

mit his shortcomings. It is quite impossible for any person to face the admission that he is completely a failure. To avoid acknowledging failure we argue ourselves into making virtues of our shortcomings or blame others or "bad luck" for our deficiencies.

Likewise we must feel that whatever we identify with ourselves is perfect. Thus our ruler is infallible, our nation sinless, our church divine, our family blameless, our possessions desirable, and our race supreme.

The feeling of (our) race superiority and (other) race inferiority is causing much world distress today.

"Individuals are reluctant to admit failure; groups rarely, if ever, do so," Dr. Gandine-Stanton says. "It is too difficult." She quotes Jacob Wassermann as making this clear when he writes:

The Tragedy of Israel

"To be proclaimed inferior as an individual is far more easily borne than disparagement of one's race . . . Against libels of the race all arguments and proofs are ineffectual, and the inmost and most carefully guarded mirror of the consciousness grows dim and tarnished."

Yet naturally he does not believe his race to be inferior, Dr. Gandine-Stanton comments, for he adds later:

"The tragedy of the Jew's life is the union in his soul of a sense of superiority and the feeling that he carries a stigma of inferiority."

No group has ever been found to believe that it is inferior to others.

"It is doubtful," says Dr. Gandine-Stanton, "if a group could survive the experience of failure. Such experience often leads to the disintegration of the individual as is shown in neurosis, and I believe it would inevitably lead to the disintegration of the group. To maintain the necessary 'sense of superiority,' we rationalize as groups even more fiercely than as individuals."

Perhaps that is because we unconsciously see in the grandeur of our race and its heroes a compensation for our own individual lack of importance.

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• Radio

Every Friday at 7:30 p. m. EDT, 6:30 p. m. EST, 5:30 p. m. CST, 4:30 p. m. MST, or 3:30 p. m. PST, Science Service cooperates with the Columbia Broadcasting System in presenting over the Columbia coast to coast network a new series of "Adventures in Science" presenting dramatizations of important scientific advances and discussions by eminent scientists.



AFRICA'S CLAIMANT FOR BIG-TREE HONORS

Baobab trees do not contend for distinction in height, nor so far as is known, for longevity; but it is claimed on their behalf that they have the greatest trunk girth in all the earth's trees. The specimen shown here, in its leafless phase, is depicted in a large mural painting done for the Field Museum of Natural History by Charles A. Corwin.

PSYCHOLOGY

Boy's IQ Increases 50 Points in 11 Years

THE CASE of a boy who at $4\frac{1}{2}$ was about to be sent to an institution for the feeble-minded and at $15\frac{1}{2}$ is a high school student looking forward to a chemical engineering career is revealed in the *Journal of Consulting Psychology* (May-June).

Editorially this journal in telling this experience urges psychologists to "dispel the popular error regarding the constancy, and hence the sanctity, of a recorded IQ."

For this boy's IQ when $4\frac{1}{2}$ was judged to be 70. Now it is 50 points higher, 120, as measured at the New York Psychological Service Center. It is suggested that the first test may have been given clumsily.

"Would that it were possible to scotch for good and all the superstition that everyone's intelligence—according to the views of psychologists—is wholly inborn and unalterable!" the editorial says.

"Parents sometimes shudder beneath this shadow. Educators remain oblivious of familiar data regarding the inconstancy of intelligence quotients. They have even been known to countenance the

filing of a pupil record card on which an IQ has been entered without notation as to the date or the test employed, which may have been a Binet or a non-comparable paper-and-pencil examination. There the number stands, as though it described an unchanging trait like racial stock, or date of birth. Whoever recorded it in this way must have been blithely unaware that an intelligence quotient is only a ratio, suggestive of the rate at which the individual's mentality has been maturing, and that a boy who matures rapidly from eight to ten may have a brother whose spurt in mental development comes between ten and twelve.

"While in a bare majority of instances the change in rate of maturing is not great—not more than five points within three or four years—no adviser should be allowed to forget that sometimes an IQ shifts more than twenty points, and that over longer periods the variation may be enormous."

Dr. Walter V. Bingham of Stevens Institute is chairman of the editorial board of the journal.

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