

## PSYCHOLOGY

# Says Psychology is Neglected In New Deal Recovery Program

THE depression offers a challenge to psychologists to tackle the problems of life and the community that is as pressing as was the call of the Great War, Dr. A. L. Poffenberger, of Columbia University, told members of the American Psychological Association in his presidential address.

Both President Roosevelt and General Hugh S. Johnson, as spokesmen for the New Deal, were quoted by Dr. Poffenberger as attributing the present economic emergency to fear. And fear is a psychological ill, calling for psychological treatment, Dr. Poffenberger explained.

Yet despite the recognition of the psychological basis for the nation's difficulties, the Government has failed to call on psychologists for expert assistance, Dr. Poffenberger maintained, as did President Wilson during the World War when the leading psychologists of the nation gathered in Washington to pool their talents for the service of the nation.

"There was no psychologist in the 'brain trust,'" said Dr. Poffenberger, who is himself a member of the faculty at Columbia University, noted for its contribution to the group of brain trusters in Washington.

"There was no psychological component in the long list of proposals for the contribution of science to a long term recovery program.

"There was no psychologist included in the Science Advisory Board of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council to advise the Government where science touches governmental operations.

"There is no psychological service set up as an integral part of the Civilian Conservation Corps, that organization whose function it is to salvage, develop, and guide the young men of our country.

"There is no call upon the psychologist for help in the aviation activities of the Government in its divisions of Army, Navy, and Commerce, where psychological problems of the long recognized 'personal equation' are so numerous.

"The Wickersham Commission for the Survey of Crime in the United States included no psychologist.

"One notable exception to this neglect of what the psychologist has to offer is to be found in the program of the United States employment service in the Depart-

ment of Labor. This exceptional instance is due to the courage and the far-sightedness of a few leaders in this movement, who recognize the fundamentals underlying the problems of employment.

"The success of the psychological contribution depends upon how well it is kept under cover. However valuable the psychological work may be, diplomacy dictates that it shall function under an assumed name." Dr. Poffenberger here referred to the employment in the Government service of psychologists as "statisticians" or "economists" instead of openly as psychologists.

Pushing their service to the community, and thus protecting the public from poorly trained psychologists and psychological quacks was urged upon his colleagues by Dr. Poffenberger.

*Science News Letter, September 28, 1935*

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## Act to Salvage Nation's Intellectual Resources

SALVAGING the nation's intellectual resources is the aim of action taken by the American Psychological Association at its business meeting.

Scientifically trained psychologists now throwing away their talents in "leaf-raking" or idleness should be given a chance to put their minds to work in projects that would relieve the depression, members said in discussing a resolution for this purpose passed at the business session.

Employment offices are in urgent need of psychologists. Schools need help in training and guiding youth for jobs in this new era. The crime problem today demands psychological research, it was explained.

Petitions have been received by the Association from hundreds of scientific men throughout the whole country protesting at the waste of intellect and education when psychologists with seven years of professional training, eager to tackle these social problems, are sitting in idleness or employed at cutting grass along the public highways.

This "plowing under" of human minds, as it was termed, raised the storm of protest represented by a fat folder of petitions presented to the meeting by its secretary, Dr. Donald G. Paterson, of the University of Minnesota.

A committee was appointed, headed by Dr. A. T. Poffenberger of Columbia University, who is already familiar with the situation from his association with the National Research Council in Washington. This committee was instructed to secure and have available a list of psychologists not now employed in their profession or some other socially useful work. They are also empowered to do whatever is feasible to place these men and to present approved scientific projects to state and federal administrators of work relief.

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## ARCHAEOLOGY

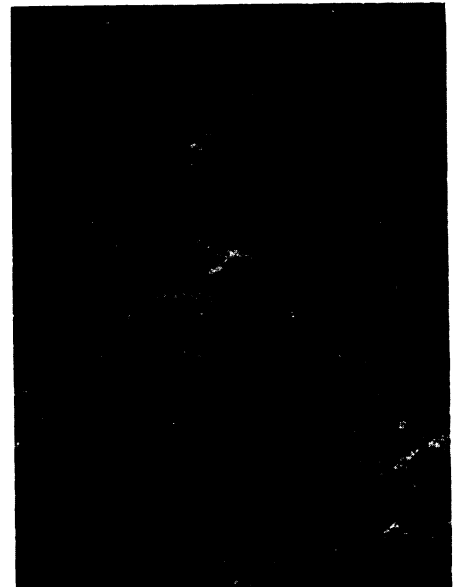
## Hackberries May Have Been The Cave Child's Spinach

"NOW EAT your nice hackberry pudding. It's good for you."

Was this what the cave man's child had to listen to, at meal time in China almost a million years ago?

Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is inclined to think life was something like that, from discoveries in the now famous cave of Choukoutien, 30 miles west of Peking.

Asia's oldest human inhabitants, revealed in their cave home, are becoming far more real than most of the world's early specimens known by bare bones. Reporting progress in reconstructing the home life and experiences of the ancient Peking Man, Dr. Chaney tells what scien-



### FROM AN ANCIENT MEAL

Shells of hackberries recovered from where they were probably discarded by the Peking Woman after a dinner about a million years ago.