

PSYCHOLOGY

Fake Psychologists

Pseudo-psychologists, who promise, like fairy godmothers, to turn everyday human beings into fascinating personalities or into great financial successes, are creating large groups of discontented individuals, according to Dr. E. A. Shaw and George E. Gardner, of the Harvard University Psycho-Educational Clinic.

These two clinical psychologists state in a report to the National Committee for Mental Hygiene that "character analysts" and "practical psychologists" are responsible for many of the dissatisfied, badly adjusted cases that come to the Harvard Clinic. Gilt edge promises made to all, irrespective of ability and training, lead individuals to false hopes and discontent with kinds of work for which they are suited, it is stated. And repeated failures to attain the heights so glowingly described as well within reach can lead an individual to serious mental upsets.

The psychological quack, half informed concerning scientific psychological principles, undertakes in a conference or by lectures, and for no small fee, to advise men and women about their mental and vocational ills, the two Harvard psychologists explain.

"These men, we maintain—and their numbers are growing day by day—are a detriment to the mental health of the community," the psychologists state. "In their doctrines and platitudes there is just enough of truth and of falsity to make them dangerous."

One serious result of the situation pointed out is that the work of the "analysts" becomes confused in the eyes of the public with the work of well trained vocational advisors and directors of personality clinics who conscientiously and carefully study the individual who comes to them for help and who advise him according to his real possibilities.

Science News-Letter, July 2, 1927

PSYCHOLOGY

The Social Smile

How the sweet social smile differs from a real spontaneous smile of pleasure has been made clear through the peculiar circumstance of studying patients with brain injuries, according to Dr. G. H. Monrad Krohn, professor of medicine at the University of Oslo.

Dr. Krohn, who is now visiting medical centers in the United States, has found that in cases of injury to the motor centers of the brain the patients have difficulty in voluntarily controlling the muscles and nerves of their faces. True emotional movements, however, are well preserved, even exaggerated. Slow motion picture records revealed that, because of their injuries, when these patients express pleasure they may smile earlier and more extensively on the side of the face controlled by the injured side of the brain.

The emotional movements of the spontaneous smile are due to an entirely different kind of nervous mechanism from those of the voluntary or social smile. The cases studied by Dr. Krohn present evidence to show that when one type of smile mechanism is in action the other, so to speak, is shut off.

Some normal persons are unable to control the nerve mechanism used in producing a frown voluntarily, Dr. Krohn has found. When asked to frown, they are unable to do so, even though they can frown readily when angry or disappointed.

Science News-Letter, July 2, 1927

EVOLUTION

Scopes Goes to Venezuela

John T. Scopes, central figure in the famous Dayton evolution trial of two summers ago, is now on his way to Venezuela to look over potential oil lands for one of the large petroleum companies. The fund raised by friends of science throughout the country after his trial has sufficed to give him two years of graduate work in geology at the University of Chicago, where he has acquitted himself with great credit and has been popular with his classmates. He states that after two years in the field he will have saved enough money to put him over the remainder of the road to the doctorate very comfortably. He anticipates returning to Chicago as soon as he is able.

Science News-Letter, July 2, 1927

Over half of the worst insect pests in the United States have been imported from foreign countries.

The pack carried by the United States infantry soldier weighs 51 pounds and is the lightest used by any army.

A glue which retains considerable strength when wet has been produced by the United States Forest Products Laboratory.



JACOB G. LIPMAN

Ein genialer Mensch

The Germans have a fine adjective, *genial*. It combines some degree of the meanings of its English cognates "genius" and "genial," without the adulatory connotation that attaches to the first and the faint odor of depreciation that attends the second.

Dr. Lipman himself would be the first to deny claim to distinction as *ein genialer Mensch*, but his colleagues from all the world, who have just concluded at Washington the First International Congress of Soil Science, would without question confirm the suggestion with a shout. In organizing this congress, in securing the necessary financial backing, in administering the thousand-and-one preliminary businesses, in finding a satisfactory linguistic way out of a modern polyglot Babel, and at last in presiding urbanely at its sessions, Dr. Lipman showed himself possessed of that combination which will more and more mark the captains of the future: thorough command of a science, good administrative capacity, and a capacity for easy human contact.

Dr. Lipman's life has been an excellent training for carrying on to success just such activities as this International Congress. He was born in Russia, but of German-speaking stock. Emigrating to America, he finished his formal education with degrees from Rutgers and Cornell. Most of his scientific life has been bound up with the former institution, where he is now dean of agriculture and director of the New Jersey state experiment station. He has been a prolific writer on agricultural science, and is very active also as editor of a number of scientific journals.

Science News-Letter, July 2, 1927