

## SOCIOLOGY

# New Refugee Problems Find Old Ones Still Unsolved

**R**EFUGEES from the storm of the World War still present unsolved problems as the rising cloud of a new tempest threatens to drive still other thousands from their homes. And the League of Nations, for some years a principal supporter of efforts toward their rehabilitation and location in new homes, appears unable to give them any more help.

Michael Hansson, president of the Nansen International Office for Refugees, has stated in Geneva that he is to receive no more grants from the League. All operating funds must now come from the refugees themselves, insofar as they have been able to develop new economic independence, with such additions as outside donors may make.

The Nansen organization has done a really monumental work for these unfortunates, many of whom are literally people without nationality. They come from all war-disrupted lands, many of them without passports or any means of identifying themselves, thousands of them destitute or nearly so. The work of the Nansen Office in finding some way to regularize their status has been of even greater importance than its function as almoner to the hungry and shelterless. It has handled something

over half a million cases where lack of official papers was placing difficulties in the way of residence, migration, acquisition of new citizenship, etc.

Among the works of mercy of the Nansen International Office for Refugees have been the settlement in their homelands of 1,300,000 Greeks and 200,000 Bulgars expelled from Asia Minor by the Turks, the establishment of 50,000 exiled Armenians in French Syria, and the naturalization as Turkish citizens of 100,000 White Russians in Istanbul.

But despite all these accomplishments, the Office still has the care of thousands on its hands. And just as League of Nations support is withdrawn there comes the prospect of a new and overwhelming load.

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## SCIENCE

## Science Urged to Aid World Settle Problems Peacefully

**S**CIENCE is capable of being misused to bring harm and unhappiness to mankind. With two wars in progress and an armament race in Europe, many scientists are wondering what can be done to protect the world from the consequence of organized scientific effort applied to war and war preparation.

Responsibility for the growth of destructive forces can not be accepted by scientists, except as citizens. There has always been war. Science has been used to make it more efficient and deadly, just as science has been successful also in promoting health, industry, and peacetime activities.

As during the World War, there is discussion as to whether scientists should aid military preparations. Now as then, the majority among scientists will cooperate in giving technical assistance to all the intricate details of the modern war machine.

Europe is more acutely faced with this problem. An opinion from *Nature*, the British scientific journal, is more firsthand. One of its editorials asks:

Does there not rest upon men of science as a body a responsibility for the promotion of peace, and peaceful methods of international adjustment, beyond that which already attaches to them as citizens?

Scientific workers, it is felt, are better able than most men to realize what immense conquests have already been made over ignorance, weakness and evil. They have long been accustomed to international cooperation, without which the state of science itself would still be relatively primitive. The adoption of a similar policy in the social and economic sphere would be fruitful. It would remove many of the chief causes of international mistrust and allow military budgets to be diverted to happier uses.

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## GEOGRAPHY

## Nation Not Half Mapped; Surveys Called Economy

**O**NE of the first things that a person does when he acquires land is to get it surveyed so that he may know what he actually owns and so that he may plan intelligently how to use it.

Judged by that criterion of good practice, Uncle Sam is not too careful about the great nation that he, as the symbol of the people, owns. For the United States is ill mapped. Of the 3,026,789 square miles of U. S. territory, exclusive of Alaska, less than half has been mapped topographically, that is, to show elevations, roads, houses and other important features of the landscape. Some 741,000 square miles of that half was mapped from 40 to 90 years ago by methods and on scales that do not serve present requirements. No adequate maps exist for 2,500,000 square miles



NEW PICTURE OF OLD MONSTER

The U. S. National Museum has a new painting of an ancient saurian, done by R. Bruce Horsfall. The creature, a plant-eater related to the brontosaurus, is known to paleontologists as *Camarasaurus*. In the background is a flesh-eating biped saurian, hungry for a bite of *Camarasaurus* meat.

and there are no topographic maps at all for 1,500,000 square miles.

Engineers and those who are charged with planning and executing public and private works in future years are frankly uneasy over the failure of Congress to inaugurate a real mapping program as urged by the American Engineering Council and other leading professional organizations and approved by the National Resources Committee, the Federal Board of Surveys and Maps and other government bodies.

It is urged that mapping is really an

"economy" measure because it will cut the cost of future public works activities. A few additional millions spent each year to speed up the mapping of the country will pay big dividends.

