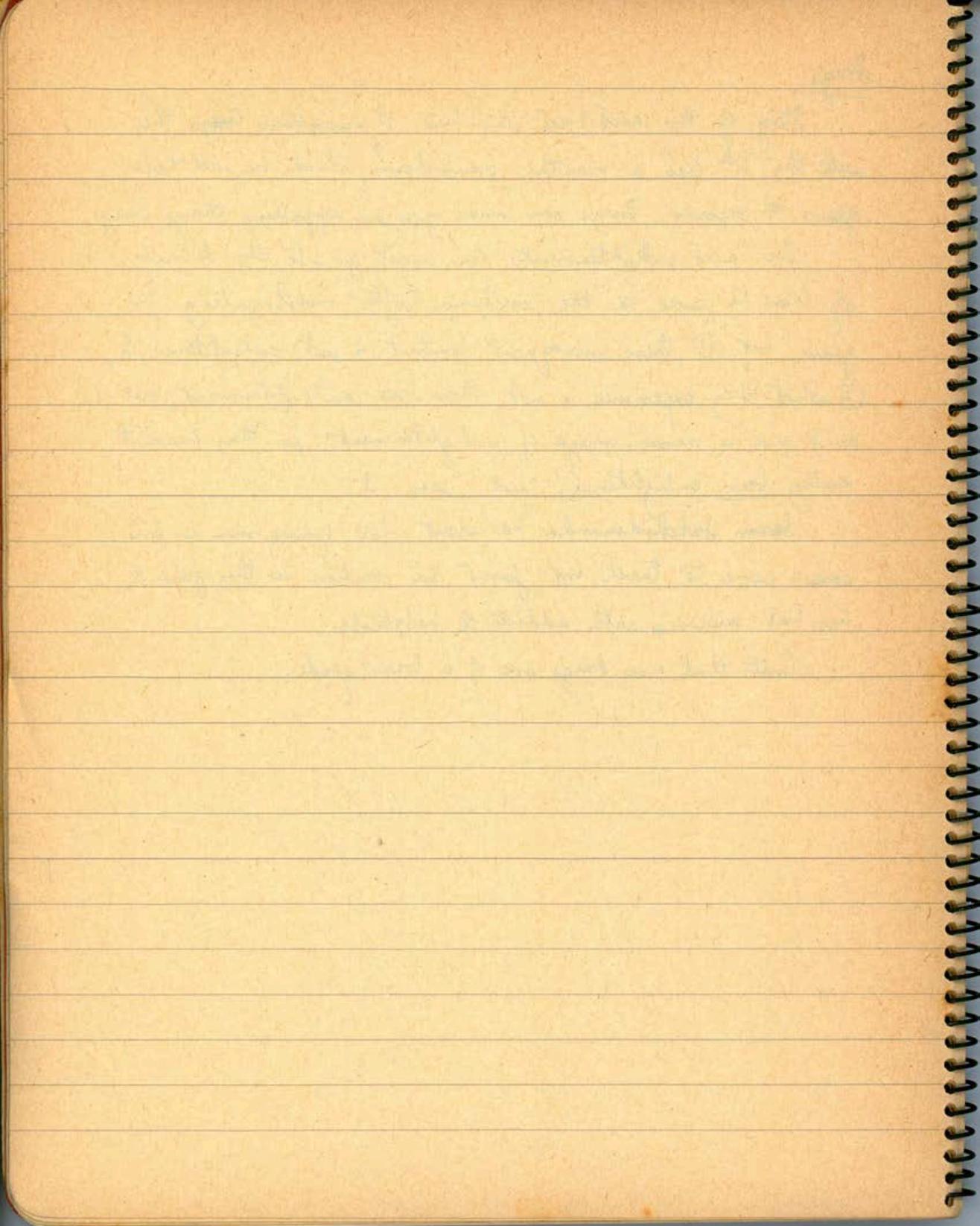
## Drugs

Story of the acid-head who had 5 marvellous trips, then with the 6<sup>th</sup> had a mental breakdown<sup>in</sup> which he will take years to recover. Drugs can make you see appalling things, beings.

On "acid enlightenments" &c., won't go into the details of how he came to the conclusion after investigating 20 years, but ① their subsequent conduct is not enlightened, & ② what they experience is not their own enlightenment, but as it were a mirror-image of enlightenment: so they haven't really been enlightened, just "seen" it.

Sarami Satchidananda has about 400 young men in his care: came to teach but found his vocation in this field & has had success with addicts & habituals.

Cults that use drugs are of a lower grade.



## Music

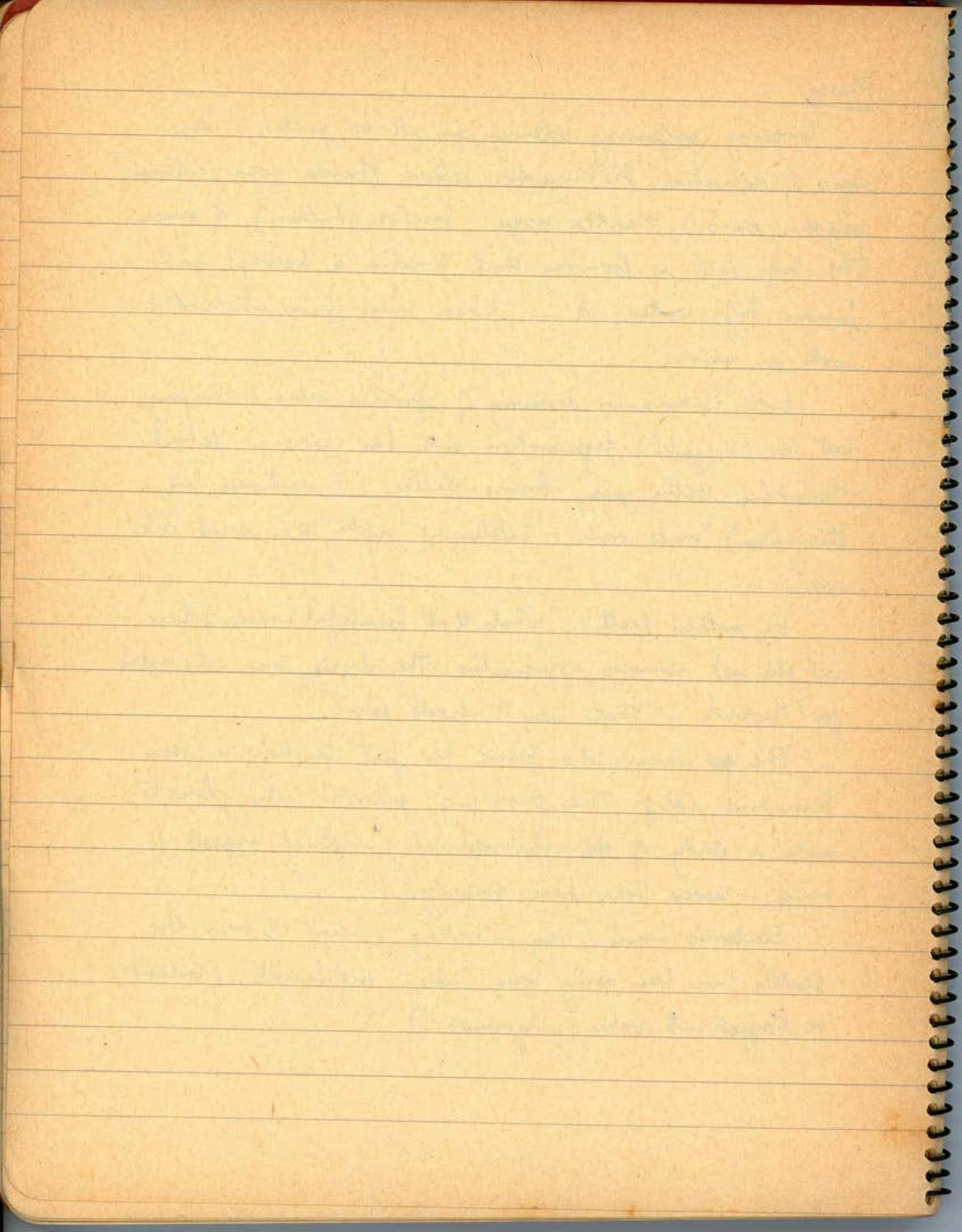
Composing, performing, listening can all be paths to some degree of realisation. Distinguishes between Shabda yoga (internal, psychic sound), Mantra yoga (based on rhythm), & music. The Sufi sect in Bombay that practices a musical path: famous Sufi writer, A — Khan must have at least one work on music.

Lotte Lehmann's discovery of spiritual value in singing, but her (suggested) degeneration into her "visions". Yehudi Menuhin's Hatha yoga. Bruno Walter (J. mentions his Steinerism) "made some v. intelligent repl's to a recent inter-view.

His mother's death: "what's that beautiful music I hear" — and she not normally appreciative. The dying man who asked for "Messiah" — "that's how it should sound."

The ~~the~~ woman who found her feet teaching in San Bernardino, Calif. The promising pianist who plans to make a study of the philosophical / mystical aspects of music — never been done properly.

Electronic music "very interesting — and I hear the Beatles have been using some Indian instruments". (Couldn't be trapped into value-judgements!)



## Science

A European nuclear physicist who has been to India — the only man known to be thus doubly qualified — is working on a project which will eventually prove that the energy to which scientists have reduced matter is consciousness. He is being backed by perhaps the greatest name in the field, by anonymously; when his work is done, the backer may declare himself. Having worked on the Bomb, he wasted some time & energy trying to work towards peace by political means — but has now seen that that's not his job.

This will of course spell an end to "science" as such. It remains to be seen whether it will convert those who see science merely as a means to their own ends, comfort, profit; if they remain obdurate, a 3<sup>rd</sup> world war seems inevitable.

Although the universe expands, so far as we know, indefinitely — our sun revolving round a hidden (psychic?) sun, & so on — with the atom, reduced to energy moving in a direction governed by the law of indeterminacy we seem to have reached a downward limit of "worlds".

He hedged about non-space-time systems; said the question of a "downward spiral" preceding the upward one was not worth bothering myself about!

A man working on a psychology based on the doctrine, as opposed to Freud, Adler, & Jung. PB advised a promising psychiatrist to study with him, but he only stayed 8-9 months then joined Jungian Institute just after WWII, where he was very successful & never out of a job, grudged the 'wasted' months, ~~but now~~ but now gone back to it [I think - can't quite remember].

A mathematician, G. Spencer Brown, whose "The Laws of Form" (Allen & Unwin) has some rather philosophical chapters comprehensible without special training, also has written "23 Degrees of Paradise" (Cam Press, Cambridge) as 'James Keyes'.

## Miscellaneous people

His inquisitive, fanatical Catholic land-lady who bought one of his philosophical works, had it autographed, but (fortunately) seemed not to have read it.

The German widow who sat contemplating the tranquility of the Lake: how PB listened to her life story, told her she was unwittingly practising meditation, but when she began to ask him questions said "I'm a retired man", then "an ex-author", then "of - well, sort of travel books", & never came back.

