

man resources of the nation for the purposes of war. Although it was necessary to do pioneer work in developing tests for the purpose, within a few months these psychologists made possible a sorting of men into the jobs where they were best fitted to serve the nation.

In the present emergency, with millions of Americans unemployed and other millions compelled to accept relief because they are "unemployable," psychologists even after more than six years have not yet made a fair beginning on the problem.

"When the question of waging a successful war was concerned, psychologists were urged to help," said Dr. Krechevsky. "When the question involves an attempt to save a nation from moral, economic, and cultural disaster, which in turn involves a scientific re-examination of fundamental principles and concepts of the social order, the scientist, his disciplined opinions, and his technical skills are dispensed with."

It is to bring the cold, impartial light of science to bear on these vital problems about which theorists have argued in vain, that the new movement has been organized. The following is the official statement of the purpose of the new national society:

Purpose of New Society

"To work effectively for both the immediate and ultimate freedom of psychology to do its utmost to make contemporary American society intelligible to its members, and to suggest and test hypotheses regarding desirable social change.

"To promote and protect objective and scientific psychological research on controversial topics, especially in the central fields of economics and politics—national and international.

"The administration of timely referenda (such as a referendum now planned to feel out present attitudes of the public toward war).

"The encouragement of the discussion of the application of the findings of psychology to the problems of social order."

This great movement for the application of science to the solution of vital social problems has precedence in a movement also inaugurated in the fall of last year among 339 psychiatrists of 30 nations. With the backing of the queen of The Netherlands, these physicians to the human mind began an attempt to combat what they termed the insanity of war. This movement has aroused considerable interest among psychiatrists and psychologists in the United States, some of whom have taken an active part in it.

Committee Personnel

The members of the committee arranging formation of the new organization are as follows:

Drs. Gorden Allport, Harvard; J. F. Brown, University of Kansas; Leonard W. Doob, Yale; Franklin Fearing, Northwestern; Ward Halstead, University of Chicago; George W. Hartmann, Pennsylvania State College; I. Krechevsky, University of Chicago; Walter A. Lurie, New Orleans; Norman R. F. Maier, University of Michigan; Lorenz O. Meyer, Chicago; Karl F. Muenzinger, University of Colorado; Marion W. Richardson, University of Chicago; Floyd L. Ruch, University of Illinois; Theodore C. Schneirla, New York University; Ross Stagner, University of Akron; Harry C. Steinmetz, San Diego State College; Edward C. Tolman, University of California, and Goodwin Watson, Teachers' College, Columbia University.

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It is reported that three-fourths of the totem poles sold to tourists in Alaska are made in the Orient, because Alaskan Indians have not yet gone into the craft trade on a large enough scale.



Survival of the Longest

DROUGHT again underlines one type of natural selection that regularly comes into play on the Prairies and Plains in years of scanty moisture. Survival of the fittest, at such times, is to a considerable extent survival of the longest-rooted.

Plants of the open grasslands in general have roots much longer than their tops are high. Foot-high native grasses often have roots three or four feet long; two-foot-high wild roses and other shrubs drive their roots as much as eighteen feet into the subsoil, where moisture persists even after it has been dried out of the top layers.

This has a particular bearing in the question of crop plants. Crops that we plant in plowlands are usually shorter-rooted than their wild prairie competitors that we carefully exclude as weeds. Thus spring wheat is blighted, while bluestem and grama-grass survive. An exception is corn, which often produces five- or six-foot roots, so that we have seen corn "getting by" until now, while small grains suffered.

Of course long roots are not the only thing that makes for drought resistance; neither can they save the plant if the subsoil moisture joins the topsoil moisture in evaporation-flight to the brazen and pitiless sky. Even when water is still available, corn leaves may be burned and curled by hot winds that cook the sap out of them faster than new supplies can be drawn up from the roots. For this reason, plant breeders strive for tough-fibered, stout-skinned leaves and stems while they also keep an eye on depth of roots.

The present drought will put another arrow in the quiver of ecologists who have been arguing for the restoration of the old native sod cover on western pasture lands, to replace the juicier but

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shallower-rooted introduced grasses. The latter pay bigger profits when there is plenty of rain, but their failure imposes correspondingly bigger penalties when the rains fail.

Even trees fall in line with the lowlier plants, in this business of deep rooting in regions subject to recurring droughts. Botanists at the University of Nebraska not long ago dug down among the roots of bur-oak trees, those tough pioneers that march out into the prairies where no oak else will venture. They found that every tree was virtually two trees: the tree of branches above ground matched by a tree of roots below.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

PUBLIC HEALTH

Cities Watch Seattle Meat Grading Experiment

SEATTLE'S experiment in requiring meat to be graded, watched by cities throughout the country, is giving the public better beef with no advance in price. So the American Home Economics Association, meeting in Seattle, was told by Dr. F. E. Smith of the Seattle Department of Health and Sanitation.

