

the oldest part of the nervous system, the medulla oblongata, Dr. Paton told the society. During the embryonic stage of existence the complicated machinery which provides for inhibitions is developed, thus giving the organism the power of preferential action. In addition to providing for inhibitions, in these early stages of development, arrangements are also made for accelerating and increasing the strength of impulses. The embryo must early learn the speed and tempo at which its life can be satisfactorily regulated.

In conclusion Dr. Paton said: "It is a marvelous comment upon our lack of foresight and interest in finding reasonable solutions for human problems that so little attention has been devoted to investigating the nature and organization of the really fundamental processes shaping our personalities."

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#### KILLS ANIMALS WITH NOISES

A "death-noise" instead of a "death-ray", was the phenomenon discussed recently before the National Academy of Sciences by Prof. R. A. Wood and Alfred L. Loomis, of the Johns Hopkins University. The "death-noise" would have been inaudible to human ears, but it consisted of sound waves just the same, and it killed small fishes and other aquatic animals in vessels of water, in less than a minute.

The two researchers generated exceedingly high-frequency sound waves by means of electrical apparatus. The waves were produced at a rate of from 100,000 to 400,000 to the second; the upper limit of audibility to human ears is between 20,000 and 30,000. If a beam of these sound waves is directed toward the surface of the water, Prof. Wood stated, the surface is heaped up in a mound. The vibrations heat the water, a rise of nearly ten degrees Fahrenheit in one minute having been recorded.

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#### SCHOOL CHILDREN SHOULD BE EXAMINED FOR DEAFNESS

Less than fifty per cent. of children of school age have normal hearing, according to a statement made by Dr. Horace S. Newhart, of Minneapolis.

In a paper delivered before the section of the American Medical Association on diseases of the ear, nose and throat, he declared that the impairment of hearing was due in most cases to defects that could be easily corrected. He stressed strongly the necessity of regular examination of the ears of school children as a preventive measure to keep down the prevalence of deafness of the future.

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