

Counting Fence Posts

Psychology

Do you count fence posts or houses on a block, as you walk along the streets? If so you have plenty of company, for this mental habit of counting is far more common than has been supposed, a Polish psychologist has found out.

Prof. Stefan Blachowski, of the University of Poznan in Poland, questioned several hundred students at the university and has found that 54 per cent of them have the inclination to count objects, to a greater or lesser degree. Reporting this investigation to the International Congress of Psychology, Professor Blachowski said that heretofore scientists have been attracted chiefly to the extreme and abnormal cases, such as individuals who feel themselves powerfully compelled to count the steps they take or the words they hear, and who become enslaved to a habit that they feel helpless to shake off.

Among the university students, counting was more prevalent among women than among men. About two-thirds of the women had the inclination, as compared with less than half of the men.

The objects the different students counted make a long list, Prof. Blachowski said. Among the most popular were planks in the floor, wallpaper patterns, windows, pictures, buttons, stops during a walk, trees, autos, books on shelves, equipages at funerals, stakes in fences, houses from one end of the street to the other, letters, money, and railway cars.

The statement made by one student applies to most of the cases, the psychologist said. This mental counter explained: "If I see something arranged in a row, pictures on the wall, for instance, I count them."

Another student said that when he took a railway journey he always counted the stations and the houses and jotted down his precise observations in a diary.

Since so many normal people occupy their minds with this form of thinking, Prof. Blachowski believes that the matter should be studied more deeply than when it was merely supposed to be a phase of mental disease.

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"There is no greater handicap for any child than to have parents who refuse to allow him to grow up," according to Dr. Douglas A. Thom, specialist in child psychology.

Relativity Theory Reaches Psychology

Psychology

Body, soul, and mind are not three different substances, but only different degrees of one reality, according to Dr. Andrew Juhász, of Budapest, European psychologist attending the International Congress of Psychology at New Haven.

Speaking on the relations of body and soul, a mighty problem that puzzled the Greek philosophers and that has fascinated thinkers of every age, Dr. Juhász propounded a point of view that brings into psychology concepts of Einstein's relativity and concepts of the recent quantum theory in physics.

The mind should be considered as a medium between body and soul, between the material and the immaterial, the psychologist declared.

"The mind is a criterium of life and a bridge between the immortal soul and the lifeless mass," he stated. "The form in which the mind appears is the time, which must be relative, because the living mind shapes a moving system, and all our psychical experiences are related to this system. Life does not mean an objective space of time, it is only a period of the infinity. The possibility of the soul's realization, that is, the mind, has always slumbered in the body as the aboriginal energy of Einstein. The birth of the individuum is the actual-

ization of the potency, and death is the transformation of his actuality into potency again.

"The realization is not a sudden action. It begins only with birth and lasts until death, until the potencies are exhausted. It is not a flowing procession, but it issues eruptively."

Dr. Juhász suggested that a psychological quantum theory should be evolved corresponding to the new concept in modern physics which conceives of light, electricity and other forms of energy moving in spurts or darts instead of a continuous stream.

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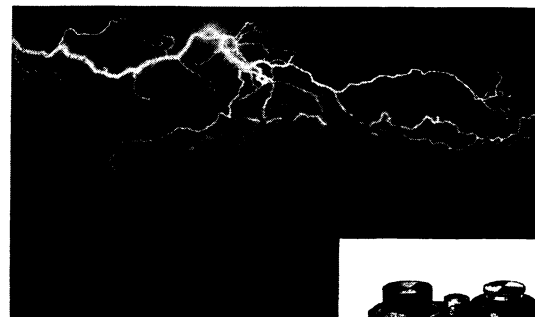
No Pain Sensation

Psychology

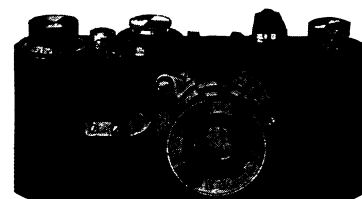
When you cut your finger, you may be under the impression that you are experiencing a sensation of pain. But this is not the case, according to a French psychologist who specializes in the study of the human sensations.

There is no pain sensation, this professor, H. Pieron, of the College of France, told the International Congress of Psychology in New Haven. Pain is really an emotional level which may be reached when certain specific sense organs are stimulated, he explained.

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