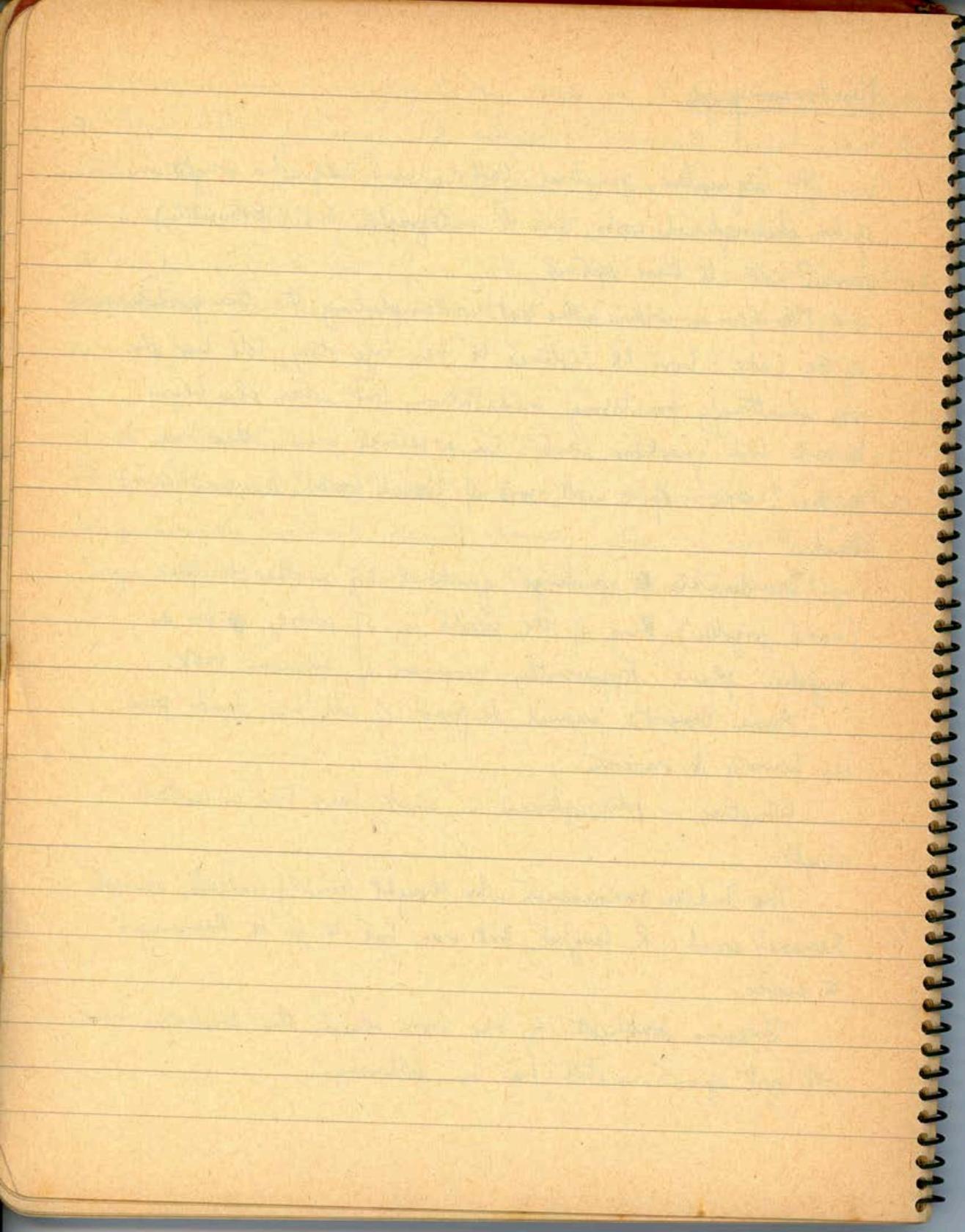
Ossendowski's ~~the~~ findings questioned by another traveller (name forgotten). King of the World is, of course, ~~on~~ on a psychic plane. Apparently unaware of Guénon's book.

Annie Besant's annual dispersal of all her funds proves her honesty & sincerity.

Whistler - schizophrenic - must have had a certain insight.

The Indian businessman who thought himself realised, usurped Ramana's couch: R. laughed, but man had to go to Ramana's to recover.

Joanna Southcott & her box which the Bishops have not yet opened - still has a following.



## Saints & Sages

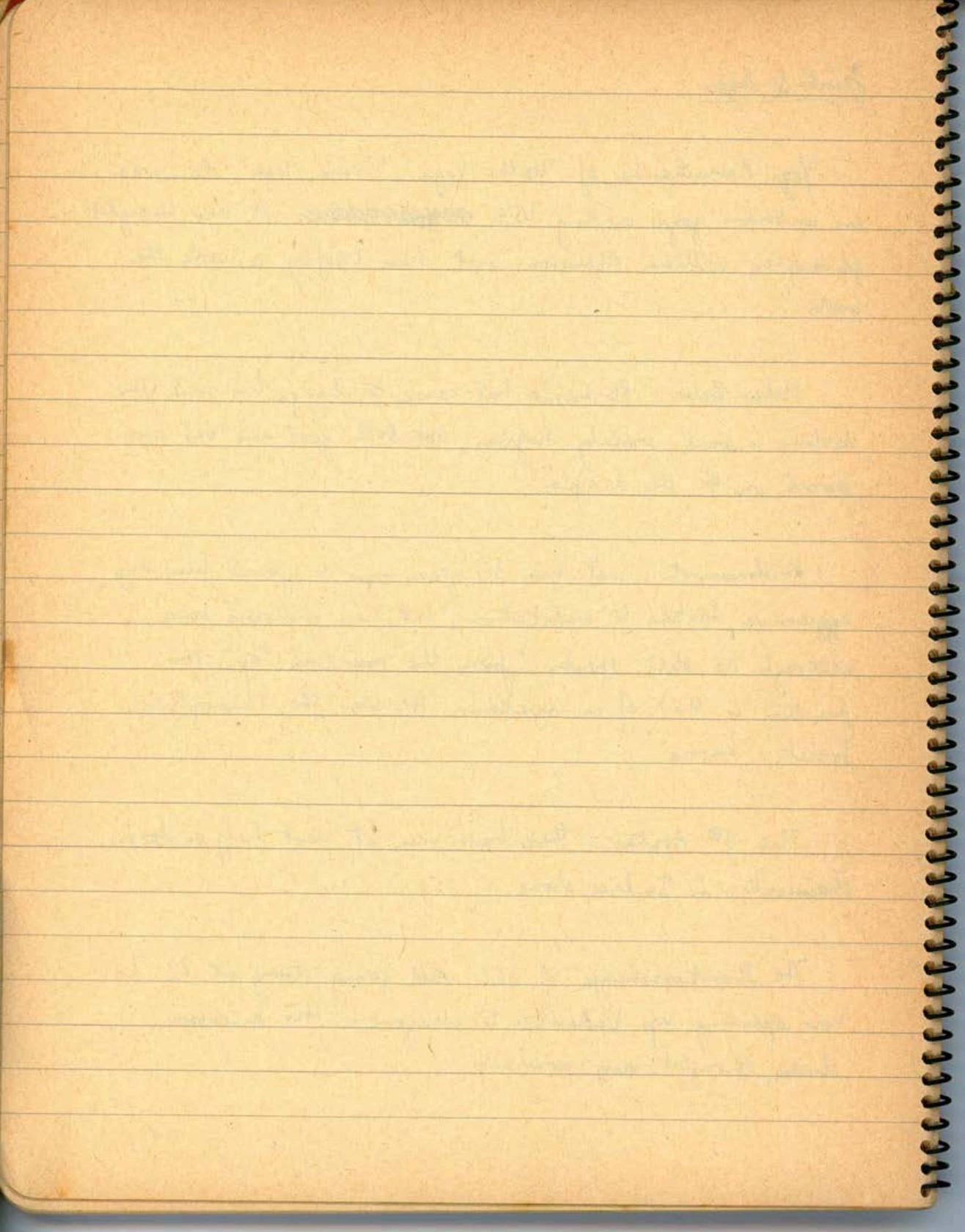
Yogi Ramacharika, of "Hatha Yoga", "Jnana Yoga", &c., was an unknown yogi visiting USA. ~~He was a~~ A new thought philosopher, William Allinson, met him briefly & wrote the books

Meher Baba: PBharit had cause to change his mind. The doctrine is sound, mainly Sufism, but both good and bad are passed on to the disciples.

Krishnamurti: met him 35 years ago & found him very aggressive, hostile to meditation; but has mellowed since, although he still speaks "from the mountain top". His function is that of an awakener. He was the Theosophical Society's karma.

The 9th Avatar: there have been at least half a dozen claimants, in India alone.

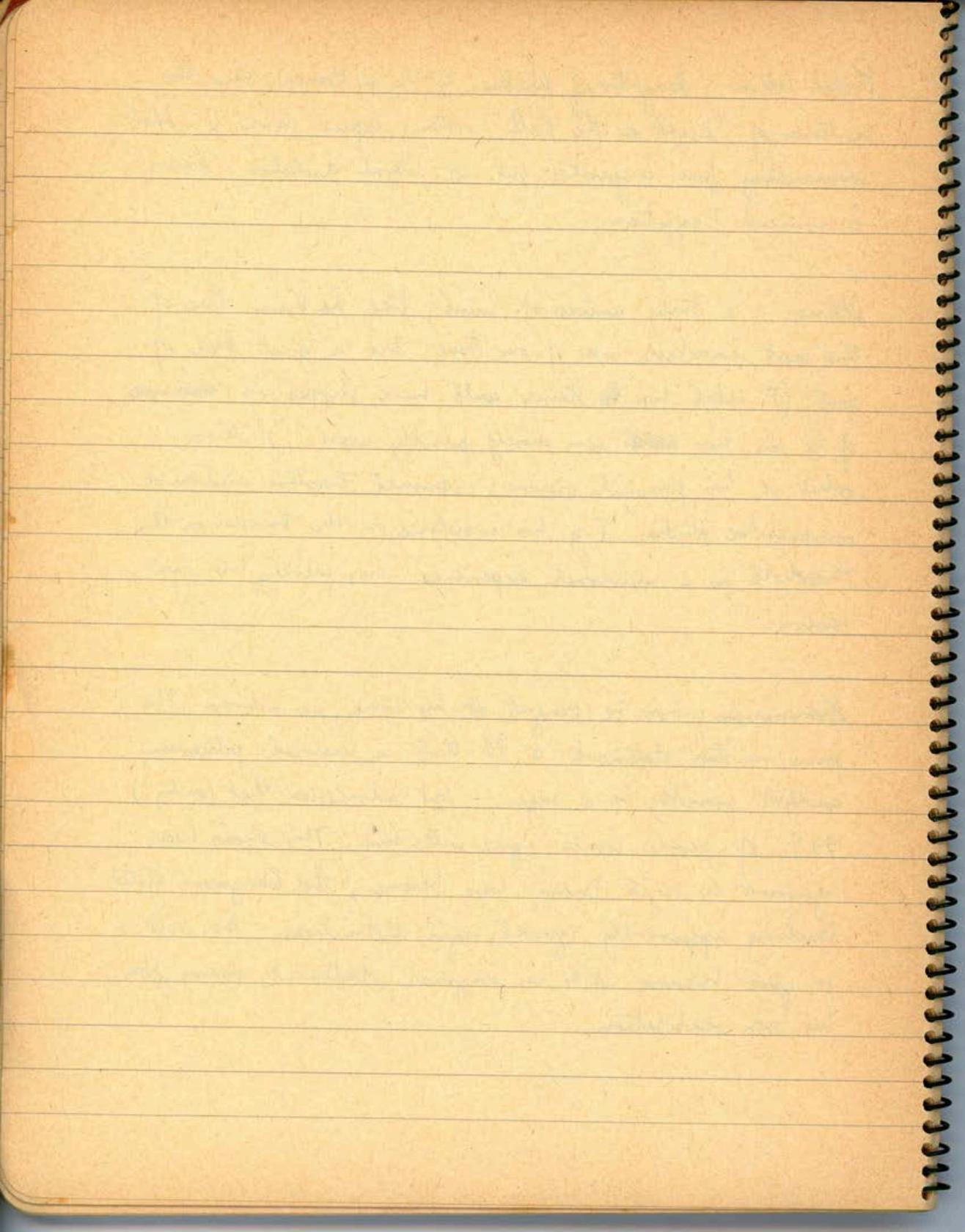
The Shankaracharya of SSI still going strong at 82. Is now opening up Vedanta to everyone. His successor chosen, thought very promising.



Mabel Collins: daughter of Wilkie. While in France, saw the sentences of "Light on the Path" written; copied down & added commentary from inspiration but not literal dictation. Source is ancient Egyptian.

