

PSYCHOLOGY

Personality-Prejudice Link

➤ THE person who understands himself shows less race prejudice than the person who cannot face his own motives. This was discovered through personality tests and a questionnaire of eight sociology classes at Washington Square College in New York.

"Self-accepting personality" is the name psychologists have for the person who accepts his good and bad feelings, works out his own problems, and, as shown by the test results, shows less race prejudice.

The person who cannot face his own motives and conflicts has a "self-rejecting" personality. And racial hatred serves as a "safety valve" for the repressed hostilities and desires of the self-rejecting personality.

The finds based on the tests of 169 Jewish college students are reported by Dr. Jerome Himmelfoch in *SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW*.

A liberal college atmosphere affects racial attitudes. While parental feelings strongly dominate a person's attitudes, a liberal college atmosphere tends to make self-accepting personalities more tolerant.

The liberal atmosphere, however, has less effect on students of a self-rejecting personality since they tend to cling to family ideology. But their apparent loyalty to family is only a farce because actually this attitude helps them to forget their true feelings of resentment toward their family.

The persons who showed prejudice toward one racial group were more likely to feel prejudice toward all racial groups. The students who were tested tended to show less racial prejudice toward their own racial group than toward other racial groups.

It was found that a mild race hatred and a violent race hatred have similar characteristics. Dr. Douglas M. Kelley, one of the psychiatrists at the Nuremberg trials, made available records of the Rorschach, or ink blot tests made of war criminals such as Von Ribbentrop, Rosenberg, Streicher, Ley, Goering, Frank and Doenitz. The ink blot test results suggest that mild and violent race prejudice differ only in degree, not in quality as once thought, although more research is needed in this field.

The findings of these studies will help toward planning educational programs for combating race prejudice and developing more tolerant attitudes. For greatest efficiency these programs must take into account personality differences.

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WILDLIFE

Mountain Goats Take Harrowing Journey

➤ A HARROWING hill-and-dale odyssey took place in Montana when the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service cooperated with the Montana Fish and Game Department in a wildlife restocking program. The object was to transfer game to suitable areas so that sportsmen can get a crack at it.

The plan was to move 19 mountain goats from one part of Montana to another.

First they were caught in a trap, trussed up, and blindfolded. Then their stiletto-sharp horns were cemented into the two ends of a short length of garden hose, so that they looked like push bars on baby carriages.

They were then bundled onto a rubber boat which gathered speed, shot the rapids, and plummeted down the mountain like a toboggan. This was the first half of the trip.

On the second leg they were trundled aboard a Stinson plane and flown to the foot of another mountain. Here pack horses took over. The goats were strapped onto the horses and bounced up hill to the new range area.

Six mountain goats died of fright or from unseasonable heat enroute.

In the past nine years 96 mountain goats have been live-trapped in Montana for this purpose. This is apart from the 100 or so that are killed by hunters. In 1947 the official legal bag in Montana was 128. In Idaho the same year the hunting toll was 67.

Mountain goats are large animals, averag-

ing around 200 pounds. They are not really goats at all, being members of the antelope family.

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WILDLIFE

See Large Fur Income In Sea Otters' Increase

See Front Cover

➤ ONE of the most prized and luxurious furs in the world, the pelt of the sea otter, may be available again in limited quantities, if present Government plans materialize.

For the good word, just released by the Fish and Wildlife Service, is that the Aleutian otters, as shown on the cover of this week's *SCIENCE NEWS LETTER*, are on the increase. Once all but exterminated from their Bering Sea habitat first by Russian and then by American indiscriminate slaughter, the sea otters after 40 years of protection number more than 8,000 animals. Sea otter fur is dark or reddish brown, sometimes almost black. The hairs are long and fine, velvety to the touch and lustrous. A small quantity of pelts, mostly from animals which died natural deaths, are certified and sold on the commercial market each year.

The Government refuge workers plan to establish new sea otter colonies among the islands and along the coast of Alaska. If the transplants are successful, and the colonies grow, it is expected that a small cull can be made each year of local excesses. It is estimated that this harvest might reach a yearly value of several hundred thousand dollars.

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AGRICULTURE

Pears Unfit for Canning Due to Poor Graft-Union

➤ THOSE undersized unsalable fruits which appear in Canadian and American Kieffer pear orchards may be the result of a poor graft-union. Kieffer pears are widely grown for canning.

For years pear growers have noticed that certain of their trees turned prematurely to autumn colors and that these same trees produced small fruits unsuitable for canning.

A study of the problem has been made by G. S. Randhawa of India, W. H. Upshall of Canada, and H. B. Tukey of Michigan. Their findings, reported in *SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE* (Oct., 1949) indicate that the small fruits and the coloring are caused by nutritional difficulties brought about by a poor graft-union. Apparently, the incompatible graft prevents the proper flow, or translocation, of nutrient materials within the tree.

Among other suspected causes of poor translocation are mouse injury to the roots and an overly wet soil.

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