

Yet the child's questions are just a means of orienting the youngster's life in a new and strange world, Dr. M. M. Lewis pointed out before the meeting. They serve two purposes; they are first play, then a social instrument, a means by which the child attempts to satisfy his needs.

Children's questions pass through three stages:

At first they are a means of dealing with the present situation, the one in which the child finds himself at the moment.

Then they begin to deal with absent situations, either past or future.

Finally they come to refer to merely possible situations. They are like the "hypothetical questions" of a lawyer. The child asks them to satisfy his curiosity. At first he uses them chiefly to check up on things he already knows. Then he makes them instruments for adding to his knowledge.

Tricks of the Color-Blind

Color-blind persons sometimes resort to very ingenious devices for overcoming their handicap and hiding it from others, Dr. Mary Collins, of the University of Edinburgh, told the Psychology Section of the Association in the course of her presidential address evaluating modern tests of color blindness.

One man who worked constantly with red and black ink was embarrassed by inability to tell one from the other. His difficulties were solved when he discovered that he could make the distinction by smell.

Another, who was a painter, had the much more difficult task of copying colored pictures when he was unable to tell green when he saw it. He matched the green of the foliage because he could recognize blue and yellow. He mixed the two, hoping the result might match the green of the original. He succeeded.

A color blindness test was beaten by an engineer by the device of accepting as correct matches those which looked all wrong to him.

Existing color blindness tests are satisfactory for excluding those with defective color vision from most occupations, Dr. Collins indicated. Those vocations requiring workers to distinguish between lights of red and green, such as railroads, the Navy, aviation and perhaps motoring, should use tests in which lights, and not just pigments, must be distinguished, she said.

Spirits of ancestors flit about in the form of moths. This odd belief is held by Fiji Islanders and also by natives

of the Naga hills, in that southeast corner of Asia called Indo-China. So Prof. J. H. Hutton told British anthropologists at the meeting.

Head-hunters of Fiji wear the hair of an enemy's head—after they have got him, of course. And so do Naga head-hunters in Indo-China. In both places, if they don't want to speak right out about cutting off somebody's head, they refer to the victim pleasantly as a plantain tree.

If you are poor in this world, you'll be poor in the next, so they believe in both these places, over 5,000 miles apart. And if you are stingy, stay away from these two corners of earth, for they think stinginess the world's worst fault.

With such examples as these, reeled off by scores from his own travels and from studies of other scientists, Prof. Hutton piled up evidence that natives of Indo-China long ago had some cultural connection with natives, not only in the Fiji Islands, but also with natives in the Marquesas even farther away, and natives of Madagascar far south in the Indian Ocean. He advanced the theory that migrations of cultural ideas, if not of people, took place from some island center long ago, and spread in various directions, one ending in Indo-China.

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PHYSIOLOGY

Artificial Compound Has Sex Hormone Effects

DISCOVERY of another artificial sex stimulant simulating the effect of oestrone, one of the sex hormones, has been reported by J. M. Robson and A. Schoenberg of the University of Edinburgh.

Triphenyl ethylene, a relatively simple organic substance, served to arouse five of ten mice whose ovaries had been removed, the two scientists declared. Its effect, however, is only 1/10,000 that of the real hormone.

Science News Letter, September 11, 1937

The coney, a little animal about the size of a rabbit, is a near relative of the elephant.



ENGINEERING
\$500,000 "One-Way Street"
Built for Flood Control

CONSTRUCTION of a "one-way street" to keep the flood waters of the Monongahela River out of the huge Westinghouse Electric works in East Pittsburgh has been started. It is the first flood control project since last year's flood disaster to reach the construction stage.

The normal flow of Turtle Creek, which flows through the plant, will be maintained at the same time that flood gates keep out a flood backwash from the Monongahela. Two gates, one 80 feet long by 30 feet high and the other 40 feet by 20 feet, will prevent the Monongahela from backing up, while pumps with a capacity of 7,500 cubic feet of water a second keep Turtle Creek flowing against the flood.

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