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## HITLER AND DR. BUCHMAN

(The Daily Mail, while it finds "Observer" articles interesting and popular, does not always agree with what is said, and is not responsible for the writer's opinions).

"Thank God for Hitler," says Dr. Frank Buchman, leader of the Oxford Group, as quoted in a recent news item. Dr. Buchman proceeds to explain his startling announcement. A dictator like Hitler can, he says, bring a whole nation back to God if, and this is an important if, the dictator can first be won over to God. Fond hope. Has anyone seen a dictator ever won over to God yet? Or won over to anything except the advancement of his own interests? Fine on you, Dr. Buchman. I'm disappointed in you.

A few years ago no name was more familiar to the general public than that of Dr. Buchman. Recognized as the official head of the widely spreading Oxford Group movement, his name was for a time a household word. Then for a while he seemed to drop out of sight. Now he is back again with a vengeance. Could this possibly be a bid for publicity? If so, Dr. Buchman chose a spectacular method.

We didn't know before that it was a tenet of the faith of the Oxford Group to spread their ideas by compulsion. We were under the impression that these ideas were supposed to circulate from one to the other by means of the telling of personal experiences. A sort of confession of faith business. We rather admired them, while holding no kind of belief in the efficacy of their methods. Still we had a sneaking admiration for the nerve it must have taken for certain members of this group to stand up on their hind legs and spill the dirt. Of course it did not really benefit anyone to do this, in fact cases are on record where definite injury resulted from these public confessions, and that not such a great way from home. Still, they thought they were doing something worthwhile. We were willing to suspend judgment on them, however, until the thing had worked out a little farther. But now, along comes Dr. Buchman, and definitely upsets the apple-cart.

We don't know how well posted Dr. Buchman is on international relations and world politics, but we suspect he still has a lot to learn. That is unless he is a consummate liar, and one hesitates to call him that just yet. If he possesses only the rudimentary knowledge of Fascism, however, he must realize that a dictatorship and spiritual Christianity would make strange bed-fellows. None of our present dictators care a fig for revealed religion of any kind. And as for converting one of them to God, well—the kindest thing to say about Dr. Buchman is that he is the world's greatest optimist. That is, if he really means it.

Dr. Buchman's chief cause of de-

light in Hitler, it seems, is because the latter has built up "a front line of defence against the anti-Christ of Communism." Now Communism may be the anti-Christ, or it may not, that is outside the scope of the present article, but one thing is certain. Fascism is no cradle for the precepts of Christ. I presume that Dr. Buchman, if he favors Fascist methods, is willing to take all the Fascist trappings and shibboleths along too. Once having got the dictator converted to God, although how that is to be done he does not say, the next step would be the conversion of the entire population. Using Fascist methods, he would have to proceed somewhat like this. First a proclamation ordering the populace by a certain date to publicly profess their faith in God, or perhaps in the Oxford Group. All who do not comply will be visited with dire penalties. Let us take the case of Bill Jones. Bill has gone all his life without manifesting any particular interest in spiritual affairs. The only spirits he is conversant with are not the kind Dr. Buchman has in mind. Bill refuses to heed the orders. What happens to Bill? One day a squad of violet shirts invades his home, swat him in the face, knock him down and kick his ribs in, and then haul him away to the hoosegow. There he is stood with his face to the wall for six hours, and gets a gun butt over his cranium if he falters. At the end of that time he is asked if he believes in God or the Oxford Group. Having a trace of stubbornness still left in him, he says that he doesn't. He is then taken to a concentration camp, shut up in latrines for days at a time, fed a quart of castor oil every now and then, and beaten all over the place. After about three months of this, Bill is ready to swear allegiance to God or the devil, anything to get out. After two or three years of this kind of thing, spread out over the country as a whole, the dictator may get his people to paying at least a lip service to God or the Oxford Group.

Well, well, so this is our old friend Dr. Buchman's pleasant little idea. He is now reported to be back in the United States conducting some more "house parties." We wonder if he has got the castor oil and the whips in readiness, or if everyone has to supply their own. And what color shirts would he favour, we wonder. Hell Buchman! —OBSERVER.

