



German Dust Bowls

GERMANY seems to have made, in this war, one of the same mistakes we made in the last one, though to be sure on a smaller scale. In 1917 the cry was raised in this country, "Food will win the war!" Western farmers were encouraged to break up grasslands until then unplowed, to raise wheat for our associates in the struggle. A few years after the Armistice came drought and dust storms.

An editorial writer in the German conservation journal, *Natur und Kultur*, laments the draining of swamps and bogs, the clearing of heaths and moors, and the "improvement" of rivers, which were undertaken on a wholesale scale after the establishment of Nazi power as parts of the national campaign for agricultural self-sufficiency. Warning voices were disregarded.

Wasteland clearance was one of the favorite projects of the *Arbeitsdienstkorps*, German equivalent to our Civilian Conservation Corps. They did a Teutonically thorough job of destroying trees and bushes, draining swamps, and lowering the water table under wet streamside lands. All this blossomed into grain or hay fields, or truck farms raising vegetables for the cities.

In even shorter time than it took for nature's Nemesis to overtake similar indiscretions in this country, the penalty began to be exacted. German summers since 1938 have had rather pronounced dry spells. The light, peaty soils of the drained swamps have gone with the wind.

To be sure, the areas affected are not great as compared with the one-time Dust Bowl of this country, but in a

land of the relatively limited extent of the Reich they loom much larger. Also the dust storms themselves, reaching heights of only a couple of hundred yards, are as nothing compared with our black blizzards, that climbed miles into the air and swept from the Plains to the Atlantic. But again, in a land with so little soil to spare, every lost acre counts heavily.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1941

PSYCHOLOGY

Inkblot Test Shows How Alcohol Affects Character

Practically Every Trait Known to Man Is Found In Alcoholics, But None Is Characteristic

SCIENTISTS now have a "pink elephant" test to measure the effect of alcohol on your character. To aid you in "seeing things" they let you look at fancifully shaped inkblots in black and in colors.

Anyone, drunk or sober, can see pictures in these vague shapes. But just what he sees, whether spider, dancing girl, witch or cloud of smoke, reveals to the psychologist what sort of person he is.

Alcohol, which may make the victim see all sorts of things on a perfectly blank wall, nevertheless was found to have no characteristic effect on personality as revealed by the inkblot test. This was true of chronic alcoholics tested while sober as well as of normal individuals tested while in a condition of "acute mild intoxication."

The experiment on chronic alcoholics was the work of Dr. Robert V. Seliger and Dr. Seymour J. Rosenberg, psychiatrists of the Johns Hopkins University.

While many alcoholics are alike in

some respects, there is no distinctive "alcoholic personality," they conclude.

The chronic alcoholic, they found from a study of 30 patients, is nearly always emotionally immature. About half are neurotic. Most are rigid, restricted personalities.

Practically every trait known to man can be found among alcoholics, they believe. But no pattern of personality is distinctive of the chronic alcoholic alone. The following motivations seem to them to be significant, however:

A self-pampering tendency. An urge for self-expression without the determination to translate the urge into action. An abnormal craving for emotional experiences which call for removal of intellectual restraint. Powerful hidden ambitions without resolve to take practical steps for attainment. A tendency to flinch from worries. An unreasonable demand for continuous happiness or excitement. An insistent craving for the feeling of self-confidence, self-importance, calm and poise.

At New York State Psychiatric Institute, Dr. Douglas McG. Kelley and Dr. C. Eugene Barrera found that alcohol does produce a change in personality, but what sort of change it is differs with the individual. There is no one sort of performance on the inkblot test that could be used as a test of intoxication.

Drinkers are of two types, these psychiatrists report in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. Some relax and accept their emotional feelings and symptoms. The others struggle against them.

Regardless of the original personality type of the drinker, the one who fights

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