

PSYCHOLOGY

Experiment Shows Child's Learning to be Sudden

IF YOUR baby has seemed to make no progress in something you have been trying vainly to teach him, do not be discouraged. Some day he may surprise you all of a sudden by just doing it.

Dr. Mary Shirley of the department of psychology, of the University of Minnesota, has stated that a child learns many things by leaps and bounds, although it may develop its skill in these things in a more gradual manner. She described a two-years' experiment with twenty Minneapolis babies. Her results were at variance with the generally accepted theories that a child's development is continuous rather than in fits and starts.

Dr. Shirley believes it can be both, in fact, but that it is necessary to distinguish between the ability to do something new, and the skill in doing it.

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AERONAUTICS

Build Airplane Like Auto To Make People Buy It

BUILD airplanes to resemble the conventional automobile as closely as possible and people will more readily buy them and take to the air.

This is what William B. Stout, who developed the Ford all-metal airplane, believes. He is "practising what he preaches" in the Sky Car which he has been working on for the past two years. This novel airplane, designed for the convenience and pocketbook of the isolated farmer, was described by Mr. Stout before the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in this fashion:

"It stands horizontally on the ground at rest: an automobile door opens and the traveler steps in as he would into a car; the seats are arranged the way he is accustomed to; he takes his seat in the plane and sits at the same height that he is used to in the car; he knows just where the wheels are, and just where the ground is.

"In the front is a dash similar to the motor car. On the dash is the ordinary automobile switch and lock. and the usual choke to pull out on starting. On the floor is the usual foot button to get the engine under way. Everything about this is reminiscent of a vehicle to which he is accustomed."

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• First Glances at New Books

Hygiene

FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTH—T. Bruce Kirkpatrick and Alfred F. Huettner—*Ginn*, 576 p., \$3.80. It is unfair to label this splendid book a college hygiene text, for it has practically no similarity to the usual hygiene textbook, although it is designed for hygiene classes in college. The adult presentation of all the interesting facts of life and the complete lack of moralistic or preachy tone will win and hold the student's interest and thus assure the success of the book as a teaching aid. The material is presented chiefly from the biologic viewpoint. The authors found this a successful method in the course from which the book evolved. The chapters on Evolution of Man, Development of the Individual, and Genetics and Human Inheritance are interesting additions to the material usually included in hygiene courses.

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Entertainment

DIGGERS AND BUILDERS—Henry B. Lent—*The Macmillan Company*, 68 p., \$2. Fathers of sons inquisitive about the hows and whys of the building going up in their block will find this little book an effective and different answer to a barrage of questions.

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Essays

MEDICINE, SCIENCE AND ART—Alfred E. Cohn—*University of Chicago Press*, 212 p., \$4. Dr. Cohn calls these six essays "studies in interrelations." Four of them deal with the status of medicine. One, delivered before the Harvey Society of New York, discusses William Harvey's work on the circulation of the blood. The sixth essay is on the Difference Between Art and Science in Relation to Nature. The volume contains much of interest for the thoughtful reader.

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Nutrition

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL FITNESS—L. Jean Bogert—*Saunders*, 554 p., \$3. The book is designed as a text for general courses in nutrition for students with little or no training in chemistry. It is simple, interesting and practical and will appeal to the housewife seeking guidance on how to feed her family both wisely and well. The directions for reducing food costs and the discussion of how much should be spent

on food at different income levels will be particularly appreciated at this time of financial depression. Diets for special conditions and for normal children, physiology in relation to food, and suggestions on healthy, palatable cookery are other features which add to the value of the book.

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Entomology

THE ARACHNID ORDER CHELONETHIDA—J. C. Chamberlin—*Stanford University Press*, 284 p., \$2. A comprehensive monograph of the false scorpions, with large bibliography.

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Psychology

FIFTY-FIVE "BAD" BOYS—Samuel W. Hartwell—*Knopf*, 359 p., \$3.50. Here is described the technique with which the author handles the difficulties of boys referred to his child guidance clinic. He does not rely on psychoanalysis or mental tests or histories or home visits so much as on the process which he describes as "thinking with" the boy. The "bad" boys had reached the point "when a feller needs a friend."

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Engineering

HANDBOOK OF CULVERT AND DRAINAGE PRACTICE—*ARMCO Culvert Manufacturers' Association*, 349 p., \$2. Of interest to highway engineers and others concerned with drainage.

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Archaeology

THE RUINS OF KIATUTHLANNA, EASTERN ARIZONA—Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr.—*U. S. Government Printing Office*, 195 p., 47 pl., 65 cents. It was at this ruin with the long name that Dr. Roberts made the important discovery of evidence showing how Basket Maker Indian culture gave place to Pueblo culture. "An unquestionable mixing of stock and customs" was detected. This is Dr. Roberts' carefully written report of that 1929 discovery.

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Physics

EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS—A. Frederick Collins—*D. Appleton and Company*, 302 p., \$2. Simple mechanical motions are explained for children and directions are given for building illustrative pasteboard models.

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