Steiner - a truly universal mind, like da Vinci. One of the most remarkable men of our time. Did a great deal of good. (J. asked how ~~the~~ Steiner could have shipped up: ~~if he can~~ if he can, how ~~could~~ can oneself possibly avoid?!) Steiner relies on his personal visions: spurned Eastern wisdom & comparative studies. E.g. his insistence on the Dweller on the Threshold as a universal experience: no, merely his own vision.

Abananda: how he taught at his home, no ashram. The prime minister's statement to PB that a married policeman couldn't possibly be a sage - but admission that (only!) 95% of people would agree with him. This shows how ignorant & rigid India has become; the Bhagavad Gita's teaching apparently ignored; rigid distinctions. A's. book is so good because it is an original statement drawn from his own realisation.

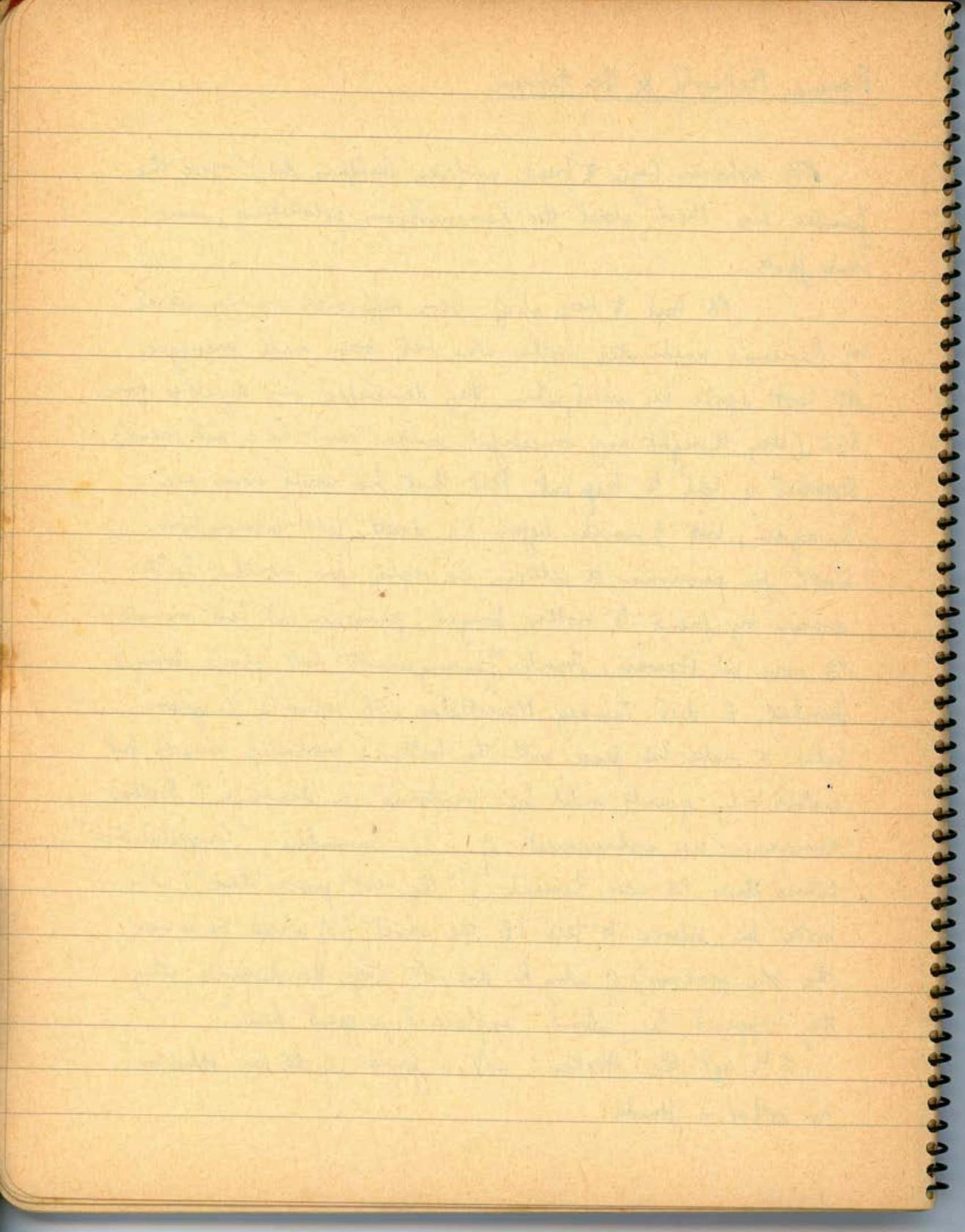


## Ramana Maharshi & the Ashram

All ashrams begin to break up (even Buddha's did) before the founder dies. Much about the Ramana ashram politicking; some basic facts:

PB tried to keep aloof from differences mainly caused by Ramana's uneducated brother who had been made manager. At last spoke his mind, when they demanded his royalties from SSI (they thought any successful author must be a millionaire). Expelled & told to keep out. Felt that he would never see R. again, but 9 months before R's. death felt premonitions. Wrote for permission to return. No reply for months. Intercession by friends to brother brought permission at last minute: PB now in Hawaii. Frantic <sup>re-</sup>arrangements but plane delayed Sunday, R. died Tuesday. Nevertheless PB returned 2 years later to make his peace with the brother: prostrated himself, but evoked only grunts until he mentioned a donation! Brother announces his achievement of ----- samadhi; "Congratulations." While there PB sees Ramiah ("the best person there") who broke his silence to tell PB the secret (of which he is now the sole possessor) of why R. did not stop the disputes, why they happened, etc., which "explained a great deal."

R.M. not the Avatar: not a founder of the new religion, an orthodox Hindu.



## Ithacons

PB has letters from, & asked after:

Gillian — liked the picture on the catalogue. Asked if she has any worldly success. Compares her perfectionism to Flaubert's.

Richard Goldberg

Gary

Andrea Tobin

Paul D.

Ram — suggests Satchidananda. A visit to Arunachala might have helped, but PB will not reply.

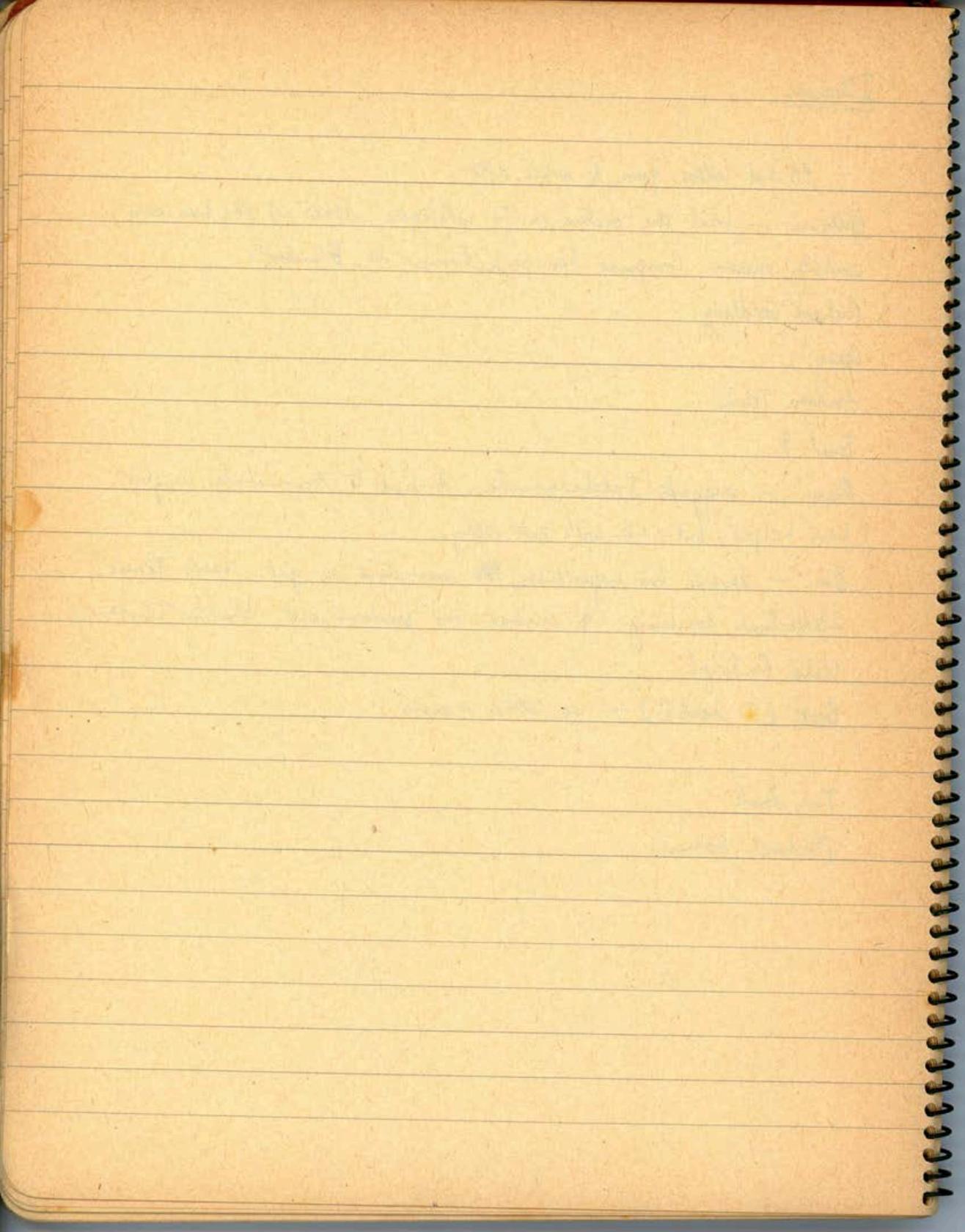
Jim — despite his experiences, ~~is~~ immature as yet. Needs Tony's intellectual training to combat his predominant bhaktic tendencies.

Cleta Rudolph

Best (J. ment'g.) — no letter received.

