

PSYCHIATRY

Hitler's Personality Called Paranoid, Infantile, Sadistic

His Weeping Fits and Attacks of Melancholy Point To Neurotic Personality, Struggle Against Effeminacy

AMERICAN psychiatrists, asked by Science Service to diagnose Hitler's personality, pronounce him "paranoid," "infantile," "sadistic," and "self-destructive."

The man who threatened to plunge Europe into war has qualities that would cause him under ordinary circumstances to be committed to an institution or disregarded as a crank.

Dr. Karl A. Menninger, chief of staff of the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kans., author of "Man Against Himself," replied to Science Service's telegraphic inquiry as follows:

"For many years psychiatrists have recognized the existence of a form of mental disease characterized by enormous ambitiousness, ideas of grandeur, absurd theories of origin or mission, unshakable convictions that other people are the aggressors, the persecutors, often combined with considerable ability to inspire others to believe these things, however fantastic, however dangerous.

"Under ordinary circumstances, such individuals are committed to institutions or disregarded as cranks. Given a sufficiently inflammable society, they may become religious or military leaders. Their egotism, ruthlessness, cruelty, misrepresentation and unscrupulousness are all justified in their own minds and in the minds of their followers for whom the laws of reality no longer have any validity.

Self-Destructive

"In the long run, of course, this is self-destructive, but in the meantime society may be the victim of fanatical destructiveness. Whether or not this applies to the man who has designated himself 'the leader' and who screams and shouts his fervent adjurations and accusations to his excited followers, I leave to your judgment.

"It would be unscientific to make a diagnosis without seeing the patient. But there is no reason why the sane portions of the earth's population should not recognize these symptoms and take steps to protect themselves."

Dr. Oscar J. Raeder, Associate Pro-

fessor of psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine, responded with the following opinion:

Infantile

"Hitler is an infantile personality. His temper tantrums, his weeping and similar emotional manifestations under stress are childhood fixations. He is amoral and probably sadistic. His immature judgment accounts for his harebrained exploits, which have so far been rather successful like the first petty larcenies of the untrained child. Her warnings unheeded, mother world's patience has been sorely taxed, and she now appears to be driven to use the birch."

To Dr. A. A. Brill, eminent psycho-

analyst of New York City, "Hitler is a psychopathic paranoid personality whose sole need is hatred. All his actions are dominated by this sadistic leitmotif. His hatred for Jews and his love for Germans are mere excuses for his algolagnia, that is, for his pleasure in pain. But such lust for destruction always carries with it self-destruction."

A "Sissy"

That Hitler is also a "sissy" behind his aggressive appearance was indicated by Dr. Harold D. Lasswell, professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and the William A. White Psychiatric Foundation, Washington, D. C. Dr. Lasswell is author of "Psychopathology and Politics."

"Hitler's own nature demands periodic crises," he said. "We know from the testimony of men who have worked with him that Hitler suffers from frequent attacks of melancholy and gives way to weeping fits. These neurotic symptoms appear in personalities who must struggle against impulses toward passivity and effeminacy. After Hitler gives in to these weaknesses, he is driven to preserve his self-respect by daring and



LIFE ON THE HEIGHTS

These Rocky Mountain pipits are found only in the highest life zone of the Western Mountains; they love the Alpine meadows where the earth is rich with flowers for a short summer. The group shown here is part of a great panoramic exhibit recently installed at the Colorado Museum of Natural History by Curator Robert J. Niedrach and George P. Young, against a forty-foot panorama painting of Long's Peak by C. Waldo Love. The exhibit includes more than 8,000 reproductions of flowers in celluloid and wax, by WPA workers.

spectacular displays. These dashes into action smother his shame at feeling weak, inferior and inadequate.

"Some neurotic types, aware of their self-distrust, are often astute judges of the weaknesses of others. Hitler knows that his enemies—especially the ruling groups of France and Great Britain—are weak because they are afraid to crush him. Hitler knows that they fear a communist Germany rising from the ashes of a defeated Germany more than a Nazi Germany."

Dr. Gregory Zilboorg, New York psychiatrist and director of research of the Committee for the Study of Suicide, provides the explanation of Hitler's difficulty in diplomatic negotiations. He replied:

"Hitler is a phenomenon, apparently a compulsive neurotic character; hence his intense sadistic outbursts.

"His frequent pseudo-pious references to God and his hysterical outbursts of dramatic sorrow for the suffering of his German racial brethren are characteristic of compulsion neurotics who weep while murdering and murder while weeping. In other words his masochistic (pain-loving) inner conflict as an individual is fully reflected in his public life as leader of the German Reich.

"Hitler's psychological inability to negotiate or to make a compromise is what distinguishes him as a deeply neurotic person laboring under the pressure of a murderous impulse which is naturally associated with self-defeating suicidal drives. Because he, unlike Napoleon, is deeply neurotic, his self-defeatist drive came out more prominently and sooner than it appeared in the career of Napoleon. It is not that he identifies himself with the German race; he tries to inflame the race to identify itself with him.

March to Self Defeat

It is significant that he called Vienna the incestuous city. He apparently struggles inwardly against his own incestuous drives which he expresses in the form of homicidal domineering drives. Hitler struggles against his own passivity by beholding a mass psychotic passivity of his herdlake following.

"His present adventure may very well prove to be the culminating point in his dramatic march to self-defeat."

In Science Service's request for diagnoses of Hitler's personality, it was recognized that diagnosis without seeing the patient is difficult. But in Hitler's case, speeches, writings and behavior are well reported. Due to the influence of Hit-

ler's personality upon the world situation at the present time, it was considered advisable to call leading psychiatrists in-

to this public consultation in order that their opinions might be made known.

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METEOROLOGY

Slow-Moving "High" Turned Hurricane on New England

Hurricane, Which Ordinarily Would Have Spent Itself At Sea, Turned North and West By the Obstruction

NEW ENGLAND, digging itself out from under hurricane debris, may take what consolation it can from the fact that the storm was the worst disturbance of tropical origin that ever struck its shores—was a high-power sea-blast even by Caribbean standards. Other hurricanes have visited the Northeastern seaboard in past years but never anything like this one.

A lazy high-pressure area, moving too slowly off to sea, was the indirect cause of New England's woes. Ordinarily, when a tropical storm center moving northward fails to make land below the Virginia Capes, it will veer off to the northeast and blow itself out at sea. But this one found itself stymied behind

that loitering "high," like an impatient motorist behind a slow truck, and was forced to move straight northward and then even towards the northwest.

The storm center traveled at a motor-car speed. Usually, hurricane centers travel at a rather leisurely gait, despite the high velocity of the winds that blow inward towards them. But the center of this storm averaged a northward speed of 53 miles an hour from off Cape Hatteras until it was over Long Island. Probably during part of that time it was moving as fast as 60 miles an hour.

Despite the terrible record of death and destruction left by this storm, the present hurricane season has been a relatively light one. Thus far, there have



WRECKAGE

These remains of a home were photographed at Montauk, a small picturesque village at the northern tip of Long Island, by the American Red Cross, which is giving aid to 15,000 families in the hurricane area.