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THE MARVELS OF MEMORY

Scientific Exploration Of The Mind

TO some psychologists, memory is a muscle you can strengthen by doing routine exercises. To some laymen memory is, at best, a sieve with large holes. But to many scientific explorers of the human mind, memory is a mystery, strange in its behaviour, unpredictable in its operation.

Perhaps its oddest aspect is that it works while you sleep. This was shown in recent experiments in "sleep learning" carried out at the University of North Carolina by psychologist Charles R. Elliot. Using the dormophone, a device invented by Max Sherover, which combines records and player, a timing apparatus to turn the records on and off and an underpillow speaker the psychologist was able to check the value of sleep learning against students who learned traditionally. A group of 40 students was divided in two; half were exposed to records playing nonsense syllables while they were asleep. And to make sure they were asleep, their brain waves were checked during the playing of the recordings. The 20 given a chance at sleep learning were able to memorize the syllables far more quickly than the others who had to start from scratch.

Hypnotism also has been used, both to spur memory and to uncover psychically buried memories in individuals. Under hypnosis, individuals have been able to memorize material, and recall it to mind after being brought out of the hypnotic state. More important, hypnosis has been used as a tool to uncover memories otherwise hidden. Last summer, Dr. Nathaniel E. Selby of New York City hypnotized 23-year-old Mrs. John N. Norton of New Rochelle, who had suffered from amnesia since 1942. Through hypnosis, he cleared up much of her otherwise forgotten past, identified her as a girl who had disappeared in 1940.

Startling Results

More startling from the psychological point of view are the results obtained by Dr. Robert M. True of the University of Vermont college of medicine. He hypnotized 50 people and found that 40 of them were able to tell what day of the week both Christmas and their birthdays fell when they were four, seven and 10 years old. Before hypnotism,

Gandhi Jayanti In Jaffna

The Ceylon Indian Congress, Jaffna, will celebrate Gandhi Jayanti on Monday, October 2, at Navalar Vidyasalai, Vannarponnai. H. E. Sri V. V. Giri, High Commissioner for India in Ceylon will be the Chief Speaker at the public meeting at 3 p.m.

they hadn't been able to recall the days. Dr. True wasn't interested in improving recall; rather he wanted to find out whether the memories of patients undergoing psychoanalysis were reliable checks on the past. His results show that we have memory reserves far greater than those ordinarily suspected.

Few other human activities vary so much as memory. Memory experts are so skilled they have been supermen from other planets. Take the ability to remember figures, for example. A German student named Ruckle once astounded an international congress for experimental psychology by memorizing 204 separate numbers in 12 minutes. If you think it's easy, try it yourself.

Magnitude of Memory Power

Or consider the Polish mathematician, Dr. Salo Finkelstein. He could memorize the number 624706845986193261841 in exactly 4.43 seconds. An Ohio State University student, known only by his initials in a scholarly paper, beat Finkelstein's record by memorizing a 21-place figure in 4.37 seconds.

Some musicians have equally tenacious memories. Arturo Toscanini knows by heart all the part in hundreds of symphonic and operatic scores. Mozart once heard a long composition by another composer, promptly sat down and wrote it all out from memory.

Two-fight military memory is equally astounding. At a press conference General George Marshall once asked each of the 60 correspondents present to ask him a question. At the end of the questions, Marshall spoke for 40 minutes and in the course of his speech answered every question that had been asked.

Does possession of this kind of memory mean a superior intellect? A few years ago, a study of some 300 geniuses showed less than 29 were blessed with remarkable memory. Among these 20 however, were Abraham Lincoln, James Watt, Edmund Burke, Francis Bacon and William Makepeace Thackeray.

In fact, the record shows that, on the whole, there is little real correlation between memory and intelligence. Take "Memory," Thompson, the noted 18th century British doctor. In his accomplishments, save for his memory, Thompson was merely a slightly above average citizen. But among his other feats, he could draw from memory an accurate map of an entire London parish, down to every single railing shed and pump.

Some of the most remarkable memories in history have belonged to individuals little above the level of morons. As Profes-

(Continued on page 3)

Communist Leader's Suggestion

To Avoid World War

Italian Communist leader Palmiro Togliatti has declared that war was not inevitable if people would realise that different social regimes could live peacefully side by side.

