

twenties, the way history has been taught, and the scars of the depression are blamed by Dr. Miller for lowering morale of some by emphasis on the horrors of war, by suspicion of England's intentions, and by lack of confidence in the social structure.

Dr. Miller's morale measure is built on the theory that morale has five roots. For good morale, you must:

1. Believe in the superiority of our nation and those associated with us. There is some confusion at present, Dr. Miller indicates, because Americans are not agreed as to what nations to include in this group. For some, it may be just the United States—for others, England,

China, South America and the defeated countries.

2. Regard national goals and your own personal goals as identical. The highest morale is founded on a sincere belief that national efforts are of the utmost importance, not just on the belief that you can make money or escape home responsibilities through aiding defense.

3. Have faith in the competence of the nation's leaders—military, political, industrial and scientific.

4. Believe that our resources are sufficient to hurl back any threat to us.

5. Have confidence that America's national goals and ideals will survive permanently.

*Science News Letter, August 16, 1941*

PSYCHIATRY

## Psychoanalysts To Diagnose World's Destructive Urge

### Specialists in Sociology, Ethnology and Political Science Also Join in Discussing Cause of Violence

**W**HY MAN in the twentieth century has directed his great talents toward the most widespread destruction of his fellowman that the world has ever witnessed is due for detailed diagnosis this fall.

Specialists in sociology, ethnology and political science are joining with psychiatrists and psychoanalysts to discuss in seminars and lectures why we behave as we do, and why at this stage in civilization we resort to such organized cruelty and violence as the present war, the American Institute for Psychoanalysis, New York City, has announced.

Ever since Sigmund Freud demonstrated over half a century ago that there are unconscious as well as conscious motives for human behavior, progress has been made in understanding why some persons fail to get along well with themselves, their families and their co-workers, and others become so unsocial that they are classed as insane. Freud, however, believed that man is inherently destructive and that nothing can be done about it. Despite his great contributions, he viewed human nature with a hopeless and pessimistic outlook, and believed that destructiveness would never be eliminated from human life.

The Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, under whose auspices the American Institute for Psycho-

analysis is conducted, holds a more hopeful view. This was explained by Dr. William V. Silverberg, of New York City, who is president of the Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, chief of the Mental Hygiene Clinic, Lebanon Hospital, New York City, and member of the Council on Professional Training, American Psychoanalytic Association.

"We know now that a human being's character—and therefore his behavior—is molded by the society in which he lives, as well as by his instincts and his early family life," Dr. Silverberg said. "Man is a social animal. His slow advance in intelligence and skills through his long history has been accomplished through cooperation with his fellow man, and indicates his urge to turn the mind to constructive efforts. He has shown such incredible ingenuity in mastering nature that he surely should be able to prevent destructive impulses from wrecking his society."

The unsocial, destructive or hateful behavior that usually is called neurotic is the only way a given individual has found to cope with the circumstances which have befallen him, particularly in early life, Dr. Silverberg pointed out. But he can deal with the problems created by his early environment if he understands how it affected him and how

the neurotic tendencies it bred handicap him. He can improve the social structure if he understands what social conditions are necessary for the development of mentally healthy individuals. And he can prevent destructive impulses from wrecking his own and others' lives if he knows what causes them and how they are exhibited in everyday incidents as well as in such organized ways as war.

"The menace to all humanity of the warped and distorted personalities of a few are evident in the present war," Dr. Silverberg continued. "But it is not the individual's aberrations alone which are responsible. If the society in which people live and work together were not so full of contradictions and conditions which make people resentful and suspicious of each other, a few individuals would not find such fertile soil for organizing destructive impulses."

By supplementing psychoanalytic knowledge of human behavior with that of the social sciences, the courses of the American Institute for Psychoanalysis hope to make clearer to scientists and interested laymen how emotional difficulties handicap a person's constructive efforts, lead to predominantly destructive attitudes and are reflected in the home, school, office, factory, nation and world.

Among the social scientists who are collaborating in this program—the first comprehensive one of its kind are Dr. Erich Fromm, sociologist, author and lecturer at Columbia University; Dr. Ralph Linton, head of the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University; Dr. Margaret Mead, author and assistant curator in anthropology, American Museum of Natural History, who applied psychoanalytic knowledge to her study of the South Sea islanders; Dr. Harold

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D. Lasswell and Dr. Leo Rosten, political scientists, authors and students of public opinion.

