

DISEASES BLAMED FOR
HAIR-TRIGGER TEMPERS

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.

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.

"But a careful examination of the history of these epochal events will show that their coming about has not been due to the efforts of these individuals alone, but to a rather sudden crystallization around them of a solution to which many men and many minds had contributed their parts.

"Of course it has come about at that time and place because of the superior understanding, by the final contributor, of the meaning of the many facts gradually gathered from many places. Because of this knack for seeing the meaning and for being able to generalize when others could not, the so-called discoverers deserves the credit he gets," Dr. Kellogg added.

"The individual in this case is usually a genius. But the genius is a rare bird. If we look back over the history of science we can count a respectable number of these. But history covers many hundreds of years. How many exist in a single century, and how many today?

"There are about 6,000 professional working biologists in this country today. But how many are Darwins? How many of us scientific men are geniuses? Almost all geniuses are absolute individualists and could not cooperate or work with coordinating organizations. There are also some extreme individualists who by temperament cannot work in teams, although they are not geniuses.

But most of us are not geniuses and we are not liable to make an epoch-making discovery tomorrow. We are able to do a lot of sound scientific work, nevertheless. We are just capable, industrious, well trained workers, with more or less pronounced gregarious instincts, able and willing to work and play together.

"And all advance does not depend on genius. Are we, who are deeply interested in this advance and ready to do our little part to help along, to sit idly by while we await for some rare bird to wing his way over the horizon? We can all do something, and we can do more if we help each other, if we plan together, and work together along lines and by methods which recommend themselves by united control."

AUTO TIRE FORCED RUBBER RESEARCH

Although the rubber industry is old, it is only in the last twenty years since automobile tires have come into use, that it has grown by leaps and bounds. R.P. Dinsmore of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company explained the progress of knowledge in this field of science before the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Research in the rubber industry dates back to the time of the discovery of vulcanization by Charles Goodyear in 1839," he said. This basic discovery made the industry possible. Very little is yet known even today of the properties of rubber, and this should receive the first consideration in future research. The problems of vulcanization, pigment reinforcement, and resistance to oxidation are pressing to be solved in the industry today."