In an article in the newspaper *Unita* journal of the country's 2,600,000 strong Communist party, Togliatti said "If every serious internal conflict which strikes at the base of social order to transform them, must lead to international armed conflict, it is evident we are heading straight for a third world war."

"But it is just for this reason that the Communist leaders, anxious above all to avoid such a catastrophic prospect, have underlined that a frontier must be traced and maintained between the two spheres of social transformation and international relations.

"Regimes socially diverse can and must to-day exist side by side."

MEDICAL ATTENTION IN SOVIET RUSSIA

Hand In Hand With Economic Progress

THE report of the USSR Central Statistical Administration on the fulfilment of the Soviet Union's economic development plan in the second quarter of 1950 records also achievements in the sphere of public health.

The second quarter of this year registered a further expansion in the USSR of the network of hospital, sanitary - prophylactic, and health - building facilities; medical service establishments were appreciably supplied with the latest in apparatus and equipment; output of electrical appliances, laboratory equipment and highly effective medicines increased.

By the beginning of the second quarter there were in the Soviet Union nearly one and a half times as many doctors per one hundred hospital beds as in 1940. Thus the public medical service, which, as is well-known, is free in the USSR, had improved notably over previous years.

The progress of the Soviet public health service is not fortuitous. It is predetermined by the great unflinching attention the Soviet Government and the Communist

Vali-North Co-op. Stores Union

Sixth Annual General Meeting

The Sixth Annual General Meeting of the above Union was held at Mallakam on Sunday the 24th. inst. There were present delegates from the 55 affiliated Store Societies and some Co-operative officers including Mr. V. Nadarajah, the Additional A. R. Jaffna, The Union, having one business at its two depots, Tellippalai and Chunnakam, for a turnover of nearly 23½ lakhs of rupees for the year ended 31-3-50, had earned a profit of a little over Rs. 15,000,000. After allocating a good part of these profits to the member Shares as dividend on Shares and as rebate on purchase value, the balance was voted to be utilized for a building which the Union recently acquired at a cost of over Rs. 25,000.00.

The Additional A. P. spoke on the good progress the Union had made during the year.

Amending The Indian Congress Constitution

THE Indian National Congress assembling at Nasik has appointed a Committee to examine certain provisions of the Congress Constitution and suggest necessary amendments. The basic ills that clog the working of the Constitution and bring the Congress into disrepute are analysed by Sri Satish Chandra Das Gupta in the current issue of the *Harijan*. Sri Gupta writes:

The Congress membership rules and the adopted structure based on *Panchayats* and effective members are all very well. It was hoped by the farmers of the new Congress Constitution that if the qualification for being a member of the *Panchayat* was really insisted upon then it will lead to the creation of a body of servants of the nation. According to the Constitution, they must have some very exacting qualifications.

- They are:
- (1) to be habitual wearers of *Khadi*,
 - (2) to eschew untouchability in every form,
 - (3) to be teetotallers,
 - (4) to be believers in inter-communal unity and to have equal respect for faiths of other people,
 - (5) to believe in equality of opportunity and status for all.

These are great qualifications. Such qualified men are to vote for office-bearership of the Congress organization. Persons who in addition to their possessing those primary qualifications should have the additional qualifications of putting in from day to day some active service to the nation in the shape of constructive activity are to be the effective members of the Congress. The office-bearers are to be elected from amongst these effective members.

The scrutiny about the effective membership this year has shown that persons have classed as effective members who have not those qualifications. In the meeting of the A. I. C. C. in February last, the effective-membership clause has been made null and void.

They are not Qualified

The Congress has examined itself and to its credit, it had the courage to disclose the rot that has gone to the core. It has applied the surgeon's knife to one spot. But it is only a partial work that has been done.

Do the persons registering themselves as qualified members of the Congress really possess those high qualifications? Probably a very small fraction will pass the test. If

that is so, the Nasik Congress is meeting with the sanction of persons whose basic qualification for voting is questionable. With this basic blot in the structure can the Congress hope to be a really powerful democratic organization? Can the Congress Parliamentary Board go to send up candidates for membership of legislatures with this basic flaw and yet strive to do something revolutionary to ameliorate the condition of the masses? I doubt if it can be accomplished.

