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III
**TEMPLE
UNIVERSITY**

Broad Street at Montgomery Ave., Phila., Pa.



evolution of oxygen in the plant was extremely small, while the photographic paper became deep brown; when, on the other hand, the red-yellow solution was interposed, the plant evolved large quantities of oxygen, while the photographic paper reacted but little and feebly.

It may here simply be remarked that it was an inaccurate generalisation on the part of physics and chemistry to designate the blue-violet portion of the spectrum as the part chemically active, simply

because the corresponding rays of light cause silver salts to decompose and a mixture of chlorine and hydrogen to form hydrochloric acid. The action of the red-yellow light on the decomposition of carbon dioxide which we have established contradicts no fact, but only a false generalisation; since it shows that other chemical processes which take place in the chlorophyll are brought about by other rays of light, namely the red-yellow.

Science News Letter, June 4, 1932

PSYCHIATRY

**Most Patients Recover From
Quick-Striking Mental Disease**

A NEW TYPE of mental disease in which the outbreak is sudden and dramatic but in which the patient has a good chance for recovery was described by Dr. J. Kasanin, clinical director of the Rhode Island State Hospital for Mental Diseases, at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Philadelphia.

The nine patients in whom Dr. Kasanin studied this disease were young people, in the twenties and thirties. They had all been well adjusted in their social lives and at their jobs. They were of average or superior intelligence, keenly interested in life and its opportunities, and ambitious to get the most they could out of it. Their personalities before the mental breakdown were not very different from the general run of people in the community. Some were sociable and others were seclusive. They considered themselves very sensitive and self-critical, unhappy and preoccupied with their own problems, but this was not apparent to anyone else. Some of them had suffered mental or nervous breakdown during their teens but had recovered.

Suddenly, as a result of some definite emotional or mental conflict with their environment, these apparently well-adjusted persons "blew up" in a dramatic disorder, Dr. Kasanin reported. But unlike many mentally ill persons, they did not remain passive, nor seem to accept the mental breakdown in a hopeless way. Instead they went through it as an extremely severe emotional experience, and after a few weeks or months of treatment, they recovered. Dr. Kasanin ascribed their recovery partly to the treatment, partly to their previous

good adjustment to life, and partly to the fact that they were not ill long enough for their thought processes to disintegrate.

When he first saw these patients, their ailment had been diagnosed as the form of mental disease called dementia praecox. However, he did not think their symptoms exactly fitted the picture of that ailment, nor did they seem to fit any of the other classifications of mental disease. Consequently he believes that they are suffering from a somewhat different form of mental disorder.

The outlook for these patients is distinctly hopeful, in Dr. Kasanin's opinion. He recommended psychiatric treatment and thorough psychoanalysis in order to prevent recurrence.

Science News Letter, June 4, 1932



The Science Service radio address next week will be on the subject,

**CONCERNING
DRAGONS**

Charles W. Gilmore
Paleontologist at the U. S. National Museum here and authority on dinosaurs will speak

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

at 2:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time

Over Stations of

The Columbia Broadcasting System

