

MEMORY.

The Initial Tendency in Ideal Revival. FELIX ARNOLD. Amer. J. of Psychol., 1907, XVIII., 239-252.

This article treats of certain characteristic tendencies of the memory process on the basis of association tests made by the author with school boys.

Arnold's tests were carried on with about forty boys in the sixth year in school. A poem was used which they had memorized for school purposes. No emphasis was laid on rhythm. A portion was selected for each test. The boys were told that when one word of the poem was spoken they were to write down at once the first words which occurred to them from that part of the poem which had been selected. The results were classified under three heads:

1. Certain cases in which there was what the author calls a 'fromward' tendency — *i. e.*, the tendency to recall the poem beginning with the cue word and going forward.

2. The 'initial' tendency — *i. e.*, the tendency when a word is presented to go back to the beginning of the whole section of the poem to which the cue belongs and to revive from the first the complete section.

3. Blank — where no words were immediately recalled.

Nine tests were taken lasting through several months. Out of 1,917 trials there were 705 cases of 'initial' tendency; 1,182 cases of 'fromward' tendency, and 30 blanks.

In discussing the results Arnold reviews briefly the views of Hartley and Herbart as representing the atomistic conception of the Associationists; and of Ebbinghaus, Müller and Schumann and Müller and Pilzecker representing the more recent investigations of memory processes. Arnold points out that especially the 'initial' tendency disproves any atomistic conception of stored, discrete units. Nor can such a tendency be explained by mediate suggestion as might the cases showing the 'fromward' tendency. The cases of 'initial' tendency, the author believes, can be explained only by considering any given moment of consciousness to be a '*disposition*' containing 'a meaning and a tendency to explicate the series implicit in it.' Any given word from a group formally learned revives this total '*disposition*.' Indeed the presence of the 'fromward' tendency points in the same direction. In this case the whole series is also involved.

Arnold found that the boys who had most thoroughly learned the selection had the greatest 'initial' tendency. This he thinks affords another proof of his theory, for in such cases there would be a better organized disposition. Arnold mentions certain 'initial' tendencies

found in children who are learning processes. When any mistake occurs the tendency is to rub out the whole of a drawing; to pull down the whole block-house; to begin all over in reading. These show, he thinks, that serial unity has been destroyed, so the whole series has to be gone through *in toto* before any meaning will result for the child. These 'initial' tendencies in children, Arnold thinks, should be encouraged.

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Memory for Lifted Weights. E. A. HAYDEN. Amer. J. of Psychol., 1906, XVII., 497-521.

The object of this investigation was to 'study the influence of the interval upon the accuracy and quickness of recognition,' and to 'determine the mental processes involved in comparison and recognition.' Eight Jastrow weights ranging from 20 to 600 gms. were used. The experiment consisted in requiring the subjects to lift two weights chosen in irregular order, and to judge whether the second was equal to, heavier or lighter than the first. The reaction time of the judgment was recorded. Eight standard time-intervals ranging from 20 to 120 seconds were interspersed between the lifting of the first and the second weight.

The results obtained from five observers show that the 'interval of 40 to 60 seconds seems the most favorable for the judgments, so far as this is indicated by maximum percentage of right cases, minimum length of reaction time and mean variation.' In most of the judgments the weights compared were placed at definite positions in a scale of values. The memory image of the first weight usually disappeared when the lifting of the second weight began, and apparently it played a rather insignificant part in the judging process.

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PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE.

The Psychology of Prejudice. JOSIAH MORSE. Int. J. of Ethics, 1907, XVII., 490-506.

The writer of this article prefaces his remarks by the statement that in the rapid progress made in psychology in the recent years practically nothing has been written upon the most common everyday mental experiences, such as hope, despair, friendship, courage, etc. The reason for these omissions, he states, must be due first, to the common-