

PSYCHOLOGY

Claim We Are Misled

Lack of love and understanding toward others in world leaders is attacked by a scientist who sees humanity doomed unless new human values are adopted.

► THE world's leaders are misleading us. So declared Dr. M. F. Ashley Montagu, physical anthropologist of Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

"Our world at the present time," he says in a report to the *JOURNAL OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY* (May), "is largely directed by criminally irresponsible adventurers and cynical and complacent men who have grown old in the ways of self-interest and ultranationalism. Unless their place is taken by men of understanding and humility whose guiding principle is love, the world of man is doomed."

"Men who do not love one another are sick," declared Dr. Montagu.

"They are sick," he explains, "not from any sickness arising within themselves, but from a sickness which the malorganization of their societies has thrust upon them."

"The belief in false values, in competition instead of cooperation, in class and race and national prejudice instead of love, in narrow selfish interests instead of altruism, in atomism (especially atombombism) instead of universalism, in the value of the dollar instead of the value of man, represents social man turning upon all that is biologically good in him."

Love and cooperation among men as natural states have a support in the findings of biological sciences, Dr. Montagu shows.

Cooperation is essential to survival, he declares.

The habit of thinking of evolution in terms of the struggle for existence in which the fittest are alone selected for survival while the weakest are ruthlessly condemned to extinction is not only an incorrect view of the facts, but is a habit of thought which has done a considerable amount of harm, Dr. Montagu says.

Certainly, aggressiveness does exist in nature, he explains, but there is also a healthy non-ruthless competition, and there also exist strong drives towards social and cooperative behavior. These forces do not operate independently but together, as a whole, and the evidence strongly indicates that of all these drives the principle of cooperation is the most dominant, and biologically the most important.

Even planarian worms, Dr. Montagu has found, help each other to survive damaging ultraviolet rays when they are together.

Man, Dr. Montagu says, has no need to create a cooperative mood for himself by denying his savage strivings to be otherwise. The impulses toward cooperative behavior are already present at birth and need only to be cultivated.

"The infant of most vertebrates is equipped with the ability to compete with the universe for attention, and it generally succeeds in eliciting cooperative behavior, usually from one or both parents."

Dependency begins before birth, Dr. Montagu points out.

"The reproductive process is a cooperative one, and in addition development as one of a litter or group of siblings represents another early experience in the development of cooperation; development within a family represents a still further experience in the learning and practice of cooperation."

As the child matures, the socializing process continues and he becomes more and more dependent, more and more bound to others.

"Man does not want to be independent," Dr. Montagu says, "to be free in the sense of functioning independently of the interests of his fellows, freely and detached. This kind of negative independence leads to lonesomeness, isolation, and fear."

"What man wants is that positive freedom which follows the pattern of his life as an infant within the family, dependent security, the feeling that one is part of a group, accepted, wanted, loved and loving."

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FORESTRY

Find Rival Tannin Source In Mexican Seed-Pod

► THE seed-pod of the cascalote tree from nearby Mexico is a promising rival to the wood of the Argentine quebracho tree as a source of tannin for American leather, it was revealed by Armour Research Foundation of the Illinois Institute of Technology, which operates a research laboratory in Mexico City.

The Mexican product is also satisfactory for use in controlling the viscosity of the so-called muds used in drilling deep oil wells. Some 40% of the South American quebracho product imported to this country is used for this purpose. Pumped down the hollow shaft that carries the rotating drill, these muds lubricate the drill, and bring the cuttings to the surface through the space surrounding the drill shaft. Proper viscosity is essential, and to secure it an additive to the usual clay-water mixture is needed.

Cascalote has long been used in Mexico in a crude form for leather tanning. The new development is a process that

yields a stable concentrated extract of tannin suitable for export. The cascalote tree is plentiful in certain sections of Mexico, and only the seed-pod is used to obtain the tannin. Quebracho trees in South America are becoming less plentiful because the tree must be cut down to obtain its extract.

The United States imports of quebracho in recent years have been about 100,000 tons annually at a cost of about \$40,000,000 a year, according to Dr. Francis Godwin of the Foundation's staff. About 90% has come from Argentina, whose price control policies and recent Anglo-Argentine trade pact discussions have tended to make U. S.-Argentine trade more difficult.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1949

AERONAUTICS-ENGINEERING

Non-Skid Brake Device Will Aid Plane Landings

► A NON-SKID brake device which will let planes land in a shorter space with greater safety has been announced by the Boeing Airplane Company in Seattle.

An automatic electronic valve system reduces the braking power when the speed of the wheels drops to almost the skidding point. By preventing skidding, the system brings the plane to a stop sooner. Added advantage claimed is a saving in tire wear.

Tests on the new system were made with truck-trailer, towed along plane runways at high speeds.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1949



ANTI-SKID-DEVICE—The centers of all four main wheels of the Strato-freighter are equipped with this automatic device which sets braking action to prevent skids from any cause. It weighs only three and one-half pounds.