A Purge Needed

But the matter is not past remedying. The Nasik Congress can proceed to form a body for scrutinizing the membership qualification of the qualified members. Those who are not qualified, shall have their names removed. The genuinely qualified members only will remain to form *Panchayats*. These *Panchayats* may then fill up the posts of the office-bearers of the Congress. The disqualified ones will automatically have to vacate, leaving the Congress offices for the persons who have genuinely passed the test.

The number of *Khadi*-wearers in the country is very limited, particularly now. The number of those who have eschewed untouchability in every form is also limited. The implications have to be understood, analysed and tested in regard to the immediate past of the aspirant for the qualified membership. If this is done there will be a great purge and a beginning for the ending of the fraud which in many cases, marred the fairness of Congress elections. If the Nasik Congress will do this one thing, it will be laying the foundation for the making of the Congress really a rejuvenated and morally powerful organization which it is not today.

6 Months For Sword Attack

Suppiah Velathana who stood charged, before the Jaffna Magistrate, Mr. S. Thambidurai, with causing hurt to Sinnan Kandiah of same place by attacking him with a sword was sentenced to 6 months R. I. and a fine of Rs. 250 in default 9 months R. I. The magistrate directed that Rs. 200 should be paid to the accused if the fine were paid.



Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1950

Treasure These Thoughts

That state which is free from fear, which is of the form of bliss, and which is not subject to any decrease, give me that; come quick, O Lord! what are you waiting for?

—BHATTA NARAYANA, STAVA CHINTAMANI.

MIDDLE-MAN IN CO-OPERATIVE TRADE

MOVEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN inaugurated on the high ethical principle of humanitarian welfare tend to defeat the very purpose for which they had been started and to create misgivings in the mind of the people where those who have been entrusted with their guidance and administration allow such establishments to deviate from the fundamentals governing them. The President of the Town Co-op. Stores Union regretted very much to have to publicly criticize the questionable methods adopted by one branch of the Co-operative Movement in direct opposition to another. The sugar deal which already has brought about a great confusion in governmental and business circles, has become such a rich source of revenue for Co-operative establishments that the different component institutions within the frame-work of Co-operative undertakings have thought it fit to adopt tactics to earn profits forgetting for the moment that such a course of action motivated by selfish ends only serve to alienate the sympathy of the public for social causes.

The structure of the co-operative movement has been over-burdened with super-imposed parallel establishments necessitating duplication of work and halving of advantages with the result that the very organisation which by its basic tenets should eliminate the motive of profit making has been compelled to go all out for increasing marginal gains to meet the soaring cost of maintaining a top-heavy institution. With great gusto and fanfare the well-meaning co-operators began a social undertaking with the avowed object of ringing the death knell of the middle-man — that parasite decried as notorious for sucking the life blood out of the producer and the buyer. For a time it looked as if the middle-man in trade had disappeared. But if as the Jaffna Town Co-operative Stores Union alleges, the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment has cunningly walked into the vacancy caused by the elimination of the dreaded 'middle-man',

In the House of Representatives.

EDUCATION POLICY UNDER FIRE

SELECTION TEST RIDICULED

THE new proposals had their source in a democratic conception exclaimed the Minister of Education opening the debate on the White Paper on Education. He asserted that the object of the scheme was nothing but the desire to give every opportunity and that in terms of absolute equality for the fullest development.

Explaining the justification for the selection test, Major Nugawela said that the backward child was a drag on all.

Free Education

It was not the intention of the Government to deviate in any way from the principle of free education declared the apologetic Minister and summed up by patting the asserted schools on the back by promising an increase in the basic grant.

The opposition immediately opened fire with the Member for Galle taking command. Himself an educationist, Mr. Dahnyake could tell the House with an air of confidence that a selective test at 11 plus or 12 year was not helpful. He however found a Leftist argument for his inference, and that was, that the working class boy would be left in the lurch and wound up his criticism in the usual note that there was a conspiracy against the poor.

State Control of Schools

Mr. Wilmot Perera urged the full control of all schools by the State.

