

# SCIENCE

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## THE STUDY OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR<sup>1</sup>

My part in this symposium must be that of the comparative psychologist who, while professionally engaged in the experimental study of the behavior of lower organisms, is keenly interested in human behavior and in the development of methods by which it may be profitably studied. I propose, in this discussion, to try to bring some of the experiences of the student of the behavior of animals to bear upon the problems which the eugenic investigator meets. Especially I shall attempt to indicate the necessity for an analytic procedure on the basis of carefully wrought out methods of experimental control and observation, and the thorough-going study of the components of human responses to situations rather than of complexes such as are actually presented to us in the behavior of human beings.

Human behavior is only a part, albeit a most important part, of the materials of the general science of organic behavior. It presents essentially the same kinds of problems as does the behavior of any other mammal; and it must be studied by methods similar to, if not actually identical with, those employed by the student of infra-human behavior. I should be in-

<sup>1</sup> The substance of the writer's contribution to a symposium on the Study of Human Behavior at the Conference on Eugenics, held at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, June 19 and 20, 1913. Being Contributions from the Psychopathic Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, No. 25 (1913. 25): previous Contribution, P. H. Contributions 1913. 24, was Robert M. Yerkes: "Comparative Psychology: A Question of Definitions." *The Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods*, October 9, 1913.