

PSYCHIATRY

"Crisis Psychology" Danger Stressed by Psychiatrist

Psychiatrists Urged To Use Their Knowledge of Human Mind to Develop Defense Against War of Nerves

WARNING against the dangers of developing a domestic brand of the German "crisis psychology" was sounded by Dr. Bernard Glueck, Ossining, New York, psychiatrist, speaking before the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

Overworking of such words as "crisis," "emergency," "danger," "blitzkrieg," "total war," may contribute toward the creation of the state of mind that Germany has used so effectively as a weapon against enemies and also to drive the German people, he said.

"We must avoid," Dr. Glueck said, "the kind of mishandling of our own psychology which would encourage a fear of being afraid."

Psychiatrists should use their knowledge of the human mind to develop counter-offensives against Hitler's war of nerves, he indicated.

"We know something of the techniques of influencing attitudes and feelings in the individual," he said. "We must apply ourselves to the task of discovering methods for the application of the consultation-room techniques to ever larger groups of people. We know something of the subjective conditions in the nature of man which favor the development of anxiety, guilt, and fear of divided, sometimes antithetical, loyalties that are so crippling to behavior. We know something of the nascent Hitlerisms and Quislingisms within our own natures."

But psychiatrists need not confine themselves to the treatment of psychological casualties.

"We must find," he said, "the means of making our people aware of the strengths within them."

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Won't Fit Jobs Held Open

YOU CAN hold his job for the man who goes into the Army, but you can't put him back into it when he comes home, Dr. George H. Preston, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene of Maryland, told the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

The returning soldier won't fit the old job, because he has changed, Dr. Preston said.

"In the normal course of events," he explained, "a man moves from position to position, assuming responsibility, acquiring seniority, and frequently increasing his income from year to year. In civil life, the job grows with the man and the man's standard of living grows with the job."

But the old saying, "The Army will make a man of him," is significant, because the Army does just that. When a man comes out of the Army, he can't go back to a job as messenger or junior clerk or apprentice; he can't go back to a college class. He is a man, not a boy.

But the maturity given by Army life is a one-sided sort of development, Dr. Preston pointed out, because in the Army an individual has no chance to develop complete adult responsibility. He learns to live by regulations, not by his own planning. He knows how to be responsible for carrying out his own duties, but he has been able to spend his entire week's pay on Saturday night and still eat next week.

The readjustment of the returning soldier is more difficult for white-collar workers and those in skilled occupations than for unskilled workers or farm laborers, Dr. Preston said.

It is much easier, he said, for men who already were mature when they went into the Army.

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ASTRONOMY

Film Shows Sun Tornado Big Enough to Cover U. S.

MOTION pictures of fiery gas in the atmosphere of the sun large enough to cover the entire United States and whirling at a speed of 120,000 miles per hour are described by Dr. Edison Pettit of the Mount Wilson Observatory in a report to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. The photographs were taken with a new type of instrument,

an interference polarizing monochromator, that has not been previously used in this work.

When first seen the solar tornado was 8000 miles wide at its base and 38,000 miles high. A smoke-like column projecting from its top reached an elevation of 68,000 miles after which it bent over and returned to the sun's surface. During the course of the observations a knot of gas broke away from the top and was ejected upward with a speed of 130,000 miles per hour. About two hours later the whole vortex started to rise, losing its spiral structure but remaining attached to the sun by two fine streamers. It finally faded from sight completely.

Dr. Pettit stressed the advantages of motion pictures over single photographs in the study of fiery clouds in the solar atmosphere.

"Solar tornados have been seen to rotate faster and faster until they blew up like desert dust storms," he said, "and moving pictures of such objects in action, should help us to determine the exact speed at which disintegration occurs."

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METEOROLOGY

Not One Stratosphere, But Two, Says Scientist

NOT just one stratosphere, but two, hover high in air above earth's middle latitudes, declares Dr. Henryk Arctowski, noted Polish meteorologist now working at the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Arctowski was brought to his conclusion by a study of radiosonde data from very high altitudes obtained by the little "robot weathermen" who sail aloft on balloons sent up by the U. S. Weather Bureau.

The stratosphere begins at the level where the atmosphere no longer gets any colder with continued ascent. This level is known as the tropopause. Above the equator, the tropopause is about 12 miles up, and it slopes downward from this level toward the poles. The earth therefore has an atmospheric roof.

However, the data studied by Dr. Arctowski showed that above the tropopause in the temperate zones, the temperature remained steady for some distance up, then started declining again, reaching a second steady point at a still higher level. Above the middle latitudes, therefore, there is a second tropopause, marking the boundary of a "pseudostatosphere"—an attic beneath the roof of the world.

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