



stable or suffering from unrecognized emotional illness would endanger the whole system of civilian defense in that locality, it is pointed out by Dr. Millet.

Dr. Millet urges a more carefully worked out system of selection that would screen out undependable persons and press into service responsible individuals.

"Under the system now in operation in many cities," Dr. Millet said, "there are no qualifications for these jobs other than a willingness to serve, an apparently good physique, and, in the higher brackets, some form of political pull.

"No thought is wasted on the all important question of unrecognized emotional illness, or of an unstable temperament, which, while obviously a potential danger to the smooth operation of the whole system and to the civilian population, are often the very reasons which lead certain individuals to seek a position as Air Raid Warden.

Exclude Emotionally Unfit

"It would seem imperative that some screening device should be universally employed for the exclusion of the emotionally unfit, and that competent psychiatrists and psychologists should be appointed to a Committee on Standards for the selection of Air Raid Warden personnel.

"It would seem also that a house-to-house campaign should be conducted to impress into service responsible individuals whose record of adjustment in civilian life is at least as good as that of the average citizen.

"The question might well be raised

as to whether there is any dependable means of assuring the reliability of any individual in the face of a new and sudden type of emergency. While no criterion is infallible, it is none the less true that a proper set of screening devices would greatly minimize the possibility of emotional collapse among the Air Raid Wardens themselves. Knowledge of their task, a sense of responsibility for the welfare of others, and close familiarity with the personnel and habits of those under their immediate care would serve to build up their morale, and so to insure the likelihood of emotional preparedness for taking up the shock at the time when it is encountered.

"The civilian population in general needs to know on whom they are to depend, needs to be told what they are to do, needs to know the exact type of danger to which they may be exposed, and needs to be reassured as to all measures that will be taken for their protection in the event that a sudden attack deprives them of food, shelter, light, and water."

Science News Letter, April 25, 1942

ZOOLOGY

Rare Pygmy Whales Found On North Carolina Coast

PYGMIES exist among whales as well as among other animals. But a pygmy whale is a sizable animal compared with anything but a full-sized whale, the males measuring nine or ten feet in length and weighing 700 pounds.

Records of two such animals, washed

ashore in the region of the Carolina capes, are entered in a new publication of the Field Museum of Natural History (*Reviewed, SNL, this issue*). The description was written by Dr. Glover M. Allen of the Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology. The two little whales were dead when found. The injuries which they had suffered suggest that they may have fallen afoul of the propellers of U. S. Navy destroyers, on maneuver during the months before the outbreak of war.

A third specimen came ashore in Florida in 1940. Still alive, it was transferred to a big aquarium at Marineland, but it did not survive long.

The species is very little known, Dr. Allen states. It was not discovered until 1838, and in the 103 years since only 26 specimens have been placed on scientific record. These, however, have had a practically world-wide distribution.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1942

GEOPHYSICS

Veteran Geophysicist Honored With Bowie Medal

THE BOWIE Medal, highest honor in the special field of geophysics, was presented to Capt. N. H. Heck of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at the meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington. Until recently, Capt. Heck was chief of the Division of Geomagnetism and Seismology in the Survey; now he is Assistant to the Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, for Technical Matters.

This is the fourth award of the Bowie Medal, which was founded as a memorial to the late Dr. William Bowie of the Survey, famous for his researches on gravitational variations in and below the crust of the earth.

Science News Letter, April 25, 1942

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