

## PSYCHIATRY

# Dream World of Students

Fantasies of boys and girls are filled with aggression and violence, it was found when they were shown a series of pictures and asked to make up a story.

► WHEN high school boys and girls give free rein to their imaginations, they dream up a world filled with aggression— death, murder, fighting and crime.

The extent to which the adolescent's dream world is a hostile place was brought to light when psychologists under the direction of Dr. Percival M. Symonds, of Teachers College, Columbia University, showed a series of pictures to 20 boys and 20 girls aged from 12 to 18 and asked them to make up a story on each picture. After the stories were told, each author was asked where the story originated. Source of more than 40% was in personal experience of himself or others. For only 44 stories were the comics mentioned as a source.

The stories of many boys, particularly the younger ones, were very exciting. One boy became so aroused by his own stories that he had to leave his chair and pace up and down the room while telling them. There were real adventure stories, Dr. Symonds reports in a new book, *ADOLESCENT FANTASY* (Columbia), giving details of the study. They had deep-dyed plots, dramatic incidents, hair-raising escapades, cold-blooded deeds, and fast action.

Boys produced stories of violent death, crime and murder, more often than did the girls. But boys also told more stories of love and falling in love than did the girls. The boys were found to be more interested in wealth and riches than are girls.

Girls also fill their stories with aggression, but it is more often expressed as disobedience, rebellion and scolding or forbidding.

Punishment followed crime in these stories with almost monotonous regularity and the punishment was likely to be extreme—execution. The policeman is a familiar character in the tales by these high school and junior high school authors.

Second only to crime as a theme for adolescent imaginings, is love, but in only a few cases did the love stories deal with sex. There were stories of dating, friendship, family affection, and "Married and lived happily ever after."

Success stories were popular, but usually unrealistic. Like the Horatio Alger stories, they dealt usually with success in making one's way in the world—seldom with success in school or a college career. Money came easily and in astronomic quantities.

School is revealed by these stories as a far from happy place. It is shown to be a place filled with anxiety. Punishment and the threat of failure was always present.

Teachers were almost always stern, threatening and avenging figures. Homework was a burden.

Concern over popularity and personal appearance was shown to be a worry, particularly with the girls.

Dr. Symonds warns against using stories such as these to divine anything about the life history of the boy or girl telling them. In general, when a theme is exaggerated in the stories there is an absence of this trend in the personality of the individual, and vice versa, he found. Individuals with stories filled with violence and hostile aggression turned out to be in real-life sissies,

ingratiating, inhibited and docile. Those who tell bizarre, fantastic stories containing elements of mystery turn out to be quiet, lazy, indifferent and without initiative or queer, nervous and immature.

The story-teller was found to put himself into the tale he told. But again caution is urged in interpretation. For the boy or girl author may appear in the role of any, or all, the characters in his creation. And it is not in the least difficult for him to identify himself with a character of the opposite sex or a different age level. In fact stories contain various displacements and disguises to hide the identity of the actual persons toward whom the feelings expressed in the story are directed in real life.

The psychologist can learn much about personality from the study of such stories, Dr. Symonds concludes, but he must proceed by indirection and must learn all he can about the individual before attempting to interpret his fantasies.

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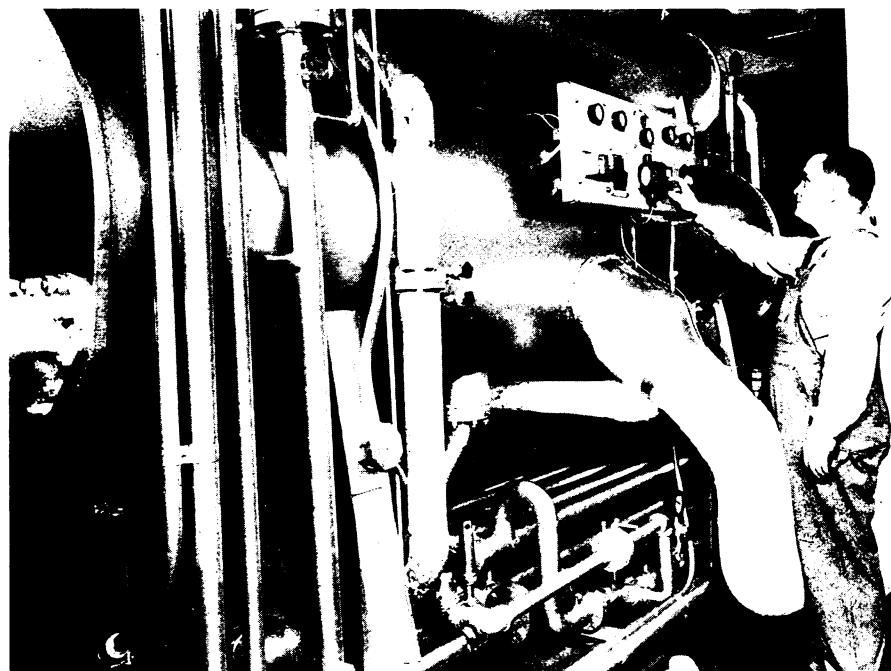
## ENGINEERING

# Boilers Become Coolers

► BOILERS that furnish steam for winter heating are now furnishing steam for summer cooling, the Carrier Corporation of Syracuse, N. Y., has revealed. It is used in a new cooling unit in which plain water is employed as a refrigerant and a simple salt as an absorbent.

One particular advantage of this air-

conditioning system is that it provides a balance in steam loads for summer cooling and winter heating. It represents a significant advance in areas where steam can be produced at relatively low cost, where there are district steam plants, where natural gas is available, or where a factory or department store or office building has



**NEW COOLING UNIT**—This new absorption machine uses steam to produce cooling. It generates cool air equivalent to the melting of 300,000 pounds of ice every 24 hours.