

## ASTRONOMY

# Await Brilliant New Comet

► ASTRONOMERS around the world are anxiously waiting for their first glimpse of a comet that may rival or exceed Halley's Comet of 1910 in brilliance.

Observers in the Southern Hemisphere will have the first crack at seeing the comet as it starts drawing away from the sun after April 8. Astronomers in the Northern Hemisphere will have to wait until toward the end of April for their first look at Comet Arend-Roland.

Known also as comet 1956-h, it was discovered by S. Arend and M. Roland on photographs taken at the Royal Observatory, Uccle, Belgium, on Nov. 8, 1956. At that time, the comet was a diffuse object of magnitude 10, too faint to be seen without a telescope. Since then, many observations have been made by astronomers around the world, and several orbits have been computed.

The magnitude Comet Arend-Roland will have when it is again seen is not known definitely. Although it is expected to be quite bright, predictions of a comet's magnitude are notoriously uncertain. Whether it will, in fact, make as spectacular a heavenly display as Halley's Comet will not be known until Comet Arend-Roland is again visible.

The reason is that passage near the sun affects the internal constitution of a comet, and sometimes a comet brightens much more than is expected. This was the case with Halley's Comet.

The comet is scheduled to reach the point in its orbit closest to the sun on April 8, astronomers at the U. S. Naval Observatory in Washington report. At that time, its distance from the sun will be about 30,000,000 miles, or about one-third the distance of the earth from the sun. Its distance from the earth will be about 85,000,000 miles at the same time.

During March and the first part of April, the comet's apparent position in the sky will be too close to the sun to permit observations. After mid-April, however, the comet will move rapidly northward in the sky. Then it will appear very low in the northwest sky after sunset, between the constellations of Andromeda and Aries, the ram.

Its brilliance will fade rapidly as it climbs in the sky, and the object is expected to disappear from naked-eye view by the first of June, although it will continue to be visible through a telescope for a few more weeks.

On April 22, the comet will be in the constellation, Triangulum, the triangle, very close to the position where it was first spotted five and one-half months previously.

Images of the comet have since been found on photographs taken on Nov. 7, one day earlier than the original discovery. These photographs were made by S. Kaho of the Tokyo Observatory for research connected with variable stars.

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In other areas, many children fail to attain significant levels of skill because of ambitious parents. Failure becomes a way of "getting even" with parents who are too demanding, he added.

Future changes in America's society will probably create even more urgent problems in mental health, but fortunately some of the old ideas about "madmen" and mental illness are diminishing in strength.

"A psychiatrist is occasionally permitted to appear in a play without speaking broken English or turning out to be madder than his patients," he concluded hopefully.

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## PSYCHIATRY

# Mental Disease Threat

► THE NATION is courting disaster by allowing mental disease and defect to exist along with modern science and technology, Dr. Harold D. Lasswell, professor of law and political science, Yale University, reported to the opening session of the National Health Forum meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The existence of mental disease threatens the well being of Americans in all forms, from the mentally ill aircraft spotter who is relied on for warning of approaching enemy planes to the "accident prone" driver whose car is a chariot of destruction, he said.

Automobile drivers are the best example of how the progress of scientific knowledge has been "pulling the blinders from our eyes" about the kind and amount of mental illness present today.

"The manslaughtering motorist or pilot seldom fits the ancient image of the 'madman.' Too often he looks like thee and me," Dr. Lasswell said.

The hidden hand of mental disease is also

being detected in industrial accidents where mutilated fingers and crushed feet are not always the fault of machinery.

"Thousands of such accidents appear to be traceable to the misperceptions and to the clumsiness of warped personalities," he reported.

In the business world mental disease is shown by "pathological" management. High labor turnover, strikes and work stoppages are the direct outcome of the stubbornness of an executive who must look big in order to still inner doubts about his wholeness as a man.

Social climbing, America's national exercise, is also damaging mental health. Those who keep up with the Joneses must often go all the way to the mental hospital, he added.

Mental disease and America's standards of value are tied together in the field of arts and crafts. American talent in art has been handicapped by the emotionally insecure parents of boys who often reject their son's artistic skill as being effeminate, the professor explained.