

PSYCHOLOGY

Baby's Personality Not Set

"Personality is not formed in the first two years of life, nor yet in the first ten," according to Dr. Charles Judd, of the University of Chicago.

The years before a child enters school are now being stressed by many psychologists and educators as the most important in shaping an individual's outlook on life. But parents and teachers should understand that there are many angles of personality which are not firmly established until later childhood, and human nature is never wholly fixed, Dr. Judd shows in a paper reported in *School and Society*.

Dr. Judd agrees with modern experimenters that fears and other emotional reactions are often established in young children. The baby may be frightened by one encounter with a big dog, by one thunderstorm, or by the sight of a strange woman swathed in black mourning clothes, and if the early experience is not contradicted by later more fortunate experiences, a fear of animals, thunder, and black objects may become ingrained.

The school years are extremely important, however, in developing the more complex attitudes toward life, Dr. Judd states. Social adjustments, attitudes toward property, and taste in the fine arts, are acquired only after a long train of highly complicated experiences.

"The individual who graciously steps aside in deference to his neighbor is expressing an attitude which is an important part of his personality," he declares. "The individual who is always prompt in meeting social engagements has a habit which the social group will certainly appreciate and commend. He has in his promptness a trait which is a highly important attitude. But good manners and promptness do not come in a day. They mature through the counterbalancing of multitudes of individual contacts which under the wise guidance of experienced teachers have led the individual to respond in the most sensitive way to the needs and demands of social life."

Even unfortunate attitudes established in childhood should not be regarded as calamities beyond repair, Dr. Judd says.

"There is hope for the worst of us," he states. "The person who has a fear of thunder may under proper discipline overcome even that deep-seated attitude. The training of a perverted habit is a double task. First there must be a successful attack on

the accumulated attitude, and, second there must be a reconstruction of the individual's mode of response to the situation. Such a double task, however, has been successfully performed again and again."

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MEDICINE

Sunstroke Oldest Disease

It is time to keep on the safe and shady side of the street when the mercury begins to crawl up above ninety. Speech disturbances, hallucinations, and paralysis are some of the things a victim of sunstroke may wake up to, if he recovers at all, according to Drs. E. G. Wakefield and W. W. Hall of the U. S. Navy Medical Corps who have recently completed a study of heat injuries. Even after these unpleasant manifestations have worn off and the patient has recovered he may remain hypersensitive to heat throughout his life.

Heat-stroke or sunstroke is one of the oldest known diseases according to the best medical authorities. Two cases are unmistakably described in the Bible, one in the fourth book of kings and the other in the apocryphal book of Judith. Until the middle of the nineteenth century the effects of heat injuries were confounded with apoplexy. From the time of the publication in 1858 of the experimental work by the great French biologist, Claude Bernard, on the effect of heat, however, the theory of the disease has been based on experimental observation.

Drs. Wakefield and Hall are engaged in research on this vital problem of hot weather from which they hope to obtain results which will elucidate further just why people succumb to sunstroke.

The contention that people from cold countries are more susceptible than those from warmer regions is borne out by data obtained by the navy doctors from the number of heat injuries sustained by enlisted men in the fiscal years 1924 to 1926. In a report of their investigation to the American Medical Association they assert that 121 men from northern states were afflicted in this period while only 89 southerners were affected by the heat during the same time.

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Too rapid growth in babies results in rickets.

It costs about \$7,238 to care for a child from birth to 18 years, recent statistics show.

PHYSIOLOGY

Fear and Seasickness

Vacationists, Europe bound, can just as well throw their carefully packed seasickness remedies overboard before they start.

The power of suggestion is more potent than drugs to combat unpleasant eventualities when one sallies forth on the briny deep, according to Dr. W. N. Boldyreff, physiologist, of Battle Creek Sanatorium.

Dr. Boldyreff believes that fear is at the bottom of the gastric and intestinal disturbances that produce seasickness. The psychic reaction of fright, in his opinion, inhibits the secretions of digestive juices, which afterward pour forth with greater force irritating the sensitive lining of the intestine, with the consequences which need no elucidation.

Suggestion is the rational means of preventing the malady, he declares, while the best method of curative suggestion would be lectures on the causes and prevention of seasickness so that the prospective victims would have their apprehensions removed as far as possible. Training the hands on boats so that tactless comments to passengers suggesting seasickness are reduced to a minimum would likewise be an important factor in lessening its incidence, in the physiologist's estimation.

Women and children are seasick more than men, but even old sailors who have followed the sea for many years are not immune. Of the dozen or more drugs in current use as remedies, Dr. Boldyreff recommends only atropine for severe cases. Lemon or orange juice sometimes helps while cigarettes should be packed away for consumption after landing since nicotine apparently increases predisposition for seasickness.

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PHYSIOLOGY

Sweden for Blood Tests

Blood tests to determine questions of paternity can safely be used as legal evidence, the medical faculty of Lund University, the next oldest in Sweden, has advised the Department of Health in Stockholm in response to a formal request for advice. In the making of the tests, the professors demand certain careful precautions and suggest in cases where the blood tests give no definite result, as does occasionally happen, the use of finger-print tests which also tend to prove blood relationship.

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