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Effect of Auditory and Visual Stimuli on Brain Potential Rhythms

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from the index finger. The brain wave and the tremor were recorded simultaneously on sensitised paper.

On the basis of the data collected and studied, there seems to be no relationship between the two rhythms. The frequencies are different, the tremor being somewhat faster than the brain wave. Thus, the phase relationship constantly changes. These results are contradictory to those obtained by Jasper (Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quant. Biol., 1936, 4, 320) despite the fact that his conditions have been duplicated insofar as they could be determined. Furthermore, it was found that in practically all cases where a small alpha rhythm was extant, the tremor did not differ greatly from that for subjects with a large alpha rhythm. This fact seems further to deny the existence of a relationship. Further analysis of the data is being carried on.

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EFFECT OF AUDITORY AND VISUAL STIMULI ON BRAIN POTENTIAL RHYTHMS

BETTY M. MARTINSON

This study attempts to compare the blocking of the Berger rhythm caused by visual and auditory sensations. Four stimuli were used — a bright light of one hundred (100) watts, a dim light of twenty-five (25) watts, a thousand cycle tone at approximately seventy (70) decibels, and a similar tone at approximately forty (40) decibels. A series of two hundred stimuli composed of fifty of each of these arranged in random order was presented to the subject. The records were read for latency and perseveration of the blocking and the four types of stimulus were compared.

Preliminary data on four hundred presentations indicate that the bright light was the most effective stimulus, producing the shortest latency and the longest perseveration time. The dim light was only slightly less effective. Both lights showed some response to every stimulus but this was not true of the sounds. Neither the tone at seventy decibels nor the one at forty caused blocking in more than one presentation in five. The latencies were approxi-

mately equal but the perseveration time for the louder tone was longer.

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THE EFFECT OF TRAINING IN PHONICS UPON READING ABILITY AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL

MAURINE ROGERS

The purpose of this experiment was to ascertain the effect of phonic ability upon reading ability at the college level. The subjects were 72 poor readers from the lowest 20 per cent of reading scores of University of Iowa freshmen. Half of these readers formed an experimental group and a like half a control group. Vocabulary tests and pronunciation tests composed of the same words were given. These were accompanied by paragraph comprehension and oral reading tests. The experimental group then took a period of individual phonic training at the end of which both experimental and control groups were retested. No gains were made by the control group but significant gains were made by the experimental group in vocabulary, pronunciation and oral reading.

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QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT OF SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHONETIC FACTORS AFFECTING THE INCIDENCE OF STUTTERING

SPENCER F. BROWN

A study reported in the Quarterly Journal of Speech (November, 1935) showed the existence of a phonetic factor of difficulty affecting the occurrence of stuttering spasms. Further analysis of the data on which the previous work was based has revealed a grammatical factor of difficulty. This is more consistent, but does not seem to be as important as the phonetic factor.

