

ing three different radiograms simultaneously on the same wave length will be utilized in the new domestic radio telegraph service of RCA. High speed radio facsimile gives promise of a new method of reproducing messages in their original form instead of by coded dots and dashes."—David Sarnoff, Presi-

dent, Radio Corporation of America.

"New developments will give us pictures in real color, stereoscopic in character, and with sound practically as faithful as the original."—E. H. Hansen, Director of Sound Recording, Fox Film Corporation.

Science News Letter, June 9, 1934

PSYCHIATRY

Fairy Tales Given Approval If They are Properly Told

FAIRY TALES are all right for children if they are properly told. But they may do much harm, even causing a nervous breakdown after the child has grown up, Dr. Sandor Lorand, psychiatrist of New York, declared at the joint meeting of the American Psychiatric and Psychoanalytic Associations.

A case of a grown man who still lived in an imaginary fairy-tale world was described by Dr. Lorand as an example of the harm fairy tales can do under certain circumstances.

"The man was in his thirties and accomplished in his social and economic status, but the city streets on which he moved, the house where he lived, the meadows and forests where he played golf and the lakes where he went fishing were all filled up for him with giants, ogres, witches and strange animals.

"In his daily routine life he seemed to come across friends whose faces at times appeared bird-like and whose noses protruded like beaks."

In his dreams strange prehistoric animals reached through the window, and big and baby elephants, snakes and the wolf of Little Red Riding Hood were all present.

These creatures of his imagination were, in the popular phrase, driving him nearly crazy. As the psychiatrists would describe it, he was suffering from a neurosis and was obsessed with fears.

Yet in spite of this case, Dr. Lorand does not ban fairy tales for children.

"They have a constructive value and they fill a need that the child has," he asserted.

The effect they will have for good or evil depends largely on how they are told and somewhat on the conflicts that the child may be already facing. Dr. Lorand gave the following directions for telling fairy stories:

"The story must obviously be suited to the child's age and condition. Care should be taken that the tale is told in the proper physical and psychological setting. The time of the day when the story telling takes place is, of course, important (no ogre story before bed time). Even such minor details as voice modulation must be given careful consideration. Above all, the story teller should be certain that the story is really for the child, and is not told out of a sense of duty, or only to relieve certain tensions of his own."

In the case described, the fairy tales were not entirely responsible for the patient's condition, Dr. Lorand explained. The underlying cause was an Oedipus complex from which the patient suffered as a child and which he had never really outgrown.

In this case, the fairy tales which the mother told her son while waiting for the father to come home eased and partially solved the Oedipus situation. When the situation, never completely cleared up, arose again in his adult life, the patient unconsciously turned back to the fairy tales which had given relief in his childhood. Only this time instead of easing the situation they aggravated it.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Immigrants Teach Us What to do With Morons

MORONS, poor weak-witted jetsam of our hit-or-miss human breeding, have a useful place in the world. And the common sense of peasant-stock immigrants can find that place better than most of our fine-spun social theories. So Dr. Charles Bernstein of the State School for Mental Defectives at Rome, N. Y., indicated in an address

before the American Association for the Study of Mental Deficiency.

"The second generation of foreign-born will show us what to do with our morons," he declared.

The foreign-born in our population, particularly the Poles and Italians, know what to do with morons, Dr. Bernstein continued. They put the sixteen-year-old girls of subnormal intelligence to work in their homes, doing housework and watching younger children. They put the boys of this class to work in the fields.

The moron of the future will be our common laborer as he has been in the past, Dr. Bernstein prophesied. But he will be more stable.

Proper Environment Needed

The problem of delinquency among morons can be very largely solved by handling the morons as the Poles and Italians in this country do, Dr. Bernstein seems to think. The biggest task now is to create the proper environment for them after they leave the state schools for mental defectives.

Stable morons who give no trouble come from stable, orderly homes. Nine-tenths of the morons are in this class. The other tenth, which is made up of the group of delinquent mental defectives, comes from disorganized homes. The state must do something for this group. If they are returned to their disorganized homes after leaving the state schools their training in routine, orderly living will be undone and they will return to their delinquent ways.

Released to Special Homes

For this group, particularly, Dr. Bernstein recommends way-stations of the sort established by the Rome State Schools over twenty years ago. When these children are released from the school they are placed in special homes, twenty of them living together under the supervision of a stable married couple. The boys are put to work on farms and the girls help with housework or in the country-town mills, when they can be given jobs without displacing other workers. Before this depression this was easy to do because the morons would work for low wages which the mentally normal scorned.

These young people spend three years at the colony-home and are discharged at the age of seventeen, able to live an independent, orderly life.

Out of 2,500 cared for in this way, less than one-tenth failed to adjust themselves when they left the colony.

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