

DISEASES BLAMED FOR  
HAIR-TRIGGER TEMPER

If some one carelessly steps on your foot and you become violently angry perhaps the explosion is due to the fact that years ago you had scarlet fever or some other illness.

This question of whether disease affects the emotions, and the other point of view, of whether certain types of constitution are responsible both for diseases and for increased emotion were discussed by Dr. George M. Stratton, psychologist of the National Research Council, at a meeting of the American Psychological Association. Expressions of anger and fear in more than 1,000 college students were studied by Dr. Stratton in connection with the facts of their physical history. Twenty classes of diseases, including heart trouble, neurasthenia, and influenza, were represented.

"There is a difference between the data on students who have always been normally healthy, and those who have a disease record," he stated. "Individuals who have had disease show a somewhat more intense emotional reaction in anger situations than those who have not had disease. The intensity of fear responses however, does not seem to be different in the two classes of individuals."

"Men who have disease histories appear to be thrown farther from normal and into readiness for somewhat more intense anger than do women who have had a similar history," said Dr. Stratton. "And the importance of the different diseases is probably not entirely the same with men and women. Influenza, for example, which thus far has revealed little or no importance for the anger reactions of women, appears to be of considerable importance for the anger reactions of men."

Among the questions which should be investigated are: the cumulative effect of several diseases on the emotions of an individual, whether diseases in childhood are more closely linked with emotional differences than diseases in later life, and whether there is some common factor in certain diseases which is closely connected with emotional make-up of the individual, Dr. Stratton said.

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URGES COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AS IN INDUSTRY

Speaking before the scientists gathered for the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Vernon Kellogg, permanent secretary of the National Research Council, told members of the organization that cooperation and coordination need not cramp their style in any way.

"While scientific men will agree that organization is a good thing in business, in production and marketing, in carrying on war and managing a fleet some of them do not at all like the word 'organization' used in connection with science. They say it is out of place and that science, like music and art, ought not to be, and cannot successfully be, organized.

"This criticism proceeds not from any conviction, growing out of the observation of scientific work accomplished in this way, but from a rather widely accepted assumption that most of the great advances in scientific knowledge have come from men working alone," he continued. "It is true that most of the epoch-making events in the history of scientific progress are linked with the names of single individuals.