

PSYCHIATRY

Escape Through Sickness

Life in Soviet Russia's planned community places certain pressures on the individual that may lead to mental illness if adjustment to the need of collectivity is not achieved.

THE RUSSIAN CIVILIAN who balks at the planned life ahead of him sometimes pushes himself through the one door of escape, into sickness.

For in Russia today, any person who deviates from the master plan for a perfect society must be corrected by persuasion, suggestion or any form of social punishment, Dr. George Serban of City Hospital, Elmhurst, N. Y., reports.

This may cause the individual to act neurotic and, fighting more or less consciously and deliberately against the unlimited state authority, escape into sickness.

Commenting further on the Pavlovian principles of psychiatry used in Russia, Dr. Serban explains that the Soviet psychiatrist must use scientific methods to establish a balance of forces between the individual and the state in order to recuperate the sick citizen for society.

The psychiatrist must never admit that the patient's conflict is caused by the social organization, the scientist explains in

the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Aug. 1).

In Russia, a child's upbringing, education by the school, literature, radio and television, and social life are directed to form conditioned reflexes in supporting the aims of the state and stimulating the individual to them. Even the instinctual drive is channeled according to the needs of the state, Dr. Serban says.

For instance, a 28-year-old woman was admitted to a Russian hospital because she was very depressed. The woman had had a normal childhood and became an engineer. While in college, she fell in love with and married an army officer.

At the end of her college career she was sent to a plant hundreds of miles from her home, which separated her from her husband. She began to doubt her love for her husband. She felt isolated and alone and became very sad. Her work, in her opinion, was not efficient and she was told that she delayed production.

She could not quit the job for fear of being sued as a saboteur. Gradually she lost interest in life and wanted to commit suicide. The patient was "cured" by a psychiatrist who convinced her that social motivation was more important than personal and emotional needs. She was taught to adjust herself to the need of the collectivity, to adapt to the new condition by solving the personal problem in accordance with official requirements.

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CHEMISTRY

Non-Gelling Tung Oil Promises Better Paints

EVERY-DAY paints and varnishes that contain tung oil, the secret ingredient in the lacquers of ancient China, are now possible.

A new method for processing tung oil eliminates the possibility of its gelling during cooking, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has reported. The addition of small amounts of zinc resinate controls gelling, the formation of an insoluble, rubber-like mass.

Long recognized as a "super" drying oil, tung oil gives extreme toughness, water resistance and high gloss to coatings in which it is used. The paints and varnishes made with the new tung oil should be competitive costwise with those using other drying oils, the USDA said. Easy to use and apply, they are described as excellent for interior and exterior surfaces.

The processing method was developed in cooperation with the Tung Research and Development League. Dr. Leo A. Goldblatt directed the research assisted by Lucien L. Hopper, research fellow for the tung oil organization. A public service patent, No. 2,829,064, has been granted on the process and is available for licensing to U. S. manufacturers without cost.

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ASTRONAUTICS

Rough Going Foreseen In Atmosphere of Venus

SPACE SHIPS trying to land through the atmosphere of Venus may find the heating problem due to friction one-half again as bad as through the earth's blanket of air.

Scientists of Lockheed Missiles and Space Division, Sunnyvale, Calif., reported this result from their studies simulating trips through the atmospheres of Venus and Mars in laboratory shock tubes. Experiments showed entry problems in the Martian atmosphere would be about as expected from theoretical predictions.

For Venus, the increased heating beyond that expected theoretically results from the fact the planet's atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide and, therefore, heavier than the earth's or Martian atmosphere. Friction thereby is greater and the heating rises accordingly.

Lockheed's Richard W. Rutowski and K. K. Chan reported results of their experiments at the American Astronautical Society meeting in Los Angeles.

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BLUNT NOSE—A blackened blunt nose cone model that has made a simulated flight through the Venutian atmosphere in a hypersonic shock tube at Lockheed Missiles and Space Division's Scientific Research Laboratory, Palo Alto, Calif., is inspected by scientists Richard W. Rutowski and K. K. Chan. Preliminary results from their studies indicate the problem of safe flight through this planet's atmosphere is about 50% greater than would be experienced in hypersonic flight through the earth's atmosphere.