

PSYCHIATRY—POLITICAL SCIENCE

Psychiatrists Offer Program For "Continental Security"

Urge Aloofness From Foreign Quarrels as Protection From "Paranoiac Creeds"; Propose Fund for Research

AMERICAN psychiatrists entered the lists today in defense of "peaceful unity and democracy" on this side of the oceans as their answer to the present state of world madness.

Under the guidance of Prof. Harold D. Lasswell, widely known University of Chicago political psychologist and member of the faculty of the William Alanson White Psychiatric Foundation, they present "Continental Security," a program that calls for freedom of science, overthrow of "monopolism" and the postponement of war. It is published as the first act of a new department of political psychiatry in the journal, *Psychiatry*.

"Progression towards a world democracy has ceased," the journal declares in offering the program. "The partition of Czechoslovakia and the coincident sinking of Britain and France from premier roles in world politics destroys our vestigial hopes of collective security in the world today. The spread of democratic ideals and representative institutions has been checked.

"Paranoiac creeds of racial and other differences are the order of the day. They rationalize the barbarian ruthlessness of ruling cliques in the totalitarian states, but they menace the people everywhere."

Psychiatry Has Role

As physicians to the ill minds of humanity, the publications committee of the scientific journal, *Psychiatry*, explains in an accompanying editorial that psychiatry as a science "has a basic role in making sense of human affairs, individual and collective."

The program is directed toward maintaining continental independence and "remaining aloof from the quarreling states of the European, Asian and African continents." It proposes the overthrow of "monopolism" because it breeds disastrous crises and insecurity and leads to dictatorship. It urges postponement of war in order to preserve free inquiry and initiative.

"A free society can quicken the pace

of science and technology and leave the regimented states behind. Military-bureaucratic states are muscle-bound to the technology of yesterday, which was born of the science of day before yesterday.

"Free states can nurture the science and technology of tomorrow. In this freedom there is strength."

"Continental Security" recommends the establishment of a ten billion-dollar (cost of World War) war-loss memorial fund from private donations for study of foreign propaganda and economic contacts, to encourage civic education and scientific research.

"Militaristic states are conceived in hate and nurtured on conspiracy," declares the pamphlet in which the program is published.

"They gain temporary victories by

hurriedly gathering the fruit of past freedom. But they destroy themselves. When they regiment muscles, they regiment minds. When they regiment minds, they fetter science. When they fetter science, they sterilize technology. They thicken armor but they weaken mind. And mind invents the means of crushing armor.

The insight of the psychiatrist is combined with the technique of the propagandist and the new art of pictorial statistics in the presentation of this new program.

A novel feature of the pamphlet, however, is an accompanying analysis which explains completely the propaganda technique used in its presentation, the emotional appeals used, the purposes of the propagandist behind the selection of slogans, arguments, and use of "charged" words.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1938

TECHNOLOGY

Continuous Process For Producing Rayon Now In Use

A NEW continuous process for the production of rayon, still America's fastest growing textile fiber, has gone into large-scale commercial use with the



NEW RAYON PROCESS

In a three-and-a-half-acre room in a windowless plant, liquid rayon will be transformed into yarn ready for the textile mill in a single continuous process. Watching the yarn pass over reels during the process are G. P. Torrence, vice president of the Rayon Machinery Corp., Watson Davis, director of Science Service, Dr. W. E. Wickenden, president of Case School of Applied Science, and Hayden B. Kline, vice president of Industrial Rayon Corp., visitors and hosts at the opening of the plant.