

Notebook #12

# COMPOSITIONS

NAME Histology

Neuro-physiology

MADE IN U.S.A.

— Physiology of learning —  
R.S. Washley - 1942 - Harvard

Hilgard & Marquis - Conditioning Nat'l Soc. of Study of Educ.  
Psych. of Learning - Caudry theory 41<sup>st</sup> year  
" " Human " - McGeoch  
-----

Association - what elements are associated

Contiguity - behavior

Similarity - gestalt

Innate organization.

Kuo & Watson in Amer. <sup>no inherited pattern</sup> packed it

Kuo backtracking a bit now admits may be.

Its nature - man as well as animals

Innate <sup>motor + pp'te</sup> patterns unequivocal in lower forms  
species of spiders & their webs - all insects -  
birds nests

Mammals - mating, nursing, etc.

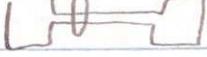
rab mating b'hr Steinach, Stone, & Blech

(birds retrieve round polyeth, any color, have to)  
be right texture as well as round

isolation & lack of exp'ce doesn't affect ♂ rab R  
elimination of sense organs can go on  
indef. as long as one or so is left.  
baboon guinea pig w. half elicited R.

3

Extra shots of hormone reduces particularity of S which is adequate.

Retrieving - 

cotton mads - no strengthen drive & decrease specificity  
stuffed skins - yes pit. extract or replace very young babies for old ones.  
sd. + off. + others sense modalities can be eliminated but not all.

Motivation - endocrine effects

secretions do activate these performances.

mode of action ??

cause growth of special Pm connections.

(speed rules out growth process)

modifications of frontier endings or whole

1) Moll's evacuation theory. — distortion of mammary glands  
nas or other glands — no cause P. occurs when most of glands removed.

2) Kempf — internal secretions affects sense organs of autonomic system — expect a general increase in activity

3) Hormones act directly on C.N.S. to bring out sex libid. 1938 45:48 Psych Rev.

Rats reared 100 days in dark — are able to judge distance for jumping — innate organization.  
same for pattern vision — " "

organization thus without moving & building up  
avoid exp. ,

elements arranged in geometric patterns are  
more readily recognized & remembered.

Geometrical figures — but not cause of  
mysterious intrinsic mathematical properties.  
but ease of R. to these objects.

innate organization of patterns? —

Fill in homogeneous fields & simple figures  
in hemianopia & scotomas

Fortification figures in scintillating scotomas  
(spontaneous discharge of cortex = organized no)

living in Einstein world seeing it as Euclidean?

Is logic logical? or experimental?

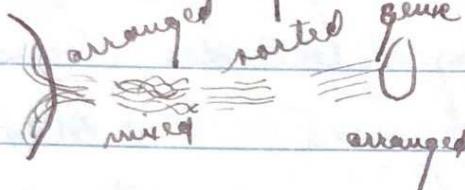
Neurology of this simile organization

Tremendous precision in growth of connections needed on connection basis.

Kappeler biotaxis growth at rt ls - guides

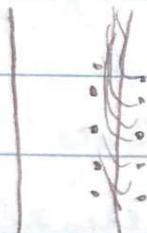
III by electrical potentials

no expt'l evidence to support it.



cell to cell correspondence  
in retinal & tactile  
systems of the rat.

arranged by mechanics of growth in  
cord.



Some of innate organization in cortex.

Anomalous variations of C.N.S. connections

double cones in retina

familial diffuse - enlarged tracts, etc.

evidence rather opposes definite precise  
connections

other view = interaction of masses of cells  
algebraic summation

laws of irradiation of excitations thru  
homogeneous cortical tissue.

Growth process, it self, establishes organized patterns in NS.  
Anatomical variations, however, preclude any precise cell-to-cell connection.

Variability of adequate S shows simple cell connections won't work.

### Neurological pathways involved in association

Peripheral n.s. precise & isolated.

