

would hardly please Nazi race "experts".

Prof. Robert H. Lowie of the University of California and Prof. Otto Klineberg of Columbia University, who discuss respectively the achievements of human races and mental testing of racial and national groups, give no comfort to believers in racial superiorities. Their findings, and those of co-workers whom they review, load the scales rather heavily on the side of environmental influences.

*Science News Letter, October 11, 1941*

PSYCHOLOGY

### Army Seeks New Yardstick To Measure Flyers

THE ARMY is searching for a new kind of yardstick. With it they want to measure the dauntless spirit, keen perception and sure-fire judgment that make the fighting flyer a success.

Three new psychological research centers are being established at Army Air Corps fields where intensive work will be done to find rapid, accurate ways of picking men who will make good pilots, good leaders, good observers or good bombardiers.

Taking up the threads of research where pioneers in this field dropped them at the end of the first World War, psychologists will now seek out new devices and tricks of technique fitted to selection and training of men for modern blitzkrieg warfare in the stratosphere and dive-bombing to the earth.

Psychologists will work closely with physiologists and medical officers in this research because it is recognized how closely interrelated are the problems of mind and body.

The Army has picked to head these psychological research centers, under the medical division of the office of the Chief of Air Corps, men who are recognized as leaders in psychology. Among them are: Dr. John C. Flanagan, of the Cooperative Test Service of the American Council on Education, who will direct the project from Washington; Prof. Robert T. Rock, of Fordham University, who will be at Kelly Field, Texas; Prof. Laurance F. Shaffer, of Carnegie Institute of Technology, at Maxwell Field, Ala.; and Prof. Arthur W. Melton, of the University of Missouri, probably at Santa Ana, Calif. A psychological staff will also work at the School of Aviation Medicine, in the medical research laboratory.

*Science News Letter, October 11, 1941*

Old automobiles are being converted into farm tractors in England.

MINERALOGY

# New Mineral Discovered With Smallest Crystals

## So Small that 1,000 Laid End to End Would Measure Only an Inch, Crystals Have Been Successfully Measured

MINERAL crystals so small that 1000 of them laid end to end would reach only an inch, have been successfully measured by Samuel G. Gordon, mineralogist at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

These crystals are of a new mineral, just discovered in a mine in Argentina, and flown air mail to the Academy's expert for description and naming. They are the smallest mineral crystals ever measured, the previous smallest being twice as large.

Called sarmientite by Mr. Gordon and Dr. Victorio Angelelli, of the Argentina department of mines and geology, co-author of the paper in which it is described, the new mineral is found in fair-sized nodules of great purity, of a pale yellow-orange color, in iron sulfate deposits of the Santa Elena mine.

This mine, high in the mountains of the department of Barreal, lies between San Juan and Calingasta, at an elevation of around 5,000 feet. It has been worked only a short time, yielding alums for use in water purification.

Already a number of rare minerals have been found there, some so rare that they had previously been found only at the original localities, mostly in Europe. Practically nothing was known about these rarities until they were rediscovered in the Argentine mine, and restudied by Mr. Gordon.

The new mineral was picked out of a mass of rare minerals by members of the department of mines and geology of Argentina. The pale yellow-orange nodules were unlike anything seen before in the mine and excited the interest of Dr. Angelelli, who believed they might be a new mineral. A sample was dispatched at once to the Academy, because of its high rank in the field of micro-mineralogy.

Mr. Gordon studied the nodules under a high power microscope, and could see that they were made up of exceedingly minute prisms, the largest of which were only a thousandth of an inch long. One of the largest, for the smallest were only a twelfth as large, he mounted on

the point of a pin, carefully orienting it under the microscope. It was transferred to a two-circle goniometer, a complicated instrument for determining the angles of minute crystals. Light signals could be seen as the various faces of the crystal were turned and the angles of the faces were measured. He was then able to draw a figure of the crystal and classify it as of the monoclinic system. Chemical analysis disclosed that it was a hydrous iron arsenate-sulfate.

The new mineral was named for Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, a great Argentinian educator and statesman, who was born in 1811 and died in 1888. Sarmiento held the offices of minister

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