

Unknown Empire Under American Flag

Geography

Not all of the unexplored places of the earth lie in far-away places under foreign flags, according to Stephen R. Capps, acting chief Alaskan geologist of the United States Geological Survey. Up in Alaska, under the Stars and Stripes, is a vast area of many thousands of square miles which is practically unexplored. One of the largest of these unexplored areas is the region that lies between the Skwentna River on the north and Lake Clark on the south, and between the west front of the Alaska Range and Cook Inlet. This region, in the south central portion of the Territory above the Alaska Peninsula, is entirely occupied by rugged, glaciated mountains except for a narrow strip of low, marshy land between Cook Inlet and the mountains.

A portion of this hitherto unknown territory has been invaded by geologists and topographic engineers of the Geological Survey under considerable difficulties, and as a result of their labors during one season an area of

about 1,200 miles was mapped geologically and topographically on the scale of 1:180,000. Of this area 900 square miles, mostly in the headwaters of the Skwentna River, was country that previously was entirely unexplored.

In such new, unknown country, where streams are too swift for ordinary boating and the only trails are those made by the native animals, the map-maker and geologist must still use the primitive methods of transportation, including the pack horse and the boat dragged by hand through swift currents. In one locality visited by a Survey party no human being was seen for a period of over two months, and even the signs of native camps indicated that they were twenty to thirty years old.

In this country, so little visited by man, either white or native, the animal life is almost undisturbed. Over a hundred black and grizzly bears were seen one summer by the surveyors. *Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929*

Strange Behavior of Insane Has Meaning—Continued

chological as were certain other of its types of reaction called physiological. The psychological aspect, therefore, of the human being is as much a product of the past as his anatomical and physiological aspects, and its history is as long. In this way we envisage the individual as coming into the world with certain functions prepared for so thoroughly that the necessary structures for carrying them into effect are already laid down. Speaking generally, these are the instincts, and it is with instinctual equipment that the individual faces the world to which he has to adapt.

Just as we had a period of "brain mythology" when delusions, so to speak, were hunted for under the microscope, so we have had a period of cerebral localization in which every function of the organism was supposed to be located in some particular spot in the brain. Our new concept realizes that this can only be true with certain qualifications and that every behavioristic reaction is a reaction of the organism-as-a-whole, which, to be sure, is brought to pass by virtue of certain structures and through certain structural pathways. And so, while we have come to realize that there are certain very definite tendencies which are pretty clearly defined by equally definite structures, we have also come to realize that there is a large field

of adaptation in which the whole situation is very fluid and therefore modifiable.

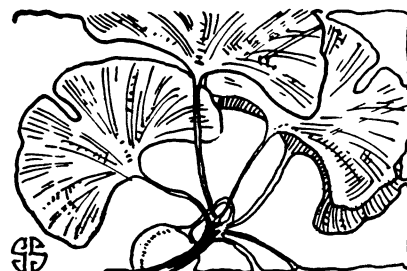
Just as a man is born into the world with certain structures and tendencies already well defined, he comes into surroundings with already existing institutions and traditions to which he has to adjust if he wishes to be a part of the social group. Psychiatry is primarily interested in the individual contribution to this cultural background. The social sciences are the sciences that are interested in the background itself.

Psychiatry should be known not alone by what it has accomplished but by its tendencies. It does not pretend to have the answer to all questions in the various fields in which it believes it has an important contribution to make, but it does believe that it knows in which direction to search for light. Professor Freud made the significant remark in his article on Psychoanalysis in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* that the future will probably attribute far greater importance to psychoanalysis as the science of the unconscious than as a therapeutic procedure. While this is true of psychoanalysis, psychiatry will always remain that department of medicine which deals with the nature and the treatment of mental disease.

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NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



Ginkgo

Visitors to Washington, D. C., are always much impressed with the beauty of the avenues of ginkgo trees that line the approaches to the Department of Agriculture buildings, and that ornament the city in many other places. There are two splendid specimens of this tree behind the statue of Daniel Webster at Scott Circle, that are worth a special side-trip to see, especially in early autumn, when their leaves turn yellow.

There is no good reason why Washington should be the only city in the country especially favored with this famous tree, sacred to the Chinese and Japanese, and grown for centuries in their temple courts. It does very well in all parts of the United States where the winters are not too severe, and can at least survive as far northwest as central Iowa.

It can also stand a good deal of city smoke and dust. There are a lot of young ginkgos growing in Battery Park, New York City; though to tell the truth they do not look so happy as the Washington specimens. One of the good botanical jokes of the season came off when a little ginkgo tree was solemnly presented to Mayor "Jimmy" Walker as a great rarity from the East, and as solemnly planted by him in front of the City Hall, when within a stone's throw—or at least a Babe Ruth home-run slug—there were dozens of them that had been growing for several years.

China is the native home of the ginkgo tree, though it has been much disputed of late whether there are any more really wild trees left in that country; the species has been cultivated so long. But there are fossil ginkgo leaves and twigs in American rocks, proving that the present importations are not a *première*, but a return engagement, for this handsome tree.

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