

Social Sciences Notes

PSYCHOLOGY

Compatibility in Space

Some personality types should never be closed up together in a space capsule, according to a Navy experiment on 18 pairs of young sailors in boot camp.

Two dominant men, not surprisingly, cannot tolerate isolation with each other, found psychologists William W. Haythorn, director of behavioral sciences at the Naval Medical Research Institute and Irwin Altman, also with NMRI and a professor at American University. Of the four pairs who broke out in fisticuffs during their ten days together in a small room, three were both high in dominance.

The second worst combination was a driving "go-getter" and one who was not. In this case, the driver viewed the other man as lazy; the other, in turn saw his partner as an "eager beaver" bucking for promotion, said Drs. Haythorn and Altman.

The psychologists tested in different combination four personality types—achievers, dominants, dogmatists, and those with a need for affection. In each category, there was at least one incompatible combination.

But no matter how compatible the pair, all experienced some stress and interpersonal conflict, which was not a bad thing, said the researchers, reporting in the January issue of *Trans-action* magazine.

In today's space capsules, Antarctic stations and sea labs, interpersonal conflict to a certain level can "enliven an existence of otherwise deadly and crippling monotony. It can produce better performance. The questions we now have to answer are: How much stress? What kinds? How to assure that proper matches are made?"

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Marriage Best Cure

The best cure for delinquency among boys is marriage, Member of Parliament T. L. Iremonger told the British House of Commons in a recent debate on the treatment of juvenile delinquents.

Girls are, on the whole, better adjusted to society than boys and they are more effective in rehabilitating their husbands than is any current government effort, said Iremonger. He called public rehabilitation efforts a cover for "shutting people up in understaffed establishments having no clue what to do with them."

MANPOWER

Brain Drain Computerized

A method for predicting "brain drain," or the migratory habits of scientists and technicians, is underway at Cornell University.

Sociologist Robert McGinnis is in the process of converting the life histories of 224,000 people into mathematical terms. The names came from the National Science Foundation Register of Scientists and Technicians, compiled every other year.

Once the life histories are translated into numbers, they will be analyzed by computer, said McGinnis. The results should enable government and academic planners to know what to expect in getting and keeping personnel.

Besides the U.S. study, McGinnis also plans a trip to Yugoslavia to study international labor mobility. He said he and his Cornell colleagues have also contacted other Eastern European countries for the study.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Freshmen Norms Compiled

More than 15 percent of U.S. college freshmen said they participated in organized demonstrations last year—almost as many as said they smoked regularly (16.6 percent.)

These two not necessarily related facts emerged from a vast army of facts collected on last year's freshmen by the American Council on Education, whose goal is to compile national norms on the educational and career plans, attitudes and behavior of college students.

Somewhat surprisingly, the freshmen at public universities were least active in demonstrations, while those at Catholic colleges were most active, the council discovered. It also found that 63.5 percent of the total one million-plus freshmen attended church regularly, 53.5 percent drank beer, and 20.6 percent admitted to cheating on exams.

TESTING

Movements Clues To I.Q.

A child's earliest hand, leg and body movements are clues to his intelligence, reported Dr. Ralph M. Gibson, a pediatric psychologist at the University of Michigan.

Charting such movements—such as a child's ability to retrieve hidden objects at 12 months or scribble with a pencil 6 months later—may also help predict the type of intelligence, said Dr. Gibson.

He said that before making any decisions about mental capacity, the psychologist needs this kind of information. Otherwise I.Q. test scores are unreliable. A low score could mean brain damage or impairment. It could also mean fear, a hearing defect or simply negative attitudes.

Another clue to intelligence is the child's skill at looking after himself and establishing independence.

PSYCHIATRY

International Study Begun

In response to prompting by several of its members, the American Psychiatric Association has decided to take up international politics.

At its recent council meeting, the APA established a study group to explore the application of psychiatric knowledge to the prevention of war.

The decision marked the APA's first firm commitment to the international field and is based on the suspicion that nations, like individuals, can be recognized for their psychopathology. But to understand how and why nations become pathological, psychiatrists may require a new theoretical foundation. Thus, the study.

In supporting the action, President-elect Henry W. Brodin said he believes psychiatry does have a contribution to make, but "it should be put forth on the basis of sound scholarship."