

SOCIOLOGY

"History" vs. Truth

Quotation from STANDARDIZATION OF ERROR—Vilhjalmur Stefansson—Norton and Co.

When we got into the late War, we suddenly discovered that most of our school histories were anti-British. Many of them were forthwith changed to pro-British without a murmur from any one, except a few people who (we all agreed, as soon as they began to protest) were either pro-Germans or Pacifists. But the War, after we got into it, was so short that there was not time to oust all the anti-British propaganda from the texts, before it was over. I had the instructive experience of being in a city where a violent newspaper controversy sprang up between correspondents, some of whom favored anti-British history but most of whom favored pro-British. The ground of the pro's was that we ought to stand by our former allies, that there might soon be another war, and that we should bring up the younger generation strong for English-speaking unity, because that was the natural basis of the coming alignment. Some argued specifically that we might be able to annex Canada if we used the same sort of histories as the Canadians and therefore grow up to the same beliefs. Even the Hearst papers, which then opposed this view and anything else that seemed to favor the British, have since come out for the principle and now advocate an English-speaking union.

The voices, on the other hand, which suggested an impartial history were few and weak. Thus did what

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PSYCHOLOGY

Indians Slow But Sure

The red man is rapidly taking over the white man's civilization, but he has not tuned himself up to the speed of present day America. This is indicated by mental tests given to 120 Indian children on the Yakima reservation.

Results of the test, just reported to the *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* by Otto Klineberg, of Columbia University, show that in tests where the children were to fit together the pieces of a puzzle the Indian children averaged 11 moves in a minute as compared with 17 moves a minute by white children.

"In extreme cases the difference is striking," Mr. Klineberg said. "The white boy jumps at the puzzle. He tries the piece here, there, everywhere. When he strikes at what

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PHYSIOLOGY

A Cardiographic Valentine

Your Valentine looks for a message
That's honest, without any sham.
The best you can possibly send her
Is simply a cardiogram.

And should she be expert in reading
The story such messages tell,
The picture will have, besides fondness,
An eugenic value as well.

If flutter or block should be shown,
Or even so much as suspected,
Your hopes will depart to the grave;
You'll know right away you're rejected.

Should your heart mind all of its waves,
Its P's and its Q's and the rest,
She'll know, beyond fear of denial,
How true is the heart in your chest.

So, even in Spain or Siam,
Tell all of your love, not the half;
Just send her a cardiogram
I'll take on my cardiograph.

—Richard Ashman

Science News-Letter, February 11, 1928

PHYSICS

Use Vacuum Tube Backwards

Using a radio vacuum tube backwards in order to reduce the voltage and increase the power at the same time is the trick described to the Institute of Radio Engineers. In a paper by Frederick E. Terman, of Stanford University, California, it was stated that the plate and the grid of a tube could be made to interchange their functions.

In the ordinary vacuum tube, as used in the usual receiving set as an amplifier, the feeble electrical impulses that form the signals are fed into the grid. The electrons that travel across from the filament to the plate produce an electrical current, much larger than the current entering the tube, but varying in conformity with it. However, the outgoing current is also higher in voltage, as well as more powerful, than the incoming.

Mr. Terman has found, however, that the voltage can be reduced by interchanging the plate and grid. He feeds in the current to be amplified to the plate instead of the grid, and takes it out from the grid.

"It is relatively simple," he states, "to construct an inverted vacuum tube with wide clearances between the plate and the rest of the tube, so

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PSYCHOLOGY

Men More Unhappy

It's a sadder world for men than for women—if 168 Canadian college students who have taken a test of emotional stability are fair samples of the sexes.

The students answered a long list of questions, such as "Can you do good work while people are looking on?" "Do ideas run in your head so that you cannot sleep?" and "Is it easy to get you cross and grouchy?"

Men appear to be more serious and unhappy than women, according to Dr. J. W. Bridges, psychologist of McGill University, who conducted the investigation, and who has just reported his results. Contrary to popular notion, men are more troubled by hearts thumping from excitement and nervousness than women.

On the other hand, Dr. Bridges reports that women are more subject to dreaming and day dreaming, are more abnormal in their sex life, have more fears and worries, are more undecided, more sensitive to pain and other unpleasant experiences. They are perhaps not such "good mixers" as men, since they are more bashful and have greater difficulty in making friends.

Students who are superior in academic work have more psycho-neurotic symptoms than average and inferior students, he found.

