

SCIENCE

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PSYCHOLOGY IN AMERICA

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY¹

By J. McKEEN CATTELL

FORMERLY PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

We welcome to America the psychologists of the world. You have come from distant nations, but we are intellectual neighbors; your faces may be unfamiliar, but we are scientific friends. Biologically we of the North American continent are descended from every race and people; culturally we owe our civi-

zation in the main to the older nations. We have received a great inheritance; may it be our part to return its fruits with usury. Eight times previously have these congresses of psychology met in six different countries. Americans have enjoyed their hospitality and have profited by their programs. Now the ninth congress has honored us by coming far from its origin and center. In its proceedings we are like Chaucer's clerk of Oxenford:

And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche.

¹ Given at Yale University, New Haven, September 2, 1929. In place of lantern slides there was distributed a brochure of twenty-four pages including (1) portraits of six American and two foreign psychologists—James, Hall, Ladd, Royce, Münsterberg, Titchener, Wundt and Galton, (2) tables and curves showing the number, distribution, work and publications of American psychologists at four different periods and (3) curves showing the results of unpublished experiments made from 1889 to the present time on effort, fatigue, learning and variation in performance.

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