The psychoanalysts who will lead discussions and seminars are Dr. Karen Horney, dean of the American Institute of Psychoanalysis, who made notable contributions to psychoanalysis in her books, "The Neurotic Personality of Our Time" and "New Ways in Psychoanalysis"; Dr. Clara Thompson, formerly lecturer at the Institute of Euthenics, Vassar College, and authority on the history of psychoanalytic theories; Dr. Bernard S. Robbins, assistant in psychia-

try, College of Physicians and Surgeons; and Dr. Harmon S. Ephron, who has made a special study of unsocial behavior in work at penal institutions.

The lectures and seminars which are open to laymen will be given in collaboration with the New School for Social Research. Other courses, in collaboration with the New York Medical College, will be restricted to physicians and psychiatrists, who wish to become psychoanalysts or to increase their understanding of the relation between psychic and organic disturbances.

*Science News Letter, August 16, 1941*

## INVENTION

## Smoother Railroad Rides Seen Possible With New Invention

**Fixed Die for Holding Rail Ends in Place During Welding Process Will Reduce Unevenness of Track**

**S**MOOTHER rides on railroads may be possible with the aid of one of the 816 inventions recently granted U. S. Patents. It is a machine for welding rails, invented by George L. Jones, Garden City, N. Y. and Charles B. Roede, Ridgefield, N. J. Their patent, number 2,250,870, was assigned to Sperry Products, Inc., of Hoboken, N. J.

In present methods of welding them, the separate rails are fed end to end into the welding machine, on a special car. However, the inventors of the new device point out, there is considerable variation in the cross section of standard rails, and this results in unevenness of the track. The Jones-Roede apparatus has a fixed die for holding the rail ends firmly in place during the welding operation. This also, they state, prevents the rails from getting out of alignment during the heating process, which sometimes happens even if the thickness is the same.

*Science News Letter, August 16, 1941*

## Liquid in Eye Fits Lenses

**C**ONTACT lenses, the invisible glasses worn directly over the eyeball and under the eyelid, can be fitted more precisely and easily with the subject of patent 2,250,521. This was invented by Paul A. K. Boeder, Southbridge, Mass., who assigned his rights to the American Optical Company.

To prevent discomfort, and even pain, to the user, contact lenses must be fitted very accurately. To obtain the measurements from which such a lens is fitted Mr. Boeder provides a standard lens, which is placed over the eyeball, so that a little space is left between the lens and the eyeball. This is filled with a colored harmless liquid. Where the liquid is thickest, the color is deepest. Measurements are made of the depth of color, and from this is determined the deviation of the eye from the fitting standard, and

the lenses for permanent use are made accordingly.

*Science News Letter, August 16, 1941*

## Making of Shells Speeded

**Q**UICKER manufacture of bodies for high explosive shells, with less waste of metal, is among the advantages claimed by Claude A. Witter of Philadelphia for his process, protected by patent 2,251,094. In the usual process for producing a shell, a steel billet or blank considerably larger than the finished product is turned down to proper size, and pierced with the cavity for holding the TNT. In the Witter process, a blank is cut off a bar of stock size, somewhat greater in diameter than the designed caliber and considerably shorter. The inner cavity is pierced, larger than its intended final size. Then the blank is cross-rolled, decreasing its diameter and increasing its length. Relatively little final grinding or turning is required to bring it accurately to caliber, the inventor claims.

*Science News Letter, August 16, 1941*

## Gas in the Wing-Tips

**M**ORE efficient chemical warfare, whether against crop pests in time of peace or against enemies in war, is the claim advanced for his invention by John F. Haberlin of Seattle, who has assigned his patent (no. 2,250,762) to the Boeing Airplane Company.

Airplanes now discharge chemicals, whether plant-protecting poison dust, concealing smoke, or military poison gas, from containers mounted outside the fuselage. This has a triple disadvantage, the inventor points out. The container, even if streamlined, puts a drag on the plane. The discharge stream is churned up and scattered by the propeller slipstream. Finally, some of the gas may be sucked back into the fuselage, to the detriment of the crew.

Mr. Haberlin gets around these difficulties by putting his chemicals into a number of cylindrical flasks, slender enough to be carried within the wing-tips of the plane. This does away with external parasitic drag, gets the discharge stream well clear of the slipstream, and protects the plane and its personnel from possible suck-backs of the gas.

*Science News Letter, August 16, 1941*

The first theater in America is to be reconstructed in Williamsburg, Virginia.

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