

Two planes are spraying with DDT nearly 3,000 acres of the 600 infested square miles in Carbon, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. The gypsy moth has been confined to this area by State and Federal control work over the past 12 years at a cost of about \$6,000,000.

New York State has 6,000 square miles

of moth-infested territory, heaviest along the eastern edge. Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont have fought the insect for many years. Last year more than 250,000 acres of trees were completely defoliated by the pest in the New England states alone. The use of DDT, however, may change all this.

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BACTERIOLOGY

Leads Double Life

The leprosy germ has at times a rod form, and at other times a granule or spore-like form. This makes detection of bacilli difficult.

► THE LEPROSY germ, like that of tuberculosis, may lead a double life, at times going through a phase in which it has rod-like form and at other times having a granule or spore-like form, Dr. Eleanor Alexander-Jackson, of Cornell University Medical College, reports. (*Science*, June 1).

This finding may explain, she believes, why leprosy has such a long incubation period and why it is difficult to find the bacilli in certain kinds of leprosy sores.

The discovery was made on material obtained at the Branch Laboratory of the New York State Department of Health from the nasal septum of a Mexican with an early case of leprosy. Dr. Alexander-Jackson used a triple-stain

technique which has been successfully used to detect the tuberculosis mycobacterium. It causes one form of that germ to stain red, and other forms to stain blue, while other organisms, tissue cells, etc., form a light green background.

Unfortunately, when the case was diagnosed as leprosy, the patient suddenly disappeared, making it impossible to obtain further smears for study. But Dr. Alexander-Jackson believes the results she has already obtained from 32 smears of this and other patients from the U. S. Marine Hospital at Carville, La., and from Willard Parker Hospital, to be significant enough to encourage further use of the triple-stain technique.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Lack of Shame Normal

The stubborn refusal of individual Germans to admit any guilt in war crimes is due to natural defense of human mind against loss of self-respect.

► REPORTS indicate that the German people do not feel any sense of shame or guilt, either personal or national, over the cruelties inflicted on prisoners and on the people of other nations.

It is not surprising. Even the most vicious criminal may have no feeling of guilt when he is brought to justice; instead he is likely to feel that he has been "framed" and be sorry for himself.

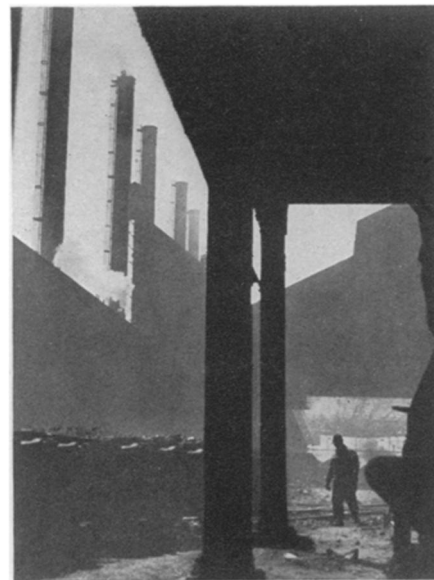
The explanation is that the deepest, strongest need of human nature—stronger almost than the need for life itself—is the need for self-respect. No one can bear to face the thought that he is fundamentally wrong or evil.

When a man is faced with undeniable

evidence of his own guilt, his mind automatically builds up defenses. He refuses to believe that his acts have had such ill effects; he says to himself that he was forced to commit the crimes, that he acted in self-defense; someone else was responsible; or perhaps he says to himself that his victims were not quite human, anyway, and so were not capable of feeling as you or I would about the torture.

Such self-deception is not healthy. But it is better than it would be for a man to admit in his own heart that he is guilty of crimes all the rest of mankind abhors.

It is a good thing that the German



ARC WELDED—These smokestacks, replacing those of conventional design, tower over this industrial scene and signify the importance of the electric arc process in steel mill maintenance. Photograph by the Lincoln Electric Company

people cling to their self-respect even when, in the eyes of the rest of the world, they must share responsibility with their leaders for serious crimes against all humanity. For when a man loses not only the respect of other men but his own as well, there is no longer any hope of his being a useful member of society. Either he kills himself or he abandons any attempt to do what is right and what is expected by one man of another.

What hope there is for building a decent society in what was Germany lies, psychologists believe, in building up on this stubborn remnant of self-respect. Keep the German people from letting go of it and saying to themselves, "I can't help what I do, I am no good." Encourage them, instead, to feel a responsibility for demonstrating to all the world that they are worthy not only of their own self-respect, but the respect of other men as well.

For example, in a declaration of the basic facts regarding human nature that must be considered to attain a lasting peace, more than 2,000 American psychologists agreed that:

"Liberated and enemy peoples must participate in planning their own destiny. Complete outside authority imposed on liberated and enemy peoples without any participation by them will not be