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27. Our thanks are due to A. W. Bernheimer for the samples of bacterial and ox liver RNA, to J. R. Fresco for those of yeast RNA and calf thymus DNA, and to L. A. Heppel for the sample of yeast RNA "core."
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Egon Brunswik, Psychologist and Philosopher of Science

I first met Egon Brunswik in Vienna in the winter of 1933–34. He was chief assistant in Karl Bühler's Institute of Psychology at the University of Vienna. He became Privatdozent the following fall. In an exciting series of experiments, he and his students were then demonstrating that, in perceiving, the organism may be "achieving" either the "thing-characters" —size, shape, brightness, and so forth— (of objects) or the immediate "perspective characters," of these same objects or more often some compromise between thing characters and perspective characters. And he had just finished his theoretical and empirical discussion of these findings in the book *Wahrnehmung und Gegenstandswelt* (1934), with the subtitle "Psychologie vom Gegenstand her." As a result of our meeting Brunswik spent a year as a Rockefeller fellow in the department of psychology at the University of California at Berkeley in 1935–36 and in the fall of 1937 permanently joined the Berkeley department.

Brunswik has made four major contributions to psychology: (i) his work on perception as such; (ii) his applications of the history and philosophy of science to psychology; (iii) his demonstrations that not only perception but also thinking and valuing are fruitfully conceived as only in some degree probabilistically valid achievements; and (iv) his insistence on the need for truly "representative design" in the sampling of the environment—for, as he points out, the environment usually presents to the organism cues of only low "ecological validity."

Brunswik's untimely death on 7 July 1955, at the age of 52, came just as his doctrines of functionalistic achievement, representative design and ecological validity had begun to arouse widespread attention both in this country and abroad. It is fortunate that his last work, now in press, a revision and expansion of his monograph on representative design, will serve as an effective and definitive statement of these positions. His was an extraordinarily informed, rich, and subtle mind. And he was never willing to oversimplify or restrict the actual complexities of the relationships with which he was concerned. This always makes the reading of whatever he wrote a difficult task but an exciting and stimulating challenge.

Although, intellectually, somewhat rigorous and aloof, in his human relationships he was simple, friendly, and generous. Unfortunately, he had suffered for many years from very high blood pressure. And he had had to give up the long walks, the mountain climbing, and most of the social activities of his youth.

Born in Budapest of a Hungarian father and an Austrian mother, he was sent as a small boy to the famous Gymnasium of the Theresianische Akademie in Vienna to be prepared for a position as a government official in the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. This education was interrupted by World War I. After the war he was sent for some months to Sweden to overcome the effects of the malnutrition that resulted from the war years. Completing the gymnasium in 1921, he first studied for 2 years to be an engineer at the Technische Hochschule; he then changed to philosophy and psychology at the University of Vienna. Here be came not only under Karl Bühler and the latter's interest in cognitive processes but also under Moritz Schlick and the entire "Vienna Circle" who were then developing the tenets of logical positivism. In this country Brunswik became an active member of the movement toward the unity of science. In the summer of 1953 he organized and participated in the Berkeley Conference for the Unity of Science at the University of California. This, in which he performed brilliantly, took a heavy toll from his health.

Although his own empirical work was largely restricted to perception and learning, Brunswik was extremely sympathetic to the wider sociological and psychoanalytical studies of his wife, Else Frenkel-Brunswik. He was indeed hospitable to all systematic ideas, even when he was unable immediately to incorporate them into his own thinking. His was not only a generous personality but also a generous mind.

His friends, colleagues, and students, and our science as a whole, will miss profoundly his eager, insightful personality and the further vigorous, devoted development of his own original and important basic presuppositions concerning the problems and methodology of psychology.

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