

when he got tired of an older capital, centers the original main streets in the ruler's castle in a geometrically exact plan. It is not known whether the Markgraf thought he might have to dominate his city with cannon, but the fact remains that its basic plan is quite similar to that drawn up with quite delib-

erate military intent by Perret over a hundred years before his time, and elaborated upon by the capital of the first republic in the New World a little less than a hundred years later. Truly, the hand of Mars, city planner, is seen in many strange places!

*Science News Letter, September 8, 1934*

## PSYCHOLOGY

## Film and Radio Audiences Puzzle British Psychologist

**W**HY do so many educated people tolerate the linking of a lovely face with the accent of the gutter and the language of the garbage-can?"

This question was put by Prof. T. H. Pear, Professor of Psychology and Dean of Science Faculty at Manchester University, in delivering a paper on "Psychological Aspects of the Film and of Radio." Prof. Pear presented his paper to the Psychology Section of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in London.

"A film audience—even the most cultivated section of it—is usually tolerant of almost any crudity, cruelty or banality in the cinema," Prof. Pear said. "In ordinary life, however, these same people may be most delicately discriminative and have the highest ideals. If this is not an interesting psychological puzzle and an important sociological fact I should like to hear of one.

"Both cinema and radio represent serious, even gross, disturbances in the life of the average citizen," he contin-

ued. "This is one of the reasons that both are so important to the modern psychologist. It is idle to object that people can easily avoid having radios and can keep away from the cinema. In practice, they appear to do neither. They not only listen to radio items of a kind which they do not like, but they go on doing so—and then they write complaining letters to the broadcasting journals."

The true explanations of these facts are not yet known, Prof. Pear believes.

"The announcement that American films are to be 'morally cleaned up' involves a complicated problem for a psychologist," Prof. Pear stated. "So far as one can tell the term immoral seems here to be applied chiefly to subjects connected with sex. It would be helpful to know what the Catholic Church and the other religious sects which will follow in its wake wish to have done about the films depicting personal cruelty, sadism, dishonesty and profiteering on the next war."

Prof. Pear remarked that what the film world terms "montage"—the linking together of different situations—is in effect a defiance of time and space.

"It is interesting to notice," he said, "that every night in many minds a film story, in which montage is used, is built up and presented. It is, of course, the dream. In the dream can be traced fusion of similar situations, connected by some important mental link, fusions of words, dramatizations of abstract themes, pictorial representations of mental conflict and symbolism, where persons are made to stand for complete systems of thought. Perhaps the whole technique of the film producer may be seen in the dream."

Regarding radio, Prof. Pear remarked that the question recently raised by Dr. Hadley Cantrill, of Harvard, "Can reading or study be accomplished effectively when the radio is on?" is of sociological importance. His own experiences and those of others lead him to believe that a radio-background of pleasant, easily grasped, rhythmic but not aggressively rhythmic music is stimulating to easy mental work. He knows even mathematicians who find radio music an assistance.

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## MEDICINE

## Medicine More Effective When Given Through Skin

**C**ERTAIN medicine is more effective in treating diseases of the blood vessels when induced to enter the body by the aid of an electric current than when given by mouth or by hypodermic injection under the skin, a group of New York physicians has found. These men, who recently demonstrated their method to the American Medical Association, are Drs. Irving S. Wright, A. Wilbur Duryee, Joseph Kovacs, Dean Moffat and Joseph Wiener of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital of Columbia University.

The medicine they use has the long name of acetyl-beta-methyl choline hydrochloride. It has been found useful in treating Raynaud's disease and certain other ailments, including chronic arthritis, because it improves the local circulation.

When this medicine or similar ones are given by mouth they have little or no effect. When given by injection under the skin or into the muscles, the action is very transient because the medicine is quickly destroyed by the blood.

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