

pollen itself—some quality in its protein that makes it easier for human mucous membranes to react to it in that still-mysterious chemical behavior known learnedly, but not at all understandingly, as sensitization.

This touchiness of many persons' respiratory tracts to ragweed pollen has made ragweeds a profitable crop for at least a few hardy-nosed individuals. They hand-harvest quantities of it for a few pharmaceutical manufacturing concerns that use the pollen in immunizing preparations—more or less on the hair-of-the-dog-that-bit-you principle. A number of other hayfever-causing pollens are similarly harvested, but the most important by far are the ragweed pollens.

Hayfever is very definitely a disease of civilized communities. So long as our country was in the pioneer stage of development there was far less hayfever than there is now. Ragweeds do not thrive at all in the forest, and did but ill on the unbroken sod of the virgin prairie. They are primarily weeds of disturbed soil, growing most lustily on neglected road-edges and in ill-cultivated field-corners. The low ragweed also springs up in cut-over or burned-over forest areas, and in over-loaded pastures where the sod has been gnawed and trodden thin. So if we complain of these bad neighbors, the ragweeds might readily answer, "Well, it's your party—you invited us!"

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• Books of the Week •

► THE UNITED STATES QUARTERLY BOOK LIST, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1945 Library of Congress (*Government Printing Office*), 64 p., 35 cents. To carry to the other American republics information about selected U.S.A.-published books, this serial has been established officially with an advisory committee representative of scholarly scientific and library agencies. Of a high order of editorial execution, the notices are informative and usefully critical. One has to search for classifications that might interest a SNL reader, for archaeology is under fine arts, psychology is under social sciences, while medicine, along with hygiene and public health, are tucked away in biological sciences, and engineering is labeled technology. Many books that will be of immense value to our good neighbors are unlisted as presumably must be the case in a selected listing. But a relatively complete listing in 6 point type might be justified.

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complete reconstruction and modernization of Charles E. Plunkett's **ELEMENTS OF MODERN BIOLOGY**.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTION—Richard Hubbell—*Murray Hill*, 207 p., illus., \$3.

TOWARDS FREEDOM IN THE AIR—*United Nations Information Office*, 31 p., paper, 10 cents. The story of the international civil aviation conference.

WHAT IS LIFE? The Physical Aspect of the Living Cell—Erwin Schrodinger—*Macmillan*, 91 p., illus., \$1.75. Based on lectures delivered under the auspices of the Institute at Trinity College, Dublin, in February 1943.

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PSYCHIATRY

NP Discharges Think Service Affected Health

► MEN discharged from the Army because of psychoneurosis in general think their health was impaired by their Army service. They think of their health impairment chiefly in terms of physical disease and in general do not recognize the psychologic aspects.

These are among findings reported by Lt. Col. Norman Q. Brill and Col. William C. Menninger, Army Medical Corps, and Miss Mildred C. Tate, American Red Cross psychiatric social worker, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, (June 30).

The findings result from questionnaires answered by 4,178 men of some 5,000 questioned.

The "vast majority" of the men, 85.9%, are working. More are unemployed now, however, than were unemployed at the time of induction. Before induction 93.7% were employed. Those who are not working blame this on their poor health.

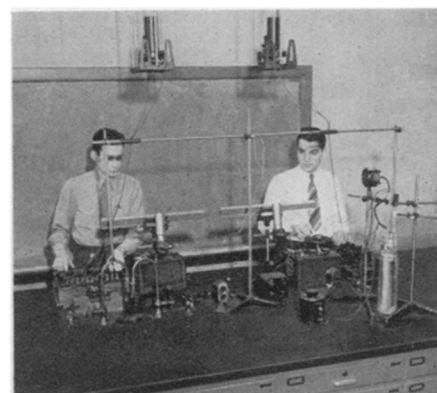
The findings, it is pointed out, reflect only what the men report about their health and may not reflect its true state. Exaggerations may have been made consciously or unconsciously.

The longer the men served in the Army, the more likely they are to think their health was affected. Those who saw overseas service think they are sicker than those who did not. There is a "distinct suggestion" that the men think their ill health is permanent.

"Active measures will have to be taken if this attitude or state of affairs is to be influenced," the report states.

What the future holds cannot be predicted, it is stated. Various conditions may work in opposite directions. Time may bring some improvement in health. The end of the war may cause a change in "intrapsychic tension and need for illness." Employment is easy to secure now. If there is increased competition for fewer jobs after the war, that will influence the adjustment of these men, as will the socioeconomic condition of the postwar world.

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CALIBRATING THERMOCOUPLES WITH MUELLER BRIDGE

A mid-western educational institution's Chemistry Dept. contains the above laboratory for calibrating thermocouples.

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• Just Off the Press •

CALCIUM METALLURGY AND TECHNOLOGY—C. L. Mantell and Charles Hardy—*Reinhold*, 148 p., illus., \$3.50. Amer. Chem. Soc. monograph series.

CANCER OF THE COLON AND RECTUM, Its Diagnosis and Treatment—Fred W. Rankin and A. Stephens Graham—*Thomas*, 358 p., illus., \$5.50. 2nd printing.

DENTAL CHRONOLOGY: A Record of the More Important Historic Events in the Evolution of Dentistry—Hermann Prinz—*Lea*, 189 p., illus., \$3.

GUIDE TO UNITED NATIONS and Allied Agencies—*United Nations Information Office*, paper, 50 cents. Limited to agencies set up as an outcome of the German attack on Poland, September 1, 1939.

HISTORY IN THE WRITING—Gordon Carroll, ed.—*Duell*, 401 p., \$3. Dispatches by the foreign correspondents of *Time*, *Life* and *Fortune*.

PISTOL AND REVOLVER SHOOTING—Walter F. Roper—*Macmillan*, 256 p., illus., \$2.49.

PRINCIPLES OF MODERN BIOLOGY—Douglas Marsland—*Holt*, 774 p., illus., \$3.75. A