

PSYCHIATRY

Some Mentally Ill Adults Had Normal Childhoods

➤ WHAT WERE grown-up mental patients like when they were children?

Some were as normal as any Tom, Dick or Harry on the block; some mildly troubled; and some so extremely disturbed that they could not get along in school or make friends.

These findings, based on studies of the childhoods of 152 hospitalized mental patients, were reported by Drs. Max Pollack and Donald F. Klein of Hillside Hospital, Glen Oaks, L.I., N.Y., at a meeting of the New York State District Branches of the American Psychiatric Association in New York.

The study indicates there is a large group of children whose mental illnesses go undetected until the times of their breakdowns.

• Science News Letter, 84:335 Nov. 23, 1963

Nature Note

➤ A GATHERING of ruffed grouse or partridges in the winter means snow to the superstitious, but to the sportsman it is a welcome sight. Beautiful to look upon, interesting in habit, sufficiently difficult shots to make good hunting and the best of eating when brought to the table, the ruffed grouse is truly the king of land game birds.

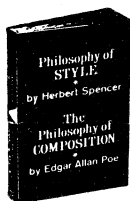
His chief mark and badge of distinction is a magnificent collar of feathers which, by inflating his throat, he can spread until he becomes an imposing spectacle rather than a bird.

The characteristic "drumming" sound, made only during the mating season, is heard when the cock beats the air with his wings without touching his body or a log. The sound is produced by the vibration of feathers close to the body and is a challenge to the other males. When grouse do their "drumming" in winter instead of spring, a heavy snowstorm is said to follow.

The grouse should have been the bird-royal of ancient chivalry. He is as vain as he is beautiful and pugnacious as he is gallant. Although a pair of males will fight each other to exhaustion, the furious battle is more like a tournament, as the outcome is neither fatal nor serious.

Although naturalists have feared that foreign pheasants may drive the native grouse from its natural home, the numbers of ruffed grouse have reached a cyclic zenith in the northern and northeastern states this year.

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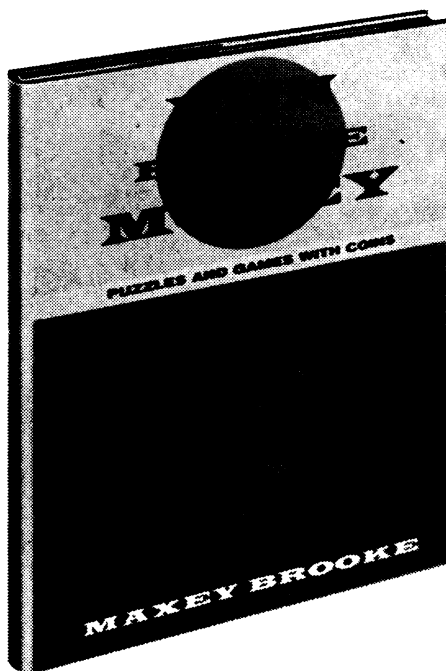
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