PSYCHOLOGY

Belligerency Not Inborn

Warlike tendencies in mankind are acquired, an international group of social scientists believe. Science may help to maintain peace.

➤ SCIENCE is often blamed for causing war. The answer is: Man, not knowledge, causes war. Consider the combative cavemen or the death-to-death struggles between the ancients before the dawn of modern science.

War can be avoided and peace maintained by using the methods and knowledge of science. That is the belief of those who have been working on the problem.

"War is not born into men; it is built into men." Two thousand American psychologists in 1945 agreed that "no race, nation or social group is inevitably warlike."

An international group of social scientists summoned this year by UNESCO put it this way:

"There is no evidence to indicate that wars are necessary and inevitable consequences of 'human nature' as such. The problem of peace is the problem of keeping group and national tensions and aggressions within manageable proportions and of directing them to ends that are at the same time personally and socially constructive so that man will no longer seek to exploit man."

Scientists in arguing the usefulness of science in maintaining the peace are not suggesting that they should take over the day-to-day international relations job from the diplomats or that they should replace the military commanders. They do believe that they can and do help both the diplomats and the military in very practical ways so far as they are allowed.

Science and technology constitute the one field of human endeavor that is most truly international. They provide bridges between peoples, nations and ideologies that art, music, religion and business cannot furnish.

One of the tasks of UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) is to apply science to the international scene. When the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO met recently in Boston there were suggestions of immediate as well as long-time contributions of science to world peace.

Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Nobelist in physics and chancellor of Washington University, St. Louis, listed science's human values and the insistence on freedom and honesty as major contributions to world peace.

Freedom and honesty are basic to science and at the very heart of the democracy of free peoples. Yet Dr. Compton distinguished between a state of cooperation undisturbed by war and a peace that gives satisfactory life to free peoples. All Americans, he said, are more concerned with the maintenance of human freedom than even with peace. Science, he recognized, could be used to produce the peace of serfdom instead of freedom. This would happen if the Eastern instead of the Western political pattern were permitted to become dominant.

Science naturally develops on a worldwide front and provides all nations with natural channels to and from their neighbors. Dr. Compton considers the encouragement of the growth of science and technology throughout the world as the most powerful existing force working toward world peace.

Is there enough time for this force to operate? That is a major question. War would torpedo the world organization necessary to apply science and technology to food, transport, energy and other such requisites. For these reasons alone, war would be a crime against civilization.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1948

ENGINEERING

Cadmium Mercury Lamp

➤ A NEW TYPE of mercury vapor lamp, designed for use in motion picture studios to replace the carbon arc lamp now employed, was demonstrated to the Society of Motion Picture Engineers in Washington. It is actually a cadmium-mercury lamp, in which a small amount of cadmium is added to the mercury.

Adding the cadmium to the mercury inside its rugged quartz bulb adds enough red and other colors to the light to make it suitable for color movies. The experimental lamp produces high-power light which streams from a high-pressure arc which, although only as long as a peanut, is about half as bright as the sun.

This short-arc lamp was one of several experimental mercury types demonstrated by Eugene W. Beggs of the Westinghouse Lamp division, Bloomfield, N. J. He dubbed it a 10,000-watt "cantaloupe" of quartz, and the brightest cadmium mercury light ever made in America. While it rivals the carbon arc in brilliance, it will add to studio comfo t because it is cool, radiating only a minimum amount of heat.

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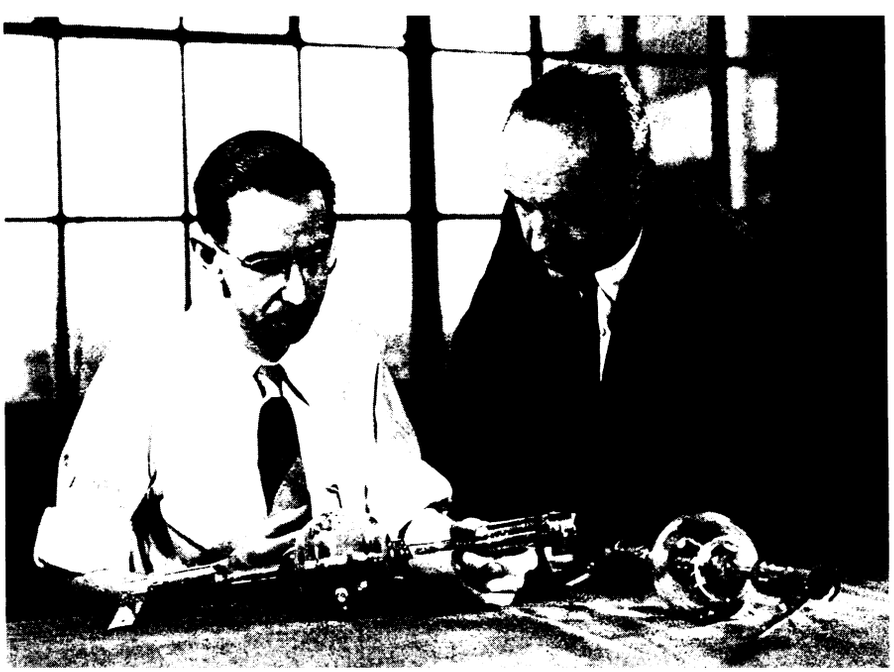

HIGH POWER LIGHT—The experimental 10,000-watt movie lamp which is for direct current operation is shown at the left and a similar lamp for alternating current circuits is at right.