

ter not alone of intelligence—or rather lack of it—but also of training and special ability. Thus an intelligent person may be versed in psychology and hence not gullible, but uninformed and gullible in mathematics or physics. So Dr. S. B. Sells, of Columbia University, told his colleagues.

Startled Twins

Left-handed twins jump more when they are startled by a revolver shot than do their identical brothers or sisters, Drs. William A. Hunt and Frances M. Clarke, of Connecticut College for Women, told the meeting. The explanation for this has not yet been determined, but it was suggested that it might have to do with the side of the brain that is dominant.

The typical movements of startle—hunched shoulders, bent elbows, drawn up arms, bent knees, contracted abdomen, and so on—are shown by children as well as grownups and are much stronger and regular in the children. The younger ones also run away; the older ones show, instead, curiosity and attention to the source of the sound.

Cats See at Night

Cats prowling at night can see in only one-fourth the amount of light that is necessary for the human eye, tests of feline vision made by Dr. Charles S. Bridgman, of the University of Rochester, revealed.

Most important in helping the sight of the cat that prowls at night is the large area of her dilated eye pupil, Dr. Bridgman said. When it is at its largest it is double the size of the human pupil's maximum. The eye is like a camera; it lets in more light and takes the picture quicker when the aperture is large.

Tabby cannot distinguish changes in illumination so well as you can, however, according to tests reported by Dr. L. C. Mead, who worked with Dr. Bridgman at the University of Rochester.

Thrift Taught Chimpanzees

Lessons in thrift are the latest accomplishment of the famous Yale chimpanzees who have already learned to work for "money" discs and to spend them in a "chimpomat," a machine which automatically yields raisins and other chimp tidbits as familiar slot machines give up cigarettes or gum.

Now the chimpanzees have learned to save their pay until a hoard is accumulated and will then carry it from the work room to another room serving as market place where the chimpomat is located and where they can spend their savings. The thrift lessons were described by Dr. John T. Cowles, of Yale.

The desire of the chimpanzee baby for "comfort" in the arms of mother or caretaker or at least nearness to them is so strong that it can serve better than hunger as a reward and motive for the young animal to learn what experimenters want to teach him, Dr. T. L. McCulloch, of the Yale Laboratories of Primate Biology, told the meeting.

First Heart Beats

"Heart interest" was featured in a motion picture film shown before the meeting, in which the important first heart throbs of a young life were shown upon the screen. The young life pictured was that of a baby chick from the time when heart beats alone were visible up to the time just before hatching.

The film was a presentation of Drs. Z. Y. Kuo and Leonard Carmichael of the University of Rochester.

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"Worts, Worts, Worts!"

MUCH folk-wit and folk-fancy are monumented in old common names for plants.

There is an almost endless list of "worts," for example. "Wort" is an ancient English word, long since obsolete, meaning simply a plant or herb. The old wort-names seem to indicate real or fancied resemblances to other objects, medicinal values, place of growth, etc. We have liverwort, lungwort, spleenwort, toothwort, milkwort, butterwort, soapwort, feverwort, lousewort, spiderwort, sandwort, pearlwort, pennywort, starwort, ragwort, mugwort, St. John's wort.

There are also a good many "banes"—presumably once considered good for getting rid of pests, or on the contrary harmful to oneself or one's livestock. Thus we have bugbane and fleabane, and also dogbane, catsbane, henbane, cowbane, and baneberry.

Familiar animals, both domestic and wild, have their share of plants assigned: cowslip ("cow's lip," originally), cowbane, cow-herb, horseweed, horsemint, horseradish (but that's a corruption of "harsh radish"), horsetail, horse-chestnut, goatsfoot, goatsbeard, buckwheat, sheep-sorrel, lamb's-quarters, duckweed, foxglove, bearberry, wolfsbane.

Some folk-names of plants are of distinctly American origin, since the plants they belong to, or the animal sponsors, are not known in Europe. Thus for example Jack-in-the-pulpit, butter-'n-eggs, buffalo-berry, rattlesnake root, compass plant, shooting star. We see, then, that folk-names are not things of a quaint and finished past, but are continually being thrown off by the reaction of folk-mind to the contact of new things.

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