

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.

opening of a huge plant by the Industrial Rayon Corporation at Painesville, Ohio.

Starting with cellulose sheets at the top, the process finally winds completely finished rayon threads, ready for delivery to textile mills, on bobbins set low on the floor. Differing from conventional procedure, the rayon is not spun and wound on the bobbins immediately after being formed, but is bleached, shrunk, prepared, dried and twisted before being wound.

Six years of research are represented in the plant, built at a cost of \$11,500,000. A pilot plant has been in operation successfully for two years. Fourteen acres of floor space have been provided in the buildings of the windowless, air-conditioned plant. Daylight enters the factory through glass wall panels and monitors of glass block, 371,000 of which have been used in the factory, the laboratory, the power house and auxiliary structures which together represent the largest glass block installation on record.

Special machinery for handling the rayon in this new fashion was developed by a subsidiary of the company. More exact conformation to specifications is one of the advantages claimed for the process.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1938

SOCIOLOGY

How to Disarm Eventually Is Major World Problem

LOOKING beyond the present quickening of the pace of rearmament throughout the post-Munich world, there are those who are already asking what will be done with the energies and time of the millions of munition makers when and if the making of war instruments has reached saturation.

War itself may answer the question sooner or later by reducing war munition stocks and increasing the demand. But this would be a disastrous answer. The fact of the matter is that a rearming world is faced with a dilemma! War or the eventual return to an armed peace that allows an increase in consumers' goods which the economic system may have difficulty in assimilating.

For several years the nations of Europe have turned industrial plants into war materials factories. Now Great Britain and France are speeding this movement feverishly in the face of capitulation before Germany followed by greater threats from the Hitler regime.

Whether the peoples of the world can

stand the increasing financial burden and emotional strain is a query raised by a keen international observer, Dr. Stephen Duggan of the Institute of International Education. If this does not cause war, Dr. Duggan sees the return to peace through disarmament menaced by men left without work or governments that choose to go to war rather than face the domestic evils of disarmament.

The International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, a League of Nations subsidiary, has been trying to foresee the consequences of a stoppage in the manufacture of instruments of war. But

such peaceful legal reasoning may not prevail in the face of revolution at home and fighting abroad.

Little possibility of disarmament is seen by Dr. Duggan until there prevails a greater belief in the justice of the present distribution of raw materials in the world. Of the 24 minerals and raw materials necessary to adequate modern life, 18 are in the control of the so-called Anglo-Saxon countries. Dr. Duggan believes that other nations will not continue to be content with such a condition.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1938

CHEMISTRY

Catalytic Cracking Process Considered Very Important

Makes Possible the Production of Gasoline Without Production of Oil and Other Derivatives of Crude Oil

ANNOUNCEMENT of a radically new refining process held to be of the greatest importance to the entire petroleum industry in that it makes possible independent production of gasoline, with or without simultaneous production of oil and other petroleum derivatives from crude oil, was made to the American Petroleum Institute.

Known as the Houdry catalytic processes for petroleum-hydrocarbon refining, the new group of methods was described in a paper presented by four oil technologists, including Eugene Houdry of the Houdry Process Corporation, whose name the process bears.

The process represents a distinct step forward, they said, for an industry faced with widely variant seasonal demands. Formerly whenever a certain amount of gasoline was made from a given crude oil, a certain amount of other products, for which no immediate market was to be had, was also produced. Now the petroleum refiner can produce only gasoline if that is his market at a given period of the year, they explained.

Associated with Mr. Houdry in the development work and in the presentation of the paper were Wilbur F. Burt, of the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, A. E. Pew, Jr., of the Sun Oil Company and W. A. Peters, Jr., of E. B. Badger and Sons Company. Refining operations under the processes, now covered by 96 patents, were developed by Socony-Vacuum, the Sun Oil Company and the Houdry Process Corporation.

Economical meeting of the growing need for high octane fuels as well as ability to operate from a greater variety of crudes than has hitherto been possible are additional advantages claimed for the processes, now in use in three cracking units. Ten additional large units are in construction and will be completed in 1939.

The process is essentially a method for breaking down the large molecules of crude oil and trimming or building smaller molecules to the right size and type to make up the desired fuel. Catalytic agents are used to encourage necessary chemical reactions that either would not occur or would occur extremely slowly were they not present.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1938

CHEMISTRY—BOTANY

Blue Roses Possible In Cornell Research

STUDIES in the colloidal chemistry producing color changes in the flowers and leaves of plants, at Cornell University, are leading scientists to suspect that it may be possible some day to create a blue rose.

Intriguing is the study of the color changes in late autumn red leaves and the colors of red and blue flowers. These color pigments are known chemically as anthocyanin pigments. Over their origin chemists have had many a controversy.

In a report to the Journal of the