Vision - cell-to-cell projection

Double hemisection of cord in rat - leaves squirrel to pinch, turning of head to correct side, later after shock disappears, get same motor patterns - tho all long tracts are severed, above forelimb level. Rats are pretty clumsy, tho. Indicate some descent of condit'g patterns thru cord (?)

Engelbreken got some condit'g w. just a thread of long tracts left, but not when all cut.

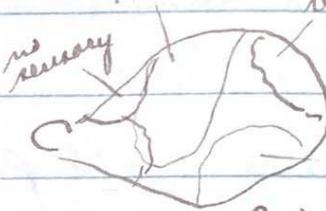
Decorticate conditioning Wytz Adam, Zebrus

Pretty clear get condit'g in decorticate dogs  
Sinden, Cuclu & Mueller.

Bird lacks cortex - except hippocampal lobes & basal ganglia - w. these out can be condit'g

Chickens can learn after forebrain removal  
to choose diff't color grains.

No evidence of any partic. "learning center" in  
the cortex.

Localized functions  
Vision - except when  lesions made in infancy. Brightness habits  
are abolished but can be relearned  
at a normal rate. Additional lesion  
to sup. collic. wipes out subcortical  
habits. (really sub-thalamic)

Capacity for visual brightness habits =  
equivalent in sup. col. & striate area.

Large lesions elsewhere don't affect  
the visual discrimination.

Striate lesions in monkeys makes em  
look blind until they are taken into a  
dark room w. one or two bright lights.

Man may be totally blind as claimed but  
? = still controversial.

Get nystagmus mnts. in animals w. striate area removed.

### Hearing

Clicks heard & localized by rat w. lesions in auditory area.

### Somesthetic - little known

Olfaction - appears to be sub-cortical or equivalent

Motor areas - no C.P. after motor areas removed.

Hashley got retention in monkeys, however.

Get recovery of paralysis if only area 4 is destroyed but not if areas 6 + 4 destroyed.

Maze Habits - General effect of lesions accdg to mass of cortex destroyed.

Hatch box, reasoning (Maier), & brightness (in visual area)

### Possible explanations

1. Shock - ruled out by time factor
2. Invasion of a critical area - the binocular

field in the visual area. This doesn't hold in  
image learning however

3. Multi-sense privation - expt. tends rule  
this out as <sup>main</sup> sole factor. Destruction of visual  
area affects a habit learned by blind animal.  
Visual cortex has some other function besides  
visual discrim. in image learning.

4. Larger lesions interfere w. transcarteal  
associations more. Knife cuts w. mass lesion  
(Knife cuts hit projection tracts)

Perfect retention after cuts that separate  
any projection area from any other.

5. Non-sensory function of sensory areas.  
Notion of mass-action based on above  
reasoning.

Function correlated w. mass of tissue  
what it means = ?

Diff't parts of cortex exert mutual facilitation  
on nearby parts. - but large lesion outside  
visual area does not affect visual habits  
also non-effect of cutting transcarteal  
tracts = no. of facilitative effect.

"Vicarious functioning" - a habit destroyed by <sup>function</sup> lesson - another part can take over. Learns now that that sort of thing does not actually occur. If whole (all) mechanisms concerned are destroyed, no other part can take over.  
(striate + sup. coll.) (area 6 + area 4) but if remove only <sup>one</sup> part get. recovery. So have so-called vicarious function only w/in specific systems. (true. ruber + motor area) in fab. What takes over is another part that always was concerned w. this type of function!

"Equipotentiality" - 1st that whole cortex, but now obvious not so. perhaps w/in functional centers, but ? here. States now says yes w/in a given area of cortex. The non-sensory function of sensory areas = equipot. in diff areas.

34,000 cells from lat genic to cortex in rob. can still discriminate <sup>patterns</sup> when only 600 cells of binocular field. Temporal construction <sup>space</sup> of <sup>percept</sup>

Any small part of the visual cortex can work ok for pattern vision. = equivalent.  
[in same sense that diff parts of retina = so.]