Science News-Letter, February 11, 1928

ANTHROPOLOGY

Egypt Cradle of Civilization?

Through thousands of years, prehistoric men and women wandered homeless up and down the River Nile, and as they traveled about they lost or cast aside innumerable stone axes and hammers that were their chief tools and weapons. Now, those stones, long preserved in the terraces along the Nile, have been sought for a thousand miles up and down the river valley, by two geologists, and as a result man's civilization in Egypt is traced back to its beginning, thousands of years ago.

The expedition which has just reported this remarkable accomplishment is known as the Prehistoric Survey and was sent out by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The geologists who surveyed the region are Dr. K. S. Sandford and W. J. Arkell, both of Oxford University.

In the course of the ages, terraces have formed, like gigantic steps, rising back from the Nile on each side of the river, and it was in these different terraces, belonging to different

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WHAT PRICE KNOWLEDGE?

In ages of the past those who sought it—found it

But it was often expensive and limited to a few

What is it, then, that distinguishes this age of amazing scientific progress from the slowly moving ages of the past?

Is it not because new information, valuable to science, is no longer confined to its source?

Is it not because new discoveries are known almost immediately after their accomplishment?

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Egypt Cradle of Civilization?

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periods of time, that the geologists found different types of stone tools characteristic of certain stages of man's development toward civilization.

The oldest tools are pronounced similar to those used by stone age men of Europe during the age called Chellean. Europeans who made such tools lived from 50,000 to 100,000 years ago, but the stone age Egyptians may have made their tools at an earlier time, it is said.

Whether or not Egypt was the cradle of man's physical development into a human being, Dr. Sandford's report shows that Egypt must have been one of the earliest homes of man. And the evidence indicates that it was most probably in Egypt that man first slowly developed into a creature of civilization.

"Of all regions in the world," Dr. Sandford states, "Egypt, and particularly upper Egypt, offers an opportunity for discovering man's past independently of all evidence obtained in Europe. If the evidence agrees with that of Europe, so much the better. If it does not we would incline to rely upon it none the less."

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Use Vacuum Tube Backwards

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that potentials of hundreds of thousands of volts can be applied at the plate, while the effect of this high voltage stepped down in almost any desired ratio is obtained in a low potential circuit."

The chief use of the inverted tube, Mr. Terman stated, is in studying the waves formed by high voltage alternating currents, using an oscillograph. In this way, the current variations can be studied without consuming any appreciable amount of the current. No immediate use of the device in ordinary radio sets is foreseen.

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During a recent storm in France the rain contained sand that had blown from Africa.

Doctors of the late Stone Age practised surgery with considerable skill and success.

The cat flea and dog flea are distinctly different, though both infest both cats and dogs.

Say you saw it advertised in the SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER

"History" vs. Truth

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we believe to be the sound common sense of the people manifest itself. For next after patriotism comes a right world outlook. We must know in advance what country to favor in time of trouble. And how can the needed unanimity be secured in a democracy except by teaching the youngsters to like the right country so that they may vote correctly when they later come to decide tariffs, treaties, and wars?

The importance of discretion in history teaching was once brought forcibly to my attention when I was spending a summer in northern Vermont, and found in use three miles away across the Canadian line in Quebec, school texts in which the War of 1812 differed so much from the same war in the Vermont histories that you would hardly believe it was the same war. You can readily see how wise that was on both sides. Imagine the discord that would be introduced into the teaching of Canadian patriotism if they used Vermont histories, and similarly what havoc a Canadian history could work, if tossed into our school system like a stone into delicate machinery. Nor is there any half-way course possible. If you were to cut out all the contradictions, there would be little left of that particular war; neither would the leavings be any good for inculcating patriotism or other moral virtues into either Canadians or Americans. Obviously, things had best remain as they are.

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Indians Slow But Sure

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seems to be its proper place, he leaves it there, and flies to the next. He completes the tests in 66 seconds, but he has made 14 errors in the process.

"The Indian boy moves slowly, deliberately. He seems to think each move twice over. You have said to him also 'as quickly as possible,' but that evidently means little to him. He takes 137 seconds to complete the tests. A poor performance apparently, but he has not made a single false move."

Dr. Klineberg is now investigating whether white children would improve in accuracy if they imitated the Indian child's deliberate manner.

Science News-Letter, February 11, 1928

A Nuremberg man who invented a ticking clock, in 1840, was accused of witchcraft by his wife and his neighbors.