

Psychosocial Processes and Communications Technology

The first in a sequence of programs on psychosocial processes will give equal emphasis to communications technology—a symposium, “Perspectives on Cybernetics,” arranged by Roy Hermann of the Center for Cybernetic and Interdisciplinary Research, in the afternoon of 26 December and the morning of 27 December.

Behavior Control

Psychopharmacology and psychosurgery might until recently have been identified with primitive cultures. Today in our own society, along with any number of experimental approaches to psychotherapy, they have come into use to an extent that requires thoughtful appraisal. We have come to see that the form of our institutions controls behavior: school desks in rows, to cite a simple instance. Behavior is influenced by information input from advertising, publicity, and other sources.

The fear of violence, the sense of the fragility of a highly interdependent society, and our dissatisfaction with older techniques of behavior control such as incarceration have fueled the demand for new techniques. At the same time, the new knowledge and

techniques are usually most accessible to those already holding power. Moreover, man’s very self-image may be altered in ways that could have profound social consequences. In sum, what behavior should be controlled and who should control it?

The Research Group on Behavior Control of the Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences has thus far concentrated on the physical manipulation of the brain through psychosurgery and electrical stimulation, behavior control through drugs, and psychological means of control. On 27 December its efforts and findings will be summarized in a symposium, “Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues of Behavior Control,” arranged by Daniel Callahan, Director of the Institute. In the morning session Herbert G. Vaughan, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, will present a paper on ethical aspects of psychosurgery and electrical stimulation of the brain. Gerald Klerman, Harvard Medical School, will discuss the control of behavior by psychoactive drugs. Robert Michels, New York State Psychiatric Institute, will analyze psychological and psychotherapeutic means of control.

The afternoon session will address questions broader than the nature of the available techniques. Harold Edgar, Columbia University School of Law, will appraise legal and public policy problems. Robert Neville, of the Institute and the philosophy faculty of the State University of New York at Purchase, will address ethical and philosophical issues. Perry London will offer a summary of present and prospective social issues stemming from our capacity to control behavior.

Social Organization

On 27 and 28 December, the Animal Behavior Society will present a symposium, “Ecology and Evolution of Social Organization,” arranged by Edwin M. Banks and Mary F. Willson of the University of Illinois. It will range widely over studies of population structure and reproductive strategies in vertebrates. The second day will be devoted to comparative studies that should provide an authoritative summary of the impact of ecological factors on social structure and the evolutionary processes involved.

Sex Role Learning

Continuing a sequence of programs on social conditioning of behavior, Dale B. Harris has arranged a symposium, “Sex Role Learning in Childhood and Adolescence,” for 28 December and in the morning of 29 December (*Science*, 22 Sept., p. 1127).

Group Tensions

The sequence of programs on the social conditioning of behavior will continue on 29 December with a symposium to be presented by the International Organization for the Study of Group Tensions: “Conceptions and Alleviations of Aggression and Violence,” arranged by John E. Exner, Jr., Long Island University. Historically, civilized man has resorted to violent behaviors in the quest of goals, or in overcoming conflict. These behaviors occur repeatedly although the very concept of civilization carries with it the implicit acceptance of nonviolent living styles. Aggression and violence have been subjected to intensive investigation that has helped to develop new models for intervening in conflict and preventing violence. The aim of this symposium is to describe and develop ways to bring



Patient in a mental institution. [Smith Kline & French]

the collective wisdom of the scientific community to bear on aggression and destructive violence. Participants will include Leonard Berkowitz, University of Wisconsin; J. P. Scott, Bowling Green State University; Amitai Etzioni, Columbia University; Monroe Lefkowitz, New York State Department of Mental Hygiene; John Spiegel, Brandeis University; Morton Bard, City University of New York; Warren Wiggins, TransCentury Corporation; Irving Salan, American Society of Psychoanalysis; and Benjamin Wolman of Long Island University, who will give, at 4:15 p.m., the Organization's presidential address entitled "Must We Be Helpless Onlookers?"

