

PSYCHOLOGY

Colleges Are Schizophrenic, Psychologist Tells Meeting

Failure to Meet New Situations, "Childish" Inability To Manage Own Affairs, Pointed Out as Symptoms

AMERICA's colleges are schizophrenic, Dr. James L. Graham of Lehigh University, told the meeting of the American Psychological Association at Evanston, Ill.

Their mental illness is curable, he indicated. The present world emergency may be the shock that will bring them out of their daydreams into today's realities just as individual mental patients are shocked into sanity with huge doses of insulin or metrazol.

Symptom of the mental illness of colleges, Dr. Graham said, is their failure to change their methods of education to meet changes in our culture from what it was in pioneer days. Parallel to the schizophrenic's regression to childish ways is the college's failure to assume control of its own funds and policies.

Like the schizophrenic, they, too, cling to rituals and are preoccupied with affairs that avoid facing reality emphasizing the developments of individual leadership and rewards in terms of grades or degrees.

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Drivers' Defective Vision

DRIVERS with vision below the oculist's rating of 20/30 should be restricted in speed when driving at night, Dr. A. R. Lauer, of Iowa State College, told the meeting. A 30% loss in visual acuity makes it necessary for a driver to have double the light in his headlights that a normal person needs in order to see against the glare of oncoming headlights.

The angle at which the opposing headlight glare hits the eye of the driver is important in affecting his vision, Dr. Lauer found in experiments in which persons in a dark booth tried to read or see dolls in a miniature roadway. Depressing the headlight beam when passing reduces the glare effects to about one-fourth of that experienced with a high beam.

One of the most important factors in reducing vision through glare is the sidewise angle of the approaching light. If it is only one degree from the line of sight, the glare effect is three times

what it is at three degrees. Look toward the right shoulder of the road to cut down the glare, Dr. Lauer advises.

It is not necessary to cut down on the brightness of headlights to eliminate glare, in Dr. Lauer's opinion.

"Since headlights, as made today, will not give over one foot candle at the eye height of the driver when meeting a car," he said, "it seems the intensity could be materially increased without producing hazards of glare."

If you walk in the roadway and want to be seen by a driver facing headlight glare, wear light-colored clothing. It takes only about one-fourth as much light for the driver to discern light objects in the face of oncoming lights as it does to see dark objects.

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"Lie-Detector" Doesn't

THE so-called "lie detector," which measures changes in the electric resistance of the skin when the suspect hears embarrassing things said to him, would not work very well with drug addicts.

The ordinary level of skin resistance is increased by morphine addiction, Dr. Ralph R. Brown, of the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital, at Lexington, Ky., has found. But the size of the telltale changes in this resistance at disturbing words is decreased. There is less difference between the instrument reading at disturbing words and its reading at words not emotion rousing.

Withdrawal of the drug brings a marked increase in the response to words, especially words concerned with sex.

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Education Aids Morale

MORALE, or a good fighting spirit, may depend more on internal factors within the individual than it does on pep talks or the circumstances he faces, the psychologists learned from a report by Dr. Goodwin Watson of Teachers College, Columbia University.

Men with a college education have better morale, Dr. Watson found, than men who have not finished high school.

Married men and men with several dependents have better spirits than do single men and men without such responsibilities. Men with any sort of religion have better morale than those with none.

Study of different occupations revealed that morale is lowest among those working at skilled or semi-skilled trades, in factories, or as clerks in offices. It is highest among writers, salesmen, teachers and students.

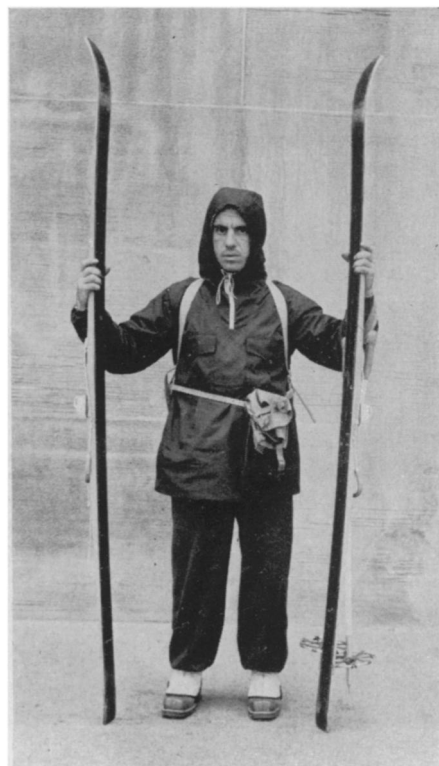
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Psychological Defense

AN ALL-OUT contribution to national defense, broader than military psychology, was urged on psychologists by Dr. Edgar A. Doll, director of research at The Training School, Vineland, New Jersey. Dr. Doll spoke as president of the American Association for Applied Psychology.

At least five major areas of psychological usefulness must be encompassed, he said, in such a total program:

1. The armed forces, where psychologists can aid in selection, training and classification of men, in preservation of morale, and psychological warfare.



GREEN VS. WHITE

An American soldier tries out the new reversible ski uniform, wearing outside the forest green that blends with conifers. (See page 168)