

Social Maturity Needed to Cope with Post-war World

To say that "modern man is confused" is to utter a cliché. Confusion is no longer in the "news." It is accepted now in the "facts" department. But there are some who see paths out of our confusion.

"A year of disenchantment . . . remarkable for the number and magnitude of illusions which have perished in it"—that fairly well describes (these years) following World War II. Yes, but those words were written in 1867 after the war between the states. We are not the first generation to live through postwar disillusionment, with its confusion and dismay. . . . What distinguishes our generation in dealing with it is the global scale on which it confronts us," says Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick. "Our one world . . . is crying for those qualities of life and character that make men and nations fit to live with."¹

"Times Out of Joint"

In the preface to her recent book, Bonaro Overstreet points out that "our times are out of joint. Most of us do not know whether to begin by trying to change ourselves or by trying to change our world. The one is necessary to the other; the other to the one. . . . I have elected to start with the self." Mrs. Overstreet's work as a psychologist has kept her "in touch with people who have been disturbed about themselves; who have not known what they had a right to expect of life, or what life had a right to expect of them. . . . They have thought about themselves as hapless atoms pushed around by circumstances, because they have not known how to think about themselves . . . as makers of circumstances. They have thought about themselves in ego-centered ways . . . because they have not known how to think about themselves as proudly part

of the human race."²

"Living In Fragments"

"Many men are narrowed by work and business; many women are narrowed by home and children—or by jobs and domestic duties. As long as there is fragmented living, there will be frustrated lives" . . . writes Ordway Teal, well-known author and editor. "To work creatively, to love family and friends, to find beauty, to share community obligation, to play productively, to worship reverently—a person, man or woman, is whole only as all of these deep desires of life can be realized. . . . To expect less from living is a kind of surrender leading to narrowness and confusion in one's inner life. . . . This is the basic proposal for spiritual health in our time; we have to find the fullness of ourselves."³

One immediately thinks of what Dr. Luella Cole, distinguished American psychologist and author, speaks of as "individual, responsible maturity with its accompanying personal freedom." Dr. Cole enumerates what she considers traits which distinguish a mature adult. Intellectual traits include (1) making up one's *own* mind; (2) accepting responsibility for one's successes and failures; (3) observing one's self objectively; (4) making a compromise rather than butting one's head against a wall; (5) realizing that one's work is only a small part of the work of all people.

Dr. Cole sees emotional maturity in (1) the ability to bear tension, and (2) the outgrowing of adolescent enjoyment of having one's emotions aroused.

Maturity Trait Listed

The person who attains social maturity (1) is free from the domination of his parents. (2) He has achieved an accepted position with his contemporaries. (3) He is efficiently filling a job