Tim Smith

Michael Salmins

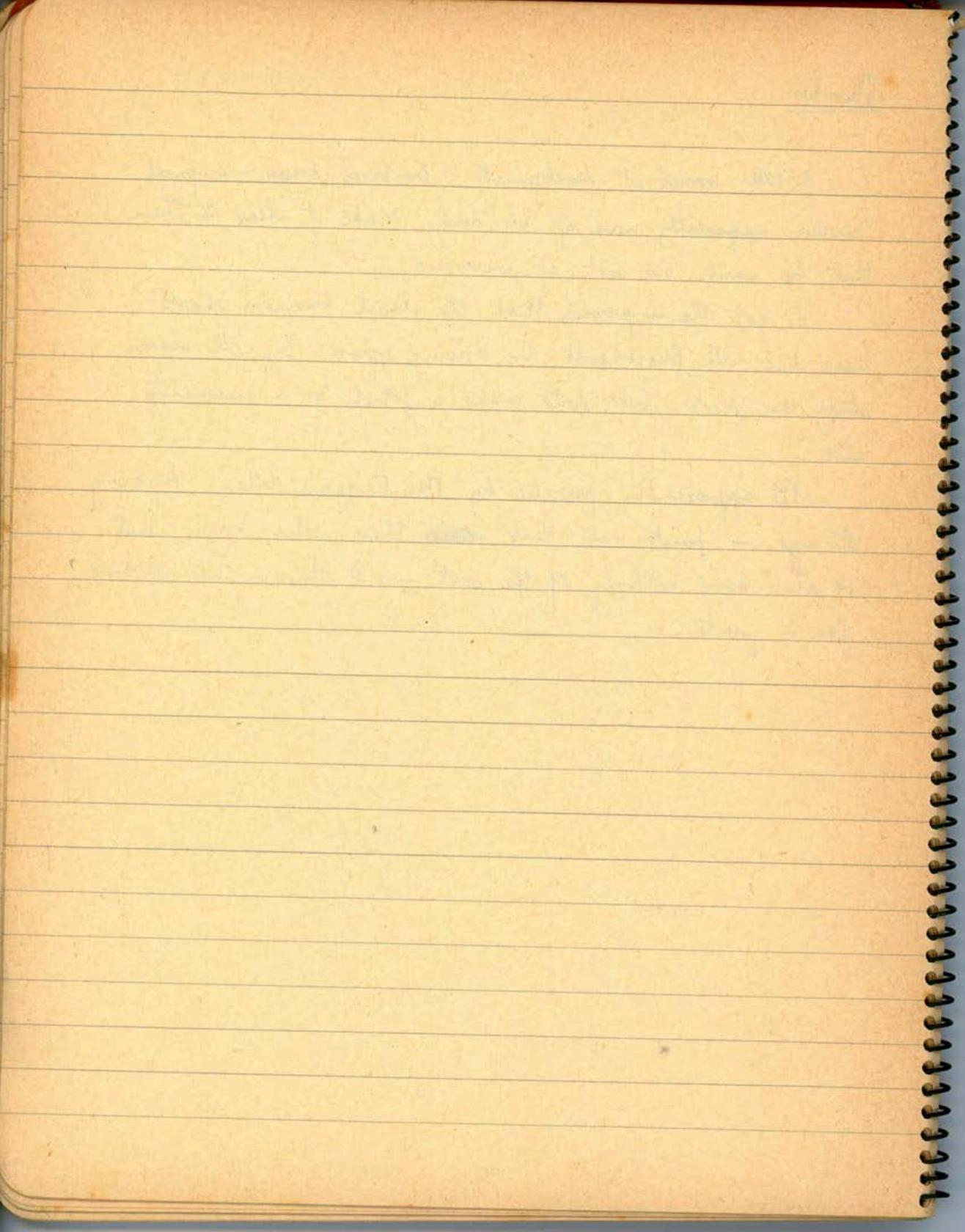


## Columbus

A little worried at developments: Barbara's dream-inspired "mission" apparently none of his doing. Make it clear to them that he wants no sort of movement.

J. got the impression that the church business should have died with Burckhardt, the driving spirit. By all means study the Works, but don't make a fetish or a personality cult.

PB apparently puzzled by Mrs. Fagen's letter, deploring old age - points out that ~~some~~ those who have "had it all" have nothing of the sort - & this is no attitude for a quester.



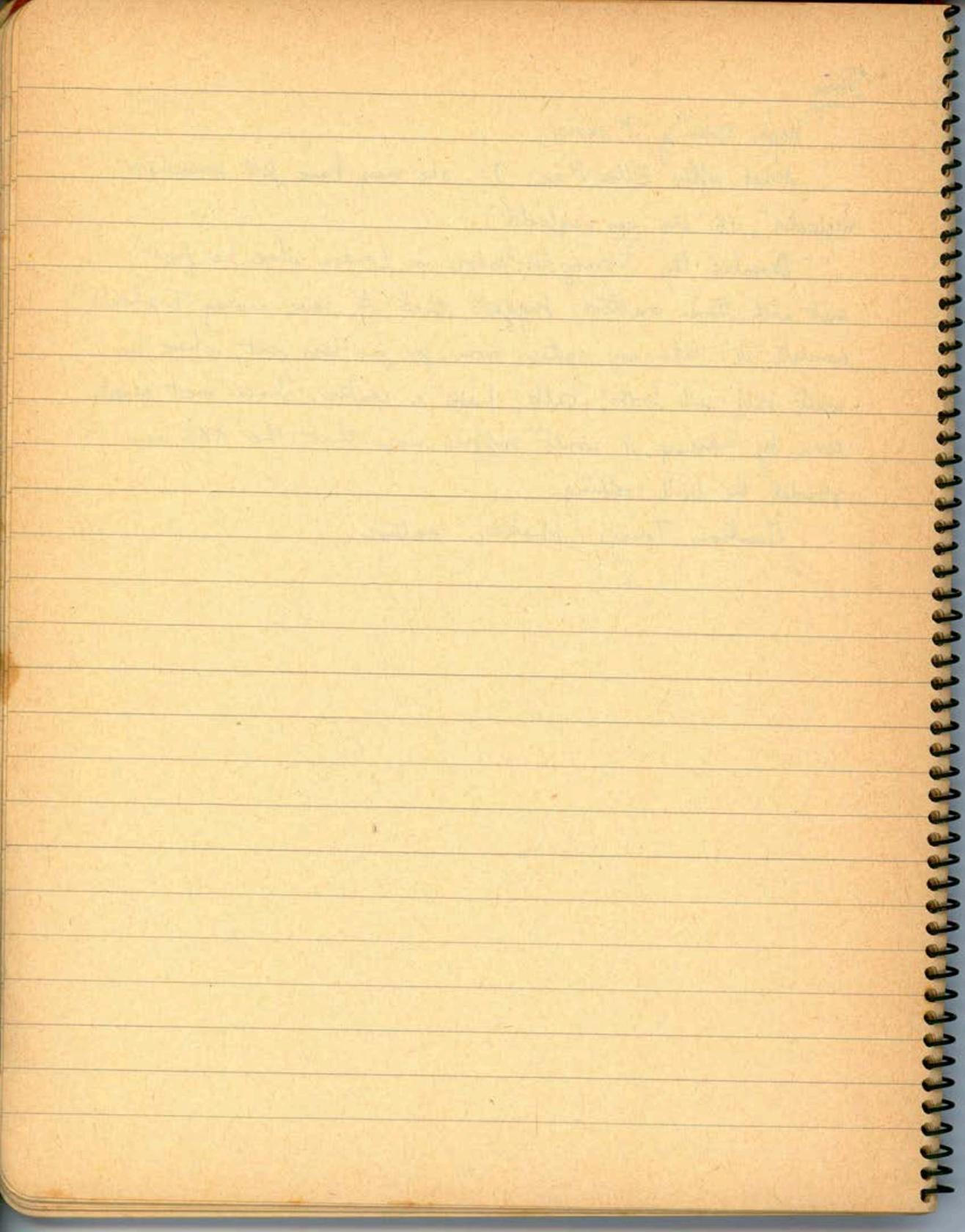
Tony

Hopes taking it easier.

Asked after Ella Mae; J: "she may have felt somewhat neglected"; PB "she was neglected".

Describes the library/bookshop in London where he first met with these matters. Suggests that to save money T. should emulate it: take an upstairs room for far less rent, where he could still sell books, talk, have a centre. Since most people come by henry it would suffice now that the ABB has started the ball rolling.

Mentions Tony's phaktic nature.



## More Saints, Sages, & people

The lady who read JSE the year it came out, asked for introduction; years later got there as shorthand typist, gradually reached Anand's ashram as secretary; fell violently in love (mutual) with a married Hindu; took the veil as the only escape.

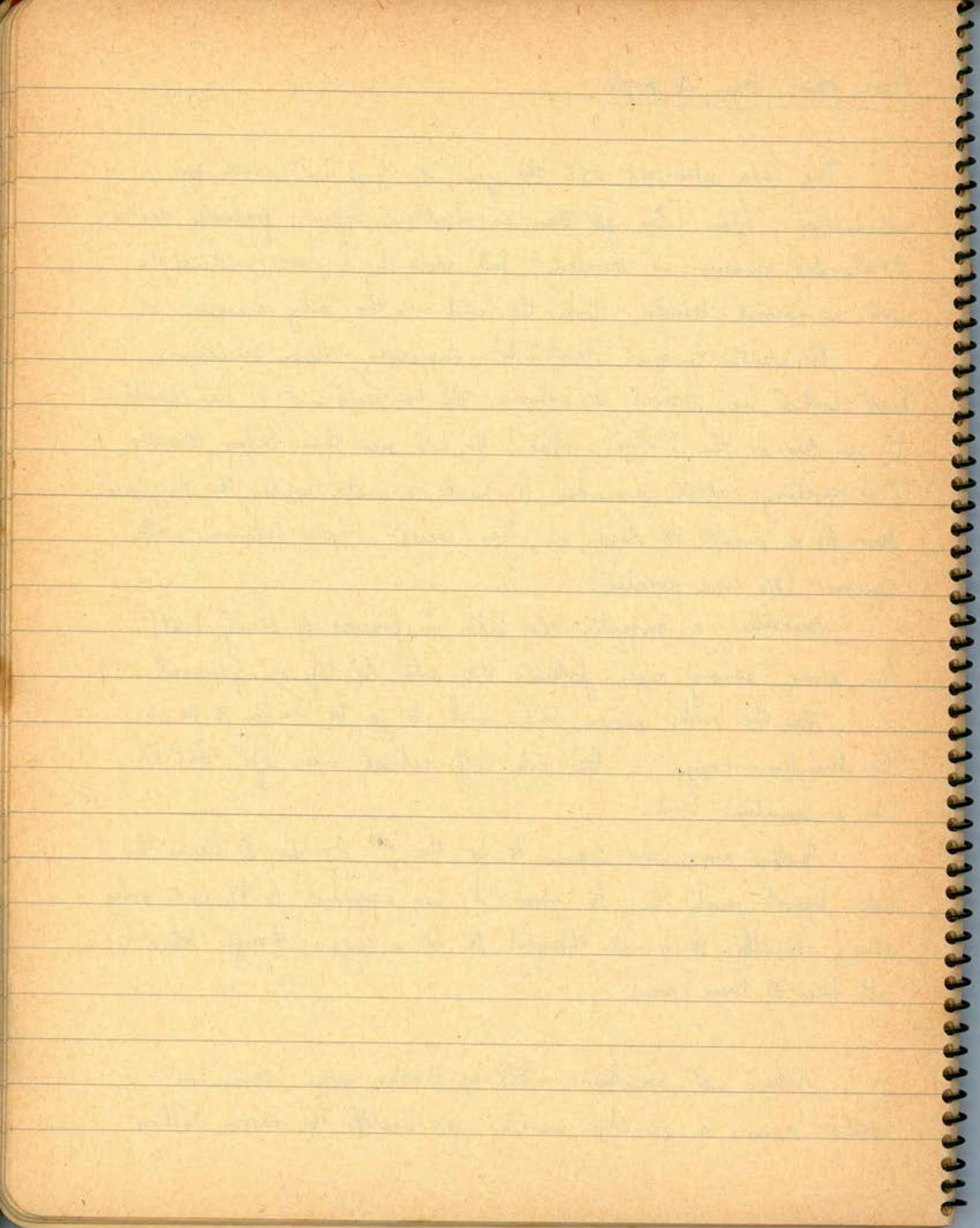
PB wanted to meet Anand's rumoured chosen successor, kept locked up. Arrived at ashram, told he could not be seen: could PB see An. or the Mother instead? No, he'd seen them before, thanks. The secretary (above) persuaded to push a note under the successor's door. As a result PB stays on, has secret 1-hour interview with successor. (No more revealed)

Anandville, a projected holy city in process of being built. An., alone among sages, fostered the arts & life in general.

Now the only person he'd want to go to India to see is the Shankaracharya - the only self-realised man left. But PB has a spiritual link.

Another man, who claims to be the 9th Avatar, & heals the sick, apportis jewels, &c., to prove it, has appeared to PB but only once, occultly. He is not thought to be a sage - though we shd. all fear of him soon.

