

*Localization of Consciousness and Emotion.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, Jan., 1933.) *Alford, L. B.*

A series of cases exhibiting lesions in different parts of the brain was studied for changes caused in consciousness and emotion. In no lesion of the right hemisphere (in right-handed persons) was any consistent disturbance in these states observed. Not one of 33 cases of left hemiplegia exhibited confusion, and only three showed any emotional instability. Lesions of the frontal, parietal, occipital and temporal lobes on the left similarly caused no definite disorder of consciousness or emotion. It was eminently in the right hemiplegias, which generally arise from left capsular injuries, that confusion of consciousness was found. It would seem, therefore, that an area somewhere in the left base is concerned with the maintenance of awareness. All the conclusions are tentative.

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*Laterality of Function.* (*Psychol. Bulletin*, vol. xxx, Feb., 1933.) *Downey, J. E.*

The problems involved are much more complicated than was at one time suspected. The statement that handedness is essentially a human characteristic appears to be dubious. Synergia is the natural condition in infancy; dissociation occurs only as a gradual development. The evidence is in favour of an increasing dextral lateralization up to the age of six years. The common assumption that left-handedness is inherited is difficult of proof, in view of the fact that monozygotic twins so often exhibit reversed handedness. The belief is wide that reversal of the native handedness in writing may cause a speech defect, but there appears to be but little evidence in its favour. Suggestions have been made that crossed dextrality or sinistrality may be connected with general neurotic tendencies.

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*The Self-expression of Identical Twins in Handwriting and Drawing.* (*Character and Personality*, vol. i, Dec., 1932.) *Seeman, E., and Saudek, R.*

The authors discuss the diagnosis of the types of twins, and show how a study of the similarities and dissimilarities of twins offers a valuable method of differentiating between influence of inheritance and that of environment. It is pointed out that there are four methods of determining psychic qualities: Psychiatrical diagnosis, intelligence tests, the Rorschach test, and analysis of handwriting and drawing. The latter method is fully dealt with in the cases of three pairs of identical twins. It is noted that in handwriting there are certain conspicuous features which are used by non-scientific people to identify and contrast specimens of handwriting. The authors demonstrate a scientific method of analysing calligraphy, illustrating it by a comparison of the word "Battle" written by Nelson with his right and left hand respectively. Owing to the use of non-scientific methods, previous investigators have stressed the dissimilarity of the handwritings of identical twins. Many new features are demonstrated in the analysis of calligraphy. An excellent description is given of three pairs of identical twins under the headings of environmental history, physical characteristics, educational records and personality traits. The first pair of twins are normal mentally and physically. The second pair are normal mentally but physically abnormal, being conjoined twins. The handwritings of this pair are unique in that they show a combination of features, that has not been seen previously by the authors, who have examined many thousands of handwritings during the last twenty-five years. The special combination of features is extreme lability with remarkable evenness of pressure. The third pair of twins were normal physically, but each had a mental breakdown. From a study of their handwriting, the exact type of their mental breakdown was deducible.

It is concluded from the analyses of these cases that even identical twins show differences in personality.

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