

METEOROLOGY

Department of Meteorology Installed by N. Y. University

A DEPARTMENT of meteorology to conduct research and train weather forecasters and observers will be launched this month under the chairmanship of Prof. Athelston F. Spilhaus as part of the New York University College of Engineering. Equipment for the department will include the meteorological observatory at University Heights, which is a cooperative station of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and a mountain observatory on Mt. Whiteface, near Lake Placid, N. Y. The latter is operated jointly with the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Gardner Emmons, associate meteorologist of the Weather Bureau in Washington, D. C., has been named assistant professor.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1938

LINGUISTICS

Gleichschaltung Ahead For German Pronunciation

GERMANS, to be properly patriotic nowadays, must all think alike. But an even harder task lies ahead, a task that will twist their tongues as well as try their souls. For the rulers of the Reich have decreed that pronunciation of the German speech is to be made uniform throughout the land. Sibilants must be standardized, gutturals *gleichgeschaltet*.

With characteristic German method, the job of compiling the big book that will make all German words sound alike has been assigned to a group of three professors, who are already Commisars (beg pardon! *Leiter*) of the Central Institute for the Preservation of Spoken Language of the German Academy in Munich.

They will issue, first, a small handbook, containing both native and adopted words in most common use. In a few years the *magnum opus* will be due, a massive *Handwörterbuch* that will contain *all* the words. After that there will be no excuse for deviating from the Nazi party line by so much as a slurred umlaut.

A writer in a German journal, *Volk und Welt*, enthuses:

"This definitely established German speech as laid down in the standard work will be the language of everyday intercourse, and it will also be the speech of the radio, the schools, the theater, the platform, the speech of public

ceremonials, in short, the speech of the people, which everyone understands and everyone speaks."

This applies, of course, only to official High German, supposedly standardized centuries ago by Martin Luther, but really spoken with as wide a variety of local accents, from Munich to Cologne to Bremen to Koenigsberg, as you will find in American English over a like range of territory in this country.

An American, remembering past efforts to standardize our own pronunciation, will recall the range of accents from Boston to New York to Richmond to Pittsburgh. And if he knows any German, he may say, softly, "Ja-soooooh?"

Which, being translated, is "Oh, yeah?"

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ECONOMIC BOTANY

Japanese Pyrethrum Monopoly Menaced

THE HIGHLANDS of Kenya in East Africa, just south of Ethiopia, are the newest spot where attempts are being made to grow pyrethrum flowers, whose extract goes into insecticides that must be harmless to man and animal. Fly sprays are a major product using pyrethrum although it enters into the composition of certain garden sprays.

This bit of information may not set America tingling with its significance, but one can be sure that Japan is keenly aware of the African pyrethrum plantings because the little pyrethrum flowers form one of Nippon's much-prized cash crops.

Japan in fact produces about 95 per cent. of the world's pyrethrum, and the United States, using some 20,000,000 pounds a year, is half of the world market. In Japan, pyrethrum is comparable with cotton in the southern states as a cash crop.

A report in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (July) on the Kenya pyrethrum plantings and harvest shows that the little flowers of African cultivation are superior, in their potency, to the Japanese variety. While pyrethrum plants have been grown in many parts of the world—California, Lancaster, Pa., and Colorado are three American examples—it is only in Kenya that a product superior to that of Japan is obtained.

Although the United States uses large amounts of pyrethrum, it is unlikely, in the near future, that it can be grown economically here.

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IN SCIENCE

PSYCHOLOGY

Applied Psychology Course To Include Internship

A PROFESSIONAL course for psychologists that would include one year of internship comparable to that of a medical doctor is proposed for Columbia University, New York City.

Although a great many psychologists are engaged in private practice or are doing work of a professional nature in hospitals, clinics, and other institutions, their training has heretofore been overweighted on the side of theory and research, it was pointed out by Dr. A. T. Poffenberger, executive officer of Columbia's psychology department, who made the announcement.

Under the proposed plan, those wishing to become clinical or applied psychologists would take a program of post-graduate training including a first year similar to that leading to a master's degree; a second year heavy in field work, testing and test making, and psychopathology; and for the third year an internship in an appropriate institution.

Completion of the course would be rewarded by a professional certificate or possibly a "Ps.D." (doctor of psychology) degree. The Ph.D. degree would not be granted for this work, but would be reserved for those preparing to enter the field of scientific research rather than the practice of applied psychology.

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FORESTRY

Cedars of Mount Lebanon Endangered by Disease

CEDARS of Mt. Lebanon, famed for the part they played in the construction of Solomon's Temple, are threatened with extermination by a disease of unknown origin. A commission of the French government of the district is making every effort to save the trees.

