

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology Reported

Research in psychology reported at the American Association for the Advancement of Science includes studies of drug effects, care of children and theories on ESP.

► **DRUGGED** animals are being used to study why the mentally ill and people with fever see things that are not there.

Certain chemicals such as mescaline and LSD-25 have been found to produce a kind of temporary psychosis in humans, complete with hallucinations in varying degrees. These chemicals will also work with animals, Dr. Amedeo S. Marrazzi, director of the Veterans Administration research laboratories in neuropsychiatry, reported to the Advancement of Science meeting.

The chemicals, he said, worked by first interfering with the action of the visual association areas in the brain and then by quenching the influence of the brain's higher centers over the visual receiving areas. This dissociation of the different parts of the brain makes it impossible for the individual to distinguish between reality and the unreal.

At the same time, the chemicals intensify the inflow of visual signals.

Thus, such chemicals, whether administered by the doctor or occurring naturally in the body, create exactly the conditions leading to illusion and hallucination.

Fortunately, the abnormal states created in animals by mescaline or LSD-25 can be prevented by the tranquilizers.

LSD-25 is lysergic acid diethylamide.

Plan for Gifted Children

► **PRESCRIPTION FOR** gifted children:

No grades, no exams, no textbooks, plan your own homework.

After only eight weeks of this stimulating psychological tonic, a significant improvement was noted in the creative thinking of 60 gifted fifth graders, Dr. C. Gratton Kemp of Michigan State University told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Washington.

The creative ability of many gifted children is being stifled by a rigid classroom environment, Dr. Kemp told the scientists.

When each gifted student is permitted to choose his own field, organize his methods of work, pick his own form of recreation, evaluate his own performance, and present his findings in the form of a research paper, he is encouraged by this do-it-yourself program to think as an individual and to accept his own conclusions.

Dr. Kemp's conclusions are based on results of an eight-week experimental summer session conducted at Iowa State Teachers College.

Belief in ESP Varies

► **WHETHER YOU** accept the validity of experiments in extrasensory perception

(ESP) depends considerably on your own personal views concerning the possibility of miracles and of supernatural phenomena in general. ESP is the perception of an object without the use of any of the body's senses.

Dr. Raymond T. Birge, emeritus professor of physics at the University of California, expressed this opinion at the AAAS meeting in his address as retiring vice president of the physics section.

The field, he said, is highly controversial, and it is admitted by both believers and skeptics that many if not all of the important reported phenomena represent a direct violation of the most fundamental postulates of orthodox science.

"Unfortunately," pointed out Dr. Birge, "everyone participating in such an experiment must be a believer; otherwise only chance results are obtained! It is therefore impossible for skeptics to acquire independent confirmatory evidence."

Lip-Reading Failure

► **THE DEAF** children who are unable to learn to lip-read, and to talk, probably have a double handicap, Mrs. Edna K. Monsees of Children's Hospital, Washington, told the meeting.

These children are not just deaf; they probably also have a language disability, aphasia, due to a defect in the language center of the brain.

Neurological and other tests for the purpose of distinguishing between deafness alone and deafness with aphasia are not satisfactory, Mrs. Monsees said. But they are not really necessary; the aphasic child will fail to learn by teaching methods that are successful with children who are just deaf.

The aphasic child will respond to entirely different teaching procedures and thus avoid the failure that means so much suffering both for the child and his parents.

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CONSERVATION

Fishing Experts Discuss How to Farm for Fish

► **MORE FOOD** can be produced from water per surface acre than from the best farm land, a group of fisheries experts said.

Making the most of the crop grown in lakes, rivers and oceans—millions of pounds of fish—can result in big returns to industry as well as fishermen.

How to go about getting higher yields from the nation's waterways was discussed at a fish farming school, Milo E. Moore, director of Washington State Department of Fisheries, Olympia, reported.

He said that in the State of Washington alone, it would be possible to increase five-fold the number of salmon eggs taken from state hatcheries to stock lakes, etc. This could be done while the cost of hatchery and rearing fish was cut to one-third current costs.

Plans involving the transfer of seed clams from good seed growing areas to public beaches depleted by too much digging were explained to the more than 100 persons attending the classes.

Some beaches are easily capable of producing ten times the amount of clams now taken, it was reported.

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