REPORT

DEFINITIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMS, II.

PREPARED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The first report of this committee, containing formulations of definitions (or delimitations) for 28 fundamental terms, was published in the *PSYCHOLOGICAL BULLETIN* for 1918, vol. 15, 89-95. The committee's work, suspended during the war, was resumed recently. Various causes have delayed the progress somewhat, but the following terms have been agreed upon.

As before, it was thought desirable to include alternative definitions wherever divergent usage appeared to justify them. The individual members of the committee do not personally accept all the definitions here given, but they believe that every definition included represents the usage of certain psychologists of good standing. The report is unanimous.

It is to be understood that while the American Psychological Association accepted the committee's report and authorized its publication, the Association is in no way responsible for the definitions, nor has it officially approved them.

VI

29. Introspective Psychology:

A systematic study of *mental phenomena* from the point of view of *introspection*.

30. Analytic Psychology:

A systematic study of *mental phenomena* in terms of their *elements*; sometimes contrasted with *genetic psychology*.

31. Genetic Psychology:

A systematic study of *mental phenomena* in terms of the origin and development of *mental life* in the *individual*, in the *race*, or in any part of the animal series.

32. Structural Psychology:

A systematic study of *mental phenomena* from the point of view of their (momentary) constitution.

33. Functional Psychology:

- a. Psychology from the *biological* point of view, with emphasis on the significance of *mental life* as a process of adjustment rather than on its composition.
- b. Psychology from the *dynamic* point of view, regarding *mental life* as developing a system of mental operations.

34. Dynamic Psychology:

- a. A systematic interpretation of *mental phenomena* from the point of view of cause and effect.
- b. A synonym for *functional psychology*.

35. Subjective Psychology:

- a. Psychology restricted to the study of *mental phenomena* introspectively observable.

COMMENT: A term used to emphasize the exclusion of organic responses.

- b. A synonym for *introspective psychology*.

36. Objective Psychology:

- a. Psychology as concerned with *mental phenomena* expressed in the *behavior* of the organism to the exclusion of *introspective* data.

COMMENT: A synonym for *Behavior Psychology*.

- b. Psychology as contemplating mental facts inferentially from without rather than introspectively from within.

VII

37. Activity (mental, psychical):

- a. Any (mental, psychical) process, in the literal sense of a change.
- b. Any such process regarded as originating in a subject.
- c. Volition, will.

38. Action:

- a. Movement made by an *individual* with conscious intent.
- b. A synonym for *behavior*.

39. Act:

- a. A consummated *action*.^a
- b. A synonym for *action*.

40. Conation:

- a. Activity seeking fulfillment; purposive activity in all its developments, such as volition, desire, aversion, impulse.
- b. The mental state in which kinesthetic components predominate.

41. Conduct:

- a.* The behavior of an individual as interpreted by other individuals in a common social relationship.

COMMENT: The term is primarily ethical.

- b.* Behavior shaped by foresight.

VIII

42. Wish:

- a.* An affective-conative tendency in respect to an imagined situation with the belief that the realization of the situation would satisfy a present want.
- b.* Freudian: The *unconscious* urge of all living things to seek satisfaction (usually identified with, or illustrated by, the sex-impulse).

43. Disposition:

- a.* General: Any organized tendency resulting from previous *experience*, individual or ancestral.
- b.* Emotional: An organized tendency, the expression of which is predominantly an emotion or a sentiment.

COMMENT: Sometimes used as nearly equivalent to *temperament*.

44. Set:

Any organized mental condition or bodily structure which grounds a *disposition*.

45. Anlage:

The innate complex psychic organization modified by heredity which forms the basis of the individual's experience and development.

46. Mental Attitude:

- a.* A stabilized *set* or *disposition*.
- b.* (Bewusstseinslage.) An abbreviated but comprehensive *experience*, occurring principally in connection with affective, cognitive, and conative processes and at present incompletely analyzed.
- c.* (Einstellung.) The specific mental *disposition* towards incoming experience whereby that experience is modified.
- d.* Any mode of consciousness in which a self^a relates itself to its environment.

IX

47. Instinct:

- a.* An organized mode of response determined by inherited neural *dispositions* that have been phylogenetically adapted to a specific type of environmental situation.

b. The inherited *dispositions* to coördinated activities which contribute to the accomplishment of a specific but not consciously predetermined end.

48. Instinctive Behavior:

Any complex response which is mainly determined (or so far as determined) by the inherited constitution.

49. Instinctive:

a. Pertaining to *instinct*.

b. Innate, *i.e.*, not individually acquired.

X

50. Constellation:

An organized group of mental phenomena larger than the inferior complexes out of which it is composed and smaller than the superior or total organization of mind.

51. Mental Test:

A standardized device for the purpose of measuring mental ability or of studying the results of mental operations in the individual.

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