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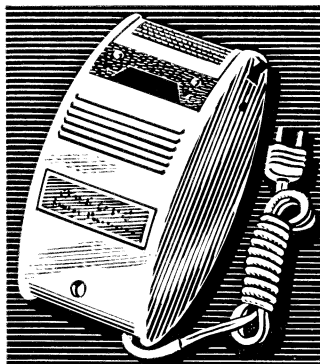
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ZOOLOGY**One Octopus Brain Has Two Memory Stores**

► A LONG TENTACLE of an octopus reaches out to touch a crab, while a soft bulging eye looks it over, then two separate storehouses in the octopus' brain work to record these tactile and visual facts for future reference.

In ever increasing efforts to understand the living brain and how it works, scientists are now finding that the octopus' brain has two almost separate stores, one for visual and the other for tactile information, reported Dr. J. Z. Young, University College, London.

Each memory system is provided with four distinct auxiliary lobes, he reported in Endeavour, 24:13, 1965. The functions of these lobes include storage and a process known as "reading-in" and "reading-out," similar to the system used in the memory storage of computers. In other words, nerve fibers carry sight or touch signals to the brain where appropriate signals initiate such reflexes as withdrawal or attack, draw in or reject, and also establish a memory record as a guide to future action.

There are two types of memory, Dr. Young pointed out. One is the hereditary memory system that provides an animal with basic instructions for survival and reproduction. This memory is "taught" by relatively slow processes of mutation, recombination and natural selection of the animal.

The other memory system is the nervous memory, which also helps the animal survive and reproduce but includes specific equipment for receiving immediate signals such as pain or taste, indicating results of actions taken by the animal. This memory is kept up to date with a set of detectors that respond to particular events of the environment relevant to the life of the species.

When an octopus sees an object, attacks it and obtains food, taste receptors around his mouth area signal to the brain. All these signals somehow increase the probability that a similar visual impact later will instigate another attack to obtain food.

• Science News Letter, 87:194 March 27, 1965

DENTISTRY**Bones of Little Toe Used to Reconstruct Jaw**

► BONES from the base of a woman's little toes have been used successfully to reconstruct her undersized lower jaw.

Reporting in Dental Abstracts, Feb., 1965, Dr. Reed O. Dingman, a dentist, and Dr. William C. Grabb, a physician, both of Ann Arbor, Mich., cite the case of a 29-year-old woman who was suffering from speech difficulties and an "open bite" condition in which the teeth do not come together.

However, 17 months after the front parts of both fifth metatarsals were grafted to the upper part of the jawbone, the woman's bite was restored and her speech was improved considerably.

• Science News Letter, 87:194 March 27, 1965