
The Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association

Author(s): Clark L. Hull

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anything, if biological science has validity or value, then mind occurs in nature, and reason is born of the irrational; it is an irrational existence before it is anything else and in order to be anything else. As beginnings are never conceivable, Hume to the contrary notwithstanding, so the beginnings of rationality can only be what was not rational and became so, an obviously "inconceivable" occurrence. The first step to make the thought process what it is was not a thoughtful step. It was an animal attitude, accepting or rejecting appearances, as it felt them good or bad. Value came first.

But this is not the place to dilate upon the theme of reason and its ordered universe, floating in an inconceivably vaster irrational and unknown chaos of possibilities. I can only hope that Mr. Dewey will think that I mean to hold the inconceivable position that I do with at least as much ground in my well-working subconsciousness—I take it to be my natural soul, which does all my thinking and theorizing too—as in my expressed argument. One of his questions I have failed to answer. How can there be values which are not valuable? There can not be. But there can be dislikes as well as likes, and so negative values as well as positive. Mr. Dewey may find that the present discourse has only the former sort of value. It seems to me, however, that I have at least shown that I mean quite unambiguously something; that most of what I mean does not interfere with accepting Mr. Dewey's doctrine of valuation judgments, except in so far as this doctrine suggests that such judgments are integral to the occurrence of value itself; and that the rest of what I mean bears on the nature of value, however indefinable value may be because it is an ultimate category, a mere event, the occurrence of one specific sort of quality, or more rigorously, the specific sort of quality that is present to mind as the essence of the thoughtless situation indicated.

D. W. PRALL.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

THE thirty-second annual meeting of the American Psychological Association met at the University of Wisconsin December 27, 28, and 29, 1923. One hundred twenty-four psychologists were officially registered and there were in addition many visitors who attended the various programmes. The regular sessions were all held in Bascom Hall, except the symposium on Freudian psychology and the business meeting, which were both held in the amphitheatre of the Biology Building.

The programme committee avoided, as far as possible, the dis-

traction resulting from having several programmes running simultaneously. The number of papers read was restricted, so that no more than two regular sessions were held at the same time. In addition, the overlapping was limited by having one programme begin an hour or more earlier than the other. Though the second programme often began with a slender audience, it was reenforced at the termination of the first programme. The papers of graduate students were placed in a single programme. The papers were limited to five minutes each and, so far as possible, to reports of actual investigations. This programme was an excellent one, and the plan seems a happy solution.

The forenoon programmes were upon the more general and theoretical aspects of psychology. Programme A was a particularly lively one, the behaviorists and their critics occupying the center of the stage. P. T. Young led with an indirect criticism of behaviorism. He held that its limitations leave untouched many interesting and significant psychological problems. He suggested a standpoint somewhat similar to that of Avenarius. W. S. Hunter followed with a behavioristic discussion of the nature of consciousness. He urged that it is an irreversible sensory-process language-response relationship and is hopeful of experimental attack from this angle. A. P. Weiss read a paper presenting a vigorous mechanistic and behavioristic position in which he pointed out a certain biosocial equivalence of human behavior. Curt Rosenow followed with a sprightly paper in which he attacked what he considered the extremely mechanistic views of Lashley, as recently published. Lashley made a brief but highly technical reply which in part may have gone over the heads of the audience. The programme was concluded by a brief but brilliant paper by R. S. Woodworth, in which he outlined his personal position on the matter of behaviorism. He appeared to favor behaviorism in its practical and positive aspects, but insisted that psychology has a much larger scope than behaviorism.

Programme B began with a paper by Max Schoen in which an esthetic terminology was developed upon the basis of the esthetic attitude in music. A dawning American interest in the German *Gestalt* movement appeared in a paper by G. Humphrey, in which he traced relations between the relativity theory of Einstein and the *Gestalt*. Joseph Peterson pointed out that ordinary associationism is inadequate to account for the phenomena of learning. He proposed to introduce in addition the factor of intelligence. This must be conceived as a biological mechanism by which a complexity of impulses is given somewhat unified and consistent direction in behavior. F. L. Wells concluded this programme with a discussion of various aspects of the certification of psychologists for special service, such as clinical, educational, and industrial.