Nehru not spiritual - took up Hatha yoga when his brother became a fanatic merely for health & nerves. Nehru

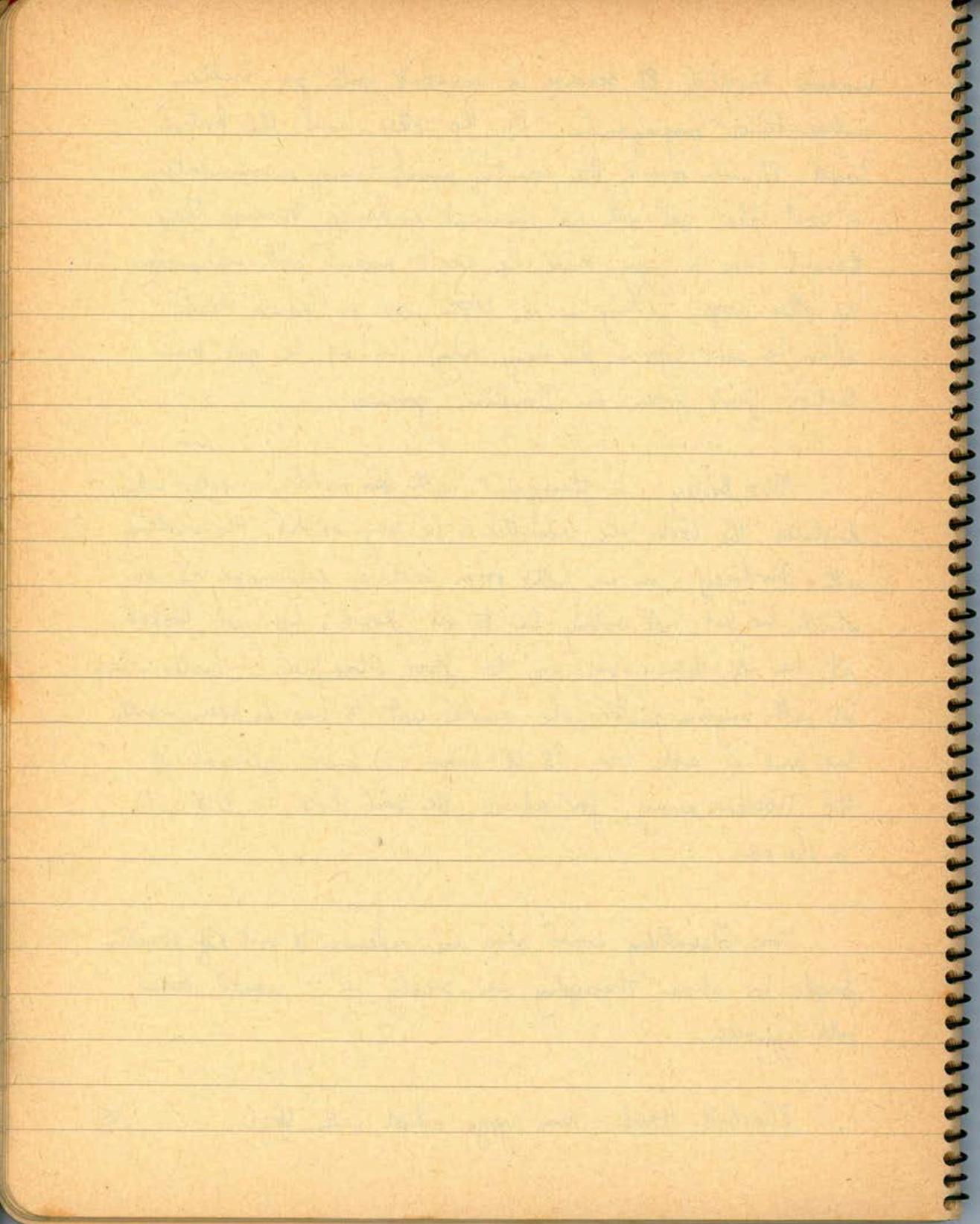


moreover dislikes PB because he wouldn't write pro-Indian independence propaganda. On the other hand the British tarred PB all round the country several times, accumulating a vast file yet with no criminal evidence, because they thought him a spy since he went around with maharajas & other wags! Getting in in 1952 was so tedious that when he went (for a few days only) in '64 he got protection first from an Indian governor.

Alice Bailey: a theosophist with ~~her~~<sup>a</sup> hidden master who dictated the books she admitted to be long-winded. Her meeting with Gurdjieff: in an hotel room with an enormous bed on which he sat; not asking her to sit down, he just looked at her & then spat on the floor. She fled. — Later when ill with angina pectoris she resorted not to her hidden master but sent a cable via PB to Lajin (?) Lar, general of the Tibetan army, for advice. He said she'd be O.K., & so she was.

Mme. Blavatsky would also use rudeness to put off society people for whom Theosophy was merely "in": would swear, roll cigarettes.

Elisabeth Haich: runs yoga school with Yogi , to



whom she was married after (presumably) Mr. H. died. She does the philosophical part, he the hatha. The school is a few miles along from Lugano: P.B. Los looked in ~~at~~ & noticed their books on yoga - but this is no ashram. No response when I mentioned ~~the~~ <sup>P.B.'s</sup> presumed appearance in "Initiation": seemed not to ~~know~~ know the book.

The composer/artist/poet/bohemian quater in Lugano: universally talented but no genius or public recognition except of his garb!

The sage of the Swiss backwoods: George Borenhardt. Privately published "Der Erhabene Spricht". Lived in Germany but left as soon as he could after the war, having been imprisoned. Now lives in a hut w. 1 chief disciple between Bern & Zurich, nearer Zurich. Goes to Germany periodically to see other disciples, holds (P.B. thinks) short sessions chez lui. 2 women (aunt & niece) dropped in unannounced, found G.B. & disciple at lunch, sitting on tree-stump. ~~Was~~ Niece (typical woman) disappointed because no ecstatic greeting, & anyway G.B. looked "gloomy". A man visitor, on the other hand, <sup>was</sup> convinced G.B. was a self-realised man. G.B. writes to P.B.: has had a dream of Ram. Maharshi - wants to meet P.B., who says come to Zurich, no, G.B. can't stand the polluted

atmosphere, PB must come to the backwoods. Not likely! This repeated 3 years later, same results. Now at last G.B. can stand the ~~the~~ prospect of Zurich, but PB seems to think the time not right — waits for "inner urge" before seeing anyone.

The woman in Japan who is working quietly against evil by pouring out "such love as the world has never seen", necessitated by the ~~the~~ most evil people in the world, ~~found~~ apparently in Japan. Despite her humility she & her disciples seem to see her as an avatar — but PB thinks just a local one. Her disciple — Olympic judo expert Santa Yamada: she is Tokosan (?) Sama, 182 Hase, Kamakura — which town incidentally still keeps its ancient spirituality, unlike the modern parts of Japan.

## Universities & Churches

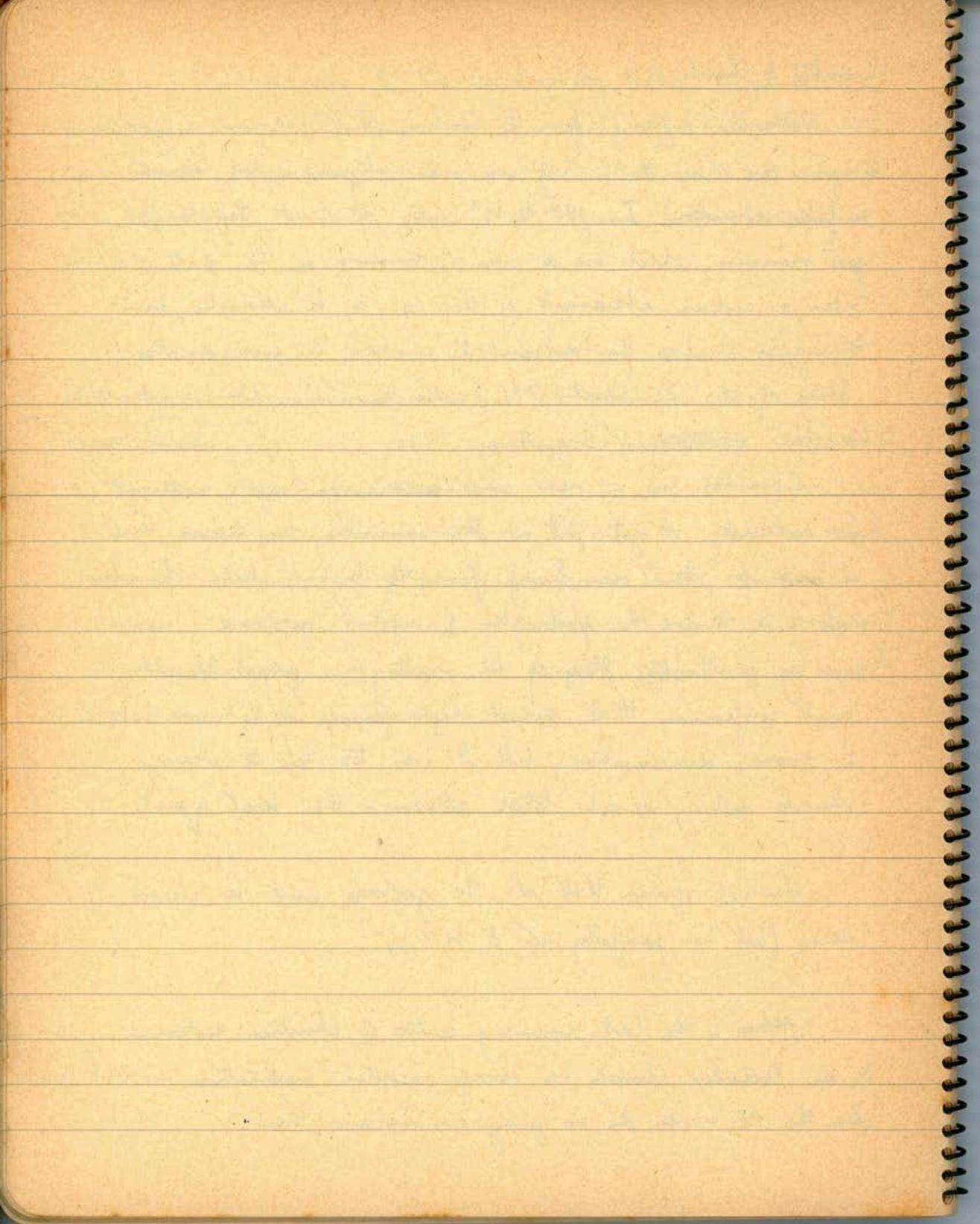
Universities suffering from the teaching that everyone's as good as everyone else. In M.A. they were under religious control, assured a suitable education. In 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> cents, at least they taught good manners, which are a form of training on the path: it takes a certain abasement of the ego to be altruistic, kind to inferiors; also the restraint of emotions is good practice.

Story of the democratic N.Z.lander who couldn't understand how this wasn't just hypocrisy.

Churches in a mess since sectarianism rife, contempt for authority — yet just as the universities, they deserve this in part for their own decay from the highest ideals. Churches used to be under the philosophers' & mystics' guidance: now run by exoterists. Story of his meeting w. papal secretary: secret confession that several high persons in Vatican believed in karma, reincarnation, but it was too late to change church policy or risk total schism so they kept quiet.

General opinion that all the garbage must be cleared away (but how painfully needs it be?).

Athos is the last remaining centre of Christian esotericism — & the Orthodox Church has always accepted meditation — but when the old monks die no young ones replace them.



## Places & peoples

Lugano - no, not a spiritual center, but nice because of Italian lightness tempering Swiss stodginess.

Zurich: became so after Jung; interested people flocked in. 3 vegetarian restaurants prove that there is a large section of the population with better-developed sensibilities & aspirations.

The Swiss - god-fearing in that they go to church - unless they're "nice little hypocrites" - but dense & very bourgeois. Still, they're well ordered & very very commonsensical.

California: a very curious phenomenon. Blavatsky said it wd. be the birthplace of the 6<sup>th</sup> Root Race, with supernormal sensibilities, powers, &c., so many theosophists (& other nuts) flocked out to join the dust-bowl farmers - who had come fr. the mid-West when already old & religiously inclined (some mystical), but given to the proliferation of sects. All extremes.

New York - Blavatsky said would sink. [find ref.]

Russia - look there to find the real embodiments of evil: men who have lost their idealism (still present in the Chinese Revolution) & are entirely given to exploiting the people under the guise of communism.

Japan - doing in 25 years what U.S. did in 100. Very symptomatic of decline is the Australian export of meat & its wide reception.