Mr. V. T. Nanayakkara wanted the age of admission to be fixed and that at four

we cannot but exclaim that we should sympathise with 'iron' if 'gold' would show signs of rusting.

The various Co-operative Stores have organised themselves into Unions according to D. R. O's divisions. These central organisations do not need another provincial establishment to act as transport agent in a country where transport facilities are satisfactory. We wish to point out to the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies functioning in the North that in spite of the great vigilance and care he has been evincing in the growth of Co-operative living and thinking, causes for complaint have arisen and that for the achievement of the great aims of this noble cause he should summon a conference of all Co-operative Stores to discuss ways and means of reorganizing the present set-up in the light of experience.

plus.

Official Language

Denying any knowledge of the inspiration for the White Paper, Mr. W. A. de Silva was of opinion that the question of the national language should be decided early and that the dilatory tactics applied by the present government to retain English as medium of instruction could well be understood in view of the existence of vested interests,

Supporting the proposals, Mr. C. E. Attygalle welcomed the provision for teaching English as compulsory language.

Religious Interests

Mr. Albert F. Pieris wanted freedom to establish denominational schools.

Mr. A. Aziz saw in the Selective Tests ample room for corruption.

Mr. J. J. Fernando urged that the Catholic Mission should be permitted to open schools of their denomination as it was one of the Catholic principles to educate Catholic in Catholic schools.

No Communal Thinking

Dr. M. C. M. Kalleel welcomed the proposals as having risen above sectional interests and departed from communal thinking.

Aptitude for Experiment

The erstwhile B. S. P. leader took the debate to a higher plane and examined the proposals in the light of the requirement how best the faculty of the child could be developed. He would not accept the proposal to stop attendance at 14 and declared that compulsory education should be up to 16

Local Bodies

Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam said that he could not find any reference to the part local bodies were required to play in the new scheme and was opposed to full state control of schools. He was apprehensive of the free expression of a large body of teachers being stifled

No Change Visible

The Leader of the Opposition in his characteristic vein ridiculed the scheme as being an attempt at sabotaging the Free Scheme and added that there was no theory that certain children could not be educated and wanted the Selective Tests to be eliminated and jocularly remarked that without the Tests the scheme would be mere nothing.

MEDICAL ATTENTION IN SOVIET RUSSIA

(Continued from page 1)

people of the USSR by a vast network of state hospitals, clinics, dispensaries, women's and children's consultation centres, sanatoriums and rest homes. Today there is no such place in the Soviet land, not even in the remotest corners of the country, which does not have a medical establishment furnished with all the requisite equipment and staffed with competent medical personnel.

The development of the Soviet public health services is proceeding on the basis of the incessant advancement of Soviet science. No other country in the world has as great a number of scientific research institutions as the USSR. These institutions cover all spheres of medicine. Soviet medical workers are not only constantly improving the methods and ways of effectively curing any disease but are also year after year increasingly broadening their sick-prevention efforts. Prophylactic work holds a prominent place in the activities of Soviet physicians who are unrelaxingly watching over the health of the working people. A special role in this field is played by the dispensaries and polyclinics, the number of which has increased in the USSR since the advent of Soviet power 14 times over in towns and more than trebled in the rural communities.

Each Soviet town and industrial settlement has its district polyclinics dispensaries and hospitals giving complete medical service to the population and enabling physicians to form a full picture of every patient's physical condition.

All large Soviet industrial enterprises have their own polyclinics, consultation centres, hospitals, prophylactic (overnight) sanatoriums. For example, the Trekhgornaya Textile Mill in Moscow has its own polyclinic, dispensary, hospital, maternity-home, three women's medical consultation centres, more than 10 kindergartens and nurseries, a children's country camp and overnight sanatorium and a rest home.

Attention By Specialists

An important part in the Soviet medical public service is played by the free care of the sick at their homes. Doctors and nurses visit patients at home free of charge. When necessary a physician will immediately direct a patient to the proper hospital.

A considerable medical service network has been set up in the rural communities of the USSR. Hospitals staffed with specialists in every field of medicine including dentists and dental mechanics are functioning in every rural district of the Soviet Union. Besides these there are also rural precinct hospitals, dispensaries, obstetric stations and lying-in hospitals. The rural medical establishments have their own X-ray, physiotherapeutic and other facilities. The number of surgeons

today working in the countryside is nearly double that of 1940, the number of obstetricians and gynaecologists is respectively two and a half times greater and so on.

