

PSYCHIATRY

Cruelty Means Weakness

Psychiatrist sees evidence of Nazi weakness. Penalties on civilians may indicate feeling that major opponent cannot be beaten. Apathy toward victory is danger sign.

► CLEAR-CUT evidence of growing Nazi weakness can be seen in the harshness and increasing cruelty of the German military machine toward civilian populations, Dr. Emilio Mira, professor of psychiatry at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, stated at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York.

Dr. Mira, selected as Thomas William Salmon, lecturer for 1942, was chief psychiatrist of the Republican Army of Spain during the Spanish Civil War.

When an army finds it cannot beat its major opponent it frequently chooses a lesser one and inflicts drastic penalties on the weaker. Dr. Mira termed this "displaced anger."

"Modern warfare is best fought by men who fight with minds unclouded by ferocity," Dr. Mira stated. He explained that a "ferocity closely akin to terror, without skill and without efficiency" frequently results when anger is combined with combativeness, but that there can be good combat work without either anger or eagerness.

Forerunner of defeat for Germany is seen by Dr. Mira in the apathy which victory now brings, in contrast to the enthusiasm in the early days of the war.

"Most countries," he said, "are defeated, long before their material resources are gone, by the fact that the last vestige of elation and enthusiasm is gone. In this respect," he added, "America has a tremendous weight in this war, because elation and enthusiasm have largely left the Axis powers, while you are fresh in your enthusiasm."

So far as the individual soldier is con-

cerned, Dr. Mira found from his studies during the Spanish War that the principal causes of fear states arising during battle were: lack of leadership, overexertion brought on by lack of sleep or food, overwhelming darkness and noise, encirclement, lack of definite plan of action, and the strangeness of the situation in which the soldier finds himself.

People from the farms make better soldiers than clerks or other city dwellers, he found, because the city dweller cannot rely on his lifetime habit of looking to and planning for the future. Greatest hardship for the civilian put into military life, he declared, is the inability to plan from one day to another.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

PUBLIC HEALTH

Women Need Good Training And Living Conditions

► THE HEALTH and safety of women war workers depends on attention to adequate training and good living conditions, Miss Mary Anderson, director of the U. S. Women's Bureau, emphasized at the Industrial Hygiene Foundation meeting in Pittsburgh at Mellon Institute.

First line for defending the health and safety of these women consists of proper training in how to do the job and how to use safe technics. Training schemes are essential even for simple industrial jobs, Miss Anderson declared. They should include explanation of dangers and how to avoid them, and instruction in proper dress for safe factory work, since women's ordinary street clothes are not practical for machine jobs.

Second line for defending the health of women war workers consists of provision of proper living conditions.

"Beyond the plant gate, unsatisfactory living conditions take a heavy toll in the health and industrial efficiency of women workers," Miss Anderson said. "Some women carry heavy home responsibilities in addition to full-time jobs. Women workers also have certain housing and recreation needs somewhat different from those of men.

"In some of our war industry areas,

many workers are young women away from their homes and families, living in crowded rooms with several others, without adequate opportunities for good meals at reasonable cost, without opportunities for wholesome recreation.

"Such conditions make it likely that tuberculosis, to mention only one disease, will increase, as health authorities predict it will. Tuberculosis deserves special attention because large numbers of women workers are within that dangerous age range most affected by the enemy.

"Management, workers, local communities, State and Federal agencies, must combine forces in attacking conditions outside the factory which lead to illness, absenteeism, and less production."

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

ASTRONOMY

New Comet Discovered By Finnish Woman

► FOR the second time within the year, a Finnish woman astronomer, Miss L. Oterma of Turku Observatory, has discovered a new comet.

This one is in the constellation of Taurus, the Bull, and it is 13th magnitude, much too faint to be seen without telescopic aid.

Radiograms through international astronomical channels to Harvard Observatory, American clearing house for astronomical reports, brought to America news of the discovery. Patrol camera plates at Harvard when inspected by Dr. Fred L. Whipple verified the comet's existence and position.

The new comet is near the celestial equator and moving northward. It is not far from the famous star cluster, the Hyades, shaped like a V, which rises in the eastern sky early these autumn evenings. More observations and considerable mathematical computations will be necessary before it is determined whether the new comet will become brighter.

Two other comets were reported previously by Miss Oterma this year. One of these, discovered in February, was new, although news of it did not reach America until last month. The other report was of a comet spotted by Miss Oterma in September which proved to be a rediscovery of a comet previously known.

Since comets are named after their discoverers, there are thus two Oterma comets in the astronomical records. They are being numbered to distinguish them.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

29 Languages
by Linguaphone

In your own home you can master SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, FRENCH, RUSSIAN, JAPANESE —any of 29 languages by this amazingly simple, quick, direct conversational method. Used by a million home-study students for business, careers, professions.

Send for FREE Book

LINGUAPHONE INSTITUTE

31 R.C.A. Building New York City