EMOTIONS MAPPED BY NEW GEOGRAPHY

Charts Seek to Portray the Psychological Currents of Human Relationships.

FIRST STUDIES EXHIBITED

Colored Lines Show Likes and Dislikes of Individuals and of Groups.

MANY MISFITS REVEALED

Dr. J. L. Moreno Calculates There Are 10 to 15 Million Isolated Individuals in Nation.

A new science, named psychological geography, which aims to chart the emotional currents, cross-currents and under-currents of human relationships in a community, was introduced here yesterday at the scientific exhibit of the Medical Society of the State of New York, which opens its 127th annual meeting here today at the Waldorf-Astoria.

The first series of maps of the new human geography were shown by Dr. Jacob L. Moreno of New York, consulting psychiatrist of the National Committee of Prisons and Prison Labor and director of research, New York State Training School for Girls, Hudson, N. Y. The maps represent studies of the forces of attraction and repulsion of individuals within a group toward one another and toward the group, as well as the attitude of the group as a whole toward its individual members, and of one group toward another group.

Emotions are represented on these psychological maps by various colored lines. Red stands for liking, black for disliking. If individual A likes B a red line with an arrow points from A to B. If B reciprocates a similar red line points from him. If he dislikes A this is indicated by a black line with an arrow pointing toward A. If B is merely indifferent the feeling is shown by a blue line.

Group of 500 Girls Studied.

In this manner an entire community of 500 girls in the State Training School for Girls was mapped. A total of 7,000 lines are needed to portray these relations, and these in turn are the result of the gathering of a mass of data that covers 10,000 manuscript pages.

Two studies of communities have been made of 2,000 pupils in Public School 19, Brooklyn, and 250 boys at the Riverdale Country Day School. Boys are represented on the maps as triangles, and girls as circles.

A mere glance at the chart shows the strange human currents that flow in all directions from each individual in the group toward other individuals, from group to group, and from the entire group toward the individuals. Each group has its popular and unpopular members, and here and there an individual stands totally alone, isolated from the rest of the group. The isolated individuals, Dr. Moreno said, are either the most intelligent types or types of the lowest order of intelligence. Similarly the maps show entire groups isolated from other groups.

"In looking at these charts," Dr. Moreno explained, "we find small coteries forming within a group. Frequently the attraction of an individual reaches outside his group to another one wholly different from that in which he is placed by accident.

"Galaxies are formed that take certain definite aspects. In some instances we will have a boy and a girl in the centre of a circle, all of whose members are attracted toward him or her, but with no reciprocal feeling going back.

"After the data of a community study are compiled and a chart made, we turn to a mathematical method of interpreting conditions. The ratio of total red and black lines inside and outside each group is computed. Quotients of attraction are determined. Angles are formed to represent within each group the individuals who are isolated, rejected by the group."

Millions of Isolated Persons.

On the basis of percentages shown in the studies so far, according to Dr. Moreno, it can be estimated that, in proportion, there are from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 isolated individuals in the United States. They are, Dr. Moreno added, "always getting the short end of everything. In consequence they suffer, are discontented, and reflect their unhappiness into the lives of others."

"With these charts," Dr. Moreno continued, "we will have the opportunity to grasp the myriad networks of human relations and at the same time view any part or portion of the whole which we may desire to relate or distinguish." In this manner, he said, a girl who was completely isolated in one community was transplanted to another, more congenial group, and became a leader. In this manner, also, it was predicted that two girls in a group would eventually run away, and the prediction came true a short time after.

On a large scale this study may mean that the 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 individuals in this country now rejected by the groups in which they live may be transplanted to other environments where they may become happy human beings.

"If we ever get to the point of charting a whole city or a whole nation," Dr. Moreno added, "we would have an intricate maze of psychological reactions which would present a picture of a vast solar system of intangible structures, powerfully influencing conduct, as gravitation does bodies in space.

"Such an invisible structure underlies society and has its influence in determining the conduct of society as a whole. Deep psychological evolutions have been evident throughout the world in the last few years in clashes between groups within nations, and between nations themselves. Until we have at least determined the nature of these fundamental structures which form the networks, we are working blindly in a hit-or-miss effort to solve problems which are caused by group attraction, repulsion and indifference."

Dr. Moreno added that plans have been completed to chart a map of the psychological geography of New York City.

The New York Times
Published: April 3, 1933
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