

Young Psychologists Organize

Psychology

A new institution with some novel features has been established for the study of fundamental problems of psychology by experimental methods. It has been incorporated under the name of the National Institute of Psychology with a widely worded charter authorizing it to conduct research in psychology and "to promote the application of scientific facts and principles to problems of human and animal life and welfare." The management of the Institute is placed permanently in the hands of 50 of the younger experimental psychologists. Each person chosen for active membership must have proved his ability to do original research by himself. Merely teaching psychology or directing the work of others does not make a man eligible. When an active member reaches the age of sixty he is automatically retired to honorary membership. It is hoped that funds may be raised for psychological research and for the purchase of a spacious site in the environs of the national capital where laboratories can be built free from the noise, vibration and electrical disturbances of the city.

The object of the National Institute of Psychology as stated at the Carlisle Conference on Experimental Psychology, March 30, 1928, by Dr. Knight Dunlap, the chairman of the Conference, is to found "a national psychological laboratory, similar in some of its functions to the Bureau of Standards, but not under Federal control. Such a laboratory can be

under a relatively permanent director and can undertake programs of research too lengthy, too expensive, and too complicated for other institutions. In such a laboratory, truly cooperative results of the highest value can be obtained. Men working in other laboratories on details of the problems undertaken in the national laboratory could make arrangements to transfer their work there during a year's leave of absence, or in summers. Work done here can be subjected to criticism while in progress, instead of afterwards, and the cooperative method can insure greater certainty as to conditions. Such a national laboratory will be of really inestimable advantage to psychology, not only because of its availability for the solution of problems unwieldy elsewhere, but because through it better standards of research may be elevated.

"The day of the isolated experimenter and of fragmentary problems is passing. Unless we find means of shaping our problems into coherent plans of larger unity, unless we find means of carrying out vital research and postponing the merely interesting, unless we can pool our constructive and critical abilities, we shall be out of step with the advance of scientific method."

The National Institute of Psychology was incorporated in the District of Columbia by Prof. Knight Dunlap of Johns Hopkins; Hugh S. Cumming, Surgeon-General, United

States Public Health Service, and Edwin E. Slosson, director of Science Service.

The National Institute of Psychology as organized consists of the following active members: John E. Anderson, Minnesota; Madison Bentley, Cornell; E. G. Boring, Harvard; Warner Brown, California; Harvey A. Carr, Chicago; Percy W. Cobb, Cleveland; J. E. Coover, Stanford; K. M. Dallenbach, Cornell; J. F. Dashiell, North Carolina; F. C. Dock-eray, Ohio Wesleyan; Raymond Dodge, Yale; Knight Dunlap, Johns Hopkins; Franklin Fearing, Northwestern; S. W. Fernberger, Pennsylvania; Frank Freeman, Chicago; H. L. Hollingworth, Columbia; Clark Hull, Wisconsin; H. M. Johnson, Mellon Institute; K. S. Lashley, Institute for Juvenile Research, Chicago; Walter Miles, Stanford; H. S. Langfeld, Princeton; Joseph Peterson, Nashville; Rudolf Pintner, Columbia; A. T. Poffenberger, Columbia; E. S. Robinson, Yale; Calvin P. Stone, Stanford; Margaret F. Washburn, Vassar; A. P. Weiss, Ohio State; Frederick L. Wells, Boston Psychopathic Hospital; Herbert Woodrow, Oklahoma; R. S. Woodworth, Columbia; Robert Yerkes, Yale.

The following were made honorary members of the National Institute of Psychology: W. D. Scott, Northwestern; G. M. Stratton, California; C. E. Seashore, Iowa; L. Witmer, Pennsylvania; Eleanor A. Gamble, Wellesley.

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Touch New Aid to Lip Reading

Psychology

Deaf persons, who carefully watch the lips of those who engage them in conversation, may be aided by a new sense if experiments now in progress prove applicable to everyday life.

Dr. Robert H. Gault, professor of psychology at Northwestern University, has found that when deaf individuals watch the lips of a speaker, and at the same time hold in their hands apparatus which conveys the sounds to their fingers in the form of vibrations, they are better able to understand what is said than when they depend on lip reading alone. The equipment which enables the deaf to receive forms of speech through their fingers or the palm of the hand is

known as a teletactor, and consists of a microphone, an amplifier, batteries, and a receiver. This equipment in Dr. Gault's first experiments was large and heavy, but it has now been reduced in size to a conveniently portable instrument, so that it is more serviceable for practical purposes.

Touch is a greater aid than vision in enabling the deaf to detect accent in speech, the experiments indicate. From the vibrations a deaf person can more readily distinguish, for example, between such words as "cover" and "convert" by the added clue of the accent which he "feels". Thus the sense of touch appears to give

back to the deafened a clue to speech interpretation which is one of the valuable aids that normally hearing people depend on.

As further experiments are in progress, Dr. Gault states, he is not yet ready to announce his conclusions as to the extent to which the teletactor may prove serviceable in the everyday experiences of the hard of hearing.

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Musk oxen and reindeer can live in the same areas without interfering with each other's food supply, because the food eaten by one is avoided by the other.