The U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the U. S. Geological Survey make our nation's maps. First a net of accurately located triangulation points and level bench marks is spun over the country by the Coast and Geodetic Survey as the foundation of maps. Then Geological Survey parties build the detailed maps on this base.

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#### PSYCHOLOGY

## Knowledge of Failure a Privilege; Lunatics Never Worried by It

### Consciousness of Defeats or Defects Mark of Sanity and Intelligence, Declares Well-Known British Psychologist

**B**E PROUD if you know you have failed. It isn't everyone who can feel discouraged and know what it is to lose out.

The feeble-minded, for example, may never have the experience of failure. They may flunk out on every job they try, but they do not notice it and go on blissfully unaware of any shortcoming.

Men who have lost the important higher thought centers in the brain, because of brain tumors, have also lost the ability to know failure. So closely is this thinking part of the brain tied up with failure, that one psychologist has renamed it the "worry center."

Mental patients in their excited states are also unable to experience failure. For them, the words "impossible" or "defeat" simply do not exist. Even though they may have missed every chance in life and are totally unable to get on outside a mental hospital, still they are riding on top of the world—supreme successes.

Failure is pretty terrible to the one who lives with it, to be sure. It can cause complete mental breakdown. For this reason, psychologists have become concerned over the possible effects on the mental health of the nation of such a mass failure as came with the Great Depression. Every effort is being made to protect little children, at least, from the depressing experience of repeated failures.

But failure can also provide a power-

ful stimulus to great successes. Such a profound setback as that of a serious physical handicap may contribute a great deal toward urging a man to world renown.

The inventor Steinmetz was seriously deformed physically. The great musician Beethoven was deaf during much of his life. So also was Edison, renowned for his inventions of hearing devices. President Roosevelt, early in his political career, was stricken with infantile paralysis.

Whether a person will be broken by failure, or will be driven to great successes, depends upon the individual and perhaps somewhat upon his early training, it has been found by Dr. Dorothy Gandine-Stanton, psychologist of the University of Manchester, England, whose study of failure has just been made public in the international scientific journal, *Character and Personality*.

Watch a child at play and you can see for yourself how characteristic is each individual's reaction to winning and losing. When Johnny loses the game of checkers, he may push the board away and say, "Aw, let's play Bingo." Tom, on the other hand, cannot be induced to give up until he has won. Ted, when he sees the game going against him, begins a frantic pushing of men that leads him into new losses. Joe sets up a howl that somebody cheated. Mary cheerfully starts the next game—she can't see that it makes any difference whether she wins or loses. Ruth is re-

duced to tears over her chagrin when she is defeated by her younger sister.

To some extent, it may be possible to change these reactions to defeat by proper training, but for the most part they persist through the passing years, Dr. Gandine-Stanton found.

Ruth, weeping over her defeat, is not to be blamed or pitied too much. Those who, like Ted, react to difficulties by increasing their activity feverishly and without reason are not those who make the most of their abilities, Dr. Gandine-Stanton found.

Instead success appears to come to those who, in difficulties, reduce their activity. They seem to make the most of their abilities and achieve more than might be expected of them.

It is not necessary to reverse the old adage and say, "If at first you don't succeed, don't try again," she warns. Persistence that brings success is not at all the same as activity. In fact, active children usually go out of the game earlier than passive children.

What Dr. Gandine-Stanton's studies seem to show is that failure can be turned to success only by the person who has the ability to recognize his own limitations and who, when faced with defeat, can sit back and think.

A study of literature revealed to Dr. Gandine-Stanton that some individuals can write the whole story of their lives and never mention a single failure.

#### Dictators "Never" Fail

"Conspicuous among them are those of Hitler and Mussolini," she said. "While Hitler makes no reference to any failure of his own, he suggests that in others it is only due to 'cowardice, laziness or incapacity.'"

"Mussolini is more explicit about his own immunity from failure. He writes: 'I have always felt a power over events and over men . . . I never had any feeling of uncertainty . . . The Grand Council has always succeeded. I pre-empted it.'"

"In striking contrast to these who admit no defeat are the accounts of those who at once admit their own inability and withdraw from the contest. Such behavior has been found in distinguished men in all spheres of activity. Lindbergh describes his first flight: 'When the plane was about four feet from the ground the right wing began to drop, so I decided it was time to make a landing.'"

Fortunately, most of us do at some time or other experience failure, Dr. Gandine-Stanton says. Yet even though failure is a necessary balance wheel of personality, everyone is reluctant to ad-