

PSYCHOLOGY

Atom Control Psychology

Five-point program presented to atomic scientists by psychologists urges the nation to combat fear of atomic energy by stopping atom bomb manufacture.

➤ PSYCHOLOGISTS have presented the atomic scientists and the nation with a five-point program for the psychological control of the atomic energy problem:

1. The atomic bomb danger must be understood by everybody.

2. The promise of peaceful use of atomic energy must be emphasized.

3. An effective civilian control of atomic energy must be instituted in our country.

4. International control must be an immediate next step.

5. We must stop making atomic bombs immediately.

"No atomic bomb can declare war," the statement issued adds, "only man can do that."

"The fear that the atomic bomb has created can and must be dispelled by cooperative social endeavor," it is further stated in the pronouncement prepared for the Association of Atomic Scientists by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, a division of the American Psychological Association.

Its committee on international peace, of which Dr. David Krech of Swarthmore College is chairman, suggests that everyone should be made aware that there is no military defense against the horrors of the atomic bomb. The real danger is the possibility of another war. The atmosphere of demoralizing fear of atomic energy can be reduced by presenting atomic energy facts in honest, unexaggerated peacetime terms.

Suspicion of military use of atomic energy, the statement says, can be laid to rest by a program of civilian control with public proceedings of the civilian commission. Positive assurance should be given now, it is urged, that we will cooperate in international control when it is set up along lines of the recent State Department report.

The manufacture of atomic armaments should be discontinued immediately, it is recommended, and this should be announced in unequivocal words to our citizens and the world.

"Psychologists know that a vague fear in an individual soon leads to a sick in-

dividual," the statement says. "This vague fear spreads and influences all his thinking. If we become victims of such a fear we will soon begin to suspect and distrust every other country, every international proposal, every move. We will frantically take every imaginable precaution against this unknown danger.

"We will accept the suppression of freedom of speech, of freedom of research, of freedom of criticism in our country, because in our panic we will not know whom to trust nor whom to believe. And like the sick patient ridden by an ill-understood fear, we will see threats to our safety everywhere. We will therefore support a national policy of universal conscription, militarism, and political isolation. This sick and distorted thinking is just the mental preparation which sets the stage for international conflict and violence."

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MEDICINE

Diabetics May Be Told To Stop Smoking

➤ DOCTORS WILL soon be telling their diabetic patients not to smoke, if they follow the warning that appears, without being stated, in a report by Dr. Leonard A. Weinroth and Dr. Joseph Herzstein of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City (*Journal, American Medical Association, May 18*).

Blood-vessel disease of a kind that incapacitates the patient with pain and weakness in his feet and legs so that he cannot walk or that leads to ulcers and gangrene afflicted significantly more smokers than nonsmokers in a group of 301 diabetic men, these doctors found.

The conditions were present in 126 of the 218 smokers but in only 31 of the 83 nonsmokers. This "penalty" was paid by smokers regardless of how long they had diabetes, how severe the diabetes was, how well it was controlled by diet and insulin and whether they were overweight or had high blood pressure.

The way in which smoking might cause the blood vessel disease in diabetics

is not clear, the doctors state. They suggest that a patient whose blood vessels are already constricted and hardened may have them further constricted by tobacco smoking, which is known to have this effect. This would favor formation of blood clots which would stop blood circulation to the feet and legs and lead to the pain, ulcers and gangrene.

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ELECTRONICS

Mariner's Pathfinder Is Simplified Radar

➤ A MARINER'S pathfinder is among the new interesting instruments recently shown at the National Marine Exposition in New York.

It is a dependable and rugged commercial radar equipment developed for the merchant marine, the principal feature of which is, perhaps, its simplicity.

The new surface search radar equipment is based upon experience in wartime designs and production, but is unusually flexible in installation and gives maximum performance, the makers claim. It was designed and constructed by the Raytheon Manufacturing Company of Waltham, Mass. It operates within the band of frequencies allocated by the Federal Communications Commission for commercial radar, and provides reliable and early warning of dangers ahead.

The pathfinder is divided into three major components: indicator, transmitter-receiver, and antenna. The indicator is box-shaped and less than 15 inches square, and two feet deep. It is mounted on a pedestal, or bracketed from the bulkhead or the overhead. On its face is a seven-inch plan position indicator or polar chart, which is normally oriented with respect to the ship's bow. Only seven controls are required on the indicator panel.

The antenna is a seven-foot parabolic reflector of slatted construction to minimize wind resistance. It weighs less than 150 pounds and may be mounted on top of the mast to provide maximum view. The transmitter-receiver houses all necessary system units and provides for accessory mounting when required. Power transmission to the antenna is by means of low-loss coaxial cable when desired.

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House *centipedes* are beneficial because they feed on flies, bedbugs, roaches and other household insects.