

PSYCHOLOGY

No Help From Mental 4-F's

Scraping the bottom of the manpower barrel by drafting those deferred because of their mental condition may not help armed forces much in their search for manpower.

► IT WILL not help the armed services as much as you might think to scrape the bottom of the manpower barrel by drafting borderline mental cases.

Even when these men manage to complete their entire three years of military service and receive an honorable discharge, they may nevertheless cause a great deal of trouble while in service.

This is indicated by a careful study of the records of 628 men who were held in an observation ward for study before being sent to a naval training center. Of these, 91 turned out to be mentally sound and were used for comparison purposes in the study. All completed their three years' service. Results are reported in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* (Sept.).

Not only did the borderline mental cases lose more time from duty by having to go to the hospital, but they were more often involved in disciplinary infractions requiring court martial.

The study was made under subsidy of the Office of Naval Research by Dr. William A. Hunt and Mrs. Edna B. Hunt of Northwestern University and Dr. Cecil L. Wittson of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

Hospitalizations, they found, ranged from 17.5% for the neurotics to 27.5% for the alcoholics, but strangely enough only one of the alcoholics went to the hospital for alcoholism. Time lost through hospitalization ranged from the neurotics' 807 days to a total of 1,880 for the alcoholics. Only 4.4% of the normals went to the hospital with 104 days lost.

The neurotic is no greater disciplinary problem than is the normal service man, but when he does get into trouble it is because of drinking.

More than a fourth of the schizoid personalities got into disciplinary trouble

(26.8%), but it was never because of drinking. Most disciplinary trouble was caused by psychopaths, 62% of whom got themselves involved in trials or courts martial. Of these, 50% went over the hill, 10.3% were drunk on duty and 22.7% were insubordinate.

Science News Letter, September 27, 1952

GENERAL SCIENCE

6% of '51 College Grads Deferred Because of Jobs

► ONLY SIX percent of the students who graduated from college in June, 1951, and who are now working have been deferred by Selective Service because of their occupation. Three-fourths of this deferred group majored either in science or engineering, figures from the Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency show.

Part of the "Survey of June, 1951, College Graduates," the report covers the military status and Selective Service classification of only part of the total number of persons included in the full survey, but is believed to be "representative."

Approximately 63% of those sampled are now working, 17% are full-time students in graduate or professional schools and 18% are on active military duty.

Two-thirds of those not on active duty are veterans and, therefore, not eligible for the draft. One percent are unemployed and one percent did not report whether or not they were working.

Science News Letter, September 27, 1952

Do You Know?

Mites of one sort or another are found in every country of the world.

Fluorescent *lamps* are based on a principle learned 100 years ago.

Honeydew *melons* are ripe when the rind has a creamy to yellowish color and a velvety texture when rubbed.

Bones of prehistoric *buffaloes*, found near Lubbock, Texas, show that they were nearly twice as large as the familiar animal.

Although *baking* began with prehistoric man, the past 50 years have produced greater advances in baking technology than the preceding 50 centuries.

Questions

ASTRONOMY—How many planets are visible during October? p. 202.

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CHEMISTRY—How did a laboratory accident lead to the discovery of a waterproofing dye? p. 194.

How have previously "pure chemicals" been outmoded? p. 201.

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MEDICINE—How does nucleic acid aid in the diagnosis of cancer cells? p. 196.

What chemical may be responsible for women being smaller? p. 200.

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PALEONTOLOGY—What is the name of the largest bird ever known to have flown? p. 200.

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PHYSICS—What particles are expected to hold the key to the atom's heart? p. 201.

What new theory has been suggested for building atom smashers? p. 197.

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Photographs: Cover and pp. 195 and 199, U. S. Navy; p. 197, General Electric Company.

VITAL STATISTICS

For First Time in U. S.: More Females Than Males

► WAR DEATHS, war brides and a greater lowering of mortality among females than among males have reversed the sex ratio in our population so that we now for the first time in our history have more females than males.

By the end of 1951, there were 986 males per 1,000 females, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company statisticians in New York estimate. By comparison, the figure in 1930 was 1,025 males per 1,000 females. At the time of the 1950 census there were 1,430,000 more females than males.

This trend will continue with the excess of females over males becoming even greater in the future, the life insurance statisticians predict.

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