

## Not the Same as Epilepsy

THE fits brought on in rats by the noise of a high-pitched whistle or air blast are not exactly the same as the "grand mal" epileptic fits in humans, it is indicated from a report by Drs. M. T. Long, R. T. Walsh and G. L. Kreezer, of Cornell University.

Many of the symptoms of the noise-induced fits in rats are so much like those of epilepsy that some scientists

have thought they might be equivalent.

In humans, however, it has been found that in the coma that follows grand mal attacks of epilepsy, the brain waves of the patient—those electric impulses originating in the brain itself—are greatly reduced in amplitude.

In the similar quiet stage following the rat's seizure, there is no such change in the electric activity of the brain, these scientists found.

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PSYCHOLOGY

# Present World War Due to Diseased Ways of Thinking

## Spartan Childhood Training and Recent Hardships Have Made Germans Victims of Irrational Processes

THE WORLD WAR and the "ghastly picture which the international scene exhibits" are due to irrational and diseased mental processes, especially in Germany, Dr. Edward C. Tolman, professor of psychology at the University of California, told the American Philosophical Society in the R.A.F. Penrose, Jr., Memorial Lecture.

The recent fad of working off anger by smashing a plaster figure with a satisfying noise is an example of the same sort of irrational thinking displayed by the Germans, who feel that they can overcome the barriers to their own well-being by smashing other nations, Dr. Tolman indicated.

This irrational process is known to psychologists as "displaced aggression." Because of the fact that it is irrational, such a diseased way of thinking cannot readily be overcome by logical argument or education.

Another such irrational and diseased mental process is termed "group identification." It is what makes the German feel that successes of the German Army and the Nazis are actually equivalent to his own individual happiness and success.

These irrational mechanisms have their start when, often in early childhood, the individual cannot get things essential for his own well being. He then substitutes, illogically, the successes of his family, school, economic class, nation, or even "hemisphere," and the leaders of these groups, as though they were identical with his own success.

Germany's relatively Spartan system of childhood training, as well as the hardships suffered recently by the German people, is blamed by Dr. Tolman for the widespread development there of diseased thinking.

"The only cure for Germany," he said, "would be a less rigid and Spartan system of training and a less mystical belief in German 'Blut und Boden.'"

In Italy, due to type of family and school discipline, youthful frustrations are probably not so great as in Germany and come more from the actual poverty of the country.

In America, the essence of our democracy has been, in the past, the ever-repeated breaking down of tendencies toward such irrational identification with the state and its rulers. Our free family life, schools, and democratic political procedures have insured that the welfare of the group or its leaders should not be regarded as more important than the welfare of the individual.

"But today," Dr. Tolman warned, "all is threatened. We Americans, like the denizens of the Old World, are beginning to talk primarily about group survival, group success, group enemies."

We need to ask ourselves, he said, how far this is logical and how far we, like the Germans and Italians are indulging in irrational, diseased group identification—how far the depression and recession, the horrors of unemployment and all the consequent suffering and frustrations have led us into displacing our aggressions against enemies abroad rather

## ● RADIO

Dr. Gordon W. Allport, of Harvard University, will discuss "Morale, American Style," as guest scientist on "Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Thursday, May 8, 3:45 p.m. EDST, 2:45 EST, 1:45 CST, 12:45 MST, 11:45 a.m. PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Thursday.

than against our true barriers at home.

In any case, he said, if the thinking is irrational and diseased, it grips us and we cannot give it up. If it is rational, we don't want to.

He sees only two ways out.

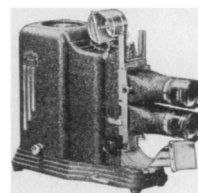
We must work for some larger, more powerful, more international group to emerge from this war in which our children and our children's children can more safely and happily "identify."

And we must see to it that the sacrifices demanded of individuals here are not so unreasonable as those demanded in Germany, remembering that only the well-being of individuals can build a good and worthy society.

"A surviving America," he said, "with the same soil erosion, pellagra, discrimination against racial minorities, and unemployment will not have been greatly worth the throwing away of our steel, our oil and our sons."

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