

common traits could again be observed in the destructive games of both infants. Such forms of activity as throwing, tearing and breaking seemed indeed to provide both subjects with a peculiar form of self-contained pleasure" (p. 536). "The behaviour of both Roody [boy] and Joni [ape] seems to give ample support to the truth of the saying: prohibited actions were just those to the performance of which both little ones would cling with the greatest steadfastness" (p. 537). "In performing prohibited actions both Roody and Joni would try as best they could to be cunning. They would often try to trick or deceive the observer . . ." (p. 538).

In general, the ape was more readily frightened than the boy, but he overcame his fears more readily and rapidly (p. 550), and whereas the chimpanzee lacked sympathetic feeling for smaller animals, the child was gentle and considerate (p. 551). This contrast appeared despite the fact of like environment for both subjects and efforts on the part of the observer to discourage ill-treatment of animals and to foster sympathetic behavior toward them (footnote, p. 552).

After a multitude of such interesting comparative statements based upon her prolonged study of these two primates, Mrs. Kohts thus sums up her findings: "(1) In the functional biological field: the chimpanzee totally ignores the possibility of walking erect and of freeing his hands for carrying weights. (2) In the sphere of imitation: the chimpanzee is devoid of imitation in so far as human sounds are concerned and generally fails to extend or improve his imitative behavior. (3) In respect of emotional altruistic and

social behavior: the chimpanzee fails to understand the advantages of friendly and sympathetic intercourse with creatures standing on a lower biological level than himself. (4) With regard to habit-forming: the chimpanzee does not improve in the motor habits connected with the use of tools and household implements. (5) In the sphere of playful behavior: he does not indulge in creative constructional play. It seems difficult to predict how far the chimpanzee *might* go by way of acquiring essentially human features, but one thing seems certain, and it is, that the chimpanzee—this strong, sanguine, strongly-willed and highly active animal—actually fails to possess any inherent tendency towards progressing in the above-outlined directions, his failing being especially plainly marked out in such domains where he is definitely handicapped or thwarted by nature" (p. 577).

Concerning these general comparative statements, the reviewer offers the comment that study of many chimpanzees ranging in age from infancy to maturity in Yale Laboratories of Primate Biology indicates the necessity for qualification and supplementation. Neither developmental status nor individuality may be ignored, and if Mrs. Kohts's descriptive statements and comparisons are accepted as generally true for Pan and Homo, serious injustice will be done to the facts. The opinion also is offered that the genus Pan is placed in a disadvantageous light in this volume, because what appears to be an ordinary or typical specimen of immature chimpanzee is compared with an obviously extraordinary example of mankind!

ROBERT M. YERKES

YALE LABORATORIES OF PRIMATE BIOLOGY

## SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

### THE EASTERN BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

At the annual spring meeting of the New York Branch of the American Psychological Association, held at Fordham University on April 11, it was voted to change the name of the New York Branch, American Psychological Association, to "The Eastern Branch of the American Psychological Association."

In 1929 the New York Branch was reorganized and since then has held annual spring meetings at which the ratio of attendance has been larger than that of the American Psychological Association at its annual meetings. In recent years, the various branch meetings of the American Psychological Association have been highly successful. Many members of the New York Branch have felt increasingly that the time was nearing when the branch should increase its area. It was voted that its territory include the entire Atlantic

seaboard. This is to be construed that it may draw its membership from Florida to Canada, and westward to contiguous territory of whatever branch of the American Psychological Association may exist or may be formed.

At the business meeting the secretary reported that the branch membership numbered 225—the highest in its history. Dr. Samuel W. Fernberger, Pennsylvania, was unanimously elected honorary president for the year 1936–37. Directors elected were: D. H. Fryer, New York University, 1936–39; C. J. Warden, Columbia University, 1936–39; P. M. Symonds, Columbia University, 1936–38. The directors announced the appointment of the following committees: *Program Committee*—C. W. Bray, Princeton University, *chairman*; G. W. Hartmann, Pennsylvania State College; T. W. Forbes, New York State Psychiatric Institute; *Nominating Committee*—H. Helson, Bryn Mawr College, *chairman*; T. M. Abel, Progressive Education

Association; I. Lorge, Teachers College, Columbia University. The invitation of Vassar College to hold the annual spring meeting of the branch in April, 1937, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was accepted.

