

lower end of the magnification range overlaps that of the conventional light or optical microscope, permitting the student to progress by stages from the known to the unknown.

An important feature of the instrument is the use of permanent magnet lenses requiring no stabilization circuits and controls, according to Dr. Robert G. Picard of the RCA laboratories.

Marked simplicity is achieved without

sacrifice of high-quality performance, he stated, by means of a combination of design factors centering around an entirely new electron optical system employing permanent magnet lenses instead of the conventional electromagnetic or electrostatic lenses. Through the use of these permanent magnets, unusual stability is permanently achieved. Voltage stabilizers, current regulators, power supplies, coil windings and many controls are eliminated.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1950

#### PSYCHOLOGY

## UN Atmosphere Analysis

► THE group atmosphere in United Nations meetings is not conducive to a thoughtful consideration of the merits of proposals, Dr. Lillian Wald Kay, psychologist of Washington Square College, New York University, told the meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Worcester, Mass.

Her conclusion was based on a scientific analysis of the official summaries of the debates on atomic energy of the "Ad Hoc Political Committee" of the United Nations General Assembly in November, 1949, after President Truman had announced that an atomic explosion had occurred in Russia. Only one out of five of the statements made dealt with a discussion of the proposals.

The Communist countries attempt to dominate such proceedings "by sheer force of words," Dr. Kay found. The Soviet Union had the floor for 21% of the time, contributing 109 statements out of the 217 contributed by the Sponsoring Powers.

"Although the casual newspaper reader is not always aware of it," Dr. Kay commented, "other countries than the big five do contribute to U. N. discussions." Altogether, there were 518 units of discussion, 301 not contributed by the Sponsoring Powers being divided among 32 other countries.

All the remarks, Dr. Kay found, could be placed in five categories of content: review of the past history of the Commission; discussion of the proposals; discussion of the characteristics of atomic energy; prestige appeals (reference to prestige figures) and discussions of motivation.

Only 113 of the 563 ideas expressed—20%—had to do with evaluation of the proposals, although 19 countries, including the five Western Powers, concentrated their discussion in this category. Review of the past history of the Commission was primarily a Western device. Of the 29 items in that category, 20 were contributed by the five Western Powers. Censure of the Soviet Union was often implied in these reviews, but rarely, if ever, overt.

The use of prestige references was restricted to the Soviet Union delegation.

The discussions of motivation nearly all attributed evil motives to other delegations. This was also primarily a Soviet device, it was found.

Outcome of the discussions was a failure to break the impasse on the question of atomic energy.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1950

The small amount of *sulfur* in an egg is sufficient to cause the tarnishing of silverware; the tarnish is silver sulfide.

## ● RADIO

Saturday, May 6, 3:15 p. m. EDST

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Kirby S. Howlett, Jr., President of the American Trudeau Society of the National Tuberculosis Association, will talk on "Chemicals Against Tuberculosis".

(This program, originally scheduled for April 22, was postponed due to baseball.)

*Staypak* is a coined word for a hard wood made by compressing softwoods.

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