

MENTAL HYGIENE

Public Health Workers Plan Campaign on Mental Diseases

Will Start Drive With Children Because Mental Disease Is Usually Acquired During Childhood They Explain

PUBLIC health workers are lining up their forces for a fight to the finish on mental illness. Those valiant disease fighters who have brought under control such foes of mankind as smallpox, typhoid fever and diphtheria, laid plans at the meeting of the American Public Health Association for the attack on mental sickness, which fills half the hospital beds in the country.

The drive will start with efforts to promote mental health in children. School physicians and teachers hold the key positions, it appears. Mental disease, it is agreed by mental hygienists, is mainly acquired in childhood, Dr. A. O. DeWeese, director of health at Kent (Ohio) State Normal College, stated.

"It is a family disease," he continued, "in the same sense that tuberculosis was a family disease in that some adult has communicated it to the child by prolonged and repeated exposure during a period of weak resistance."

Since it is agreed that mental patterns are laid down in childhood, the prevention of mental disease becomes a problem of leadership and guidance on the part of psychiatrists in the schools and home, he pointed out.

From one-tenth to one-half of mental maladjustments are perhaps preventable, Dr. Frederick L. Patry, psychiatrist of the New York State Education Department, pointed out.

Dr. Patry presented a ten-point pro-

gram for the guidance of health officers and school physicians in their drive to prevent mental disease.

One point is that the school physician should pay special attention to every child who is failing at school, who is a misfit in the group, or who is unhappy and protesting his unhappiness with "nerves."

"No child wants to fail," Dr. Patry declared, "Failure means only one thing: that someone has blundered; someone has failed to show the child off to advantage on his own level of ability to succeed."

Another of Dr. Patry's ten points related to the importance of the home. This is the most important educational institution of society with respect to mental health, he said. Every effort must be made to see that every child has this part of his birthright guaranteed.

"If the start of life's journey is well prepared, we have little fear of maladjustments later on, although it must be kept in mind that human machinery may go awry at any point along the life span," he said.

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ENGINEERING

Canal System Studied In New Hydraulic Laboratory

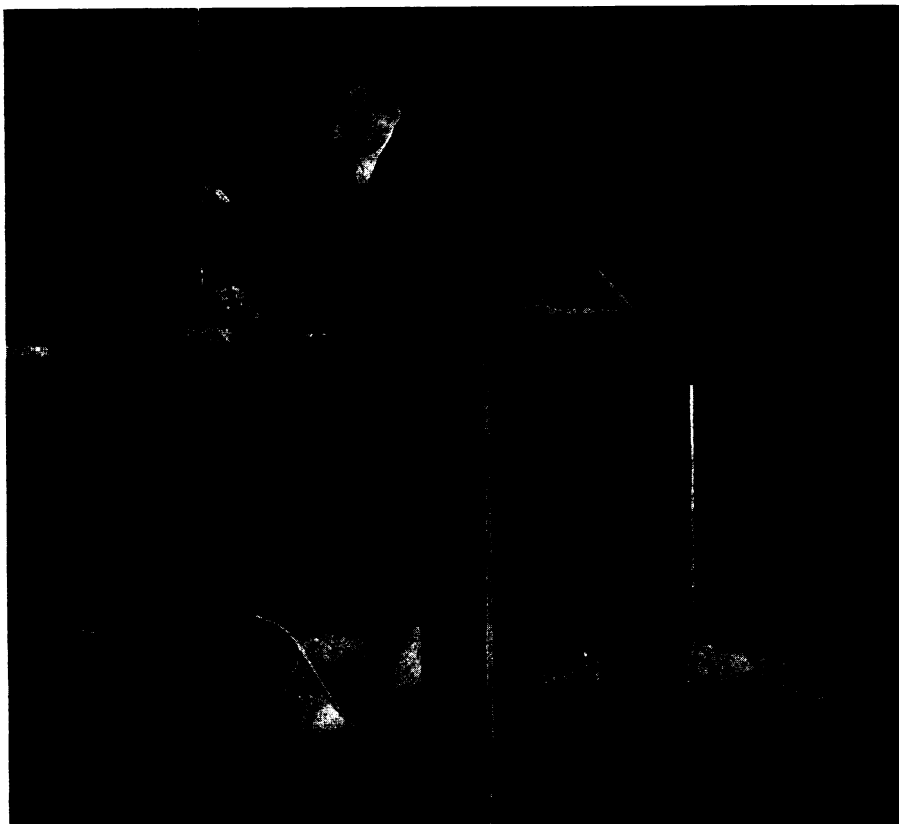
WATER flowing through glass-walled channels in the hydraulic laboratories of the University of Minnesota is aiding engineers to determine the stability of sand dams being constructed in connection with the canalization for navigation of the Upper Mississippi River.

The sixty-foot long experimental flume has glass on the sides and bottom through which hydraulic engineers observe swirls, eddies and flow conditions with a wide range of water velocities and depths.

High water and flood conditions can be simulated by the equipment, explains Prof. L. G. Straub of the engineering experiment laboratories, under whose direction much of the hydraulic research is being carried out.

"Instantaneous closing gates as well as head-regulating gates are arranged at both ends of the channel, thus providing the possibility of studying a large variety of flow phenomena. The arrangement allows for the simulation of flow conditions in canals and rivers, the effect of abrupt or gradual gate opening at ship locks, and the like.

"The introduction of coloring mat-



MAN-MADE RIVERS

Glass walls on the side of the new experimental flume of the University of Minnesota enable hydraulic engineers to study water flow typical of rivers, canals and other open channels. Prof. L. G. Straub, engineering experiment laboratories, is shown above observing water levels in flow over a sharp obstacle.