

staying in the warmer parts of the world.

As fantastic were the immense, lumbering ground sloths, of almost-elephantine size. They were so recent that we have found not only their bones in abundance, but even tendons and skin and hair, and the remains of their last meals. And most astonishing of all, in the same caves with these mummified relics have been discovered stone and wooden implements that tell of the coming to this continent of the latest-born of all the long line of mammals—Man.

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Science News Letter, June 11, 1938

GENERAL SCIENCE

Democracy Declared Best Means Toward Human Goal

DEMOCRACY is the best means toward the goal all men strive for, declared Prof. A. G. Huntsman of the University of Toronto in his address as president of the Royal Society of Canada.

Life, as seen by Prof. Huntsman, is not a condition of static "being" but a flux of constant "becoming," tending always, through all manner of diversities, toward a never-attained goal of perfect order. In a way, these two things are opposed, yet they both are indispensable to life.

"Without diversity," said Prof. Huntsman, "there is death; without order there is chaos. The greater the diversity, the more difficult is the attainment of order. Whether it be in art, in science, or in practical life, based upon science, the goal is to combine the greatest diversity with the most perfect order."

"In man's social organization, whether it be the small community, the nation or the international human world, there is the same goal."

"Recently, the extraordinary increase in diversity in life has resulted in demands for more order. Autocratic rule, regimentation and planned economy are invoked and will inevitably lead toward monotony, comparative death. The mental calibre of a nation is shown by the extent of the diversity that it can weld into a sufficiently orderly, harmonious whole."

"For those peoples that are able to make it work, democracy with its encouragement of individual enterprise presents endless possibilities of advance towards that unattainable goal of full diversity, combined with perfect order."

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PSYCHOLOGY

Four Types of Auto Drivers Are Hazards on the Roads

Watch Out for the Alcoholic, the Feebleminded, The Stupid, and Psychopathic; Direction Sense Real

WATCH out for these types behind the wheel on the highways: the chronic alcoholic; the feebleminded man who is not too feebleminded to make a living; the intellectually inferior who is not feebleminded; and the psychopath or unstable individual.

These are the types of mental disturbance found most often among 348 drivers referred to the Psychopathic Clinic of the Recorder's Court, Detroit, for examination after traffic violations, Dr. Lowell S. Selling, director of the clinic, told members of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

The accidents in which the chronic alcoholics are involved are largely those due to impulsiveness, Dr. Selling found. These drivers were unable to describe exactly how the accident occurred and tended to blame the other fellow. Probably at the time of the accident the alcoholic driver's hand had been incoordinated, his eyes unable to follow the car in front, and, said Dr. Selling, his field of vision had been somewhat limited at the extreme sides, since there were more crossing accidents than head-on or rear-end collisions among alcoholics.

Feebleminded but economically adjusted persons have all types of accidents, but probably can be safe on the highways if warned that their driving permit will be revoked at the first or second offense, Dr. Selling indicated.

Intellectually inferior but not feebleminded persons also get into all types of accidents. They present a bizarre appearance in court, and will say such things as "I didn't think I needed to stop even though I saw the stop sign."

The fourth group, the unstable or psychopaths, get into trouble because they are so easily upset in a situation where quick judgment is needed. Being late to work, for example, disturbs them so that they will impulsively drive through red lights.

"Sense of Direction"

Ability to point out the direction of distant places is much more common than has been realized, an experiment

reported by Dr. Paul D. Woodring, also of the Psychopathic Clinic, revealed.

In a strange room without outside windows, nearly one hundred men and women of a wide range of intelligence were asked by Dr. Woodring to indicate the direction of several well-known places in Detroit, the cities of New York and London, and straight north.

Just about half were able to do so with remarkably small errors. Some did not even hesitate; it was as simple to them as pointing straight up. Others wanted to work out the problem and would take a minute or more to decide.

In addition to these persons who have a "sense of direction" there are others who are "turned around." If they drew a map, the places they locate on it would be in correct relation to each other but there would be about the same amount of error in locating each and it would be in the same direction.

Unaware of Defect

Still others, it turned out, are completely without orientation, but are unaware that they differ in this way from others. They said when confronted with the problem that the whole thing is silly and unfair, that no one can be expected to know the direction of a place that he cannot even see. Like the color-blind, they seldom are aware of any lack.

College students are just as likely to lack orientation as are morons, Dr. Woodring found. He speaks of the ability as a habit rather than a special "sense" or instinct. Although its origin is not well understood, he believes that the well oriented individual may have been taught by parents or by circumstances in his early environment.

Further study of this direction ability may bring to light facts useful in selecting individuals for airplane pilots and similar occupations and may even revolutionize the teaching of geography.

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The peccary is the only native wild pig in North America.