Communications: Science and the Public

On 27 December, a half-day symposium (morning session) will be devoted to "Science Reporting via Television and How Can It Be Improved?" arranged by Eugene H. Kone, Rockefeller University, and Howard J. Lewis, National Academy of Sciences. Over half of the U.S. public regard television as their primary source of news and information, and its impact may well be much greater than that of newspapers or magazines. But during the late afternoon and evening newscasts science barely appears—whether as an intellectual pursuit or as a significant influence on the human condition. The symposium will explore difficulties in the way scientists present themselves to the medium and also in the way the medium presents them to the public. Jules Bergman, Science Editor of ABC-TV, will discuss "Problems of Getting Good Science on Commercial Television"; Michael Ambrosino, Station WGBH-TV, Boston, will describe "Opportunities and Limitations of Public Television"; John Chancellor, NBC-TV News, will present "A General View of the Medium and Its Interaction with the Public"; and Philip Handler, President of the National Academy of Sciences, will conclude the symposium with a commentary, "The Scientists' Message."

Communications: Scientist and Citizen

On 28 December, a sequence of programs on communications processes will continue with a symposium, "Community Information Exchange: Philosophical and Technical Issues and Case Studies," arranged by Chandler H. Stevens, Rensselaer Polytechnic Insti-



Margaret Mead being interviewed by Ed Edelson in Philadelphia during one of the five 1971 AAAS television programs.

tute. The symposium will address an often-expressed need to move away from a closed or elitist system of scientific advice-giving to administrators in secret, toward a more open system in which citizen values may better guide both science and society. Citizen involvement can now be facilitated by new interactive technologies and institutional arrangements. Early experiments in community information exchange have, however, given rise to a number of still unresolved philosophical issues. For example, which should be emphasized more: citizen feedback to hierarchical institutions or more horizontal communication among citizens at the grass-roots level? The morning session will include presentations on science and the citizen in Puerto Rico by Governor Luis A. Ferre; the "MIN-ERVA" electronic town hall project by Amitai Etzioni, Columbia University; and the Canadian commitment to citizen communications by Richard J. Gwyn, Director-General, Socio-Economic Planning, Department of Communications, Ottawa. In the afternoon Robert V. Bartz, University of California, Irvine, will discuss possibilities for a global network of community knowledge centers; Michael J. McManus, Executive Director, CHOICES for '76 of the New York Regional Plan Association, will discuss television town meetings; and Joseph Valerio of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, will discuss the interactive exposition on the role of science and technology in addressing the social needs in the Washington, D.C., area which he has produced for the AAAS meeting (see page 526).

Communication among Scientists

On 29 December, two programs will address difficulties in the use of information by scientists. Gerard Salton, Cornell University, has arranged a symposium, "Can We Afford the Research Library?," with a keynote paper, "The Crisis for Research Libraries," by Frederick Burkhardt, President of the American Council of Learned Societies and Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries. In response, Hugh C. Atkinson, Ohio State University, will discuss ways such costs can be met; Frederick G. Kilgour, Director, Ohio College Library Center, will describe their computerized interinstitutional library network; Carl F. J. Overhage, Director of M.I.T.'s Project Intrex, will discuss remote access of full texts; and Gerard Salton will describe "The Dynamic Library of the Future."

Also on 29 December, Eugene Garfield and Morton V. Malin of the Institute for Scientific Information will arrange a symposium, "Where Does Scientific Education Begin?," to appraise the needs for educating students in modern techniques for the retrieval and communication of scientific information. T. H. Milby, University of Oklahoma, will discuss literature and bibliography for the biologist; Lois F. Lunin, Information Center for Hearing, Speech, and Disorders of Human Communication, Johns Hopkins University, will discuss the role of information centers in the field of medical education; and R. J. McDaniel, University of Arizona, will describe "Teaching Experiences in an Information Discovery Course."