

PSYCHOLOGY

# Sciences Will Merge in Study of Post-War Problems

## Specialists With Training, Viewpoint and Imagination Broad Enough To Attack Inter-Science Problems Needed

**A**MERICA'S all-out war is using the services of specialists intensively, but the problems of the post-war peace will be solved by those with a training, viewpoint and imagination broad enough to attack inter-science problems, Prof. Gardner Murphy, of the College of the City of New York, said in his address as President of the Eastern Psychological Association.

"We proved incapable of rebuilding twenty years ago," Prof. Murphy said. "If we wish our children and our children's children to fight ever more destructive wars in a mounting spiral of revenge and counter-revenge, we have but to retreat into our scientific shells and await the process."

All the biological and social sciences, he said, will have to be mobilized swiftly and surely to meet the problems of the returning soldier who may be seared or hardened, war-shocked or confused, and who may never have met civilian problems in all his adult life.

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## The Foundations of Conservation Education

Edited by Henry B. Ward, Emeritus  
Professor of Zoology, Univ. of Illinois.  
Published by The National  
Wildlife Federation

A symposium participated in by several of the most active researchers and thinkers in the field of conservation: Wesley C. Mitchell, W. C. Lowdermilk, Paul B. Sears, Arthur N. Pack, W. W. Horner and Richard Horner.

Dr. Henry B. Ward's section on "Biology as the Foundation of Conservation Education" is of particular importance to teachers because it stresses certain weaknesses in the teaching of biology and proposes remedies that would strengthen the program of conservation education.

242 pages. \$1.00 cloth, 60c paper. Order from Retail Book Department, Science News Letter, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

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And men of broad knowledge and interest will be needed, he predicted, to help the fanatical people of the Axis nations and the humiliated embittered folk of the nations now dominated by the Nazis to adapt themselves to a strange new world of freedom.

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## Balloons Test Character

**L**ITTLE future Hitlers in the nursery may be detected by watching what they do when given a pretty colored balloon.

The small boy who crushes his sphere with violent eagerness has strong aggressive tendencies, Dr. L. Joseph Stone, of Vassar College, reported.

But the child who refuses over-intensely to break it also shows aggressive-ness, he said.

Whether the child introduces the idea of breaking the balloon himself—eager to hear it pop, whether he follows an adult's invitation to do so, whether he is willing to have the adult do his smashing for him, or whether he refuses outright to have any balloons broken, he reveals to psychologists what his aggressive tendencies are and his control over them in other situations.

*Science News Letter, May 2, 1942*

## Test For Blindness

**P**OSSIBILITY that by electrical stimulation of the eye, it may be possible to distinguish between blindness due to disease of the retina and blindness caused by disease of the optic nerve was suggested by Dr. H. D. Bouman, of the University of Rochester.

When a very faint, barely perceptible electric current is applied to the normal eye, an effect is noted when the intensity of the electric stimulation changes. This is due to action of the nerve fiber.

Three patients with almost total blindness were examined by Dr. Bouman by the electric stimulation method. One of them showed complete loss of electric excitability in the blind eye; this patient

suffered from one-sided neuritis of the optic nerve. The other two showed excitability, but the response was like that of dark-adapted eyes even though the patients were examined in broad daylight. These cases had diseases of the retina, not of the optic nerve.

*Science News Letter, May 2, 1942*

## Inkblots for Tank Corps?

**M**EN suitable for the tank and other mechanized units of the armed forces and who can stand up under the strains of modern warfare, can be selected by use of an inkblot test ordinarily used to measure creative imagination or personality, Dr. Z. Piotrowski and Miss B. Candee of the National Youth Administration suggested.

The test consists of looking at a carefully selected series of black and colored inkblots and telling what sort of picture or object the rather fantastic shape makes you think of. Your answers give psychologists clues to your personality.

It was possible, Dr. Piotrowski and Miss Candee reported, to pick the young men who would make good at the sort of mechanical tasks necessary in the mechanized forces, and also to spot the ones who would break down under the strains of military life.

In a test group of 70 men, predictions were made successfully for 64 individuals, they said.

Here are the personality traits it takes to make good in modern mechanized warfare, as analyzed in the course of this experiment: 1. Ability to carry through a given job carefully and conscientiously without continual prodding. 2. A constitution that is not disorganized by psychic shock but which can absorb or firmly reject such experience. 3. Enough strength of character at a chaotic period of adolescence to keep certain impulses from coming out in action without repressing them from consciousness. He can want to give the foreman a punch without doing it, but still be aware that he wants to.

Ability of the inkblot test to reveal the young man who would break down in a situation of unusual military strain although he might get along all right in ordinary camp life was indicated by six cases, five of which were judged correctly through the test alone.

Foremen's ratings on these young men were unusually favorable for a long time, yet they blew up emotionally when they were faced with unusual strain, lost their jobs, were fired, or left home to drift.

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