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The Effect of Training upon the Handedness Preference of the Rat in an Eating Activity

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A study of stuttering with relation to word accent shows that the accented syllables of polysyllabic words tend to receive a greater proportion of stuttering than the unaccented syllables.

Words at the beginning of sentences and paragraphs tend to receive more stuttering than the other words in the sentence. Unfamiliar words elicit more stuttering. Words arranged in random order without context elicit less stuttering than contextual material.

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THE EFFECT OF TRAINING UPON THE HANDEDNESS PREFERENCE OF THE RAT IN AN EATING ACTIVITY

ROBERT L. MILISEN

The problem of sidedness has become important in the last few years due to the relationship which may exist between it and certain disabilities such as stuttering, reading and spelling. Although much work has been done with sidedness of human subjects, many factors could not be studied or controlled; therefore, rats were used in this study.

Forty rats were tested for handedness by using the Tsai Maurer technique and were then placed in training cages which were so constructed that the animal was able to obtain his food with one of his front feet by reaching through an opening. The cage construction further permitted us to control the hand used in obtaining the food. In this fashion we were able to test handedness preference before and after training. The training periods included all the solid food eaten by the rats over periods varying from one week to nine months.

In general, it was indicated that rats manifest innate handedness preferences which can be changed in some rats by training of the non-preferred hand. Handedness preference of young rats is more easily influenced than that of old rats. Innate handedness cannot always be influenced by training.

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