

The magnesium sulphate, it is believed, acts by paralyzing temporarily the muscles, so that although the metrazol still produces a violent discharge of energy from the brain it is prevented from producing corresponding contractions in the muscles.

The Indian arrow poison, curare, has previously been used for this purpose, but is difficult to obtain.

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## Clashes Threat to Nation

**C**LASHES between labor unions, business men and politicians threaten the health of the nation just as conflicts in an individual produce insanity, the American Neurological Association was told.

National obedience to social health laws can cure the disease of clashing interests just as the physician can restore health to broken personalities, Dr. Edward A. Strecker and Dr. Kenneth E. Appel, of Pennsylvania Hospital, University of Pennsylvania Medical School, declared.

Work and the satisfaction of accomplishment are prescribed by these psychiatrists as protection against national as well as individual disorders of the emotions and mind. An understandable but unfortunate emphasis on money and material standards has kept many from work, they said, because of the insistence on higher wages and no work, rather than lower wages and wholesome work.

"It is a serious question," the report stated, "whether labor unions in the fight for more equitable conditions of life and work did not unwittingly decrease opportunities for employment and thereby spread the disease of enforced idleness.

"And now in the face of world emergencies, disputes on hours of work and wages are frequently holding up defense production, when perhaps the only guarantee of freedom for any possible discussion of such matters and the only possibility of decent wages at all in the future, depends on speeding production.

"It is as if two firemen should discuss as to who was to hold the hose and who should turn on the hydrant when a fire was rapidly consuming a house."

The experience of unhealthy dependency produces helplessness and insecurity and resulting fear which makes the individual demand more help and support, the psychiatrists said. This is true whether the dependency is that of a child on his parent, the unemployed on the government, or the wealthy on their fortunes.

"Millions of our people are developing characteristics that are not only unwholesome but a serious burden on and threat to our economic and cultural sanity," they declared.

"Malignant tendencies exist on both sides of the economic fence. We must

not unnecessarily contrast the interests of the different classes nor exaggerate their differences. A realization should be cultivated that all groups are standing on common ground and unless they pull together all will suffer and perhaps be lost."

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### ECONOMICS

# Japan's Latest Bottleneck Is General Labor Shortage

## Last Year Thousands of 12-Year-Old School Children Worked in Heavy Industries, Chinese Economist Says

**P**LAGUED by numerous bottlenecks, Japan has a new bottleneck threatening its precarious war economy—shortage of labor, any kind of labor.

So the situation is analyzed by a Chinese economist, Dr. T. Y. Hu of the Chinese Economic Council, in a new report on *Japan's Economy Under War Strain*.

Labor shortages, which at first affected skilled workers, have spread to the general supply and Japan has now tapped every available inexpensive source, Dr. Hu concludes, citing these indicators:

Last year, thousands of children 12 years of age just out of grade school were recruited for heavy industries. Pressure was exerted to get Korean workers to come to Japan, bringing 35,000 out of an expected 85,000. The ban on women working in mine pits has been lifted. About 25,000 prison inmates have been put to work producing munitions.

To expand current output now—and Japan's schedule for the fiscal year ending April 1942 calls for 11% increase in "available national income"—the war-strained country is trying to get more production out of its plants and enterprises, Dr. Hu states. The attempt is being made to transform Japan's innumerable small-scale enterprises into more efficient units.

That individual efficiency is unlikely to be pushed farther is indicated by statistics of factory injuries, industrial casualties and relative retardation of growth among working youths, which are attributed to long working hours and hard working conditions.

Trying to expand "available national income" 11%, Japan cannot hope to borrow, and her gold store must now be

dwindling fast, Dr. Hu further points out. The increasing burden must be shouldered mainly by civilians taking further cuts in their standard of living, which endangers the stirring of war-weariness and discontent.

That war economy is straining Japanese people so acutely that even the traditionally patriotic, docile, and persevering Japanese are restive, Dr. Hu infers from official attempts to appease the masses and other political trends. No signs of social revolution loom on the horizon. But it is considered not impossible that increasing war strain may breed anything from "a palace revolution" to a popular movement against continuance of war.

Japan is more dependent on foreign trade for war materials than ever as the international situation advances, Dr. Hu reports. More than four-fifths of Japan's vital war imports, he states, must come from "her two main rivals, the United States and the British Empire."

The report adds: "Unless Japan can have continued access to the material resources of the United States and the British Empire, and of areas within the range of their influence—whether through normal trade channels or as a special diplomatic concession—she can never hope to develop sufficient strength even to cope with the 'China Incident,' let alone to realize her grandiose dream of the 'Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere'."

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German troops sing as *breathing exercise* as well as for morale, says an American who soldiered in Germany, and he adds that some army songs are written to require deep inhaling and exhaling.