Meetings

Human Ecology

The results of several inquiries into the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 were reported before an interdisciplinary group attending the second seminar on Hungarian Studies, sponsored by the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology of Forest Hills, N.Y. The meeting was held 6 June at Columbia University, with Adolf A. Berle, Jr., professor of law at Columbia and a director of the society, presiding. Papers were presented by research workers from Cornell University Medical College; Columbia, Rutgers, and McGill universities; and Radio Free Europe.

Lawrence E. Hinkle, Jr., reported the results of an interdisciplinary study undertaken by the New York Hospital–Cornell Medical Center human ecology study program, an inquiry into factors influencing the health and behavior of Hungarian refugees, with emphasis on why they fought and fled. Cornell research workers found no support for the idea that the revolt and the exodus that followed were simply the results of unpremeditated action of people swept up in a wave of mass emotion. "On the contrary," Hinkle said, "those who participated in these events had deep-seated, realistic, and highly personal motives for their actions." This was true of nearly every refugee studied.

Motives for revolt in the Hungarians studied fell into two general categories. The first was a long-standing and insurmountable feeling of personal insecurity. The refugee believed that no matter what he did or how high a position he attained, his family could be ruined at any time by the actions of others or by events beyond his control. The second was a profound sense of frustration. There was a deep conviction, Hinkle said, that in communist Hungary there was no way for the individual to live out his life as he wanted to and in a manner that would satisfy his needs. These motives persisted, even among refugees who knew they were economically better off than they might have been had the precommunist regime continued to govern.

Paul Zinner, of Columbia University, reporting on the political background of the rebellion, said that a massive discontent and, more important, the disintegration of the Communist Party in Hungary made the revolution possible. The party disintegrated visibly over a 3-year period, beginning with 1953. "The party was not a monolithic block of like-minded people coming from the same background, thinking the same thoughts, and liking each other immensely," he said. "The social composition of the party made it less than unified in its purposes and contained the seeds of future conflict that were to help make the revolt possible."

Richard Stephenson, of Rutgers University, presented the results of a sociological study of Hungarian refugees, focusing on evasive tactics that enabled them to function effectively within communist controls. Some Hungarians, he said, capitalized on special technical skills desperately needed by the communist regime, thereby reaping rewards without conforming to party requirements. Some moved from city to city to disrupt bureaucratic files, and others closed out businesses or left professional roles to provide an approved "worker" background for their children. In the matter of completing work norms, the Rutgers study shows it was common practice for the worker at the bench, the foreman, and the works manager to connive and to lie about and disguise actual production rates. Often strategic industrial positions were filled with political functionaries who lacked the technical competence to detect such practices. When evasive tactics were not practical, Hungarians would pursue tabooed practices covertly. They attended church in a parish other than their own and went from the city into villages to have their children baptized. By such measures as

these, Stephenson said, the Hungarians were able to achieve many of their goals within the rigors of communist control and without accepting communism.

Probably the most important factor in the immigrant's success or failure to adjust to a new environment is the position he enjoyed in the old society, reported A. F. Meszaros, psychiatrist from McGill University. "Class status" often determines the immigrant's reasons for leaving his homeland, Meszaros said, and it also colors his ideas of the position he hopes to find in his newly adopted country. Meszaros reported on a study of 64 Hungarian refugees, 44 men and 20 women, drawn from middle and worker classes. Workers were a favored group in Hungary, the study reveals, while the middle class occupied only a marginal or "tolerated" position and received very few benefits from the communist sociopolitical system. Because they lived under a system of supervision and suspicion, because their livelihood often depended on the whims of party bosses and their every movement was controlled, members of the middle class as a group held an attitude of subdued hostility to the regime. The worker, to whom communism promises most, viewed the regime with mixed feelings. His job continuity and security were assured, and he was encouraged to associate with members of his own class. But he could not change jobs, and his share of material goods remained small because his income remained at a controlled low level. Meszaros believes that the Hungarian worker immigrant, to adjust successfully in North America, must sacrifice his ideas of job security and social prestige, which were automatic under communism, for the greater independence of job mobility and the opportunities to acquire material goods previously denied him. These new attitudes will represent a complete reversal of values for him and will temporarily increase the difficulty of successful adjustment. Adjustment for the middle-class immigrant is not so difficult, Meszaros maintains, because the North American value system does not differ fundamentally from his own value system.

In other papers presented at the seminar, Alexander Dallin, of Columiba University, discussed the "Uniqueness of the rebellion," and Edmund O. Stillman, of Radio Free Europe, discussed interclass attitudes in Hungary, especially as they applied to the relocated agricultural proletariat. Bela C. Maday, executive secretary of the Coordinated Hungarian Relief Association, told of the problems of immigrant Hungarians' adapting to life in the United States.

The society's interest in the Hungarian uprising began when the influx of thousands of refugees into this country created an unprecedented opportunity to study the effects of sudden environmen-

tal change on the health and attitudes of a large immigrant population. The first seminar was held in Forest Hills, N.Y., a year ago; it brought together representatives of various agencies to exchange views on Hungarian immigration, discuss preliminary findings, and outline plans for coordinating further research.

At the conclusion of the second seminar, preliminary plans were announced for integrating data from all Hungarian studies and making these available for future research.

The society has published the seminar proceedings, including full texts of the papers presented. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Executive Secretary, Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology, Forest Hills 75, N.Y.

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Spectroscopy

The tenth annual Symposium on Spectroscopy of the American Association of Spectrographers is to be held at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago, 1–4 June 1959. Original papers of emission, x-ray, visible, ultraviolet, near-infrared, and Raman spectrometry and in flame photometry are invited. The meeting will also feature an instrument exhibit by leading manufacturers in the field of spectroscopy. Authors are requested to submit titles *before 1 January 1959* to the program chairman, G. W. Bailey, Borg-Warner Research Center, Des Plaines, Ill.

