that the replication within subjects was again used as the error term. As with the motility data, the findings are not altered if the subjects-times-conditions interaction is used as the error term.

It is clear that electrodermal reactivity is enhanced during the state of target fixation, which fact indicates that the relative motor quiescence during this state is not simply an indication of overall inhibition. This state corresponds perhaps best to one of vigilance in more mature individuals, when spontaneous activity by the organism is held in check while receptivity to new stimuli is enhanced. This study, with its uniform, fairly powerful evocative stimulus, produced no information regarding threshold.

Analysis of skin-potential base-line values showed no significant differences in the following comparisons: (i) mean level immediately preceding the puff under condition B (−27.9 mv) and condition A (−28.9 mv); (ii) mean level at the termination of condition B (−28.6 mv) and of condition A (−28.9 mv); (iii) mean level under condition B immediately before the first puff (−28.4 mv) and before the sixth and last puff (−26.1 mv); (iv) mean level under condition A immediately before the first puff (−29.7 mv) and before the sixth and last puff (−27.3 mv).

Of the widely ranging individual differences between subjects in the four dependent measurements, none was significantly related to any of the independent variables against which they were tested: birth weight, sex, age, birth order, or amount of medication administered during labor.

These findings have several implications. One is purely methodological, showing skin-potential recording to be feasible and useful in assessment of autonomic activity in the newborn.

Other implications concern the place of visual attention in the economy of the infant organism. The act of attending to a visual stimulus can now be regarded, even in the newborn, not simply as an interesting but isolated piece of behavior; rather it can be appreciated as part of the great complex of regulatory and adaptive mechanisms that one observes in normal individuals from the moment of birth. This particular regulatory complex, in which motility is reduced and at least one aspect of physiologic reactivity is enhanced by the presence of a visual target, may be of special interest because it may well serve to maximize the potentialities for flow of information from the environment to the organism.

The empiric support for the existence of a vigilant-like state in the newborn may also provide a basis for further investigation of the developmental relations between perception and excitation. The manifest excitation that has been observed, beginning at about 15 days, may have an even earlier precursor in the apparently innate readiness to excite while focused on a target.

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References and Notes

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4. The recording was made by cleansing one plantar surface and the lateral surface of the ipselateral calf with soap. Sanborn Redux paste was then applied and nonpolarizing silver–silver chloride electrodes, supplied by Lexington Instrument Co., Waltham, Mass., were firmly affixed with adhesive tape. [D. N. O'Connell and B. Tursky, *Amer. J. Psychol.* **73**, 302 (1960).] The Grass model-7P1 low-level chopper-stabilized d-c preamplifier was used at an attenuation level of 5 mv/cm. Adequacy of the circuit was tested by introducing a 10 mv square-wave pulse through the limb; if the square-wave form was not substantially preserved, the electrodes were removed and reapplied.
5. Supported by NIH grants 5-K3-MH-18521, NIH-M-RG-MH-08367 (to G.S.), 5-T2-MH-6001-10 (to S.B.), and BU-32-214-2585-7 (to H.L.).

28 October 1965

Racial Preference and Social Choice

At the conclusion of their article "Race and shared belief as factors in social choice" (14 Jan., p. 167), Rokeach and Mezei say: "Our three experiments . . . suggest that the importance of racial attitudes per se as determinants of racial discrimination have been greatly overestimated and the importance of congruence of belief correspondingly underestimated. Whatever racial attitudes our subjects may have had seem to have exerted little or no influence on actual choices in social situations. . . ." As the authors point out, however, there is strong evidence that racial attitudes *did* influence choice, in that the subjects avoided choosing racially homogeneous (SS or OO) pairs. Of the 118 subjects, 104 chose racially mixed (SO) pairs. The experimental design was such that by choosing a pair of people with congruent beliefs (++ or −−) the subject automatically chose a racially mixed pair. Restricting our attention to those instances in which a pair with conflicting beliefs (+−) was chosen, however, we still find a preponderance of choices of racially mixed pairs; there were 53 choices of S + O − or S − O +, as compared with 14 choices of O + O − or S + S −. Since a +− pair could be either homogeneous or mixed racially, these choices indicate a significant tendency to choose mixed pairs.

This preference for racially mixed over racially homogeneous pairs shows up in the data as an interaction between race of one member of the pair and race of the other. This interaction is illustrated in the following table, in which the entries indicate the number of choices of the pairs defined in the margins:

	S +	O +
S −	7	31
O −	22	7

Reading across, we see that an O+ person is preferred to an S + person when paired with an S − person, but an S + is preferred to an O + when paired with an O − person. The same effect is evident when the table is read in the other direction.

Thus, the results clearly support the authors' statement that "similarity of race is rarely a basis of choice." That is, there is no main effect due to race. But there is an interaction effect due to race; the racial characteristics of the pair *qua* pair do serve as a basis of choice. The racial attitudes of the subjects, as well as their beliefs, were a major determinant of choice—possibly because in the North it is impolite to form racially homogeneous groups (that is, to segregate) whenever there is a clear possibility of forming racially mixed groups.

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31 January 1966