

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

PSYCHOLOGY

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.

Science News Letter, September 28, 1935

ARCHAEOLOGY

Hackberries May Have Been The Cave Child's Spinach

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

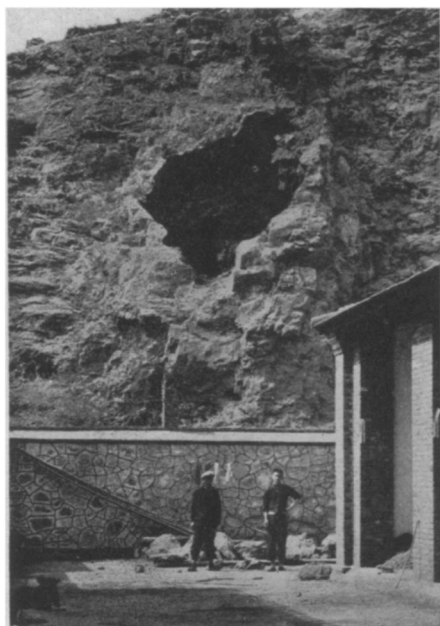
Was this what the cave man's child had to listen to, at meal time in China almost a million years ago?

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.



CAVE MAN'S HOME

In rock caves such as that shown above, were found remains of long-extinct animals and also traces left behind by prehistoric man—his food, tools, bones from his roasts. The building at the right is the laboratory of the National Geological Survey of China at Choukoutien near Peking. This photograph and that on the facing page were furnished by the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

tific deduction makes of a layer of thousands of broken hackberry shells in the cave floor. American hackberries in the Southwest today are commonplace food to Indians who eat the berries raw, and also use them as flavoring for meat or bread. If the innumerable shells in Peking Man's cave were cracked by him for the seed-food inside, that is an important bit of news about man's diet almost a million years ago. If mere rodents ate them, not so important.

Authorities consulted by Dr. Chaney believed rodents would chew a hole, rather than crack shells. Caged rodents put to the test unfortunately refused to take any interest in hackberries. Caged monkeys were more responsive. They ate shell and all.

Altogether, Dr. Chaney concludes, it was probably Peking Man who left the shells, who gathered the hackberries from bushes and mashed them in preparing his meals.

"We can almost hear Peking Woman," says Dr. Chaney, "adjuring Peking Child, in a language lost in the obscurity of a million years, to eat his hackberry pudding in lieu of orange juice, or other vitamin-containing foods of the modern diet."

Peking Woman could talk, for the brain cavity in the skull of this ancient

type shows there was capability of speech. It is also demonstrated that Peking Man lived in caves, and made campfires to cook his food or to warm himself. Whatever part hackberries played in his diet, he was no vegetarian, for his Asiatic cave has yielded abundant fragments of charred animal bones.

The burned bones, Dr. Chaney says, indicate "that here were cooked choice cuts of horse, bison, rhinoceros, and other game animals which ranged the Western Hills and adjacent plains during the past, and which have no living relatives in North China today."

Science News Letter, September 28, 1935

GEOGRAPHY

Lake in Sahara Seen As The Next Desire of Italy

ETHIOPIA is not the only slice of Africa on which Italian imperialism has fixed hungry eyes. Over a thousand miles due west of Ethiopia, Lake Chad in the Sahara Desert marks another region which Mussolini could well use in his plans for greater Italy.

In all the vast Sahara, this is the one danger spot for international diplomacy foreseen by Prof. E.-F. Gautier of the University of Algiers. Prof. Gautier, noted for his scientific studies of the life and geology of the great African desert, has just seen his famous French work on the Sahara translated into English ("Sahara, the Great Desert"), with the news of present day Sahara happenings worked into a new chapter.

The Sahara has been radically transformed since the World War, Prof. Gautier finds. Necessity proved the mother of invention, when Turkish and Senusi drives in North Africa during the World War forced the armies to try inventions supposedly hopeless for desert application. Wireless telegraph systems worked so excellently that they became permanent, thereby as Prof. Gautier says, "furnishing a powerful auxiliary for keeping peace, order, and security in the desert by permitting every bit of news in the interior to be transmitted immediately to

the local and central authorities, who can communicate and execute their decisions with the same dispatch."

The outside world, also, was brought in close touch with far-flung desert posts, with many advantages, by the telegraphic system.

Automobiles were forced to adapt themselves to the desert, to meet wartime problems. Immediately, says Prof. Gautier, it was discovered that the desert floor offers astonishing facilities for traction. Gasoline, extravagantly high, is still a problem for Sahara travelers, but cars with six-braked wheels and even ordinary cars go everywhere, following the road signs and driven by chauffeurs who form what Prof. Gautier calls a kind of new nomadic tribe. Legionnaires, Frenchmen, and Russian exiles are types who have joined this new desert calling.

In Libya, on the Mediterranean, the Italians have completely discarded camel caravans for official use, and depend entirely on motor transport, says Prof. Gautier.

As elsewhere in the world, the duel between motor highways and railroads is keen in the Sahara. Both systems are making progress.

It is an Italian railroad ambition that causes the French scientist to cast a

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