

wave-length. This wave-length is about midway between those of the red and blue lights. Hence the fog-penetrating power of the sodium light is just about middling.

The white light of the tungsten fila-

ment contains all the colors from red to blue. It is true that the blue rays are cut down by the fog, but the remaining red rays have a fog-penetrating power superior to the yellow light of the sodium lamps. This evens the score.

Science News Letter, August 30, 1941

PSYCHOLOGY

National Hates and Loves Built Up by 'Conditioning'

A People May Be "Conditioned" To Follow a Leader Or Hate a Political System Like Rats in Laboratory

A NATION going to war is like the animal in a laboratory maze artificially "conditioned" by the psychologist to turn to the right or to the left.

This picture of a mass of people led blindly to destruction by false ideas is painted by Dr. Trigant Burrow, scientific director of The Lifwynn Foundation, New York City.

A whole people, he says, like an individual, may build up emotional prejudices attached to slogans or symbols which become obsessions and which completely dominate their behavior.

They may be conditioned to follow fanatically this or that leader and to hate this or that political system in exactly the same way that a rat is condi-

tioned to go down the right alley of a maze and to avoid the left one.

In the laboratory of phylobiology established by Dr. Burrow and his associates it has been shown that individuals and peoples are trained to attack emotional prejudices or affects to mere symbols—political, economic or religious—and that these symbols have induced reactions in us that are now definitely pathological. Our likes and dislikes, allegiances and hates have nothing to do with the natural requirements of the organism—the individual's own inborn needs.

In Dr. Burrow's experimental work with individuals and social groups he finds that stimuli symbolized as "right" and stimuli symbolized as "wrong" have placed man in a position identical with that of the experimental animal.

When the laboratory rat finds the turnings in his maze becoming more and more difficult and the "right door" looking more and more like the "wrong door," he becomes confused. His behavior is disorganized. He may run senselessly about in purposeless circles. He has fallen victim to a "neurosis."

So with man and his dilemma of right and wrong. As Dr. Burrow points out, whole peoples have become neurotic in trying to find their way through a bewildering maze of artificial prejudices and ideologies. The foundation of man's world is threatened by the hostility of factions with opposing emotional attachments.

Nations have broken down and run amok.

When war is over and the "new social order" is established, the world's ills will not be cured, he says, by any political demagogue with a partisan ideology.

We need to look to scientists trained in the understanding of human behavior, as they alone can reckon with the conflict in man's organism and his resulting "social neurosis."

Science News Letter, August 30, 1941

A kind of *cyperus*, close relative of papyrus that Egyptians used as writing "paper," grows in Louisiana, but the American plant is rated useless as writing material.

Here's a way to laugh at the heat

Draw a nice cool corpse up beside your easy chair and let delicious cold shivers course up and down your spine while you read a blood-chilling Penguin mystery.

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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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

Lt. Col. Edwin S. Van Deusen, of the Motor Transport Division of the Quartermaster General's Office, will tell how Uncle Sam transports his Army by motor.

Listen in each Thursday.