

## 2. Psychology and Psychopathology.

*A New Series of Perceptual Tests (preliminary communication). (Brit. Journ. Med. Psych., vol. xvi, p. 97, Nov., 1936.) Penrose, L. S., and Raven, J. C.*

An attempt is made to construct non-verbal tests in accordance with psychological principles. By further adaptations the same tests could be used for blind, deaf or otherwise physically defective subjects. The arrangement of figures in a rectangular pattern indicated to the subject the relationship which has to be discovered.

The structure of the simplest test corresponds to that of verbal problems such as "As black is to white night is to ?".

The solution of each problem must be unique.

The generalized form of the structure of a test consisting of four elements can be expressed thus :

$$A :: f(A)$$

$$f' :: f'[f(A)].$$

The required answer which is to occupy the bottom right-hand corner can be obtained either by arguing horizontally or vertically. These are three special types of relation possible :

(1) Similarity  $f(A) = A$ . (2) Opposition where  $f(A) = \text{not } A$ . (3) Addition where  $f(A) = A - X + Z$ .

More complicated relations can be expressed by a structure containing nine figures.

In presenting the test to the subject, part of a design is removed and placed among a number of alternative pieces all of the same shape, but bearing either no design or an irrelevant pattern. The designs can be painted in bright colours in order to interest children. The elements in almost every test can be rearranged by permutation. The material therefore has experimental value for studying reliability and the influence of practice, and can be used for purposes of retesting at comparatively short intervals.

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*Ego-development and Certain Character Problems. (Psychoanal. Quart., vol. v, p. 320, July, 1936.) Hendrick, I.*

Ego-development is a process which culminates in the capacity of the personality to maintain its existence, and to secure adequate gratification of libidinal and aggressive impulses in a socialized environment. The basic situation of the adult ego is achieved in the pre-œdipal phases of development through identifications which permanently resolve anxiety reactions to primitive hostile impulses. These, in contrast to the identifications by which œdipal and post-œdipal conflicts with the rival are resolved and the super-ego established, are based upon partial, not total, object cathexes.

Each successive group of preœdipal identifications not only provides a solution of the anxiety of the moment, but contributes specific functions to the organization of the developing ego; each is dynamically related to the type of phantasy and the special organ which dominates during that stage of development.

A failure to resolve an infantile anxiety situation by identification will be represented by a defective ego-function, which necessitates inhibitions or projections that are deleterious to mature object-relationships. These are especially conspicuous in character defects which are recognized clinically as "pregenital", "narcissistic" or "ego-deficiency" character neuroses.

Repression is a defence against libidinal impulses and aggressions which are highly sexualized; it is therefore available chiefly to escape anxieties related to passive impulses, to œdipal and post-œdipal activities or their substitutes. Earlier,