The Thursday afternoon programmes were given over to experimental psychology. G. S. Snoddy described certain experiments on learning in mirror drawing. The mathematical expressions for his learning curves are similar to certain ones in colloidal chemistry and suggest a possible explanation of this kind of learning, in the colloids involved in the synapse. E. S. Robinson reported the results of some memory experiments in which three-place numbers were used as material. It was found in general that the results were similar to previously reported results where syllables were used. K. S. Lashley described the effect of extirpation of the motor cortex of monkeys upon the retention of training in the opening of latch-boxes. He found it unimpaired. He found, also, that emotion sometimes overcame paralysis resulting from lesions, which suggests the view that the primary function of the motor cortex is the facilitation of the lower centers. E. A. Bott showed results from exact tracings of both reciprocating and non-reciprocating wrist movements. He concludes that there is a certain "overlapping" neural action, which contradicts certain current views of reciprocal innervation. Charles Bird repeated with variations the classical experiment of Breed on the effect of maturation upon the pecking of chicks. He concluded that maturation did not account for the improvement in pecking skill.

R. H. Gault was the first speaker on the second experimental programme. He described experiments in which a subject was trained to interpret voice vibrations transmitted to the palm of the hand. Certain words and expressions were identified with an accuracy exceeding chance. F. O. Smith described a method of producing a discrimination scale of purples, based upon the use of a combination of red and blue filters. J. E. Anderson reported experiments from the Yale laboratory, confirming Heymen's general law of inhibition in the vision both of the albino rat and of human subjects. S. W. Fernberger reported results of making brief exposures of varying numbers of black dots. He distinguished in the introspective reports an attention phase, a cognition phase, and an apprehension phase. J. T. Metcalf applied the method of paired comparisons to test preferences for combinations of grays. Medium differences were preferred to slight or to extreme ones.

Late in the afternoon a special demonstration of apparatus was given in the Wisconsin Psychological laboratory. C. H. Stoelting showed an excellent exhibit of standard apparatus and printed test-materials. Dr. Young demonstrated an extremely clever color mixer. Woodworth showed a combination "three-hole" and tapping test with the counter built into the stylus. The apparatus exhibit was an attractive centre all through the meeting.

As no official function occupied the dinner hour Thursday eve-

ning, various congenial groups arranged special dinners. Perhaps the largest of these was the Chicago group numbering thirty-six. The Columbia group numbered thirty-four.

At eight o'clock the annual business meeting convened. G. Stanley Hall was elected president. This was especially significant as Dr. Hall was the founder and first president of the Association, serving during the year 1892.

A resolution was passed congratulating Professor Joseph Jastrow upon his thirty-fifth year at the University of Wisconsin. This is the record of service as professor of psychology by an American psychologist.

A vigorous proposal to create a special section of industrial psychology was made by Cattell; but the prevailing view seemed to be that industrial psychology is not yet sufficiently developed for such action.

It was voted to increase the annual membership dues from two dollars to five.

On Friday morning took place the programme on Industrial Psychology and the session for informal reports by graduate students. L. L. Thurstone began the industrial programme with an account of the preparation of psychological tests for the use of the civil service. C. L. Hull gave an account of an automatic machine designed to perform most of the drudgery in the computation of Pearson's coefficient of correlation and to make automatic predictions of vocational aptitudes from test-scores by the solution of multiple regression equations. W. V. Bingham reported that 73 business men showed no correlation between business success and Army Alpha test scores. H. S. Langfeld reported his experience in giving vocational advice to restless workers who contemplated change of occupation. H. D. Kitson showed the significance of certain answers in an application blank in the metal trades to vital problems of personnel. F. B. Knight described an experimental investigation of the claims of popular "character analysts," but found no evidence to support them.

The early part of Friday afternoon was devoted to social and racial psychology. E. Faris read a theoretical paper on the methods to be followed in social psychology. He emphasized the value of scientifically written biographies. Katherine Murdock reported a comparative study of the test-scores obtained from numerous racial stocks attending the same schools in Hawaii. Anglo-Saxons seem to excel in general intelligence, and Orientals in moral traits. F. C. Paschal and L. R. Sullivan reported a careful study of about 400 Mexican school-children from Arizona. Thomas Garth reported that Indians from sedentary tribes do not acknowledge mental fatigue as

readily as nomadic Indians, but in reality their test-scores showed more evidence of real fatigue.

