

adopt their motor habits. We have one example of an Englishman raised in Italy and married to a Jewess, who has adopted the mixed quality of Italian and Jewish movements. It is also notable that occupations influence gesture habits. Thus many painters accompany their speech by movements which imitate the motions of the brush in painting. How little stable motor habits are may also be observed in a comparison of the modern repression of gestures in England which seems to have begun shortly before the Victorian era in contrast with the lack of restraint in Elizabethan times.

The problem of the adjustability of behavior may also be established on entirely different lines. We have studied the incidence of psychoses in immigrants and their descendants.³ Owing to the varying age distribution of the incidence of mental diseases, the data which are commonly used are entirely misleading. Mental disturbances among the young are very rare. Since the native population embraces a large number of children, the immigrants comparatively few, the incidence appears much smaller among the former. It is necessary to know for each psychosis the age distribution of its incidence and to reduce the crude figures accordingly. By doing so it can be shown that there are considerable differences between the two generations. We have carried through this study for Italians, Irish

and Germans. It will be seen that, rather unexpectedly, we find a considerable reduction in most cases in the second generation and on the whole an approach to the general American standard. The Irish have a number of peculiarities that deserve special study. The importance of considering the age distribution has been pointed out years ago by Dr. Landman and has been worked out more accurately by Dr. Malzberg. It is worth remarking that the complete exclusion of imbeciles among the immigrants does not seem to have affected the incidence of imbecility among their descendants, although, on account of the lack of a strict definition of imbecility it is difficult to give numerical proof. The number, however, is large and shows how little effect exclusion of an affected group, either by immigration laws or by sterilization, has upon the incidence of partly hereditary diseases.

It seems that these various approaches to the problem show first of all that no race can be treated as a unit, but that in every case the individual must be evaluated according to his own characteristics. It follows, furthermore, that at least so far as the aspects studied are concerned, the descent of the individual plays an insignificant rôle in his behavior, that the organism is so plastic that in its physiological, mental and social behavior it follows the pattern of culture with which he becomes identified.

OBITUARY

ALFRED McLAREN WHITE

THE North Carolina section of the American Chemical Society adopted on September 25 a minute in memory of Dr. Alfred McLaren White. The minute, drawn up by Edward Mack, Jr., *chairman*, F. H. Edmister and E. C. Markham, reads:

On Wednesday morning, September 23, 1936, in the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, Alfred McLaren White died of acute nephritis. Dr. White was born at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on July 1, 1904. He received the B.S. degree from Michigan in 1925, the M.S. degree from the University of California in 1926 and the Sc.D. from the University of Michigan in 1928. He served as assistant professor of chemical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology from 1928 to 1930. In the fall of 1930 Dr. White came to the University of North Carolina as associate professor of chemical engineering, and when this was made a separate division, he became the director. Under the inspirational teaching and guidance of Dr. White, the enrolment of the chemical engineering department increased about fourfold over a period of five years. Always popular with his students, both in the classroom and outside, his interest in them was manifested by his enthusiastic teaching and his participation in numerous student activities. This September he was to take up

his duties as director of the chemical engineering work in the University of Virginia.

Dr. White was an associate member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, a member of the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi and the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society.

McLaren White was known to many people outside the chemical profession for his versatility and accomplishments. He spent a part of several summer vacations in the Artist Colony on Monhegan Island, and a number of his friends have visible evidence of his ability as an amateur artist. He was also a musician. During his stay in Chapel Hill he was an active member of the Choral Club and the University Concert Orchestra.

The untimely death of Dr. White at the virtual beginning of a promising scientific career is a great loss to both the professions of chemical engineering and chemistry. The North Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society deeply mourns a leader and an ever helpful member. Your committee offers this statement as a resolution to be spread on the minutes of the section, with instructions to the secretary to forward a copy to the family.

ALBERT B. REAGAN

DR. ALBERT B. REAGAN, special professor of anthropology at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, died on May 30, following a brief illness.

³ This work was carried out by Dr. Bruno Klopfer.