

PSYCHOLOGY

# Psychologists Organize In National Emergency

## Committee Formed Under National Research Council To Coordinate Research and Aid National Government

**O**RGANIZATION of psychologists to aid in problems of national defense is disclosed in announcement of an Emergency Committee on Psychology of the National Research Council.

The committee will attempt to keep in touch with and coordinate psychological work being done in the nation with a view to preventing duplication of effort and to being able to furnish any aid that may be requested by the Federal Agencies.

Scientists whose research or special knowledge would contribute to the psychological defense of the nation are urged in an announcement in the *Journal of Consulting Psychology* (Jan.-Feb.) to send their ideas direct to Dr. Karl M. Dallenbach, of Cornell University, chairman of the Emergency Committee. This, it is felt, will avoid the confusion and delay that might result were individuals to communicate directly with agencies or officials of the Government.

Included on the committee's membership are nine prominent psychologists, among them specially appointed representatives of all the leading national psychological associations.

Contact with the Government is provided for in the selection of two members of the Committee, Prof. Robert M. Yerkes and Prof. Walter R. Miles, both of Yale University, to get in touch informally with individuals in the Federal Government to express the willingness of psychologists of the nation to render service in furthering national defense.

Action was taken by the Committee at its first meeting on several urgent problems, and research programs of defense importance were discussed.

The effect of war experiences on the lives of individuals will be given special study by Prof. R. A. Brotemarkle, of the University of Pennsylvania, and a group of psychologists he will pick to assist him.

It was recommended that problems of perception be studied by a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Prof. S. W. Fernberger, of the University of Pennsylvania.

Published material having to do with military psychology will be canvassed and listed under the direction of Prof. Carroll C. Pratt, of Rutgers University.

Necessity for investigating problems of nervous ills in connection with the present emergency was discussed. Another Committee of the Research Council on Problems of Neurotic Behavior will be requested to consider such problems which would include the working out of methods for detecting and caring for neurotic persons.

The Committee considered a request for the names of psychologists acquainted with South America, having traveled, taught, or done research there, and of those able to speak Spanish and Portuguese. This request was referred to Dr.

Leonard Carmichael, a member of the Committee who is also director of the Government's National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel.

Members of the Committee are: Dr. Carl E. Guthe, University of Michigan, chairman of the Research Council's Division of Anthropology and Psychology (ex officio); Dr. Karl M. Dallenbach, Cornell University, chairman of the Committee, representative of the psychology section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Prof. Gordon Allport, Harvard University, representing the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues; Prof. R. A. Brotemarkle, University of Pennsylvania, representing the American Association for Applied Psychology, President Leonard Carmichael, Tufts College; Prof. Walter S. Hunter, Brown University; Dr. Walter R. Miles, Yale University, representing the American Psychological Association; Prof. Carroll C. Pratt, Rutgers University, representing the Society of Experimental Psychologists; Dr. Dael L. Wolfe, University of Chicago, representing the Psychometric Society; and Prof. Robert M. Yerkes, Yale University.

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# Plan Psychological Defense For America's Morale

**T**O KEEP up the spirits of the American people and save them from possible discouragement, panic, or demoralization in any future war of nerves, psychologists have mobilized their talents and are planning a psychological defense.

A recent gathering in Washington to study the "Psychological Factors in National Morale" brought together 20 leading psychologists and representatives from various agencies of the Government, it is revealed in the *Psychological Bulletin*, (December).

Research in this field is also attracting the attention of individual psychologists, another item in the same journal indicates.

Psychologists want to know what a year of peace-time compulsory military training or service will do to the attitudes of American youth. Will they be more or less militaristic? More or less patriotic? More or less inclined toward Fascism, Socialism, or Communism?

A before-and-after survey of opinion

among selectees will provide a scientifically-based answer to such questions to replace present guesses and speculations. Psychologists are urged to pool their efforts along such lines and coordinate their research through a special committee on "Morale in a Democracy" of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. Dr. Gardner Murphy of the College of the City of New York is chairman.

Among the scientific leaders taking part in the Morale Conference were Dr. Gordon W. Allport, social psychologist of Harvard University, who acted as chairman; Dr. J. R. Angell, educational counselor for the National Broadcasting Company; Prof. Ruth Benedict, anthropologist of Columbia University; Dr. R. A. Brotemarkle, of the University of Pennsylvania, who made a special study of morale during World War days; Dr. Harvey Cantlil, student of radio and public opinion, Princeton; Dr. Leonard Carmichael, president of Tufts College