Regional centres in the USSR have sanitary aviation stations capable of delivering consulting physicians when needed to any remote locality. For example, the planes of the Zaporozhye Ukraine, regional sanitary aviation station had in 1949 made hundreds of urgent flights, and over 2,000 patients received urgent medical aid.

Maternity Care

The scale of medical assistance to mother and child in the USSR is unmatched in any other country. Upwards of 8,000 consultation centres, countless maternity homes, children's medical service establishments, milk kitchens and a long line of other facilities stand guard over the health of the Soviet mother and her children, creating the most favourable conditions for the upbringing and development of the young generation. It will be noted that since the advent of Soviet Power, the number of beds in maternity hospitals increased in the USSR 13 times in towns and 23 times over in the rural communities. All pregnant women are ensured competent medical care.

The public health service is rapidly expanding throughout the entire Soviet Union, in every one of the Soviet Republics. In Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Yakutia, where prior to the Revolution physicians were few and far between and hospitals were situated hundreds of kilometers apart, today the population is ensured full medical service in conveniently located hospitals and other medical establishments.

The number of medical workers in the USSR is growing with every year. Soviet higher medical institutions annually graduate more than 25,000 physicians in every field of medicine.

The Soviet physician is not guided by commercial considerations. He is a humane, ideologically inspired fighter for the health of the people. Hence, his constant endeavour to incessantly improve and broaden his knowledge, enrich his experience, boldly apply in practice all valuable achievements of science, combating conservatism and stagnation. This is evidenced by the recent Pavlov Session at which in a broad and free discussion the victorious principles of Pavlov physiology which opens before Soviet science new vistas of further efflorescence were confirmed.

Feeling of Security

The ability to apply in practice all the latest achievement of medicine is common to every Soviet physician — be it a famed personality in Soviet and world medicine like academician Viadimir Filatov, the renowned eye

Letters



Hindu Temple In The University

Sir,—I wished well by the movement to put up a Hindu Temple because of Mr. Muttulingasamy's assurance that it shall be done according to Vedas and Agamas. I have no reason to withdraw my wish as long as the temple is built and run according to the Agamas.

Two parties can be seen to operate on this business; one is the authorities of the University who would allocate a site for the temple, and the other is the Hindu public who would put up the temple and manage it. In my letter of the 19th inst. I addressed only the leaders of the latter group on the almost insurmountable difficulties, that would unavoidably confront them, in their attempt to build a common Temple according to Shastras and to suit all sects of Hindus alike. These difficulties are chiefly of two kinds, one arises from the varying rigid irreconcilable and wholly disparate positions maintained by the unchallengeable divine Agamas and the respective sects — this I had in a way shown in my last letter — and other does spring from the spirit of the modern democratic age in that it simply revels in breaking any order based on theocratic sanction.

In this letter I have decided to content myself with merely inviting, most humbly, the attention of those good and great men who had volunteered to help the cause of our sacred religion to the latter kind of difficulty and earnestly request them not to be too chary about it.

On the face of the very hopeful, earnest, encouraging, suggestive and sincere letter from Mr. Muttulingasamy, an accredited representative of the movement, I am persuaded to close for the present, discussing in the press this aspect of building and running a Hindu Temple according to Shastras and prayerfully wait watch and wish its development according to the contemplated plan of the prime movers.

Yours etc.
C. NAGAIAH
Hony. Secretary of the
above Sabai

surgeon who laid the foundation for the wide application of cornea grafting; or Nikolai Bogoraz, Member of the Academy of Medical Science of the USSR who has performed thousands of splendid restorative operations in restorative surgery; and the ordinary rural physician Georgi Rummyantsev who has developed new effective methods of treating such ailments as asthma and many others.

Reading in the report of the USSR Central Statistical Administration that already by the beginning of the second quarter of this year the number of physicians per 100 hospital beds was nearly 15 times over pre-war, Soviet people find added confirmation to their sense of security, knowing that their health is guarded by a strong army of medical workers ready unflinchingly to justify their high appointment of public health servant.

