

PSYCHOLOGY

Monkey Swinging on Trapeze Aids in Study of Brain

Infant Animal Who Lost Motor Area of Cortex Is Able to Run, Jump and Play As Though Normal

A YOUNG monkey swinging nimbly on the flying trapeze is demonstrating to scientists at Yale University that parts of the brain are not nearly so specialized in their functioning as has been supposed.

While the monkey was an infant, an injury deprived him of the use of that part of the outer layer of his brain which is known to scientists as the motor area. Despite this, the baby monkey developed normally. He runs about and plays, jumps, climbs, and swings from the trapeze.

This monkey on the flying trapeze is contributing to a study of the brain functioning of apes and monkeys by Drs. Carlyle F. Jacobsen and George M. Haslerud, who are experimenting with these animals because of their close similarities to man.

The young monkey is proving that the normal function of this part of the brain can be taken over in the young animal by other parts of the brain and nervous system. In the adult, no amount of re-education has ever brought about such a transfer of functions.

Not all parts of the brain can hand over their work to other agencies in this fashion, it was found. The association area that enables you to put two and two together to make four and makes it possible for you to hold facts in mind while you solve problems is a part of the brain that seems to have no understudy. An injury to this part of the brain in an adult causes a complete loss of memory for recent events and makes the individual unable to remember what day of the week it is or where he laid down his spectacles.

Apes and monkeys who do not have the use of the association area of the brain may watch an experimenter putting a tempting morsel of food under a cup but unless they are allowed to secure the treat within two seconds they will have already forgotten where it was hidden.

Even though injury occurs to the animal early in infancy the functions of the association area are not recovered through action of other parts of the brain or nervous system. The loss appears to be complete.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Find Profiles in Tibet Like Buffalo Nickel Indian

A PEOPLE bearing striking similarity to the American Indian of the Western Plains has been discovered in Tibet by Gordon T. Bowles, assistant in anthropology at Harvard University, who has completed the first systematic anthropological measurements of Tibetans.

Other equally significant and promising clues to the mystery of the origin of some of the great population types of the world have also been uncovered.

Characteristic convex noses, projecting cheek bones, thin lips covering fairly prominent teeth and skin tinted copper-red mark the Tibetan-American Indians found. Some representatives of this peo-

ple have profiles very similar to that of the Indian on the familiar buffalo nickel.

This people forms about a tenth of the population of southeastern Tibet and it is Mr. Bowles' theory that it originated with a prehistoric invasion of European peoples into Mongolia and the ensuing mixture of fundamentally white and Mongoloid blood.

Part of this resulting mixture drifted down into Tibet and became isolated there where they are today, he believes. Others spread eastward and northward through northeastern Siberia, eventually crossing Bering Strait, and swept down



"INDIAN" FROM TIBET

The famous profile of the buffalo nickel Indian (inset) matches feature for feature this native type discovered in far-away Tibet by Gordon T. Bowles, Harvard University anthropologist.

onto the American plains, the founders of our American Indians.

Mr. Bowles' studies were conducted during a two-year stay in Tibet, sponsored by the Harvard-Yenching Institute and the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. He made thorough anthropological measurements of peoples living in the disputed border country between southwestern China and southeastern Tibet.

So successful were his investigations toward unraveling the origin of some of the world's population types that Harvard University has again sent Mr. Bowles and his wife on a quest for further data. They are to seek the beginnings of the Tibeto-Burman people between Tibet and the southern Himalayan foothills.

The people of this area, isolated in the deep valleys between towering and rugged mountain chains, have retained their physical characteristics for centuries. Invaders swarming over the region have also left representatives whose physical characteristics are preserved because the lay of the land served to keep groups more or less apart.

Some other peoples, however, left permanent marks there in their prehistoric migrations and Mr. Bowles regards the area as one of the few key regions likely to hold answers to the great questions of racial dispersion throughout the world.

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