

BABIES DISPLAY TEMPERAMENT IN PERSONALITY TEST

That children as young as two and three years of age can be sorted out according to emotional temperament, has been shown by an experiment with 100 children from two to six years old, conducted by Dr. Leslie R. Marston, at the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station at the University of Iowa.

The experiment, which has just been reported, shows that the two year old, who can scarcely talk, is already developed into a personality type so marked in character that habitual emotional reactions may be expected.

Dr. Marston classifies the young subjects of his experiment into introvert and extrovert types, a division commonly used in analyzing character. An extrovert of any age expresses his emotions in actions, he explains, while the introvert inhibits expression and uses his emotional energy within his own body.

The term introvert, "turned inward" suggests the person whose center of attention is himself. According to the rating scale, the introvert is habitually self-conscious and easily embarrassed; he is reserved and prefers to work and play alone, is sensitive, modest, and yields to others rather than oppose them. He is careful and good at details, deliberative, slow, and tends to stay in a rut and avoid new situations. He underestimates his own ability, is moody and worries. The extrovert, whose emotions and thoughts are "tuned outward", has the opposite characteristics.

The children were rated in 20 traits according to this scale, in addition to the introverts and extroverts, some of the children were classed as an in-between type, called by Dr. Marston the ambiverts--"turned both ways"--who are introvert in some particulars, extrovert in others, but less extreme in their reactions than the true introverts and extroverts.

To verify the rating, Dr. Marston subjected the children to test situations. For instance, to test the child's degree of aggression, he was left alone in a room with a stranger - the experimenter - who had an interesting toy. At first the experimenter paid no attention to the child, then smiled and finally, if necessary, invited him to play with the toy. By means of a stop watch, he timed the child's reactions, at the same time making notes of the child's movements and remarks. Introverted children moved away or stood still, some even refusing the most urgent invitations. Children of the extrovert type came at once to the toy and in friendly spirit said, "Hello". Similar tests were given on other points and the children were found to behave consistently according to their personality types.

Dr. Marston does not speculate as to whether the personality types are inborn or acquired through social experience after birth, but states that boys tend to be more extroverted than girls, that extroversion decreases with age, and that the type reactions may be modified with training.

NEW INSECTICIDE MADE WITH AIR

Consternation among the bug pests of southern California is expected to follow the introduction of calcium cyanide, a new death-dealer which appears to be the most powerful agricultural poison yet known. Information just released by

Dr. Robert W. Poindexter, cyanide chemist, indicates that a long period of industrial research has now put calcium cyanide into the commercial arena. The product as now made in southern California is prepared largely from the nitrogen of the air and from natural gas.

Recent field tests show that calcium cyanide is much more potent than pure hydrocyanic acid, or prussic acid, heretofore considered the ultimate 100 per cent. of toxic power. This unexpected result so far is not explained. After one test of calcium cyanide this winter in an orange grove, where a very resistant strain of scale insects was infesting the foliage, only two bugs were found alive among over 3000 insects actually counted. This record is especially encouraging to growers who have found the scale pests gradually developing immunity to regular doses of hydrocyanic acid. As one orchardist suggests - "the ancestors of the scale have been killed so often that their progeny don't mind it any more."

Calcium cyanide, while theoretically appearing to be a simple preparation to the ordinary chemist, is impossible to make in any ordinary way. By combining calcium carbide with hydrocyanic acid, however, a light brown powder is secured and this substance has the remarkable power of pouring out a veritable wave of poison gas when it is merely exposed to common air. Fumigators simply blow the poison in a dust cloud under the regular orchard tent; and whatever animal was living under the tent dies, regardless of whether it be a scale insect, a luckless owl or an itinerant rooster.

APES AND MAN UNTANGLED BY GOVERNMENT SCIENTIST.

Just where the higher apes belong on the zoological family tree, and exactly what names we have a right to call these hairy cousins, has been the subject of an exhaustive study by Dr. C. W. Stiles of the U. S. Public Health Service, who has just completed a 150-page treatise on the subject.

"This may look like a question of interest only to zoology professors," said Dr. Stiles, "but the exact opposite is the case. The study was undertaken in the first place because of its very great practical importance. Apes and monkeys are indispensable nowadays in the experimental study of human diseases, and a great deal of confusion and some possibly dangerous mistakes can be caused in medical and bacteriological circles when the same name is given by different men to entirely distinct species of apes, one of which might be very susceptible to a given disease and the other immune. So a straightening up of the whole situation was necessary, if we are really to know what we are talking about.

"My survey of the literature on apes and monkeys took me back to the year 1551," Dr. Stiles continued. "The confusion of names began then, and it has not been straightened out yet. Not merely apes but the human species also, were involved by the earlier writers, who lived long before Darwin and so far as I know never gave a thought to evolution. Some of them listed apes as a kind of man, others considered certain types of men as apes. Even as late as 1829, a freak human being who was discovered was described and pictured as an ape.

"One interesting side-light on this situation is afforded by the name of the big East Indian ape, the orang-utan. 'Orang' is a Malay word meaning 'intelligent being'; it is applied not only to man and the orang-utan, but also to the elephant. Roughly, it may be said to mean 'man'. 'Utan' means 'of the woods'. 'Orang-utan'