Australia - the natives very outgoing, physical, healthy, meat & beer consuming. Spiritual aspirations, though: Satchidananda drew 400 in Sydney. PB found that most aspirants are middle-class Pommies, see the inferiority of their blood a good thing. Blavatsky said Australia also a seat of the 6th Root Race, so W. Gaster also a bit ~~like~~ like that of U.S. New Zealand even denser than Australia on the whole - but Maori's a good people, ruled by a clairvoyant Queen, <sup>Polynesian descent.</sup> Aborigines on the other hand are pure blacks, a different lot altogether, & in fact Lemurians.

Gobi desert - seat of ~~the~~ a very great civilisation, destroyed post-Jesus Christ. The original source of the Aryan race. Relics in New Delhi museum: excavated prior to WWI but little has been possible since.

Russian religious/mythical feeling very strong. Will awaken one day - later than the rest, perhaps, but immensely powerful when it does.

Africans' natural impulses are towards clairvoyance, magic. They had begun to enslave themselves before America started: none the less, US has terrible karmic load from that.

## Last Things, & Suffering

Secrets of Fatima (ca. 1910, shd. have been let out ca. 1960 - 62) must have predicted downfall of church, end of papacy. Dalai Lama also the last of his line.

The Tibetans suffered because they refused to learn, to face probabilities, until too late. Also, for the whole world, the 1½ years after each war was mismanaged & wasted. (J. asked whether the responsibility lay with the leaders) The people can only be led, but they don't have to assent. The leaders inherit a bad situation but they don't have to perpetuate it. Eventually you can trace it all back to the suffering inevitable in existence.

Do animals suffer as we do, & why? No, for although they suffer physically they are free of the anticipations, imaginations, torturing memories, remorse. Suffering is their necessary experience. And ignorant people? Yes, they suffer for experience & also for training to look for an escape.

Divide the period of the sun's revolution around the non-material cosmic sun (precession of the equinoxes) by 12 for ~~ages~~ "ages" (not ~~the~~ same as Yugas): Piscean age began with Jesus (🐟), Aquarian age due soon. But this corresponds, too, with end of the 4 yuga cycle: don't try to assess the latter in figures - everyone disagrees & the only safe figures are astronomical ones. Aquarian

Age is an outpouring, which has already begun & the arcs intersect, just as in astrology there are spheres of influence. The 2 influences are both working at the moment, but Piscean factors are very solidly entrenched & will have to be shattered.

The <sup>4</sup>Yugas each start with the spiritual influence of an Avatar, & the ~~jump~~ leap from Iron to Golden Age is a tremendous descent of Grace that gradually wears off as the cycle progresses until the next one — the next turn around the spiral. But each turn is a little higher than the last.

Incidental impulses occur within this, of course, e.g. especially 600 B.C.: Buddha, Pythagoras, Lao Tze; 500-700 A.D.: Mohammed, Shankara [? Bodhidharma]

Christians thrown to hois were near enough to Grace to have real faith — now people just stand back, their religion (if any) no longer a support.

## The Quest

The Dweller on the Threshold is one's lower self when it confronts one as the ugly thing it is.

~~Practise~~  
Practise continual identification with the highest.

Follow the breath, dwell in the heart. Remember to hold breath briefly — & especially if a "glimpse" occurs.

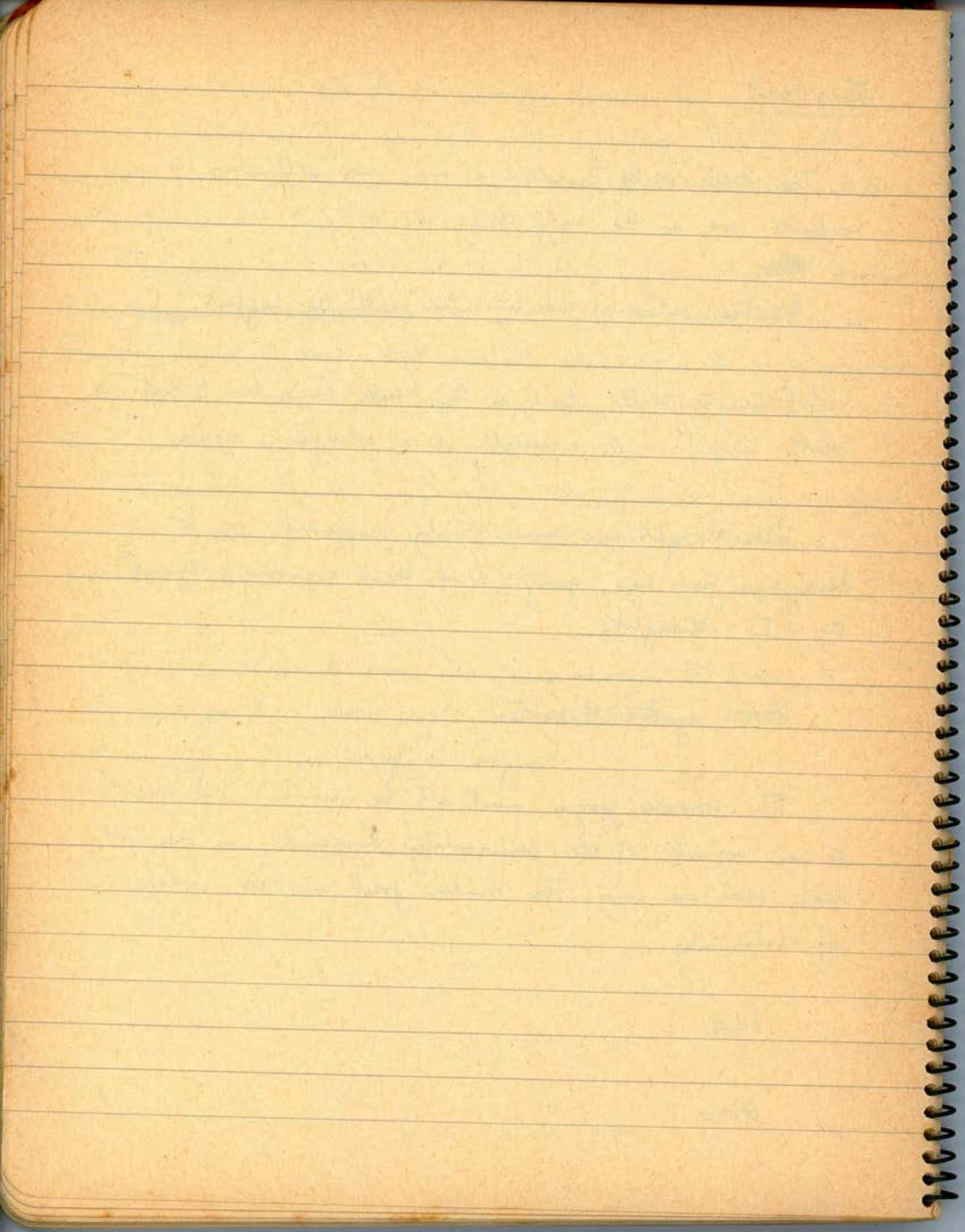
When thoughts are momentarily suspended, try to disengage from ego, going (or at least aspiring) beyond the "I" thought.

Avoid negative thoughts.

The various yogas must all be united, but just as one aspect of the personality dominates, so one will lean more one way. The Hindus' great mistake (recent) of exclusivity.

Faith

Grace







Australia - Pompeii - Root Race - Nest - Bas - NZ - Moors - Abos. -

Angkor - Gobi civilization - Africans, their spiritual vibrations -

Japan - meat - women "water" & evil - <sup>Pompeii</sup> Pyramidal experience, \$

the stage of the Swiss back woods (see diary)

Old age

Cycles & precision: comm. sum. - 600 Bt - 600 AD - ~~W~~

side of the Avon

Zurich, Leyden <sup>Picture</sup> museums -

Japanese Southcott & the Box

Russian X humanity

~~Archa~~

F. Shena  
W. J. J. S. waterfall  
D. factory & quarry  
Thell+

7m. \$ 750 616 ~~£ 4620~~

1 wk ~~20700~~  
4312  
308

4 km. 576 6620 2300

1116 km. 6 c 5p 2300 66264

87884  
stay 8789

6696  
39 \$ 50.00  
60264  
8 1/2 = 13 = 7800

£ 96673  
- 74400

6 | 22273  
\$ 37.12

Tasks for J.G.

Message to Tony re bookstore - suggested revision

" " Barbara & Columbians

When in London, call Sunder Kabadi

2-4 Brittons Court

Whitefriars Street

FLE 2789

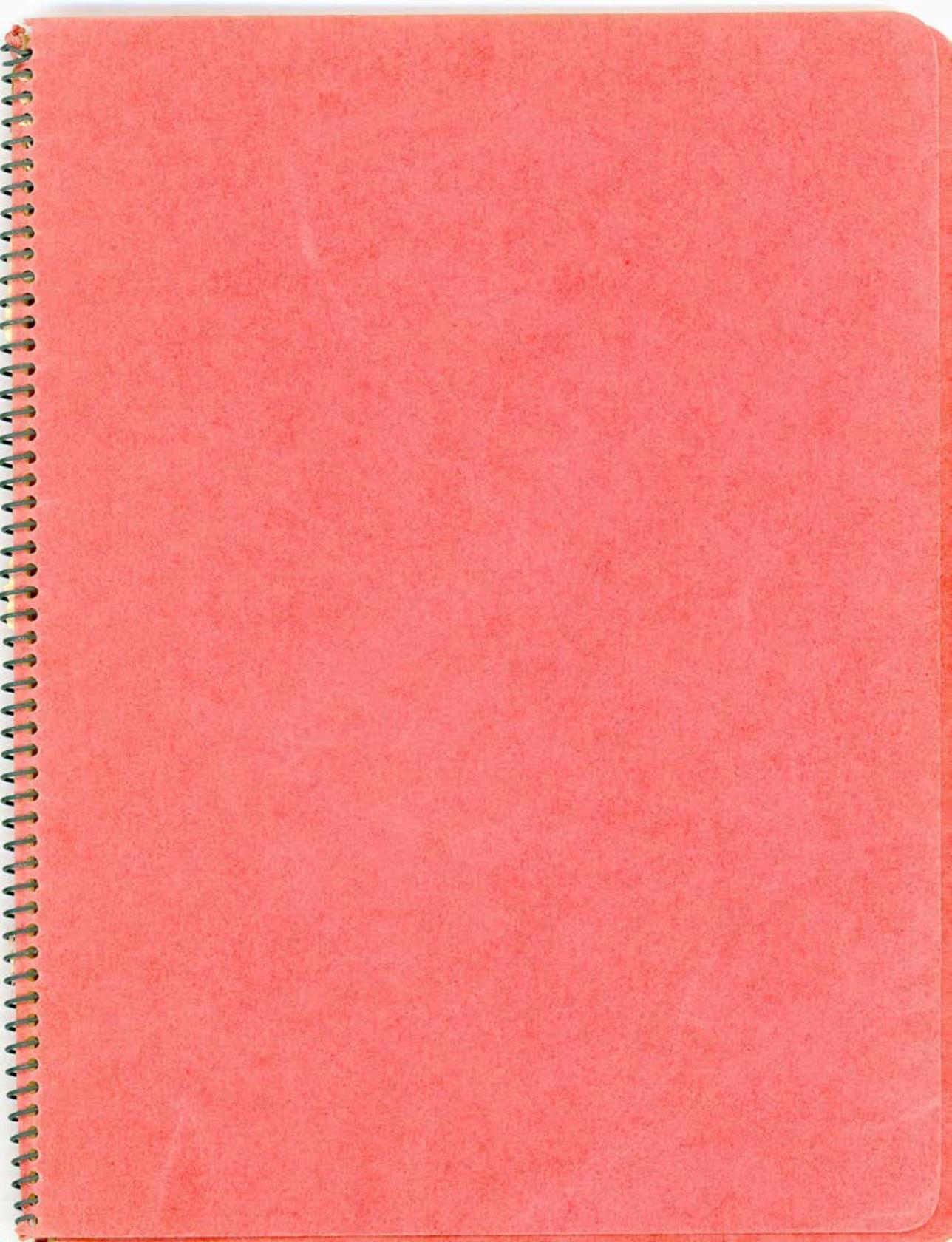
Fleet Street, E.C.4

~~- and try to get his article on Ramana back. Find out if it was ever used.~~

*rik*

Message to Om ✓

Message to Ram. if possible





Joselyn Godwin with P.B., | March 6-16, 1978

(1)

