

entirely in numbers, by persons counting to each other, were made in an experiment at Stanford University in California. Those taking part in the interviews made independent descriptions of what took place in emotional exchange and a group of observers also made descriptions of the emotional interchange.

Psychologists later were successful in matching the descriptions to the recordings.

Purpose of the experiment was to de-

velop a method for teaching students preparing to be specialists in mental sickness how to pay attention to the emotions expressed by a patient in his tone of voice and gestures. The scheme of using numbers in training situations works, reports Dr. Clare Wright Thompson, of the University of California Medical School, and Dr. Katherine Bradway of Stanford in the *JOURNAL OF CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGY* (Aug.).

Science News Letter, September 9, 1950

## PSYCHOLOGY

# Psychology in Politics

➤ **PSYCHOLOGICAL** knowledge and insight are most urgently required to solve the political problems that at the present time are the most pressing of all those that beset humanity, Dr. J. C. Flugel, psychologist of London's University College, told the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Birmingham, England, in his presidential address to the psychological section.

Politicians have for the most part shown little inclination to avail themselves of such knowledge as the psychologists possess, Dr. Flugel charged. They have not encouraged psychological research on a scale commensurate with the immense issues at stake.

Racial or national prejudices of a very harmful sort can in some cases be modified by psychological means, Dr. Flugel said.

From psychoanalysis, Dr. Flugel explained, it is now realized that we divide our attitude so that different persons or groups tend to be considered as crudely "good" or "bad." We project our own faults or those of our group and attribute them to others, he said, sometimes with a pathological intensity and disregard of reality which are comparable to those of the individual paranoiac.

Individual conscience and judgment give way in favor of a childish and irresponsible idealization of the group or its leader and

everything they stand for, Dr. Flugel observed.

Hope that the world can cure itself exists in the realization of such facts of human behavior as worked out by the social psychologists and the cultural anthropologists. Dr. Flugel felt they could be made as effective in the statesmen's councils as they are in the nurseries.

Science News Letter, September 9, 1950

## METEOROLOGY

### Warm September Forecast For East and West

➤ A **WARMER**-than-normal September west of the Continental Divide and east of the Appalachians was forecast by the Weather Bureau. The Extended Forecast Section says that the Southwest and New England can expect the greatest departures from normal.

The central regions of the country can expect an average month so far as temperature is concerned.

The country is divided against itself so far as the prediction for rain is concerned. Subnormal rainfall in the West was predicted, but abundant rainfall in the East.

Cool, wet weather in the East during August did not jibe with the Weather Bureau's Aug. 1 30-day prediction. At the time it was made, Extended Forecast Sec-

tion Chief Jerome Namias said that it was a difficult one to make. Events bore him out.

Mr. Namias expected strong west winds from the Pacific in the upper atmosphere to bring the warm, dry weather he had predicted to the East. At the time, however, he thought there was a possibility that tropical air from the Atlantic would upset his forecast. It did, meeting the winds from the Pacific and causing a great deal of rain.

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