Forthcoming Events

November

6–7. Lead Hygiene Conf., Chicago, Ill. (M. Bowditch, Lead Industries Assoc., 60 E. 42 St., New York, 17.)

6–7. Nuclear Science, 5th annual, San Mateo, Calif. (H. Pratt, IRE, 1 E. 79 St., New York 21.)

6–8. Geochemical Soc., St. Louis, Mo. (K. B. Krauskopf, Stanford Univ., Geology Dept., Stanford, Calif.)

6–8. Geological Soc. of America, St. Louis, Mo. (H. R. Aldrich, 419 W. 117 St., New York 27.)

6–8. Gerontological Soc., 11th annual scientific meeting, Philadelphia, Pa. (N. W. Shock, Baltimore City Hospitals, Baltimore 24, Md.)

6–8. Paleontological Soc., St. Louis, Mo. (Miss K. V. W. Palmer, 109 Dearborn Pl., Ithaca, New York.)

6–8. Society of Economic Geologists, St. Louis, Mo. (H. M. Bannerman, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington 25)

8. Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, 1st annual, New York, N.Y. (R. V. Sherwin, 1 E. 42 St., New York 17.)

10–12. American Petroleum Inst., 38th annual, Chicago, Ill. (API, 50 W. 50 St., New York 20.)

10–12. Physics and Medicine of the At-

mosphere and Space, intern. conf. (by invitation), San Antonio, Tex. (Southwest Research Center, 331 Gunter Bldg., San Antonio.)

10–13. American Dental Assoc., Dallas, Tex. (H. Hillenbrand, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago, Ill.)

12–14. Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, annual, Albany, N.Y. (W. W. Murray, P.O. Box 168, Central Square Sta., Cambridge 39, Mass.)

12–15. Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, 66th annual, New York, N.Y. (W. N. Landers, SNAME, 74 Trinity Pl., New York 6.)

16–21. Radiological Soc. of North America, Chicago, Ill. (D. S. Childs, 713 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, N.Y.)

16–23. Scientific Information, intern. conf., Washington, D.C. (Mrs. M. Sheppard, Intern. Conf. on Scientific Information, Natl. Acad. of Sciences–Natl. Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25.)

17–19. Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S., Washington, D.C. (R. E. Bitner, Suite 718, New Medical Bldg., 1726 Eye St., NW, Washington 6.)

17–20. Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials, Philadelphia, Pa. (H. B. Callen, Dept. of Physics, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.)

17–22. Radiological Soc. of North America, Chicago, Ill. (D. S. Childs, Sr., 713 E. Genesee St., Syracuse 2, N.Y.)

18–20. Air Pollution, 1st natl. conf., Washington, D.C. (Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, U.S. Public Health Service, Washington 25.)

18–20. Standards, 9th natl. conf., New York, N.Y. (American Standards Assoc., 70 E. 45 St., New York, N.Y.)

18–21. Weather Radar Conf., 7th, Miami Beach, Fla. (K. C. Spengler, American Meterological Soc., 3 Joy St., Boston 8, Mass.)

18–22. Pan-American Dental Cong., Mexico City, Mexico. (Association Dental Mexicana, Sinaloa 9, Mexico 7, DF, Mexico.)

19–21. Electrical Techniques in Medicine and Biology, 11th annual conf., Minneapolis, Minn. (O. H. Schmitt, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis.)

20–22. Acoustical Soc. of America, 56th meeting, Chicago, Ill. (K. Kramer, 3839 Grand Ave., Western Springs, Ill.)

20–22. American College of Cardiology, New Orleans, La. (P. Reichert, Empire State Bldg., New York 1.)

20–22. International Symp. on Tuberculosis, Philadelphia, Pa. (M. J. Schwartz, Deborah Sanatorium & Hospital, 642 Widener Bldg., Philadelphia 7.)

20–23. American Anthropological Assoc., Washington, D.C. (W. S. Godfrey, Jr., APA Logan Museum, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisc.)

20–23. European Confederation of Agriculture, Vienna, Austria. (M. H. Abegg, Confédération Européenne Agriculture, Brougg (Argovie), Switzerland.)

21–22. American Soc. of Animal Production, annual, Chicago, Ill. (H. H. Stonaker, Animal Husbandry Dept., Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins, Col.)

24–26. Fluid Dynamics, division of American Physical Soc., San Diego, Calif. (R. J. Emrich, Dept. of Physics, Lehigh Univ., Bethlehem, Pa.)

24–26. Mechanisation of Thought Processes, symp., Teddington, Middlesex, England. (The Secretary, Natl. Physical Lab., Teddington, Middlesex.)

24–6. Plant Specialists, 4th Latin American conf., Santiago, Chile. (R. Cortazar, Departmento de Investigaciones Agricolas, Ministerio de Agricultura Casilla 4088, Santiago, Chile.)

27–29. Central Assoc. of Science and Mathematics Teachers, 58th annual, Indianapolis, Ind. (N. G. Sprague, Indianapolis Public Schools, 1644 Roosevelt Ave., Indianapolis 18).

(See issue of 19 September for comprehensive list)

Letters

Blood-Group Nomenclature

The correspondence regarding blood-group nomenclature published in the 23 May issue of *Science* [**127**, 1255 (1958)] calls for amplification and clarification, so that readers may not be misled.

The original Rh factor was discovered by Karl Landsteiner and Alexander S. Wiener in 1937. This blood factor is now designated **Rh_0**. When the related blood factor **rh′** was discovered by Wiener in