



MOBILE BEACON OF THE SEAS

An innovation in ocean navigation is the floodlighting of the towering funnels of a vessel so that they will serve as super-beacon for aircraft and for nearby ships. It will be possible to see these lighted stacks of the new "Empress of Britain" during her crossing May 27-June 2 for a distance of 30 miles—more than an hour before the vessel comes in view. The reflection against a low ceiling at night will be visible even greater distances and flyers 1000 feet up will be able to see the funnels from more than 50 miles

PSYCHOLOGY

Hair and Eye Color Are Index To One's Emotional Behavior

PHYSICAL differences in the color of eyes and hair and shape of head, which are usually associated with different races, have a relation to the extent to which persons get angry or become afraid, Dr. G. M. Stratton reported to the National Academy of Sciences in Washington last week.

Dr. Stratton based his conclusions on a study of more than 1,000 students at the University of California, where he is professor of psychology. Measurements were made of the heads of these students; their hair was classified as light, medium, or dark, using a scale of actual samples; and the eyes were similarly classed as pure blue or gray, pure brown or black, or intermediate or mixed.

In order to find out how emotional the persons studied were, Dr. Stratton gave each one a list of situations which might make one person extremely irritated or frightened, while another would not be disturbed. Each person was given also a precise description of different degrees of reaction to a situation. And immediately after the reaction actually took place, he noted its degree in the particular case.

"Taking only shade of hair," Dr. Stratton said, "There appears to be a difference, with respect to their emotions, between the group composed of

the dark-haired and the group composed of the medium-haired; and, again, between the medium-haired and the light-haired. The dark-haired have more intense fear than have the medium-haired; the medium-haired are more intensely angry than are the light-haired.

Anger and Eye Color

"Taking only eye-color, the light-eyed, when subjected to similar external incitements to anger, are more intensely angry than are the medium-eyed.

"And looking to head proportions only, the narrow-headed, who will not, I hope, be confused with the narrow-minded, are more intense both in anger and in their fear than are either of the other groups; in like situations, the narrow-headed become angrier or more afraid than do those whose heads are of medium proportions or are broad. The medium heads are the least emotional of our three groups; the narrow heads are the most emotional; the broad heads fall in between . . .

"In all this, one may notice, the findings lend themselves happily in part but not entirely to the usual descriptions of the three main stocks within the Caucasian race . . . If race were the ruling factor in the present find-

ings, we should expect, then, that the emotional characteristics of the light-haired would be those also of the light-eyed. But the present findings run contrary to this expectation. The light-haired are less irascible than their fellows, while the light-eyed are more irascible."

The evidence, he feels, indicates that in persons with these different physical features, there are innate differences in emotional disposition.

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ASTROPHYSICS

Magnetic Storms Most Frequent At Equinox

ALTHOUGH the old idea of "equinoxial storms" of wind and rain has been pretty well consigned to the Limbo of exploded myths, equinoxial storms of another sort, not noticeable with the naked eye, seem to be scientifically established phenomena. At the meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington last week, Dr. H. B. Maris of the U. S. Naval Research Laboratory reported that a study of magnetic storms, invisible disturbances that periodically play hob with telegraphic communications, are thicker at the spring and fall equinoxes and scarcer at the times of summer and winter solstice. The figure at maximum is roughly double that at minimum.

The periodicity in the distribution of these invisible but none the less powerful storms is so regular that their curve can be projected into the future and predictions ventured. Dr. Maris said that the chances are about two to one that May 16 will be the most disturbed day of the month so far as the earth's magnetism is concerned.

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HORTICULTURE

Orchid Greenhouse Rotates To Catch Full Sunlight

A GREENHOUSE set on roller bearings and kept slowly rotating to give its green tenants full benefit of the sun at all hours is the invention recently patented by Albert C. Burrage, an orchid grower located near Boston.

Although the whole house is only twelve feet square at the floor, its shelves accommodate 10,000 seedling hybrid orchids, each in a one-inch pot. It is believed to be the first rotating greenhouse ever constructed.

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