

PSYCHIATRY

Safe Drivers Religious

➤ **SAFE DRIVERS** of motor vehicles are more religious than accident-prone drivers. The ones who have accidents, on the other hand, are more aesthetic, putting a higher value on beauty in form and symmetry, than the safe drivers.

A test showing these differences was 73% correct in picking safe drivers and those who had accidents, a research team at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Denver, reported at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Chicago.

The test is a revision of the Allport-Vernon scale of values developed by Jerome Levy of the research team.

In this test, a person who put a higher value on aesthetic considerations than on religious ones would agree with the following statement: "Taking the Bible as a whole, one should regard it from the point of view of its beautiful mythology and literary style rather than as a spiritual revelation."

The scientists said they "are still puzzled" by the relatively higher theoretical and aesthetic interests and the relatively lower religious interests of the high-accident drivers.

The high-accident drivers were those who had had two or more motor vehicle accidents in the past four and one-half years. Non-accident ones were those who had no

record of any accidents in the same period, and no record of moving violations of traffic regulations. Both groups were made up of airmen stationed at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver.

From results of the value and other tests, the scientists believe that the accident drivers may be psychologically more complex and less in harmony with their environment than the non-accident ones. They tend to be less conventional, have more psychologic conflicts and are more ready to resort to complex defensive operations as protection against anxiety.

The non-accident or safe drivers, on the other hand, who gave higher religious scores tend to accept conventional values to a greater extent. They have simpler and less imperiously demanding needs and had fewer conflicts with authority in the form of truancy, delinquency and minor offenses. They regularly go to church, engage in prayer and in general behave in rather socially conforming ways.

The scientists plan further intensive study of more persons and will add such things as interest and preference tests.

The research team consists of Drs. John J. Conger, Herbert S. Gaskill, Donald D. Glad and Robert V. Raine and Miss Linda Hassel and Mr. Levy.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

PSYCHIATRY

Psychiatry-Religion Fight

➤ **NO BASIC REASON** now exists for conflict between psychiatry and religion, Dr. R. Finley Gayle of the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Va., said in his presidential address at the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Chicago.

Psychiatrists and clergymen, although each has attacked the other in the past, are now ready, Dr. Gayle believes, to move gradually from a state "of peaceful co-existence to one of active cooperation."

Properly qualified persons in both professions working closely together give the conditions needed for such cooperation, Dr. Gayle said. Not every clergyman is qualified to minister to the mentally ill, even though employed by a mental hospital and titled "chaplain," any more than every licensed physician is qualified to practice psychiatry, Dr. Gayle said.

He urged clergymen to consult psychiatrists and psychiatrists to consult clergymen about the problems of patients. He suggested also meetings of small and large groups of persons in both professions and the establishment of a section on psychiatry and religion within the American Psychiatric Association.

Conflicts may develop in the course of these active forms of cooperation, he

warned, but if they take place in an atmosphere in which the clergymen and psychiatrists can talk freely to each other, they are to be welcomed because they will lead to greater understanding and cooperation.

"We should become appropriately apprehensive," he said, "only if representatives of psychiatry and religion should fall into the trap of constituting a mutual admiration society, mistaking back-slapping for mind-and-soul searching, and counterfeiting communism by corrupting communication."

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

PHYSICS

Trap Energy in Low Temperature Solids

➤ **THE POSSIBILITY** of trapping large amounts of energy in solids at extremely low temperatures, then releasing the energy at will was suggested by Dr. C. M. Herzfeld of the National Bureau of Standards.

He told the American Physical Society meeting in Washington that recent work showed "without doubt" that atoms can be imprisoned in solids at temperatures within ten degrees above absolute zero,

which is 459.7 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

"Engineers may then be able to use such solids as concentrated sources of power if the release of this energy can be controlled," Dr. Herzfeld said.

Molecules of certain gases such as nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen consist of two atoms held together by powerful electric forces. Passing these gases through a strong electric discharge breaks up some of the molecules into two atoms.

Dr. H. P. Broida and his associates at the National Bureau of Standards have learned how to trap the atoms so produced into a solid at very low temperatures. The solid consists mostly of the original molecules, but contains some atoms unable to recombine because of the cold.

These solids, Dr. Herzfeld said, are of interest not only to engineers because of the stored energy but to scientists because they can be used as probes to study the internal make-up of solids, the arrangement of atoms and molecules, and the forces acting between them.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

BIOCHEMISTRY

See Abnormal Molecules As Mental Disease Cause

➤ **MENTAL DISEASE** may be due to abnormalities of the molecules of chemicals making up the genes, carriers of heredity, Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winner of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif., suggested at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Chicago.

Progress in the attack on mental disease may be made through a search for such abnormal molecules, he said.

One hereditary disease, sickle-cell anemia, has been shown to be caused by the gene-controlled manufacture of blood hemoglobin molecules that differ slightly in structure from normal adult hemoglobin molecules, he stated.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

HORTICULTURE

Bigger Blackberries On the Way to Market

➤ **BIGGER BLACKBERRIES** can now be produced with a mixture of two plant growth regulators, NOA and PCPA, betanaphthoxyacetic and para-chlorophenoxyacetic acids, respectively.

Recent experiments with the chemicals used as sprays at the University of California yielded blackberries as much as 18% larger than those from untreated plants.

The average weight of fruit from untreated Boysen plants throughout the season was relatively uniform. The average weight of fruit from sprayed plants, however, increased as the season progressed. The berries were heaviest at the end of the season, when untreated fruit was slightly smaller.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956