

and cleans the piece without removing any of the metal.

Tools of modern chemistry, such as the electrolytic cell, the ultraviolet lamp, the chemical microscope and the X-ray tube, can be used to decide whether an art work

is genuine or a fraud or forgery, he pointed out.

Dr. Fink spoke to a meeting of the Minnesota section of the American Chemical Society at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

PSYCHOLOGY

Roots of Crime in Home

► CRIME has its roots in bickering, nagging and other forms of tension in the home, Dr. David Abrahamson, psychiatrist of Columbia University, told a New York forum on the Study and Prevention of Crime. He based his conclusion on a psychological study of 80 families of juvenile delinquents and criminals under a grant by the Josiah Macy Foundation. The first report of the project was summarized by Dr. Abrahamson.

The family needs psychiatric treatment, as well as the offender, if the offender is to be cured of his criminal tendencies, the investigation revealed. Even in those cases where on the surface it appeared that the offender came from a reasonably happy home, the Rorschach ink-blot test of personality revealed that in almost all homes, the father or the mother and sometimes both needed psychiatric attention. In every one of the 80 homes studied there was hostility, nagging, bickering, all due to family tension. In one home the mother was found to be mentally ill, the father suffering from a compulsion, the brothers were neurotic and the only reasonably mentally well person was the offender himself.

In some cases the families did not want to continue treatment, but where cooperation was obtained the treatment resulted in remarkable reorientation of the offender to society.

The emotional atmosphere of the home is much more important from the point

of view of crime prevention than is the economic condition, Dr. Abrahamson found. Many of the offenders came from well-to-do homes but where the family was torn by antagonism. And many poor families are happy and do not produce criminals, he pointed out.

There should be a law, he recommended, that if the family cannot provide a home reasonably free from hostility, the child should be taken away and given to foster parents who would make the child welcome and give him the peaceful atmosphere he needs.

Science News Letter, May 21, 1949

PSYCHOLOGY

Without Knowing the Brand Smokers Have No Preference

► IF IT WERE not for the brand name on the package, psychological evidence is that you would not have a favorite kind of cigarette. In an experiment reported in Springfield, Mass., to the Eastern Psychological Association by Dr. Edwin A. Fleishman, of the University of Maryland, ten persons smoked cigarettes on which the name was masked by a distinctively colored scotch tape. No stable preferences were established. The only brand smoked more often than the others was the least expensive.

Each morning each of those taking part

in the experiment received a box containing six different brands of cigarettes. All those of one brand were marked with the same color scotch tape, but the next day the colors were changed around. In the second week, the colors were not changed around from day to day.

Although all the clues for identifying the various cigarettes were available to the smokers, except for the brand name itself, they showed no stable preference for a favorite, nor a dislike either. They did form preferences and avoidances but these shifted from brand to brand.

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