

"The whole world is queer except thee and me, and sometimes even thee seems a little queer"

HANDBOOK OF PSYCHIATRY

by Winfred Overholser, A.B., M.D., Sc.D.
and Winifred V. Richmond, B.S., A.M., Ph.D.

It is the authors' belief that much of the layman's dread of mental abnormalities comes from ignorance of the psychiatric disorders and their treatment, and the way must be prepared for the understanding of the problems of prevention and therapy.

To such clarification this book is aimed, and the following subjects are discussed: the difference between psychology and psychiatry, the development of psychiatry and psychoanalysis, the role of psychiatry in daily life, and various mental illnesses and their treatment.

The reviewers have said of this book: "... it would probably be difficult to find a more admirable 'first reader' in psychiatry;" "... a sensible and authoritative discussion of the modern concepts of psychiatry ... well documented, simply worded, and carefully prepared;" "... understandable to the laity and also informative to the expert."

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PHYSIOLOGY

Save Muscles in Polio

➤ LOSS OF MUSCLE STRENGTH in victims of polio can be prevented by stimulating them with electrical current, the American Congress of Physical Medicine was told in Washington.

Good results with electrical stimulation treatment were reported by Dr. Stafford Osborne and Dr. A. J. Kozman, of Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago; Dr. Harry D. Bouman of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine; and Dr. Andrew C. Ivy of the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

One group of patients treated had had polio ranging from six months to six years, while in the other group the electrical stimulation technique was begun im-

mediately after diagnosis of the disease. Treatment was given daily for six days a week for an average period of nine months.

In both groups the doctors reported favorable results. In the patients who had polio the longest, the size of the treated muscles increased. In the new group of polio patients, muscle stimulation prevented their wasting away.

A "remarkable psychological effect" also resulted. Polio patients were encouraged to see and feel motion in muscles that they could not previously move. This aided their re-educational process.

The physicians recommend that the treatment should be started immediately after diagnosis of polio has been made.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

PSYCHOLOGY

Sex Criminals Prejudiced

➤ SEX CRIMINALS are more deeply prejudiced than are other prisoners against other races, religious groups, foreigners or other minority groups, Dr. William R. Morrow, of the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kans., found in a study of the hostilities of inmates of a state prison. Dr. Morrow reported his study to the American Psychological Association meeting in Boston.

At first, his study seemed to show no difference between other types of offenders in the extent of their intolerance toward minorities. More intensive study of 14 inmates, however, showed important differences in their motivation.

The crimes of the highly prejudiced prisoners were, without exception, desperate attempts to prove that they were "tough" and "he-men." They were attempts to act the badman by grabbing power, or were sex crimes against women which showed a hostile, exploitive character.

The crimes of those who have little prejudice against other races or religious groups are of a completely different sort. These men, with only one possible exception, seemed to be trying to find mothering or love. They were driven to their crimes by their failure to find the mother-like affection that they craved.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

Baby Mental Tests

➤ BABIES under six months old can be given baby mental tests to predict whether they will be bright when they grow older.

Later tests show that these predictions are actually better than was expected, Dr. Sibylle Escalona, of the Menninger Clinic, told the meeting.

The predictions were made to aid in the placing of babies for adoption and were based on 113 tests given to 51 babies.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

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