3/6/78  
Monday

We went into Montreux for dinner at an Italian place. P.B. ordered an "Appenzeller" cocktail, and I was very glad to join him. He finds it cuts the oil & grease in such food. Talking-points: (1) Whenever good spirituality grows, so does the black kind: "it's the old conflict." The Russians are actually practising a resurgence of Atlantean black magic. They have means of hypnotising people from a distance, & P.B. knew a man who was sure this was happening to him. They are responsible for the economic insecurity of the West. They make trouble everywhere they can, in the hope that the W. will collapse and they can move in. (2) P.B. has a group of followers in Czechoslovakia who have been circulating some of his works translated and published before the war, since banned. He has been there and given interviews quite recently to 150 people! Meetings of more than 5 people are banned, so all this has to go on underground, but the impulse there is strong, especially among the German-descended Czechs. 80% of the people are against the government, which is so paranoid that it places incredible restrictions on people: anyone in a high position has to sign a statement each year to say that they entirely agree with Communism. One of P.B.'s devotees is in charge of a factory, & has managed to give classes in yoga, described as "physical culture," even introducing meditation. (3) At lunch with Claire, P.B. expressed himself quite surprisingly about Tony and the astrology with which he had "become infatrated." I explained to Claire what Tony was trying to do — find a symbolism that would unite all systems — and P.B. said that that was all very well, but where did it get you? You might as well stick to the systems themselves. He had the impression that many of Tony's students, especially the women, weren't interested in it anyway. The next day he returned to the subject and said he didn't mean to give a negative impression: Tony was a self-taught genius, "and he is a genius." (4) Astrology as we know it is a mere remnant of a once great science, which Mankind couldn't have discovered on their own: it was given them. It needs very precise observation, and this the Chaldeans &c. were able to do with stone instruments. Later he mentioned some national relationships: GB, France, Switz, Mex.

3/7/78  
Tuesday

We spent the morning over correspondence. For some letters, P.B. dictated; others he sketched and I wrote <sup>as</sup> from myself: the latter were to a German who wanted his photo and a rather uneducated Englishman. I wrote them out late that night & he signed & sent them in the morning. We had lunch out and worked all afternoon in the warehouse, trying to find things in his cases and trunks. Came back, & I tried to meditate but fell asleep, or adream. Then out to dinner, this time at a Chinese place with horrid music. They charged 54 Fr. = \$29 for a very simple dinner! Unfortunately it was his turn to pay, but he said that was quite normal. The day before he had had me work out his probable expenses for the coming month, so he could draw it out of the bank. It came to 2000 Fr., and that not counting his apt in Geneva for which some supposed devotee is charging him an arm & a leg! "I don't know how I came to be living at such a rate," he said.

3/8/78  
Wed.

In the morning I walked into Vevey (3 mi.) along the lakeside villas, and got our train sorted out at the station. We met for lunch. He told me something about the Norwegian girl we were to meet at Domachi: she had quite naturally found the timeless state, and although she sometimes forgot it in the midst of activity, it was with her all the time. He later explained that the difficulty is to bring this state, experienced in meditation, into active life. It took Ramana 3 years. That is Sahaja, the Natural State, but you can't expect it to be exactly the same as when there's no perception of the external world. He was interested in her experience because it was very rare in the West, and she had not had to work for it. Even as a child, she felt herself different, more serious, but learnt to keep quiet about it.

He also spoke very highly of Steiner, as a "genuine clairvoyant" and a "creative genius". There were some things he didn't agree with him about, of course, but "when you see the hogwash that's being put over today as the teachings of the Great White Brotherhood, you appreciate the integrity of a man like Steiner." P.B. had a relative who was very big in the Anthroposophy movement, & through him had a brief interview with

Steiner in 1919 after a lecture in London.

On P.B.'s own career: no, he hadn't written any science fiction! He wrote a couple of early books under a pseudonym, which were inspirational but not spiritual. He wouldn't tell me the pseudonym, because the books were superseded by later writings. He was literary editor of the Occult Review, & used to write book reviews, poems, articles, also pseudonymously. A couple of years after meeting Steiner he wrote there about him. He was offered the job of running Rider's but declined because he could never be tied to a regular job.

We did another hour's work in the warehouse, opening every last trunk and re-planting everything so as to be more accessible when he came alone. Then Claire fetched us for dinner. There was a ~~Japan~~ Chinese lady, whose French-Swiss husband appeared later. She has a Zen master in Japan, and paints, Japanese style. She was married before, & has reformed this husband from being a fat drunkard to being an utter health-food & -culture freak. During the evening I contracted a streaming cold, & Claire was most solicitous. I drove home.

The day was made rather miserable by my cold, & doubly so by fears that P.B. would get it and have we return as a virus! There was a lot of walking & carrying suitcases, and I was not eating anything but oranges. We got the train to Domach. P.B. had forgotten to give up his keys & I had to mail it back, but otherwise we did all right, even with a 4' change of train. Swiss trains are always on time to the second, so one can be confident of making connections. The Goetheum was supposed to be only 10' walk from the station, but that must be for fleet-footed Anthroposophists: it is up a very steep hill, past increasingly Steinerian houses. We met the Norwegian girl & came down for lunch in the Goetheum restaurant. P.B. was rather put out that nothing on the menu was strictly vegan. The population was like a BD conference raised to the 11<sup>th</sup> degree! Jorunn told us that we could see a press rehearsal of part of Faust if we stayed - it was 5-7.

3/9/78

Thursday  
(Kerover  
did.)

Provisionally, we hadn't managed to contact Noel Glass in Zürich, so we were free and arranged to stay the night. I came down & found a hotel while he talked to her alone. After a nap (I could have slept for hours) we took a taxi back up the hill. The place was crowded with students. On the stairs, P.B. was escorted by an Indian girl, one of two Parsi sisters he'd mentioned as having met there the last time she came in & got us food sets. P.B. said afterwards he didn't enjoy the play: it was the Hell scene, the Witches' Sabbath, and too negative. What a pity we hadn't been there the day before, for Heaven! But ~~there~~<sup>it</sup> was spectacular: nothing spared for gorgeous costumes, scenery, stage effects. The last scene, however, was Gretchen in the dungeon, & I just retired into the dream state, my cold more miserable than ever. I gave my apologies & let the two girls take P.B. to dinner, but as I left I was escorted by a German girl who asked if I was with Paul Burton. She had been sitting behind us, & had heard about him from the Parsi girl. I went back to her apartment & met her husband and 4 children, & drank most welcome tea. They knew some of P.B.'s books, & admired Ramana. But still, for the husband, Anthroposophy came first. It had Everything. I went back, exhausted, and slept.

3/16/78  
Friday

Woke feeling much better and ate a little breakfast. I had taken my case to the station & came back for P.B.'s, when he contacted the Glasses: they were leaving today for a visit to Germany. So we had no need to go to Zürich. Why not go straight to Cannes, if we can make it today? So we worked out the train & found we could get there by 10 pm, with about 6 changes. P.B. read "Time" and marked passages in red - must get my hands on it! \*He talked much about food, Indian and other, and health. While in India he didn't take anything to combat disease - just relied on pure diet. \*They were about Desai's character & practices.

Travelled on Mistral, Super 1st class. Mostly standing. (Ate hardly) all day. Taxi found we hotel w. beautiful wallpapered like room - 73 Fr.  
Next morning, moved to next room, much's cell - 36 Fr!

A few bits of gossip: (1) When PB left India once, he left his books with a Brahmin, a devotee of Ramana. On his return, he asked for them back. "I don't have them any more" said the Brahmin. Eventually the story came out: the Brahmin's son wanted to be a photographer. If he could only have a certain sort of camera, his career would be made. The Brahmin didn't have the money, so he sold PB's books, without even asking. PB would rather have given him the money & kept the books, some of which were very rare. "And this was meant to be a spiritual man and a follower of Ramana Maharshi!" (2) The stories, which I'd heard before, of Ramana's brother, the donation, & his 'incha samethi'; also of PB's troubles with both sides in Indian independence. Nehru never liked him because "he hadn't lifted a finger for the cause; therefore PB is persona non grata." Even Gandhi put politics first & wouldn't visit Ramana. (3) How the Secret Doctrine was written: Mme Blavatsky had a whole trunk full of notes & handed them over to GRS Mead to do his best with. They do contain lost works of wisdom, regained clairvoyantly.

Went shopping in the market place, waited an hour on the quay, then had lunch in "Ash" restaurant and returned to P.B.'s apt. by bus. Answered letters. Talking points: (1) Aldous Huxley's story: ~~studied~~ studied, practised, but no mystical experience. So disappointed. Tried Mesmerism - Ah! Rushed into print, later regretted it. Only knew true mysticism when dying. (2) P.B. very interested by details of Daddy's case. (3) Son of the Messans: mystical exp. meditating w. P.B. at 12. Became Sanskrit scholar, perfect speaker, amazed Brahmins. Professor. But had lost faith at Harvard: married Freudian wife, threw all up to become shrink. Now is going to expose all those mystics! (4) The army man who cut off his own leg to prove urine cure (5) Psychiatrist who wanted to go beyond Jung, but no \$. 18 yrs later realized he should have: died soon after. Wasted time. (6) Jung's own case: fled from opportunity P.B. offered of seeing holy men; told those things all the same. Symbolism of his dream. (7) Young husband also avoided opportunity seeing his "World Religions" do in India. Suzuki there "which was very good".

Long philosophical discourse: (i) Buddhism has no gr. god / Hinduism has. For Bs, even Ishwara passes. But B. had to modify for religious minded people.

3/11/78

Saturday

Sent P.B. ref.  
from CBO letter.  
also investigate  
Golden Br. edition  
& his (c)



He talked about the disciples' incomprehending that Ramana & Ramakrishna could die of cancer. "But of course the body is subject to Karma. It can't go on living for ever. The disciples decided to explain it by saying that the master had taken on their karma to help them. But if this could have been done, Jesus and Buddha could have taken the karma of the whole human race & everyone would have been enlightened. They wouldn't have had any reason not to do so, if they could. But that's not how it works. If there were no karma, there would be no world."

Mentioned Tony's health. P.B. ~~and~~ asked if he still smoked. Alas, yes, said J.; "the traditional explanation in WGR is that he's paying a karmic debt for having been Sir Walter Raleigh & bringing tobacco to the old world." "For having been with Sir W.R.?" "No, for having been him." "Oh, I hadn't heard that before (groins); he doesn't show any inclination to explore the world." "Not the outer world, maybe - perhaps he had enough of that!" No comment.

P.B. said that Tony knew perfectly well what was healthy food, but that Ella May was very much a traditional Italian cook & just wouldn't go along with it. Earlier, when he said Tony was a self-taught genius, ~~we~~ we mentioned all his disadvantages - poverty, lack of education, etc. "And 6 children" said J. "Oh, Ella May looked after <sup>all</sup> that. It never [bothered?] Tony."

3/11/78  
Sunday

Wrote <sup>13</sup> letters for P.B. at hotel to USA, GB, France, Germany, Brazil, Greece.

Anecdotes of the day: (1) ~~The story of the~~ Spalding, who wrote 5 vol. set of "Teachings of the Masters of the Far East" had never been there. When challenged by P.B., said he'd been on the astral plane. He described the life of the Masters in Tibet: they don't have staircases, just float up to the second floor! P.B. said "The Masters aren't like that." Spalding also took a tour to meet masters, but they never got anywhere & he was sued - couldn't return to US for fear of arrest. He impersonated P.B. & borrowed money as such. Also ~~was~~ took in the (Aurobindo) Mother & ~~she~~ promised to publish &

do other work for her. She was thrilled, & gave him money which he never returned. J: "She should have been a better judge of character!" PB didn't think much of her. She never lost her French grande dame ways.

