

"We criticize the quack for his methods; yet the medical profession is to blame to a certain extent for his existence. People believe the falsehoods of the quack because there are few means other than that of direct consultation with the doctor to counteract these beliefs."

Each county medical society should accept the challenge of the quack by offering correct instruction about health, he recommended. He also urged that

each city establish a board of physicians to examine the credentials of any lecturer claiming the ability to heal disease irrespective of its nature.

"Government has long recognized as a necessary safeguard to the public the importance of licensing individuals in many trades and professions," Dr. Rymer said, "we see no reason why the quack should be allowed to practice without restriction."

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many respects. All went through the same four stages of thought. The poets composed no more quickly and no more slowly than the non-poets. Practically no differences in vocabulary were observed, although the poets showed a slight tendency to use more rare words.

The poets put more imagination and thought into their poems than did those who were not poets. The non-poets, when shown a picture and asked to write a poem, would write about the picture; the poets were more likely to write about some other topic. When they did write about the picture, the poets would select the details, while the non-poets would choose the more obvious features.

The poets are more influenced by the conventions of modern poetry, and the literary merit of their productions was judged to be higher than that of the non-poets.

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PSYCHOLOGY

# Poets Reveal Their Thought Processes to Psychologist

**T**HE INNER workings of the minds of poets as they compose their verse were revealed to psychologists by Miss Catharine Patrick of New York City, in a report to the New York branch of the American Psychological Association.

Padraic Colum, Edward Davison, Eunice Tietjens, Vivian Larramore, the poet laureate of Florida and many other prominent poets, numbering fifty-five in all, were interviewed by Miss Patrick and asked to compose a poem while she recorded their methods of work. These made-to-order poems did not suffer in literary merit, but followed the characteristic style of the authors and were well liked by judges who later read them. Some have since been published.

The poets, and a group of non-poets who were watched at work in the same way, go through four stages of creative thought in the attempt to compose a poem, Miss Patrick found.

First is what she calls the stage of preparation. An example of this stage is when the poet gazes at a landscape and receives different impressions from it.

Next comes the stage of incubation. A

poem may "incubate" for only a few minutes or for several years. During this time, a certain mood or idea will involuntarily be thrust upon the poet's mind while he is also thinking of other matters. This process of incubation is said by some to be due to the workings of the subconscious mind.

Illumination, the third stage, comes when the mood or idea which has been incubating becomes definitely related to a specific goal. It is then that the poem is actually put into words. Sometimes this stage is accompanied by emotion, although at others the poet may have no special feelings at the achievement of his goal. A part of the poem seems to come automatically and spontaneously by itself, Miss Patrick observed.

The final stage, of verification or revision, comes when the poet checks his work with standards of art, elaborates his idea, and changes a word or line here and there to perfect the work. In lyric poetry, the revision is not very great, it was found.

The mental working of the group of poets was like that of the non-poets in

AVIATION

# Steel in Burial Vaults Leads to Safer Flying

**B**ECAUSE steel is being used for the construction of burial vaults in cemeteries aircraft navigation has been greatly improved.

The strange story linking two seemingly unrelated happenings of life was described by Prof. Philip Kissam, of the Princeton University School of Engineering.

To correct compasses for the shift in magnetic north, the Coast and Geodetic Survey has markers in various localities as points of reference for magnetic observations. These markers must be undisturbed and sufficiently distant from all steel structures that might affect the magnetic field. For a long time cemeteries have provided very suitable sites.

With the introduction of steel in burial vaults, however, cemeteries no longer were useful, and it occurred to Prof. Kissam that airports would be the place.

At the same time came the idea of using the markers to correct airplane compasses, and the subsequent development of the "Compass Rose," so-called because of its resemblance to a flower.

The "Compass Rose" has as its central point the Coast and Geodetic Survey marker. This is encircled by 12 other markers spaced 30 degrees apart and at a distance of 50 feet from the center. An airplane can thus formulate a table of corrections for its compass by lining up with the central marker and each of the others in turn.

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