

by a definite individual becomes in the agitator a more generalized desire to impress and arouse the crowd, the community, great masses of people.

In the family history of agitators "there is often a record of a 'model boy' during the early years, or of a shy and sensitive child who swallowed his resentments," Prof. Lasswell found. Resentments, too, as well as affections pop up in later life in much more generalized form.

Many administrators — those with drive, imagination, and the fire of enthusiasm greatly resemble the agitators in personality and developmental history, Prof. Lasswell found. The chief difference that sets them apart from the agitators is that their emotions are centered on less remote and abstract objects. In fact they are quite likely to become emotionally preoccupied in early youth with specific individuals in the family circle or immediate acquaintance so that their whole future conduct is dependent upon these early relations.

#### Conduct Depends On Early Relations

One of the administrators described by Prof. Lasswell, but disguised under the substitute for a name, "Mr. H.," (which is not, however, his initial) developed in childhood an intense hatred of a stern and domineering father. This hatred had throughout his life been hidden and he had gotten along in the home through deceit, posing as a model child except for a few incidents when his transgressions came out. He was caught in a childhood misbehavior with a little girl of the neighborhood and thereafter had many fights with the girl's brother. Many years later when he was opposed to this boy in a debate he was so emotionally disturbed that he actually fainted. In business, his suppressed guilty feelings and hatred showed up plainly in his dealings with both superiors and his men. His engaging manners won him favor with those above him, but his feeling of insecurity led to an unreasonableness and an arrogant pose which antagonized every man who worked for him.

Not all administrators are of this type, however. Some may exemplify the happy medium between the person with his head in the cloud of abstractions and that other who is so tied down to definite situations and individuals that his sense of values is completely disturbed.

"We may suggest that another group of administrators is recruited from among those who have passed smoothly through their developmental crises. They

have not over-repressed powerful hostilities, but either sublimated these drives, or expressed them boldly in the intimate circles," Prof. Lasswell says.

"They display an impersonal interest in the task of organization itself, and assert themselves with firmness, though not with overemphasis, in professional and in intimate life. Their lack of interest in abstractions is due to the fact that they have never needed them as a means of dealing with their emotional problems. They can take or leave general ideas without using them to arouse widespread affective responses from the public. Tied neither to abstractions nor to particular people, they are able to deal with both in a context of human relations, impersonally conceived."

#### Well-Adjusted Type Is Rare

You may judge for yourself how rare is this well-adjusted type of executive in business as well as in politics.

You might think that the political theorist, the developer of political creeds, like Marx, would not be of interest from the point of view of Prof. Lasswell's study. But he has found that the individual's history counts here, too.

"Political prejudices, preferences, and creeds are often formulated in highly rational form, but they are grown in highly irrational ways," he says.

"When they are seen against the developmental history of the person, they

take on meanings which are quite different from the phrases in which they are put."

Thus "Mr. P." because of emotional disturbances in his youth and other reasons failed to get along with his studies and seemed likely to prove a great disappointment to his ambitious father. The war came along just in time to save face for the boy. He joined the army and made a fine record for personal courage. Once the war was over, his troubles began again and all his old worries returned. In the light of this record, the fact that "P." is strongly militaristic in his views becomes very understandable.

"G.," however, is a socialist and pacifist. And a look into his early history shows that from a very early age, he has had what is known as a "blood phobia." His morbid fear of the sight of blood later extended to many other objects; he was afraid of dogs and cats and horses because they might scratch or bite him, and carefully avoided fights with the other boys. Later on, when he heard that western capitalism meant war and bloodshed, he experienced a profound revulsion against "capitalism," "imperialism," and everything that in his mind went with them.

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#### ASTRONOMY

## Thousands of Meteors Seen During Recent Shower

**M**ORE THAN 28,000 meteoric flashes in the night sky were seen from more than 150 localities by several hundred observers who watched for the Perseid meteors early this month (August 10 to 12), it is indicated by reports received by Prof. C. P. Olivier of the Flower Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania up to August 17. Prof. Olivier is president of the American Meteor Society.

More persons saw more meteors this year than at any previous return of the shower of the famous Perseid "shooting stars," said Prof. Olivier, praising the newspaper cooperation that inspired many laymen to make meteor counts and

report them. Prof. Olivier expects that later reports from the western coast and foreign countries will increase the record.

Meteors falling at the rate of 208 an hour was the record observation of a group of Columbia College students at Dubuque, Iowa, who watched the recent shower. Even on August 7, which was six days before the peak of the shower, a group of six saw 140 meteors an hour while an individual observer recorded 80 an hour. The highest rate of 208 an hour was a group observation at 1 a. m. on August 12, when the rate seen by one person was 116 per hour.

The observations were organized by Prof. John Theobald.

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