PSYCHOLOGY

Blame For Student Suicides

People who blame the study of psychology for the wave of suicides among college students are either irresponsible or else ignorant of the science of psychology as it is taught in universities, according to Dr. Madison Bentley, professor of psychology at the University of Illinois.

The word "psychology" has been sadly used as a catch word to refer to a mixture of sex, business advertising, and characterology, Dr. Bentley says.

"But the psychology of the lecture room and laboratory has nothing in common with phrenology, palmistry, character readings and morbid prying into sex life and soul experience," he points out. "They are as unlike as chemistry and astrology, as sound physics and black magic."

The fact that young suicides are reported to have mentioned certain studies as leading them to take their lives is not convincing evidence, this psychology professor explains.

"The real causes of a desire for death are generally as far beyond the vision of the maladjusted youth as are the disease germs in an infected liver or in a lung. The mentally sick person is no more capable of diagnosing his disorder than the average person suffering from physical disease. To accept the references of the dead person as real causes without careful study is both superficial and childish. It suggests a presssing desire to believe that the university has poisoned the youth."

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BOTANY

Tells Story of Cactus

Although exclusively American in origin, the cactus is a great traveler and has found its way into all the dry corners of the earth, according to Dr. J. N. Rose, associate curator of the U. S. National Herbarium at Washington. It was unknown in Europe before the voyages of Columbus, but soon thereafter was transplanted into Spain from Mexico, and thence spread rapidly all around the Mediterranean. It has now become very common in Palestine; and its red, fig-shaped fruits recently provoked from a traveler the remark that "in spite of the parable, it is now possible to gather figs from thistles in the Holy Land." Recent religious art has shown St. John the Divine standing by a cactus bush, and in another picture cacti were shown in the setting of the story of Ruth; but these are only rather comic anachronisms.

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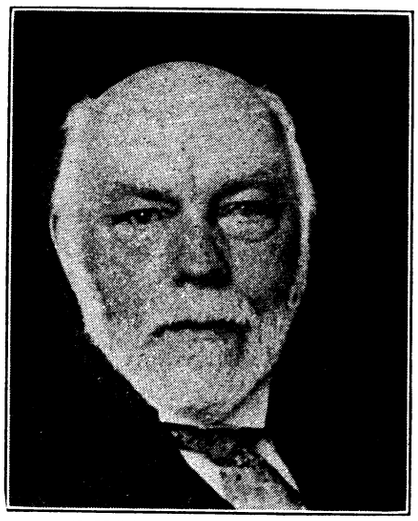
CHEMISTRY



FREDERICK BELDING POWER

Artist in Odors

The business of being a chemist is popularly supposed to be principally the creating of all sorts of bad odors, but here is a chemist who has included some pleasant smells in his repertoire. Though Dr. Power assumed his present position, as senior chemist in charge of the Phytochemical Laboratory in the Bureau of Chemistry in Washington, at 62, an age when many men begin to think about retirement, he has since accomplished what is perhaps his most important work. This work has accurately informed the world for the first time what the actual substances are that give fruits and flowers their flavors and fragrance. One of the most recent phases has been the identification of trimethylamine as the substance in cotton that attracts the boll weevil, a discovery that has opened up a new way of fighting this scourge of the cotton growers.

Dr. Power was born in Hudson, N. Y., in 1853, and after graduating from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1874 went to Strassburg, where he received his Ph. D. in 1880. Then he returned to his Philadelphia *alma mater* to take charge of the chemical laboratory. But in 1883 he was called to the University of Wisconsin to take charge of its newly formed School of Pharmacy, where he remained until 1892. Finally, in 1914, after organizing and serving as first director for two important industrial laboratories, he came to Washington, where he is still actively at work.

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One silk company in this country uses up 3,000,000 cocoons in a day.

ARCHÆOLOGY

Ancient Tomb Robbers

Robbers who have broken into royal graves of old Egypt and escaped with the treasures cause much disappointment to scientists when they breathlessly open these plundered tombs. But the robbers were a still greater plague to the Pharaohs themselves, as secret tombs built for Egyption royalty show.

A tomb found at the Giza pyramids some months ago by the Harvard and Boston Expedition has now been pronounced the secret tomb of Queen Hetepheres, consort of King Sneferu who ruled in Egypt about 3000 B. C. This Egyption queen is said to be the mother of Cheops, one of the most famous of all the Pharaohs, a ruler who thought nothing of setting 100,000 men to work to make him a pyramid fine enough to be his monument and final resting place.

The mother of Cheops died soon after her son took the throne of Egypt. Not long after her burial robbers broke into the tomb. When the desecration was discovered the King ordered her body to be removed to this secret tomb, and the funeral furniture was packed in boxes and placed with the queen's mummy.

The alabaster sarcophagus with its canopy was placed last in the secret tomb and this has not yet been opened, though the framework of the canopy has been examined and is pronounced remarkable. The tenons and mortises are all sheathed in copper and resemble those of a modern bed. The upright pieces at the corners are clamped together by a copper bar with slot and tenons, and the attachments for the curtains are formed of copper staples driven into beams.

The most attractive object which has been found is the queen's gold jewel case, bearing her name. This case contains twenty silver anklets, graded in size to fit the leg, and ornamented with four dragonflies in malachite, lapis lazuli, and carnelian stones, with circles of red carnelian between.

Objects placed with the mummy in the secret tomb include a large amount of pottery which is of particular value to the scientists because it reveals new information as to early pottery types.

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Sea grass grown in eastern Canada is used as stuffing for mattresses.