Later in the afternoon came the symposium on the contribution of Freudianism to psychology. L. L. Thurstone pointed out how slightly the basic concepts of the Freudian psychology had found their way into standard texts. J. H. Leuba followed with an analysis of the action of the subconscious in numerous historical cases of scientific insight, discovery, and invention. K. S. Lashley then discussed in an extremely acute manner the scientific status of the Freudian libido. He called attention to Stone's experiments on the sex-reactions of the rat and argued convincingly from these against the Freudian hypothesis. Joseph Jastrow concluded the symposium with a paper on the neurological aspects of behavior, filled with characteristic wit and insight.

The annual dinner took place Friday evening at the University Club. Covers were laid for one hundred twenty-nine. Shortly after the appearance of coffee and cigars, Professor Lewis M. Terman delivered the address of the retiring president. Owing to a severe cold President Terman was unable to attend sessions in any active capacity as he was saving his voice for this occasion. His precautions were evidently successful, as he was in fine voice as well as spirits. Dr. Terman based his address upon the results of a questionnaire sent to about a dozen of the leading American psychologists, requesting their opinion on various aspects of the relation of psychological tests to scientific psychological experiment. He concluded after a careful examination of the matter that there was no absolute difference between the two, but only a difference in relative emphasis. While no reference was made to the recent controversy which has raged about the I. Q., the knowledge of this on the part of his hearers gave an added interest to what was said.

Saturday morning began with the programme on mental measurement. Warner Brown described experiments on the rating of advertisements which seem to show that the "halo" effect in ranking is not as great as has often been supposed. L. W. Webb reported an experiment which indicates that the joint judgment by students of one other as to intelligence is of about the same accuracy as the joint judgment of students by members of the faculty. A. H. Arlett reported an experiment which indicated that the present intelligence tests are not of much value in predicting scholastic success of college students. Max Meyer concluded this programme with the demonstration of a special testing apparatus of elaborate construction, which yields test-scores uncomplicated by errors.

The clinical-educational programme was begun by W. R. Wells who reported his experience with waking hypnosis. This was said

to show the same range of phenomena as the ordinary sleeping trance. Grace H. Kent presented a form of systematic personal observation of insane subjects while they were being given ordinary tests, which favored individual diagnosis and treatment. Phyllis Blanchard and Richard H. Paynter reported an elaborate study of 500 "problem" children which were compared with a control group of 337 unselected children. The relation of social maladjustment to scholastic retardation, low I.Q., personality difficulties, speech defects, and physical abnormalities, were traced in detail. M. J. Van Wagenen compared the school work of sixth-grade children having varying levels of I. Q. It was found that the mentally over-age do poorer work, upon the whole, in all the school subjects tested. Bird T. Baldwin and L. I. Stecher reported an extensive study of the test-scores of rural children. They found these children averaging rather badly on the verbal tests, but running better than the norm on the tests not depending on language.

On Saturday morning simultaneously with the two programmes just reviewed, there took place in the grill room of the University Club, a special informal conference of experimentalists. This had been planned as a kind of experiment and no very large attendance was expected. Somewhat to the surprise of those who had arranged the conference, the room was packed to capacity. A casual inspection of those present revealed the directors of nearly all of the psychological laboratories of the country. Professor Dodge presided and through a thick haze of tobacco smoke, deftly guided the discussion through the general subject of research going on in the various laboratories in the field of perception. The free and easy conversational interchange of ideas and experiences thus secured was unique. The conference was especially significant as it marks a distinctly new and valuable type of session which will doubtless be a part of future meetings of the American Psychological Association. Professor Boring was voted chairman for the coming year.

From the point of view of the excellence of the papers presented, the number of psychologists present, and the spirit displayed, the Madison meeting was one of the most successful ever held in the Middle West.

CLARK L. HULL.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

BOOK REVIEWS

Problems in Dynamic Psychology; A Critique of Psychoanalysis and Suggested Formulations. JOHN T. MACCURDY. New York: Macmillan Co. 1922. Pp. 383.

The psychoanalytic doctrine, by which we mean the general body