

The Review of Popular Astronomy

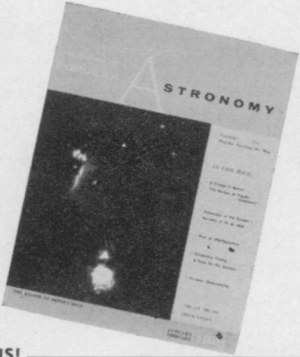
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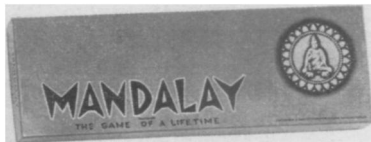


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PSYCHIATRY

Warning Against Quick Hypnosis Courses

► **PSYCHIATRISTS** are worried about use of hypnosis by medically untrained individuals to treat patients with mental illness. They oppose "quickie" courses by persons with no medical training who teach only how to put a person into a trance.

To the public and to the 12,000 members of the American Psychiatric Association, a committee of the APA has sent a warning against these dangers.

Whoever makes use of hypnosis, they warn, should know enough about psychiatry to know when hypnosis would be actually dangerous to the patient. Although every physician faces certain dangers if he uses any kind of treatment improperly, the nature of hypnosis makes the improper use of this technique particularly hazardous.

The psychiatrists are not opposed to use of hypnosis under proper circumstances and do not frown on the study of hypnosis by physicians and dentists. Such training should be given in medical schools, however. The course should be long enough and broad enough so that the students can learn something about patients—when hypnosis might be expected to help them and when it might be a great danger to them.

"Physicians practicing hypnosis," the psychiatrists stress, "should do so only in their particular field of medical competence."

They emphasize the need for continued research on hypnosis and its place in treatment.

• Science News Letter, 79:174 March 18, 1961

Do You Know

More *meteorites* fall in June than in any other month.

More than 150,000,000 Asians profess the Buddhist *faith*.

The Cromwell Current, a shallow "oceanic *subway*" in the Pacific Ocean, probably transports fish from the East Indies to the South American west coast.

• Science News Letter, 79:174 March 18, 1961

Questions

MEDICINE—What is the absolute five-year survival rate for breast cancer for a 30-year period? p. 164.

METEOROLOGY—How many persons were injured when a tornado hit Chicago recently? p. 162.

Photographs: Cover and p. 165, Westinghouse-United Press News Photo; p. 162, University of California; p. 163, National Museum of Canada; pp. 167 and 170, Fremont Davis; p. 167, center left, Westinghouse.