

PSYCHIATRY

Better NP Care Planned

Ways proposed for taking care of veterans and servicemen with limited facilities. Would give courses to general practitioners.

► WAYS of stretching and increasing the nation's psychiatric resources to meet present and future needs, particularly those of servicemen, are proposed in a series of recommendations from repre-

sentative psychiatrists and other physicians and announced by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

Even if no more than 50,000 to 150,000 of the men discharged from the Army and Navy or rejected by Selective Service for psychiatric disabilities turned to psychiatrists for help, it would be impossible to care for them with present resources. The number of these men needing such care is estimated at more than 2,000,000.

Following a conference of 30 physicians and community workers, at which Army, Navy, Public Health Service and Veterans Administration officers were present, a five-man committee drew up recommendations briefly as follows:

1. More psychiatric training of medical officers in the Army and Navy where such training in short courses has already proved highly successful.

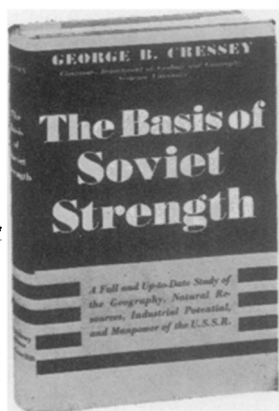
2. An impartial restudy of treatment facilities and policies of the Veterans Administration and of legislation regarding compensation for veterans with psychoneurotic reactions. Compensation has a direct bearing on treatment in such cases, it is pointed out.

3. For emergency action, development in military installations of more facilities other than hospital care for treating men with psychoneurotic reactions. The hope is that by such means, including mental hygiene units, many more men can be retained in service for treatment which is not now available in civilian life.

4. Intensified effort by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene to arouse and inform the public on the needs of veterans with psychoneurotic reactions, the NP cases.

5. Prompt setting up of courses for general practitioners on emotional disorders, technically called neuroses, and their care.

6. For the long-range problem, various procedures for increased training of physicians and medical students in the psychiatric aspects of medicine and of psychiatrists in the treatment of patients who are not in mental hospitals and in the use of auxiliary personnel and community services.



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The demand for psychiatric care is likely to increase rather than grow less and to be particularly pressing if unemployment becomes widespread, in the opinion of physicians attending the conference.

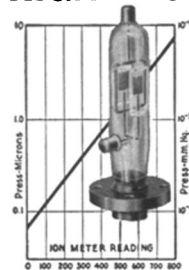
The committee which drew up recommendations based on the conference discussion was made up of Dr. David P. Barr, Cornell University Medical College; Dr. Walter L. Palmer, University of Chicago School of Medicine; Dr. Thomas A. C. Rennie, Cornell University Medical College; Dr. George S. Stevenson, the National Committee for Mental Hygiene; and Dr. George W. Thorn, Harvard Medical School.

Science News Letter, August 4, 1945

Annual "ham-and-egg" shows are held in several Southern states where Negro farmers exhibit home-cured hams and newly laid and preserved eggs; the idea originated with a Negro agricultural extension worker 30 years ago.

American *mountain lion*, known also as cougar, panther, puma and catamount, is one of the largest predatory animals of the United States and kills annually many deer, calves, colts, lambs and young goats.

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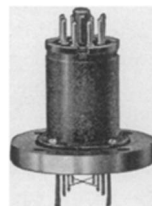
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