## CANADIANS NAMED TO GENEVA GROUPS

GENEVA, Sept. 23—Canadian delegates to the League of Nations Assembly meeting today were named to five Assembly committees.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Dr. O. D. Skelton, under-secretary of state for external affairs, were appointed to the committee on constitutional questions.

Dr. W. A. Riddell, permanent Canadian representative at Geneva, and Col. G. P. Vanier, secretary of the high commissioner in London, were appointed to the technical organization committee.

Dr. Skelton and Col. Vanier were named to the budget committee. Minister of Labor Normal McL. Rogers and Dr. Riddell were named to the social question committee. On the political committee are Senator Raoul Dandurand and Mr. Rogers.

### CANADA IMPORTANT PRODUCER SENEGA ROOT FOR MEDICINES

When winter comes then is the time for cough medicines. Not a few have senega root as a main ingredient much of which comes from Canada. For many years Japan has imported senega root for use in the preparation of cough remedies but the growing use of substitutes has limited the market. There is still, however, a considerable demand in Japan for senega root, the larger share being supplied by the United States and the balance by Canada. Canadian senega root is well and favourably known in Japan and some of the root supplied by the United States is believed to be of Canadian origin, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways. Ecuador also produces senega root, and entered the Japanese market for the first time last year.

### COUNCIL REMOVES SPEED LIMIT ON HORSES

DETROIT, Sept. 24—Detroit's Common Council, convinced the automobile is here to stay, has just repealed the hitching-post ordinance and regulations governing speed of horses. A few of the fifty two-ring posts still stand in the city's downtown section the Council was informed. With the speed limit of ten miles an hour for horses repealed, they may now compete with automobiles, even on the boulevards.

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## MEDICOS FIND THAT LOVE IS MERELY BRAINSTORM

BOSTON, Sept. 24—If upon looking back at your actions that night in August when the moon was full, the sand warm, and the girl so lovely, you come to the conclusion that you had a brain-storm, you are probably exactly right, and "brain-storm" is exactly the word, for that is exactly what happens in your brain under emotional stress.

And this isn't guesswork, nor mere theory, for by hooking some electrical gadgets onto your scalp, Harvard's medical scientists have been able to measure the voltage of those brain-storms and may eventually be able to tell you how much in love you are at a given period.

### Can Predict a Fit

The immediately practical application of that feat is to tell an epileptic when a fit is coming on, or to be more exact, to be able to predict that a fit (or a convulsion) is coming in the next 18 to 24 hours, and thus enable the patient to stay home and read rather than to go to the movies and have the fit right in the theatre.

Harvard's Medical School research men contributed those facts today at their symposium of knowledge, which is part of Harvard's general tercentenary programme.

Three of Harvard's crack medicos who have been working for years on the electrical activity of the brain, read their papers. They were: Drs. Halliwell Davis, Frederic A. Gibbs and William G. Lennox. They use an electrical gadget which might resemble the skull cap worn by a person about to be electrocuted, if it wasn't so completely different.

This gadget consists of a couple of plates put on the scalp. Once they used to screw them into the patient's ears, and that hurt. Later they developed their present technique which consists of merely placing the plates on the patient's scalp. The wires leading from the gadgets carry off the voltage. The voltage is low, so low in fact that before they can do anything much with it, they have to step it up. The current is about 50 millionths of a volt.

### Alpha Wave

It is amplified, much as your radio amplifies the political noise now coming in, and the voltage is recorded on a tape. And—if you are not in love and are otherwise normal—the tape will show a regular wave of about ten beats to the second. Just to call that wave something so all present would know what was being talked about, that wave was called the alpha wave.

But you should have seen the casual manner in which Dr. Davis explained that the wave—to be considered normal—must be taken under what might be called standard conditions, 'since the electrical pattern is readily modified by sleep, tension, and emotional stress,' he academically pointed out.

