

Do These Things Annoy You?

Psychology

Annoyances, pet aversions and irritations of everyday life, thousands of them, have received serious and careful study from Prof. Hulsey Cason of the University of Rochester during the past four years. As a result he was able to announce to the International Congress of Psychology that the following experiences are among those that cause the greatest irritation to most people:

- The odor of dirty feet
- To see or hear an animal being cruelly treated by a person
- To see or hear a child being harshly treated by an older person
- A dirty bed
- Bad breath
- To see a person at the table spitting out food
- A dirty bath tub
- Flies
- To see an intoxicated woman
- Body odor
- To hear a person talking during a musical number
- To hear a mosquito nearby when going to sleep
- A young person's disrespect for a much older person
- To see a person's nose running
- To find a hair in food one is eating

Women are more annoyed than men as a general condition although some situations peeved men more than women and some individual women were oblivious to some things that greatly irritated most men. To dance with a fat person was more annoying to men than to women as was seeing a grown person crying. Men were also more annoyed by being solicited by a beggar in public. Sex is often unpleasant to women while it is usually rated as pleasant by men. One promising observation made by Prof. Cason is the fact that the more educated a person the less he is annoyed.

Nearly two thousand persons aided Prof. Cason in his tests by telling about their annoyances. Out

of 21,000 pet aversions, 507 were selected as not too obvious and worthy of more study. Easily understandable annoyances such as due to breaking something or illness were not investigated. In addition to asking all sorts of persons to record their feelings toward the many annoyances, Prof. Cason asked them to explain them. As a result he found that things are irritating because they involve one or more of these qualities: Unpleasant association, interference with pleasant activity, opposing ego tendency or self importance, identification, regression or tendency to return to childlike behavior, undue familiarity, discards from the body, inherited tendencies and customs, conventions and taboos. Some things like harsh grating sounds and strong odors are probably inherited and common to all people and races but most troublesome things are such because we acquire unfavorable reactions to them during our lifetime, Prof. Cason believes.

A person with a gushing manner, the person who crowds into line in front of you, a person habitually arguing, a salesman trying to force you to buy something, hearing a person singing poorly, to have a person look over your shoulder at what you are writing, cockroaches, mice, odor of garbage, odor of liquor

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on a person's breath, also ranked high on the annoyance list.

Jazz music irritated some but is among the world's insignificant irritations. The sight of a snake is not so bad as being bothered by flies and hearing a woman swear is much worse than listening to a profane man. Bald heads of men annoyed some but not many. Sex, sin, dirt and germs frequently caused annoyances when they entered into situations.

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Thyroid Grows Larvae

Entomology

The secretions of the ductless glands to which scientists are attributing increasingly important functions in the human body, are now believed to have a universal effect on living organisms generally. At least this is the conclusion reached by Dr. W. W. Alpatov, a Russian scientist working at the Institute for Biological research of the Johns Hopkins University.

The larvae of the banana fly, humble tool of many a significant contribution to biological knowledge, were divided into two groups of which one was fed on yeast and animal extract of thyroid while the other received yeast and powdered meat. They were allowed to feed sixty-seven hours when they were killed and measured.

"The exact proof of the specific effect of the hormone of vertebrates upon the invertebrates deprived of corresponding glands of internal secretion has a double significance," declared Dr. Alpatov in a report of his work to the National Academy of Sciences. "First, it shows that the substances produced by the glands of internal secretion have a universal effect on living organisms; second, that the invertebrates having a short period of development can be successfully used as very convenient test animals in the field of endocrinological researches."

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