(II) Advaita - there are 3 sorts of that, even. Several times the idea came up that even the highest human teachings disagree. "Some say that Brahman alone is real, so you ask why they bother to teach." III American woman who did a sculpture of Satchitananda, presented it to him; he thanked her; later she asked how about paying me, then? Normally she'd ask at least \$7000. Put off onto his secretary who after much prodding offered \$1000. She very hurt. Both at fault: she shd. be more businesslike; he should have treated her more kindly. Now she wants to do a Ramana Centenary calendar & book. PB's letter suggested she was asking for trouble again.

IV She (I think) also got in with a guru in Paris who got her & also Claire P. to give him money, help; one day she called unannounced & found him alone enjoying whiskey & cigar! He also had sex with students. Yet he taught Vedanta & gave good lectures. Began from Ramakrishna Order but was sacked by them & carried on alone. PB "Anyone can lecture."

V J: "He sounds like Gurdjeff [PROD!]" V Yes, Gurdjeff was very odd. He once made a girl devotee borrow \$2000 for a loan to him - she had to persuade her parents to take it from their life savings. He promised to repay in a year. When she asked for repayment he flatly denied, saying that it had been a gift. J: "The G-people would probably say that he thereby taught her a valuable spiritual lesson." PB "Yes, they would. But it isn't a guru's place to play Satan to his students." G. was 1/2 way between Black & White magic - neither one nor the other.

~~VI~~ This led inevitably to VI Crowley. PB distressed at Weiser's selling and even (?) publishing his works. Wrote Kenneth about it. But C. a very advanced man. The story of Alan Bennett (VII) for whom PB had the highest regard. He had been thm magic, alchemy, the lot, & ended up as a very compassionate Buddhist monk. Story of the beggar

VIII J G Bennett, on the other hand, a failure story: from Gurdjeff

PB - "but they got their money's worth & bank their lesson."

to his own group to submit to the RC Church - He lost a safe, comfy  
 resort but an admission of defeat. IX Christmas Humphreys - led by  
 fate to the Jap war trials, moved from Theo. to Buddh. to Zen. PB  
 lectured for his soc. in the early years. PB dreamed 3 weeks before of  
 lecturing, saying "The religion which ~~has~~ has been called the Light  
 of Asia may end as the light of the whole world; and used it as  
 his conclusion, making his dream come true. X The appalling Gabrielle,  
 who seized PB and calls him Paul, treated him & Polovak terribly  
 unmercifully in Calif., talking & talking while they were exhausted. Now  
 she moans about her lost dinner [letter to PB.] XI Wei Wei Wei who  
 was a gentleman farmer in France (Irish descent) was suddenly  
 enlightened @ the age of 60 & has no ego. ~~But~~ writes very deep  
 metaphysical books but still gets cross at his wife when the car won't  
 start. Still eats meat. In the course of this, PB: "But I don't claim  
 to be illuminated." W.W.W. lives in Monaco; his wife phoned at length  
 ("Women love to talk when they get on the telephone."). ~~There~~ There are  
 many degrees & types of enlightenment, though degree not worth worrying  
 about until one gets there. The Theological Masters were right in teaching of  
 the fuller tasks of enlightened persons, relative Nirvanas, etc. "One of the  
 Theo. Masters was a Buddhist, one a Hindu; yet they both taught the  
 same thing, transcending their differences." ~~The~~ The ~~Head~~ "Quarantines" won't  
 let the soul get squeezed out!" ~~Buddhist~~ XII Anshindo & the  
 Mother taught that a divine descent and spread throughout humanity &  
 make every atom of our bodies immortal. J: "Bless." PB "quite  
 what a prison." J. told him of the Mother's ambitions & death. PB asked  
 what I thought the X'tians meant by resurrection of the body. Decided  
 "it was life in the body of bliss or something like that, i.e. enlightenment.  
 ∴ all the lives in between must be Purgatory." XIII S. African soldier  
 who lost wife, hope, had dream of climbing mountain to be blessed by old man,  
 felt relief, forgiveness, <sup>illumination</sup> found PB's books, wanted to come, no £, gift from  
 friend to go to Bradford, came on way for 2 days, discussed experiences;  
 now wants to convert the world. ~~But~~ XIV ~~But~~ Jews should have

accepted X<sup>v</sup> as reformer & ~~deeper~~ ~~raiser~~ of their religion. Instead they rejected him & paid the consequences - Ridged, sentimental about Jerusalem. (This re Michael Cooper) ~~But~~ J: "lets hope they don't drag us all into Armageddon." PB: "yes, that's a possibility." Sadat went out of his way to try for peace, but rejected. Jews tho. never have been given Palestine - reparations, yes. XV J: "they got another dance with Islam" PB "yes, but that was really a religion brought to a very primitive, idolatrous Arab people. Muhammed had to make it simple, appealing, give them a book to worship to make them intellectualise, but the Jews wd. certainly have become Moslems w. no real trouble - v. close. Sufis later, far from Mecca, deepened Islam. I asked about Calligraphy in Koran PB - "Well, you can always read in whatever you're looking for." XVI Buddha also tried to reform Hinduism - no need to have made a separate religion, only the H. priests too crafty. B wanted to do away w. them, animal sacrifice, caste classes.

PB. dictated ~~message~~ another batch of letters. J. tried, not v. successfully, to extract message for Andy & Michael. M. probably needs a good A opposite temperament. Andy must keep busy ~~with the~~ ~~letter~~ his promises will take time if it's this old. Story of the man who got it during divorce proceedings & always resumed @ awkward times. Late, but not too late for A to embark on new career. Message to Guy from earlier - the week is that he's a fool, & Melody's story.



according to spiritual, cosmic principles: proportions, measurements, in tune with underlying earth forces. The Kings know this. "But it didn't do them much good in the end." (7) Napoleon, though, just believed in astral & Fate. He had a mission, largely to restore France after Rev. reform fundamentalism, but got ego-possessed: Emperor, invader, &c. Could have done O but good. So could Mussolini. But they all got carried away by their own grandeur. (8) Atmananda a mixed guru: Westernized, knighted PM of Travancore: could accept, like 95% of Indians. Must be as much - crazy. Maharshi agreed "If it were impossible for a householder to become enlightened, there would be no hope for the human race." (9) Shankaradurga was retired, landed over to a rather disappointing successor; lives in village hut, mountain. Why? (i) it is a discipline, but he doesn't read Nat. (ii) suitable for the 4th ashrama @ end of life (iii) avoids company. (iv) S. is probably working on inner planes - first the ones that affect this earth, but gradually getting further away until finally will leave the body. (10) S. an outstanding ex. of the ~~high~~ highest type of sage. There are sages of many degrees. All these genres of today don't compare. ~~with the old masters~~ (11) P.B. asked about spiritual music - any today? We decided Strakoska was deluded & deluding. Moral music may be actual plane, but the lowest, negative level. P.B. has heard horrible noise there, heavenly ones <sup>on</sup> highest actual plane, much more heavenly ones on higher planes still where one dissolves in the music. Beethoven heard this type, looking @ the stars. The old masters, in art & music, still ~~are~~ unexcelled. P.B. not v. familiar (or keen) w. Shri Yantra. (12) Also discussed art: symbolists, futurists/realists, abstraction, ugliness. Looked at painting - apt: beautiful Chinese, 2d rate Chagall & Picasso lithos - for the names. (13) Dangers of A, H-bombs. Like playing w. fire. What if America tops the one in 50 yrs? Just same as Atlantis. (14) If war is such

13

The world as reform school for 'promiscuous, unruly, unsmooth adolescents.'

a mass of all these spiritual teachers have done their best, it's going to take a long, long time before the Kali Yuga's over. There never was a real Golden Age, but things were better in prehistoric past. (15) C12 dating quite unreliable: earth has changed poles → once, weather alters, etc. (this on Atlantic's evidence). (16) J's good fortune: because love of harmony, melody = true music attracted his soul to harmonious surroundings. His job to show others what true music is & can do. <sup>mus = music. perhaps</sup>  
 (17) Souls are attracted to racial vehicles if they live much in that consciousness. E.g. some Jews are Jews for too many times. They get stuck in the same lease. ~~They get stuck in the same lease.~~

Walked right into town & sat in cafe till 1200. Had to better hotel door to get in.

3/14/78  
Tuesday

Paid my bill & collected my train tickets, bought supplies for journey & for PB. Then up the hill for the last time. Very hot & sunny. (i) PB's chanting, O.M.P.H. 3 times < before meditation had upset people. One retired army widow had a Catholic maid who asked her priest about these strange practices. He assumed her PB was practicing black magic & she gave an ultimatum: either she would leave her mistress or he must go! (ii) On the boat which an astrologer predicted was wrecked in the Red Sea was an Anglican <sup>or Bishop?</sup> priest & a dentist. On board they exchanged pleasantries but after the disaster they were stuck in a town for 3 weeks getting landing permits (!) & both avoided him jealously. On enquiring it turned out the priest thought he'd been doing black yoga in India. 15 years later PB saw the priest in an Indian restaurant & went over to be polite: priest said he was busy & turned away. (iii) Queen Frederica's story: King read SSI, then Danish journalist friend of PB's went to interview Queen & PB mentioned - hence meeting. J. read part of "A Measure of Understanding," the Q's autobiography, during siesta. She has inherited Kaiser Wilhelm's will & impetuosity. He caused WW I - could have avoided it. Hence danger of hereditary monarchy: bad traits get passed down ruling family. PB a republican. QF hurt by

Also a man who kept a boat @ Rye for weeks & his other part.

base factual statement in HTBY that Kenyon had toppled - threw book across the room! PB had to explain he wasn't anti-royalist in saying so.

(iv) In Denmark one "Martine," single chap who had visions of symbols, wrote & explained = 5 vols. Pretty basic ~~read~~ teaching, X'tian but w. reincarnation & vegetarianism, food for Danes. He had a rather small following till PB came to Denmark & gave a lot of interviews. (v) Krishnamurti - PB can't take his neg. attitude "I stand ~~for~~ ~~an~~ against everything you stand for," K. said on their 2nd meeting in India. But he's wrong now. K's responsible for much youth unrest, anti-establishment. An enigma. ~~TS's~~ TS's Karma: Leadbeater sp., & Brant, over-read Kenyon's & that they d. make an Avatar. TS > from 100-12,000 as a result. (vi) MP Hall at his best on Japanese art. He's matured since the writing, I criticized. (vii) H. Spencer Laws of AMORC saw PB - like a businessman. Had documents proving his ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> the true line of RL descent! Stupidity. (viii) Prayer doesn't really do much good until you're able to work somewhat on higher planes/meditate properly. Good for one but not us. for others, so keep trying, sending thoughts after ~~for~~ better meditations.

(his 09)

3/16/78  
Wed.

At station, had a chocolate fit! Overate Toblerone, then had half next day's sandwiches as a 2nd dinner. A sour french middle aged woman shared my bedroom. About ~~2~~ midnite, some roodies got on next door & talked loudly. They started up again the next morning - with an accordion! I ~~got~~ moved in with American student & french perfume-salesman & I think send her Jan his advances. Also an unfortunate older woman, wife of an Italian who'd recently moved back to Italy & didn't know the language. The roodies sang, danced & drank all morning in the corridor. They had a wonderful time. The 4 of us stuck together thru thick & thin. Brian was sick on the boat; girl & I bread jales on deck.

Confusion @ Victoria caused me to miss the only possible connection in Lakes. So I resigned myself to flying tomorrow. Told M & M, Jill, & finally got Michael to put me up. Had quiet dinner @ Paw Deal & read EM Forster's "Maurice" while M. out. Chatted to him about PB & his own plans.

3/16/78

Took taxi to Heather, for standby on ~~PAW~~ <sup>TWA</sup>, flew home.