Dr. Davis explained that under tension or emotional disturbance the 'brain waves' are greatly changed as the molecules of the brain are so agitated that what actually happens is a brain-storm. And if being in the throes of a violent love affair, however calm you may appear externally, isn't having a brain storm the electrical gadgets might as well be discarded. Still, on second thought who would want some scientist around measuring brain waves at a time like that? But to get back to pure science.

### Brain Waves

Between the three doctors, it was made clear that these brain waves ebb and flow quite regularly until something happens to disturb them. In fact, they are so regular that the brain waves of identical twins have remarkable similarity, which led to the belief that there must be some deep-seated organic origin. Eight pairs of twins were studied.

When something—like an epileptic fit, falling in love, getting under tension from worry, fatigue or something else of equally violent nature—occurs to disturb the molecules of the brain, the waves change. They become speedier and less regular. This irregularity is shown on the apparatus just as the activity of the heart is shown on the cardiograph.

Epilepsy is about as violent as anything can be. And sure enough, careful daily study of an epileptic showed that some 18 or 24 hours before a fit started the brain had a storm which

recorded itself on the apparatus. With in the time limit, the patient had a fit. Hence after months of study these doctors were able to say in substance to the patient:

"Better not go to the movies tomorrow because a fit is due."

And the patient would stay in bed and perhaps some drug would be administered to cut down the violence of, or even prevent the seizure. And what is more these conservative medicos say:

"If we can predict seizures in one patient, the first we have studied with this in mind, we can probably do the same for others."

And then they added: "If a patient could tell the day on which he was to have a seizure he would be relieved from the fear of having one in an embarrassing or dangerous situation. Furthermore, if one can tell when a seizure is about to occur, it should be possible in many instances to give a sedative drug in sufficient dosage to prevent the seizure."

### Measure Brain Storm

So far as the doctors admit, none have attempted to measure the voltage of the brain storm which occurs in cases less dreadful than epilepsy, but the equipment is developed for any such purpose, and it is not stretching matters too far, to expect that shortly the apparatus can be used for other purposes than predicting the onslaught of an epileptic seizure.

But of even greater importance in the study of epilepsy is the possibility that by this apparatus evidence of the basic nerve disturbance which causes the fit may be tracked down and then, perhaps, the surgeon's knife or other treatment can correct the condition.

In mild attacks, the voltage is lower than normal and the wave follows a definite form—one large wave with a 'spike' following immediately after it.

These waves occur about three times a second and enable the doctor to make a diagnosis even without having seen the patient in a fit. The minor seizures have their own characteristic wave, while the 'grand mal epilepsies' show high voltage waves with a frequency of from seven to 20 waves a second. After the fit has passed there is a reaction, and there is so little voltage left in the brain that the recordings are almost flat. The period of flatness corresponds generally to the stupor which follows the fit.

### May Detect Starts

There is one hope which these doctors hold out—perhaps they can eventually detect the exact spot where the seizure starts. If they can do that definitely, perhaps local treatment will be of some use, even if it does not reach the basic trouble.

But the question which was in every one's mind was the possibility that the apparatus might be used to determine the voltage of brain storms other than epilepsy, and also determine how much voltage the brain can stand without blowing a fuse, or whatever the brain does when too much voltage is present. There were some present who really wanted to know the voltage they generated under certain circumstances but they had to leave without asking their questions.

### BURIED WRONG MAN, SO THEY DIG HIM UP

HUMBOLDT, Tenn., (Sept. 23)—They buried "Henry Gilland" three days ago, and mourned his passing. 'Henry' was killed in a train wreck at Newbern, Tenn., last week.

Henry was a 69-year-old marble cutter and was poor. But friends raised the funds to bury him, and in a group attended his funeral.

That was last Saturday. Today on the streets walked Henry Gilland, much alive.

Jesse Roberts, one of his oldest friends, was the first to see Henry. He faintly. Other friends saw the "revived" Henry.

It was all a mystery to Henry, because, it seems, Henry was away, and knew nothing of the train wreck, knew nothing of his death and knew far less of his burial. So they disinterred the coffin today, and its unknown occupant was buried in a potter's field.

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Ar. 9.40 a.m.	Moonlight Inn	Lv. 5.10 p.m.
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