SOCIOLOGY

Stages in Assimilation

➤ WHEN A PERSON migrates from England to Australia, the fact that English is spoken in the new land which also has the same primary institutions is no insurance that the migrant will quickly feel at home and be assimilated in the new country.

After a year in Australia, the Englishman is still an Englishman and one out of four longs to return home.

This was observed in the course of a study of the attitudes, opinions, vocabulary and customs of migrants from England as compared with natives of Australia. The study was made by Dr. Alan Richardson of the University of Western Australia, Perth, who is a specialist in the psychology of emigration and immigration.

Change of attitudes was found to be most difficult when they related to the habit-bound regions of personal life.

After a full year of life in Australia, there was no sign among the British immigrants of adopting the Australian attitudes that "It is sensible for parents to allow boys to go to school barefoot in the summer months," or that "Commercial broadcasting makes for better programs." The British clung to their view that "Soccer is the most interesting team game to watch," and refused to accept the view that "On no account should women be allowed in Public Bars."

On the other hand, the less personal view that "Mass-produced goods are seldom as good as those made by hand," was abandoned by the British.

When the British immigrant arrives in Australia he goes through three stages in the course of assimilation.

The first stage is that of isolation. During this early period, he may develop a resistance to change and an intensification of British attitudes. As one woman said, "That brings out the English in me."

The next stage is accommodation. This is the stage of outward conformity when the man buys himself a new hat in the Australian style and learns to ask for a "Schooner" instead of a "pint" when he wants a drink.

In the third stage, identification, the Englishman at last learns to use "our" or "we" with reference to Australia rather than England.

Dr. Richardson's report is contained in the quarterly journal, *Human Relations* (Vol. X, No. 2).

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

TECHNOLOGY

Pacific Cable to Link West Coast and Hawaii

➤ WORK has begun on sections of a deep-sea Pacific ocean cable that will stretch 2,400 miles from Point Arena, Calif., to Oahu Island, Hawaii.

The cable system is similar to those linking the U. S. with Alaska and Europe, in which "repeaters" are spaced approximately every ten miles to give telephone and telegraph messages or other information signals "power boosts" to maintain them over the long distances that they must travel.

Previous experience with other cables has led to improvements in the Pacific cable, chiefly in improved "repeater" design and a greater breaking strength for the cable necessary because of the greater depth of the ocean between California and Hawaii.

Bell Telephone Laboratories is participating in the laying of the cable. A partner in the undertaking is the Hawaiian Telephone Company.

To connect the cable circuits to the Bell Telephone network on the mainland, a 130-mile long, six-station, radio relay link system has been set up by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. and Long Lines, linking the cable terminal at Point Arena to a Bell Telephone network outlet at Oakland, Calif.

Scheduled to go into service late this year, the twin-cable system will furnish 36 telephone circuits to supplement the 14 radio circuits now used for telephone communication with Hawaii.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1957

Questions

ASTRONOMY—How bright was Comet Mrkos when it was discovered? p. 103.

MEDICINE — What are the three antibiotics scientists hope to use to pin-point cancerous tissue? p. 101.

NEUROLOGY — How thin can the diamond knife slice matter? p. 106.

PHYSICS—What chemical compound was used to make square bubbles? p. 99.

Photographs: Cover and p. 106, Venezuelan Institute for Neurology and Brain Research; p. 99, W. N. Beck; p. 101, American Museum of Natural History; p. 103, Stanford University; p. 112, Ball-Boy Co.