

PSYCHOLOGY

Parts of Brain Removed, Intelligence Not Affected

Psychologists Discuss Employment Placement, Taste in Art, At Meeting of Eastern Branch in New York City

LARGE portions of the important frontal lobes of the brain can be removed surgically without apparent damage to the intelligence, it was reported to the Eastern Branch of the American Psychological Association in New York by Dr. D. O. Hebb, of the Montreal Neurological Institute and McGill University.

Four cases were discussed by Dr. Hebb, but the identity of the individuals was guarded with medical scrupulousness. All four have been given careful psychological examination after the serious brain operation, and in one case it was possible to compare the scores with results of an examination made before the surgery. In each case the surgery was necessary because of disease conditions.

Still Classed as "Gifted"

One man, after removal of the left frontal lobe of the brain, received a perfect score on a mental test for superior adults. This gave him an IQ of 152, putting him in the "gifted" class. The patient's success in his calling and in life fit in with the results of the mental test, Dr. Hebb reported.

This man, as well as the three other cases reported, was right-handed, and therefore the left side of the brain was the dominant side. It has been previously supposed by many physicians that loss of a large part of the dominant side of this thinking area of the brain would mean loss of mental ability.

In another case, removal of between 4½ and 7 per cent. of the whole cerebrum left the patient still above average in intelligence.

In a third case it was necessary to remove surgically more than 4 per cent. of the cerebrum and the disease condition had destroyed an even larger part of the brain. Yet this man's IQ was only one point lower after this serious loss than before the operation.

In the fourth case, after removal of the left frontal lobe, the patient appeared to relatives as of somewhat better intelligence than before. The only ascertain-

able defect in this man is a possible loss of initiative in business and society.

No signs of apathy, depression, dementia, or loss of abstract behavior were discovered in these patients, Dr. Hebb said. He credited Drs. Wilder Penfield and William V. Cone, of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Dr. W. B. Mitchell of the Mental Hygiene Institute for cooperation in this pioneer research.

Radicals Like Modern Art

Modern composers and modern painting are liked by persons who think well of themselves, Dr. A. H. Maslow, of Brooklyn College, told the meeting.

Such persons, with self-confidence and self-esteem, differ from those with more self-consciousness, shyness, and feeling of inferiority, in many other ways, he said.

The high-ego persons are rebels and radicals, Dr. Maslow discovered from a personality survey. They have no religious feeling. They are likely to lack sex morality and romantic love.

The more diffident, low-ego individuals, are more likely to be religious, conventional, conservative, polite, good humored, and romantic rather than sexual.

The high-ego person can make friends easily and is socially well poised, but some prefer their own company.

The low-ego person appears to lack sense of humor, but that is only because their humor is whimsical and fantastic and delicate rather than lusty.

The high-ego person has a free personality.

The low-ego person is strongly socialized and tends to be strongly inhibited and tense.

Relatives Are Helpful

Young people gettings jobs usually find them through friends or relatives, not by going out job hunting, declared Dr. Hazel P. Gaudet, of the Research Center of the University of Newark.

Through cooperation of the National Youth Administration, all young people leaving work-relief projects in one county in New Jersey for regular employment were compared with a matched

group of those who failed to get jobs, in order to find out what it takes to gain employment in the modern business or industrial world.

Friends are most important, it was discovered. Of all those who had ever had a job, 70 per cent. had learned of their last job through friends or relatives, about 15 per cent. through canvassing, and only 10 per cent. through advertisement and employment agencies.

The number of friends is not so important as their influence, or their knowledge of jobs and ability to recommend the job hunter, the study showed. A friend working in the firm where the job exists seems to be ideal. But, actually, the unemployed were more sociable, got out more with others and belonged to more organizations than those who got jobs. They were too sociable for their own good, the psychologist concluded.

Personality tests of those who found jobs and those who failed showed that the former are more self-reliant, more stable, and less self-centered despite the fact that they are less sociable than are those still on work-relief.

Lunch Raises Estimates

Artistic taste is affected by the gustatory type, it is revealed by experiments reported to the meeting by Dr. G. H. S. Razran, of Columbia University, who asked some 250 college students and unemployed workers to judge the beauty of musical selections from classical to primitive and jazz, paintings from early Italian to surrealism, and photographs of pretty American college girls.

Later the same persons made judgments, while eating a free lunch, concerning those items that they had previously not liked. The ones they had preferred were given them for judging either just before or just after the lunch.

Even one lunch was enough to cause a net shift of 25 to 35 per cent. in the direction of the items judged during the meal. Some subjects were given from 4 to 10 lunches. The gross shifting was even higher, for a few persons seemed to be negatively affected by the menu.

Boredom from monotonous work, as well as sleepiness, is relieved by the "pep drug," benzedrine sulphate, Dr. J. E. Barmack, of the College of the City of New York, and Dr. A. T. Poffenberger, of Columbia University reported. Boredom lowers the blood pressure more than does rest, these investigators have found. A dose of benzedrine sulphate raises it.

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