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## Mystery attack of fits and seizures...

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# Mystery attack of fits and seizures...

ALBERT RAMALINGAM:

By

Kajang, Friday

**School closed and bomoh called in to drive away 'a spirit' as 17 pupils affected**

TEN children in a school hostel here have been mysteriously struck with fits, seizures and faintings three times within the last week.

School authorities closed the school, the Sekolah Agama at Jalan Sungei Kantan, and sent home all the pupils after another seven children were suddenly affected with the same symptoms last Tuesday.

A bomoh was called in to drive away 'a spirit' believed to have attacked the children.

These last seven were helping some of the 10 children, who suddenly threw fits and fainted in their classes for the third time since last Saturday, when they, too, began crying, and then had fits and seizures.

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8 August 1957 - Bomohs will treat 'haunted' girls of Salehiah SOMETHING TO DO WITH SPIRITS' IPOH, Wed.— Five bomohs have been engaged to treat students at the Salehiah Girls' Institute for mysterious attacks of hysteria. Thirty of the 128 girls at the institute, a religious school at Temoh. 30 miles south of here,...

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3 November 1971 - It is too much to expect that the health report on schoolgirl hysteria by a team from the medical faculty of the University of Malaya will end the phenomenon, but it ought to knock some sense into half-hysterical teachers and at least curb sensational mass outbreaks. The cause...

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### Attacks by spirits so pupils told to stay home

7 July 1969 - Attacks by spirits so pupils told to stay home OEGAMAT, Sun. Twenty-three girl\* of the Malay secondary school here have been ordered to stay home by their headmaster because spirits have been attacking them. Four bomohs who wert railed in have faded to keep tlle .spirits away. The headmaster, Incbt...

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**HAJI HASHIM**  
Called bomoh to chase  
away evil spirits

## International Club

KLUANG, Fri. — The International Club here will hold a dance at the Diamond Jubilee hall on Dec. 1 in aid of its building fund.



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Che Shariffah Maimun binte Syed Hassan, 18, one of the first to be affected last Saturday, said in her home in Stoney Road, Kuala Lumpur, today that she did not know why she had fits and fainted.

Describing events at the hostel last Saturday, Che Shariffah said that at about 10 p.m., 14-year-old Amnah binte Abdul Malek suddenly burst out crying, and then began "to shake and quiver as if she had malaria."

## Hysterical

Che Amnah then became hysterical and fainted, while all around her other girls began showing the same symptoms.

However, before she fainted, she told her teacher and hostel warden, Che Zainah Hussein, 24, that a bomoh should be called, and the school cleansed from "a spirit."

The school principal, Haji Hashim bin Haji Abdul Aziz, who lives in the school compound, was immediately informed, and after discussions with members of the staff, a bomoh was called in to chase away any evil "spirit" in the school.

Hashim today refused to divulge the bomoh's story or what happened afterwards, but students stated having fits and fainting spells on the following Monday, and again on Tuesday.

## In hostel

The illness has been confined to the same 10 children, six girls and four boys, all of them residents in the school hostel.

It was only on Tuesday that the other seven children were affected, and the chairman of the school board, Dato Abdul Rani bin Shamsuddin, then decided to close the school.

Dato Abdul Rani said today that it was difficult to account for the strange behaviour of the children, but it was generally believed that "a spirit" was punishing them because they did not observe and adhere to the rules and teachings of Islam.

One of the 10 pupils affected was 19-year-old Che Azizah binte Daud, who won the Koran reading competition for the Ulu Langat division in 1964.

## Probe on school mass hysteria girl victims

24 July 1971 - Probe on school mass hysteria girl victims IT U ALA LUMPUR, Fri. Why are only girls victims of mass hysteria in Malay schools in West Malaysia? A Government inquiry is now on to find out, Parliament was told today when the subject was raised. Education Minister Inche Hussein Onn said...

The Straits Times / Article

## 5 hysteria-hit school girls recovering

28 March 1978 - KUAH, (Pulau Langkawi) Mon. Five girls of a secondary school were today recovering from hysteria in the district hospital here. School officials said seven students became unconscious after an attack of hysteria yesterday and five of them were sent to the hospital while two others...

The Straits Times / Article

## Spirits—so students quit classes

30 April 1971 - Spirits so students quit classes OF NTONG, Thuru I & \&out 250 students at the Benus National Secondary School here today refused to stay in their classes after what they believed to be "evil spirits" had attacked five of their schoolmates. They panicked after the five girls had suddenly broken into hysterics...

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## Only one

The only student in the deserted school today was Salim Jamaluddin, 14, who lives in the Ulu Langat district.

He said that when the mass hysteria and faintings occurred last Saturday, the younger pupils in the hostel began to scream and shout in fear, though he, himself, was not afraid.

The school has an enrolment of 160 pupils who come from all over the country, and there are 29 girls and seven boys living in the hostel.

Dato Abdul Rani said that the school would re-open on Sunday.



• The deserted school. The classrooms are at left and the hostel is in the background.



**CHE ZAINAP**  
the warden of the  
hostel.





**CHE SHARIFFAH**  
One of the first to be  
affected

**HAJI HASHIM**  
Called bomoh to chase  
away evil spirits

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