

## PSYCHIATRY

# Prevention by Removal

Spotting and committing obvious maniacs to institutions will prevent violence to public heretofore a necessary occurrence to secure the commitment of a person.

► DR. Douglas Kelley, the psychiatrist who studied the Nazis at the Nuremberg trials, looks forward to the day when human "mad dogs" may be spotted and committed to institutions before even their first bite.

Dr. Kelley, now professor of criminology at the University of California, Berkeley, expressed this opinion in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the 57th annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The psychiatrist pointed out that at the present time it is practically impossible to get an obvious maniac committed until he commits an act of violence. However, he said that scientific methods are becoming increasingly accurate for picking out potentially dangerous individuals before they do harm.

For example, he pointed out that a psychiatrist working with the police can compile a scientific case history of a known "crank" or other deviant based on repetitive complaints common to these people, until enough data for commitment are obtained.

Where the individual may be dangerous but not hopeless, preventive psychiatry, involving family consultations and referrals to clinics, can be employed to restore the person.

He said that increasing employment of

psychiatry by police can not only protect society but also help in seeing that justice is done.

He cited the use of psychiatry in cases of sex psychopaths as an example. Repetition of offenses may be prevented by the psychiatrist's recommendation of commitment in appropriate cases. On the other hand, the psychiatrist can prevent injustice particularly in sex cases involving children, by correcting mistakes brought on by childish imagination, parental emotion or actual psychopathology.

The psychiatrist said that increasing interest on the part of the public, the judiciary and law enforcement officials eventually will make it possible largely to put away dangerous individuals before they become a menace to the community.

Dr. Kelley said the police psychiatrist may also help in administering the law by teaching police to make simple tests to determine the mental age of complainants, witnesses, and suspects. He said that estimates indicate that as many as 20% of the population is below par intellectually.

"If a witness, complainant or suspect runs below a mental age of eight years, his testimony is perhaps worthless, or at any rate he will require special attention in interrogation," Dr. Kelley said.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1950

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# Speed-Up in Research

► THE DEFENSE Department is launching an all-out speed-up in military research and development so that the western allies' fewer men will be able to outclass the huge communist armies. But it is beginning to have a hard time finding competent scientific personnel to man this effort.

The effort, directly related to our overall manpower shortage should a total war come, is sparked by a \$120,000,000 supplemental appropriation for military research granted by the last session of Congress. Defense officials figure that new weapons, better weapons and more of them will more than make up our manpower difference with the Russian-dominated nations.

Before the Korean crisis, an average of \$550,000,000 a year was spent on research and development. About 54,000 scientific and technical people were working on military research and development at all levels—35,000 of them for Defense Department contractors.

But the rate at which the nation has produced competent scientific personnel at all levels from Ph.D. down makes the task of spending the extra \$120,000,000 hard. Also, some industrial laboratories that have contracts with the Defense Department are reluctant to increase the proportion of research they do for the department.

Of course, industry and university laboratories are having a hard time securing competent scientific personnel too. The National Research Council's Office of Scientific Personnel pointed out recently that, over the three-year period from 1946 through 1948, only 416 Ph.D.'s in physics came out of the schools, 166 in bacteriology, 278 in mathematics, 27 in medicine and surgery and 25 in meteorology. All those are fields directly related to the defense effort.

Thus, research and development officials in the Defense Department are anxious to see colleges turn out as many young scientists as possible. They welcome the new

National Science Foundation and its fellowships, they would like to see some broader system of federal scholarships.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1950

## ENTOMOLOGY

# Going Price for Lady Crickets: 5 Cents Each

► DR. Vincent G. Dethier, biology professor at Johns Hopkins University, wants 1,000 crickets. Lady crickets. To cricket trappers of the nation he is offering five cents, cash on delivery, for each of the insects brought back alive.

The female cricket, Dr. Dethier explained, is distinguished chiefly by her long slender egg-laying tube. She has the odd ability to taste with the end of this tube.

Dr. Dethier wants to study how heat and cold affect this taste sense, which is tied to the insect's egg-laying habits. To prospective cricket-trappers, he issued these instructions:

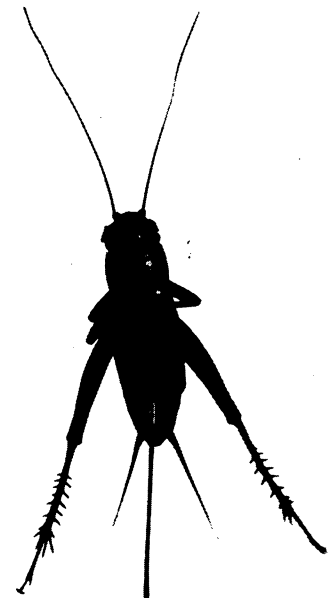
Look for crickets under logs or rocks. Clap them into a milk bottle.

Be sure to feed them, he said. Put in some lettuce or a piece of apple. Otherwise they will eat each other.

"Leave five crickets alone in a bottle on Friday and you may end up with only one very big cricket by Sunday," he warned.

Dr. Dethier will accept only live, genuinely feminine crickets in batches of ten or more. He is confident of getting them. Another Johns Hopkins entomologist each summer puts up a reward for fireflies. Last summer he was swamped with 270,000 of them.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1950



**CALLING ALL CRICKETS—Female, that is. The long thin tube at the tail is the chief distinguishing feature of the female. The photograph is enlarged two and one half times.**