themselves have undertaken a classification of their own which is more useful for the scientific purpose for which the list was originally designed.

Four and a Half Per Cent

In the first place, they needed to decide what should go into the list and what should be discarded from it. Included are all of the words descriptive of personality or personal behavior, except those that are obsolete, that are included in Webster's New International Dictionary. Altogether 400,000 words were combed through to secure the list, and 17,953 were selected—4½ per cent of the total English vocabulary.

The adjective form of a word was used, and other forms discarded from the list, except when different forms of the word have different meanings as in the case of "sour" and "soured." A person is "sour" because of his natural disposition, but he is "soured" because of his experiences in life. Both these forms are retained.

A few slang terms are included.

Words were included only if they served to distinguish one human being from another. Such terms as "walking" or "digesting" were discarded on this ground while terms like "mincing" or "dyspeptic" were included.

When the list was assembled, and the unsuitable words discarded, the remaining 18,000 were divided into four groups which are printed in four parallel columns.

The first column, containing about 25 per cent of the total words, contains the words which stand most clearly for the real traits of personality. In this column are such words as "aggressive, introverted, and sociable." These are not just terms of abuse or praise, they really describe the nature of man.

In the second column are terms descriptive of present, or momentary, activity or mood. Here are such words as "abashed, rejoicing, frantic."

Character Evaluations

In column three are the evaluations of character. It is this column that should prove the particular boon to stump speakers. Here are words like "dazzling," "irritating," "insignificant," "acceptable," "worthy." This column starts out with "abnormal, absorbing, absurd, accursed, addle-brained." It ends with "yegg, yellow, yellowish, yokel, youngling, youthful, zany, and zeating." This column is the longest of the four. In this list of abuse and commendation are 5,226 terms, or 29 per cent of the total list.

Column four contains those words which can be classified best under the term "miscellaneous." Here are the words which are the despair of editors and classifiers, words which apply to human character because of their metaphorical nature or because of meanings read into them during the course of time. Here are such terms as "red-headed, hoarse, malformed, pampered."

Column four begins with such terms as "abortive, abrasive, absolute, abysmal, Achillean." It ends with "yeasty, young-eyed, zebrine, zooid, and zoophilous."

Together the four columns should serve a great many serious and trivial purposes and may one day take a place along with the dictionary and the thesaurus on the desk of those who wish a mastery of words.

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PHYSIOLOGY-PSYCHOLOGY

Freezing Affects Mind First; Initiative and Modesty Lost

AN EXPERIMENT in which a noted physiologist, Sir Joseph Barcroft of Cambridge University, England, deliberately froze himself nearly to death, was reported by Sir Joseph in a lecture at Yale University.

The mind was first to suffer in the freezing process, as shown by loss of initiative and of a natural sense of modesty, Sir Joseph reported. He cautioned against taking such liberties with the mind.

The experiment was part of a study to learn how the human mind is affected by changes in the internal environment of the body. In other similar experiments, Sir Joseph stayed in a room filled with deadly hydrocyanic acid gas until a dog with him died, and later stayed for twenty minutes in a room containing 7.2 per cent of carbon dioxide gas.

Man's intellectual development and motility, Sir Joseph pointed out in his lecture, depend on the temperature and other factors of his internal environment remaining constant. As little as one degree of fever affects the mental processes.

"In each of the two experiments which I performed there was a moment when my whole mental outlook altered," Sir Joseph said in describing his feelings during near-freezing.

"As I lay naked in the cold room I had been shivering and my limbs had been flexed in a sort of effort to huddle up, and I had been very conscious of the cold. Then a moment came when I stretched out my legs; the sense of coldness passed away, and it was succeeded by a beautiful feeling of warmth; the word 'bask' most fitly describes my condition: I was basking in the cold.

"Up to the point at which shivering ceased, nature fought the situation; my instinct was to be up and about, an effort of will was necessary to remain the subject of the experiment; after that point I gladly acquiesced, initiative had gone. Doubtless a second and more advanced stage would follow in which inertia would lapse into unconsciousness. For I suppose that, had the experiment not ended at that point, my temperature would have fallen rapidly and I was on the verge of the condition of travelers when they go to sleep in extreme cold never again to awake.

"And I was conscious of other reversions of mental state: not only was there a physical extension of the limbs, but with it came a change in the general mental attitude. The natural apprehension lest some person alien to the experiment should enter the room and find me quite unclad disappeared."

Sir Joseph concluded from his various experiments on himself that the most immediate effect of interference with the chemical or physical properties of the blood is impairment of the higher qualities of the mind.

"The thoughts of the human mind," he said, "its power to solve differential equations, or to appreciate exquisite music, involve some physical or chemical pattern, which would be blurred in a milieu itself undergoing violent disturbances."

Science News Letter, October 17, 1936

Although the wild bean known as St. Ignatius bean, in Philippine forests, contains strychnine, it has so far found only slight use in commerce.

Studying the life histories of single rainstorms, scientists have discovered that rainfall in a storm varies from spot to spot much more than was suspected.