Seattle is the first city in the United States to make the grading of beef, mutton, and lamb compulsory, Dr. Smith stated. The system, now in use a year and a half, was developed by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics with the idea of marking meat in a common language understood by both buyer and seller.

Describing the meat grading system as "a service rendered to consumers, which protects them against fraud and misrepresentation," Dr. Smith said that opposition to the system continues "stubborn and persistent."

"From the standpoint of the national packer, grading is opposed," he said, "because it interferes with promotion of his own brands. Opposition developed by the retailer comes principally from the dealers who handle beef, mutton, or lamb of the medium grade or lower."

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

RADIO

July 14, 2:15 p.m., E.S.T.

UNPOPULAR WEATHER—J. B. Kincer of the United States Weather Bureau.

July 21, 2:15 p.m., E.S.T.

SOMETHING NEW IN COTTON—R. W. Webb, Senior Cotton Technologist, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

● First Glances at New Books Additional Reviews On Page 32

Exploration

ARCTIC ADVENTURE: MY LIFE IN THE FROZEN NORTH—Peter Freuchen—*Farrar and Rinehart*, 467 p., 112 illus., \$3.50. "If the Arctic is at all appealing to a person, it exercises a spell over him," writes this man who has certainly seen the North at its best and worst. Some of this spell he manages to cast on the reader, for the book is of the type "hard to lay down." Particularly memorable is the story of Freuchen singing for his life to scare off wolves every time he left his Greenland cabin, where he was taking weather observations. His married life with an Eskimo woman and his experiences with famous explorers stress the human touches of life in a strange world.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

Anthropology

YALE UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS IN ANTHROPOLOGY, Numbers one to seven—Clark Wissler and others—*Yale*, 23 p., \$2. The seven papers report on sorcery in Polynesia, Navaho warfare, Hopi hunting and its ritual, population changes among northern Plains tribes, cultural relations of Gila River and Lower Colorado tribes, distribution of northern Athabaskan Indians, and economy of a modern Teton Dakota community.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

Education

HANDBOOK OF ADULT EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1936—Dorothy Rowden—*American Association for Adult Education*, 423 p., \$1.75 to members of the Association, \$2.25 to others. More than 30 writers have contributed new material to this 1936 edition.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

Immunology

IMMUNOLOGY—Noble P. Sherwood—*Mosby Co.*, 608 p., \$6. A technical book for medical students and others whose training in bacteriology and related sciences will enable them to understand the subjects discussed.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

Bible History

THE BIBLE AND THE HISTORICAL DESIGN—Mabel A. Dominick—*Printed by Plimpton Press, Norwood, Mass.*, 288 p., \$2.85. A book for reference and study use rather than general reading. The plan of the book is to show the relationship of Bible narrative to its his-

toric setting, and this is carried out by systematic presentation of facts and points, often in outline system. The "individual worth" of chief Bible characters is also evaluated by the author's summarizing method.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

Child Study

THE BABY AND THE GROWING CHILD—Louis Fischer—*Funk & Wagnalls*, 260 p., \$1.50. This book gives detailed instructions on feeding and otherwise caring for infants and young children, including measures for dealing with various emergencies before a physician arrives and useful information about various diseases of children.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

Geography

HAMMOND'S PICTORIAL ATLAS OF THE WORLD—*Hammond*, 160 p., \$1. A handy-sized reference book, up-to-date to the inclusion of Boulder Dam reservoir and the dam that changed Holland's Zuider Zee into a fresh water lake. The maps are detailed enough to be very serviceable, and the short descriptive accounts of the various countries with illustrations are a good feature.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

Hygiene

SEX HABITS—A. Buschke and F. Jacobsohn—*Emerson Books*, 204 p., \$2.50. Besides a clear presentation of the anatomy and functioning of the sex organs and a discussion of sex hygiene, this book includes a chapter on abnormalities of sexual life, one on prophylaxis against venereal disease, and several chapters on heredity, eugenics and racial hygiene.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1936

THE IDENTITY THEORY

By Blamey Stevens

Dear Scientist:

If you are perfectly satisfied that nothing can shake your confidence in the Relativity and Quantum Theories it will be a waste of your time to read "The Identity Theory." The book is only intended for physical scientists who can be convinced by reasonable arguments that they have been using makeshift theories all their lives.

8vo. 248 pages, cloth bound. Price \$2.00 post paid. Sixteen page summary free on application

Published by Sherratt & Hughes, Manchester, England. Also on order from the author at 438 W. 116th St. New York City