

PSYCHOLOGY

# Opinions on Social Matters Go With Brand of Politics

## Republicans Tend Toward Conservative Views; Democrats Are Liberals; Both Agree in Nationalistic Attitudes

DEMOCRATS and Republicans may be diametrically opposed in some matters, but they agree on others, Dr. Ross Stagner of the University of Akron found from a survey reported to the Midwestern Psychological Association meeting in Madison, Wis.

When 50 men and 50 women indicated like or dislike for certain terms such as "Democrat" or "Republican" and also their opinions on problems of social and political importance, it was revealed that particular brands of politics are related to certain opinions. Republicans are likely to hold anti-labor opinions and be opposed to unemployment insurance, for example, while Democrats tend in the opposite direction. Yet both are likely to agree on opinions of nationalist sentiment, Dr. Stagner found.

### Counting Seconds Doesn't Help

Wait a minute!

If you really did pause for what you estimated to be a minute, you probably counted or tapped to aid you in judging the lapse of time. About 90 per cent. of persons tested do, Drs. A. R. Gilliland and R. F. Martin, of Northwestern University reported.

But the counting does not help much. When, in a second experiment, the investigators asked the subjects to refrain from such aids, they got along without them. They were not significantly less accurate, however. The main difference was that they shifted from overestimation in the first experiment to underestimation in the second. In general they missed by about 40 per cent. of the true time interval and missed just as badly on longer intervals as they did on brief 15-second spans.

### Want Only to "Get By"

Children failing to do well in school aim at goals far above their past achievements, while the bright ones aim far below what they have achieved previously, Dr. Harold H. Anderson of the University of Illinois and Dr. H. F. Brandt of Drake University reported.

Contrary to general opinion, the level

of aspiration is related to the level of achievement, these investigators found from a study of fifth-grade children. But the level of aspiration tended consistently toward mediocrity.

### Relaxation Not Complete

Sleep is not always accompanied by complete relaxation, Dr. Edmund Jacobson, of the Laboratory for Clinical Physiology, Chicago, told psychologists at the meeting.

Although the moment of falling asleep may be marked by sudden or by more or less prolonged progressive relaxation in the muscles of arms and legs, muscular tension in the lips or jaw muscles may continue as shown by marked action currents from these muscles, Dr. Jacobson reported.

This finding has an important bearing on psychologists' theories of the nature of sleep.

### Alike During Sleep

Do men lose their personality during sleep?

That question was raised by the report of Drs. John R. Knott, Charles E. Henry and John M. Hadley, of the University of Iowa, that the distinctive brain waves, said to mark the go-getter type of person from the self-centered, quiet sort, lose their distinguishing qualities when both persons are asleep. In sleep the brain waves of the two types of persons are remarkably similar, they found.

### Tension Greater

Muscular tension in the arms and neck of a person doing mental work increases as the work becomes more difficult, Dr. R. C. Davis, of Indiana University, told the meeting, in reporting an interpretation of 6,000 measurements of the electrical potentials which accompany muscle tension.

Arm muscles show less activity than the neck muscles when the person is resting, but they have much greater increase of tension when the individual is at work, Dr. Davis found. Failure to find the correct solution to problems did not

seem to cause any significant difference in the action currents.

The idea that girls popular with the boys are not liked by their own sex was exploded by a survey reported by Dr. J. E. Janney, of Western College, Oxford, Ohio.

Women with a large number of girl friends have more dates with the boys than do the girls who are less popular with their own sex. They are also superior in college grades, intelligence, and athletic achievements. They have more feminine admirers and also think more of other women.

*Science News Letter, May 7, 1938*

PSYCHOLOGY

## Civilization Threatened Unless Intellect Rules

MAN will soon utterly destroy civilization unless he can succeed in enthroning reason to rule his acquisitive passions, Dr. Foster Kennedy, physician of the University of Toronto, warned in an address before the Toronto Club.

If man, as an individual or in nations, merely prostitutes his intellect for purposes of destruction, he will not only destroy civilization but will destroy himself with his own instruments, Dr. Kennedy said.

"We have come lately close to doing it and we are threatened with it now," he declared.

"Indeed, the private lives of each of us, and the hope of the World, lie at the mercy of the dictation, or the digestion, of three men. Let us all say in no uncertain voice, a plague on all your blouses—black, brown, or red . . ."

### Must Master Self

Man, by his intellect, has mastered his environment, but not himself, Dr. Kennedy said. The body and the emotional system have lagged far behind the development of the brain cortex. Evolution demands a new control of man's nature, he believes.

"The evolution of our nervous system ordains that, age after age, a new chieftain is put in command of our nervous hierarchy," he explained. "This chieftain controls, but does not kill all those which have gone before."

"At present we should be under the control of intellect."

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A Soviet scientist has written a grammar of the Khorezmian language, which is one of the world's extinct kinds of speech.