

1,000 milligrams are the equivalent, approximately, of only one-thirtieth of an ounce.

Important to discovery of the new vitamin was the finding of a suitable kind of guinea pig for testing the compounds the chemists were extracting in the search for the vitamin. Testing these substances on patients was not practical

because not enough untreated pernicious anemia patients could be found. The guinea pig used is not a pig at all, but a microorganism called *Lactobacillus lactis Dorner*. Its suitability for the vitamin testing was discovered through studies by Dr. Mary S. Shorb of the University of Maryland.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1948

PSYCHOLOGY

Neurotic Is "Under-Done"

View that he suffers from too little conscience and his cure depends on learning better the moral and social codes, comes from Harvard psychologist.

► THE neurotic is "an under-done human being." He is "a victim of unlearning, immaturity and ignorance." His cure depends on his learning better the moral and socializing lessons his parents and others in authority tried to teach him when he was a child.

This picture of the neurotic and what to do about him was given by Dr. O. Herbert Mowrer, Harvard psychology professor, at the meeting in New York of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

In viewing the neurotic as a person whose trouble comes from having too little rather than too much conscience, Dr. Mowrer differs from Freud and many other psychiatrists.

The neurotic, in Dr. Mowrer's opinion, has taken in the rules and principles that are generally known as the dictates of conscience. But he has not accepted them. Just as the child between two and six years is constantly saying "No" to parents and their rules, the grown-up who is neurotic is constantly saying "No" to these same rules which his conscience is dictating. But the opposition and defiance goes on under the surface.

"The internalized criticisms and admonitions of parents and community are now muffled and are no longer heard clearly and explicitly," Dr. Mowrer said. "But they are still capable of breaking through into consciousness as depression, anxiety and inferiority feeling.

"Symptoms are then formed as means of dealing with these distressing affects (feelings that affect the person, not effects), and the afflicted individual is a full-fledged neurotic."

Criminals result, instead of neurotics, when the resistance and opposition to authority, the "No" period of childhood,

is continued with little change into later life. Admitting that this is a greatly oversimplified explanation of criminal psychology, Dr. Mowrer used it to show the criminal personality-type as the extreme in failure of socialization with the neurotic between that and the normal individual.

Dr. Mowrer agrees with Freud on the importance of "transference" in psychiatric treatment. By transference is meant the process in which the patient comes to feel toward the psychiatrist as he did toward his parents when he was a child. By this process the resistance to rules and principles is brought out.

But Dr. Mowrer disagrees with Freud in the next step in treatment. The Freudian idea is to strengthen the neurotic's pleasure drive and relieve him of what Freud considered too strong a conscience.

Dr. Mowrer, holding to the theory that the neurotic has too little conscience, says the psychiatrist should help him acquire more real conscience. Or, in other words, help the patient learn to give up present and instinctual pleasures for the more lasting satisfaction of being a full-fledged member of society.

Besides the learning neurotics need, they must also do some unlearning, Dr. Mowrer pointed out. They must unlearn the ways they so cleverly devised in the past to dodge becoming grown-up, responsible members of society.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1948

EVOLUTION

Twins and Triplets Seen On "Evolutionary Decline"

► YOU are more likely to become the parent of twins than your great-great-grandchildren will be.

Mankind seems to be losing the ability to produce more than one infant at a birth, suggests Prof. A. H. Schultz of the Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* (March).

Previous opinion has tended to be that twinning in the human species is a product of recent evolution, resulting from man's "domestication." But Prof. Schultz's studies, which included not only man but all his subhuman kin among the apes and monkeys, show that the farther down you look on this evolutionary ladder the more often you see twins and triplets. Hence multiple birth appears to be a primitive, not a lately acquired, character in heredity.

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