Lebanon's cedars, which formed a huge forest when Solomon made his famous deal in timber with his father-in-law, King Hiram of Tyre, are now reduced to two rather small groups near the cities of Beirut and Tripoli, in Syria.

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FIELDS

ASTRONOMY

Paris Planetarium To be Sold at Auction

ANY PERSON who desires to buy a second-hand Zeiss planetarium instrument, like those in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles, may have the opportunity in Paris in October. The planetarium, one of two dozen in the world, was installed in 1937 as one of the attractions of the Paris Exposition.

Now, however, the Soci t  des Parcs d'Attractions, which operated it, is being liquidated, and the planetarium will be sold at auction. It is announced that bidding will start at 50,000 francs (about \$1500). The price of a new planetarium is about \$125,000.

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EDUCATION

Hygiene and Character Both Needed in Schools

TWO MODERN movements are designed to aid the pupil to fit himself into later life without conflict or maladjustment. Developing side by side, or sometimes apparently in competition for public favor, one is character education—the other mental hygiene.

To the uninitiated, they may seem to have the same purpose but only another name. Then why two movements?

The differences are mainly matters of the relative emphasis on the individual and on preventive measures, says Dr. Paul Murphy, psychologist of Kansas State Teachers College.

The mental hygienist, concerned with the psychological health, wholeness, and happiness of the individual, has been pushed by necessity into treatment of those who are already in difficulties.

The character educationist, stressing the social group rather than the individual, is concerned more with improving the environment of the child and so is led into the preventive aspects of what is known in both fields as proper "adjustment."

Why not merge the best features of both movements into a united effort for

the good of our children, asks Dr. Murphy.

The idea of creative living—of finding new ways of living, not just conforming to old customs and conventions, is one emphasized by character education. But mental hygiene is basic in any effort at personality and character building, he points out.

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SOCIOLOGY

Urges That CCC Care for All Boys Leaving School

HUNGER, idleness, and no money for fun. That is the story back of much of the crime committed by modern youth.

To the clinic of a court in Detroit come daily young men of 18, 20 or even 24 or 25 who have never in their whole lives done a day's work. Never have they known the thrill of a pay check or the self-respect from holding a job.

Yet these boys had dropped out of school at 14 or 16. What have they been doing since? What was there for them to do?

The CCC is seen by Dr. Lowell S. Selling, director of the Psychopathic Clinic of Detroit's Recorder's Court, as a partial answer to the needs of these young men. In the CCC they can be given body-building work in the open air and could be given training in skills and citizenship as well. Life under pioneer conditions and wrestling with the forces of nature would give socially useful expression to their fighting impulses.

Not only should the CCC be enlarged in scope, but it should take in every American boy, excepting only those in professional training, Dr. Selling believes.

Although the organization should not become military, this psychiatrist advocates training in aviation and the use of firearms.

"One of the best ways of curing a potential young gangster of his love of firearms, and therefore his likelihood of committing a crime with a firearm, in my own experience, is to give him an opportunity to do a good deal of target practice," Dr. Selling said.

"Under properly trained supervision, boys learn how to handle firearms with safety to themselves and others; they learn to respect firearms, keep them clean, and lock them away when they are not using them, and they are impressed by the dangerousness of them in a way that they could not learn under any other condition."

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ECONOMICS

Bank's Research Service Aids Industry's Problems

THE BANKER is speaking to the industrialist:

"Where will your business be five years from today? Will it be bigger and sounder—occupying a more prominent and profitable position in your industry than it does at present—or will it be fighting for its very existence?"

"The answers to these questions depend in part upon:

"What you do to make your present products better, less expensive and more serviceable than they are today.

"What new and profitable items you add to your present line.

"The facility with which you adapt your plant and your resources to new developments and changing conditions.

"All of these factors will be vitally affected by the developments that are taking place in the great research laboratories of the world—some of which are so revolutionary that your very business life may depend upon your ability to avail yourself of them."

Such language catalyzes interest in research and moves the industrialist to action. Bert H. White, vice-president of Liberty Bank of Buffalo, established that institution's research advisory service after participating in laboratory tours in this country and abroad sponsored by the National Research Council.

Some 700 laboratories are cooperating in this service, performed gratis to customers and non-customers alike, and the service is now available to other banks in industrial areas.

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PHYSICS

New Device Shuts Sound From Ears of Sleepers

SLEEPERS, who have eyelids to shut out undesired light when bedtime comes but who have no earlids to perform an analogous function, may soon be wearing ear defenders designed by Dr. Vern O. Knudsen, dean of graduate study at the University of California. Eighty per cent. of air-borne sound can be eliminated by their use, Dr. Knudsen declares. The ear defenders are plugs three-fourths of an inch long. Such plugs might go a long way toward aiding people who have difficulty in going to sleep at night because of the roar of sounds produced by modern city life.

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