The program occupied three morning sessions and three afternoon sessions. The topics of the sessions were: "Sensation and Perception," "Comparative Psychology," "Mental Testing," "Physiological Psychology," "Child and Abnormal Psychology," "Memory and Learning."

A round-table discussion on "Introspective Techniques" was held. The chairman, Professor E. S. Robinson (Yale University) opened the session with a short historical discussion of the various meanings of the term "introspection," and by pointing out that quarrels regarding the proper meaning of the term had rendered it almost useless. He stated that Professor Bentley and others had attempted to substitute a new terminology, but that such a word as Bentley's "inspection" had not succeeded in becoming current. In opening the floor for discussion the chairman suggested that so far as possible the meeting be governed by a common-sense definition covering any form of self-observation. Professors Weld (Cornell University) and Fernberger (University of Pennsylvania) began the discussion by asserting the continued importance of self-observation in the psychological laboratory. They claimed that, whatever theoretical difficulties may have arisen with the definition of introspection, observation on the part of the subject had continued to play an important rôle in psychological experimentation. In connection with these remarks the question was raised as to whether expert training is a requisite of competent introspection. Those who commented on this question seemed to feel that such training was necessary in connection with certain introspective problems. It was pointed out, however, that important discoveries regarding the human mind had been made by Freud and others through the use of a very informal type of subjective observation. Another question that grew out of the discussions by Professors Weld and Fernberger dealt with the difference between human introspective experiments and certain experiments on the sensory discrimination of animals. There was some disagreement as to whether animals in such experiments do in fact introspect. Professor Fryer

(New York University) asked for a discussion of the possibility of a quantification of introspective reports, particularly as they are elicited in studies of personality problems. These remarks called out a considerable number of comments regarding the usefulness of introspection in a variety of personality studies, but without focussing the issue.

Dr. Joseph Jastrow presided at the dinner meeting; President Aloysius J. Hogan, S.J., of Fordham University, welcomed the group, and Professor Herbert S. Langfeld, Princeton University, delivered the honorary president's address on "The Place of Esthetics in Social Psychology." The gist of his address follows: It appears that esthetics has been somewhat neglected in social psychology. The main thesis of the address, therefore, was to emphasize the importance of artistic creation as a unique form of social communication, since man is able to express his personality more completely through the medium of art than in any other way. The difference between art and play was discussed and it was shown that, paradoxical as it might seem, the desire for social communication and approval is more fundamental to the former than to the latter. The artist is always consciously or subconsciously desirous of some kind of an audience, while there are forms of play in which the individual is self-sufficient. Some of the methods by which the artist achieves self-expression through esthetic forms, such as line and color, were described. It was pointed out, however, that pure form in the visual arts is apt to lead to an abstract and in consequence ineffectual art. Criticism was also directed against the modern tendency to represent the individual's subjective thought processes on the ground that images in themselves can rarely be a vehicle for successful communication. The psychological fallacy of writings such as Gertrude Stein's was also explained. It was shown further, however, that the artist is often compelled to break through the conventional way of perceiving things, as for example in regard to the constancy of objects, in order to give a satisfactory representation of the world as it is experienced. Finally the lag in regard to taste and the necessity for a gradual adaptation toward industrial art forms was discussed.

HERBERT W. ROGERS,  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

## SPECIAL ARTICLES

### THE CARCINOGENIC EFFECT OF A VIRUS UPON TARRED SKIN

SHOPE showed in 1933<sup>1</sup> that the cutaneous papillomas common in western cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*, Allen) are caused by a virus. The

<sup>1</sup> R. E. Shope, *Jour. Exp. Med.*, 58: 607, 1933.

growths exhibit the traits which are characteristic of tumors in general,<sup>2</sup> but differ from these in the important respect that they are manifestly infectious in origin under natural conditions. Inoculation of the

<sup>2</sup> Peyton Rous and J. W. Beard, *Jour. Exp. Med.*, 60: 701, 723, 741, 1934.