



PSYCHOLOGY

Threat Propaganda Neglects Man's Basic Need to Think

Psychologist Declares Thought May Be Blacked Out Only for a Time by Censorship and Gestapo

PROPAGANDA, censorship, and the threats and over-rosy promises of politicians are based on an underestimation of the desire for honest thinking among the people, Dr. Max Wertheimer, professor of psychology at the New School for Social Research, told psychologists. This thirst for knowledge cannot be permanently blacked out even by Gestapo and concentration camps, he declared.

Widely held theories about how men and women form opinions and attitudes have taught that individuals are influenced most effectively by threats of some menace if they fail to vote or act in the desired way or by promises of protection and a "new order" if they comply.

Such theories fail to take account of the fact that men want to think, Dr. Wertheimer indicated. Speaking at a special meeting of psychologists discussing psychological study of the formation and change of opinions and attitudes, Dr. Wertheimer said:

"The basic assumptions in terms of which the psychology of attitudes is now widely viewed, such as a short-sighted pain-pleasure principle, habit in terms of learning by drill, prestige, and so on,

underestimate the role of real thinking in men, the thirst for grasping the situation, for reaching a true orientation, for honestly facing the facts in their structural meaning.

"Those assumptions easily lead to techniques of propaganda in terms of indoctrination, to techniques of promises, threats, intimidations.

"But if one realizes the thirst for thinking, then one sees that the situation calls not for propaganda in these terms but for giving the facts squarely, for clarification that makes possible structural insight.

"Political leaders often do not realize the desire for honest thinking among people or gravely underestimate it. Of course, these thinking tendencies can be blacked out for a time by tricky propaganda, by censorship, concentration camps, Gestapo, and by other highly developed means. But after a time, people will reassert somehow their need for honest facts."

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The rare find of a *pearl* in a salt water clam was recently reported by a Connecticut clam digger.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Three Britons Honored by National Academy

HONORS to Britain marked the election of three British subjects as Foreign Associates of the National Academy of Sciences, at the annual meeting of the Academy. Ordinarily these coveted elections, highest honor to foreigners within the gift of the Academy, are distributed among several nations.

The newly elected Foreign Associates are Prof. E. D. Adrian, Cambridge University physiologist; Prof. A. V. Hill, physiologist, secretary of the Royal Society; Sir Arthur Keith, veteran anthropologist and archaeologist, now living in retirement at Down, in Kent.

Fifteen eminent American scientists were elected to membership. The list includes: Prof. W. E. Bachmann, University of Michigan, chemistry; Dr. R. J. Dubos, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, bacteriology; Prof. E. A. Graham, Washington University (St. Louis), medicine; Dr. A. S. King, Mount Wilson Observatory, astrophysics; Prof. C. C. Lauritsen, California Institute of Technology, physics; Dr. A. L. Loomis, Loomis Laboratories, Tuxedo Park, N. Y., physics; Prof. J. R. Oppenheimer, University of California, physics; Prof. J. T. Patterson, University of Texas, zoology; Prof. Karl Sax, Harvard University, botany; Dr. G. G. Simpson, American Museum of Natural History, paleontology; Dr. Joseph Slepian, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, electrical engineering; Dr. L. F. Small, National Institute of Health, organic chemistry; Dr. W. M. Stanley, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, biophysics; Prof. T. Y. Thomas, University of California at Los Angeles, mathematics; Prof. G. B. Wislocki, Harvard University, anatomy.

As new vice president, to hold office during the coming four years, the Academy elected Dr. Isaiah Bowman, geographer, president of the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. S. A. Mitchell of the Leander McCormick Observatory, University of Virginia, and Dr. E. B. Fred of the University of Wisconsin were elected as members of the Council of the Academy.

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Some kinds of *asbestos* used in industry are obtained in quantity only in Africa.

Why "telescopic eyed" *goldfish* have poor sight in their very large eyes is being investigated by a biologist at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.