### Memory Disturbances - clinical

Diffr between loss of memory & of understanding pretty well broken down now - get both.

Never a loss of a specific group of memories due to lesions (do. hysterical losses). & no (primary motor & sensory center lesions) lesions cause loss of mode of organization.

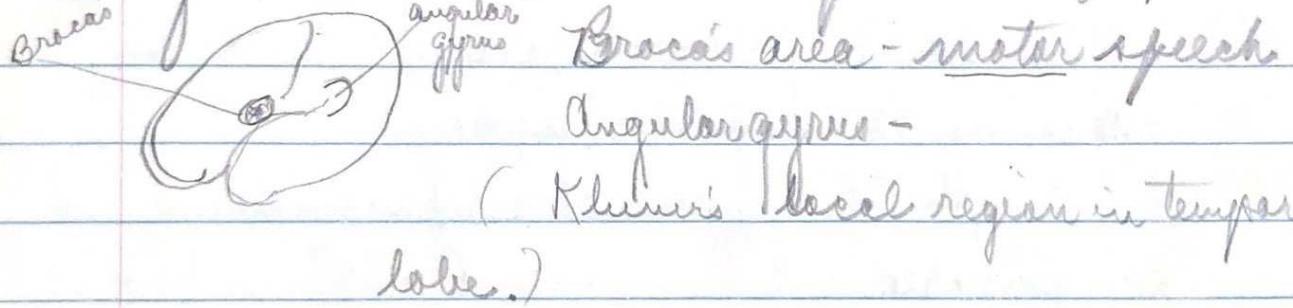
Aphasia - don't get loss of associated group of words (no localized mem. traces) but of general types of abilities - associate names w. object, getting words out. Loss in ability to think certain types of relationships. Not destruction of traces but of organizing mechanisms.

- 1) No loss of specific memory
- 2) Disturbance of categories of thoughtform
- 3) Retardation in new learning
- 4) Accompanying (3) once a habit is formed it is less stable - forgotten more easily

(i) traces bands, expect them to last as long in remaining time)

(2) Dynamic loss-thresholds - doesn't function until reinforced thru some intermediate memory devices. & under excitement, twice total aphasias talk fluently under fewer otherwise dumb. San sihear, sing hymns. Patterns there, threshold raised.

(3) Definite localization, however, of f/g functions tho not so precise. Exceptions on



Broca's area - motor speech

Angular gyrus -

(Klüver's fibral region in temporal lobe.)

Possibility of restitution of function

Vicarious function held easy in last war but much less hopeful now.

Hospitalization discourages & depresses, & reduction <sup>out</sup> of this "cared for" state.

Dianesthesia = excitability of <sup>the center</sup> lesion

Lesions in primary motor & sensory areas  
= pretty permanent, chance of recovery  
function = about nil.

In Frans' experiments on monkeys - a considerable  
amount of motor cortex was left intact (monkeys  
w. arms tied up used <sup>recovered</sup> other arm quickly)

Hemisection in internal capsule + motor  
disturbance showed very gradual & very slight  
recovery from paraparesis.

Outlook = much better for children  
than adults for restitution. Pretty complete  
recovery in infant monkeys.

Compensatory growth & regeneration =  
improbable.

Can usually retrain any specific  
performance & but get no recovery of  
generalized performances & abilities.

## Memory Traces: (Matthews in German)

Vernon

1. Growth of cells - connections strengthening etc.  
neurofibillar substance (conductive substance)  
Cells that S'd during growth tend to deteriorate  
(removal of eye = example lat. genic. & to cortex not loss of cells, but & in appear.)

- 2 Growth of connections Kap  
Cell processes

Glia growth (Cajal) expansion & insertion, retraction

Kappers (on neurotaxis) J.C.N. '17

electric field  
comes connection to form.

Growth theories demand repetition,  
but learning w. single experience (the single exp't may last subconsciously)

3. Chemical D's in cell Osterhout '05

Robertson - reversible chemical process. = learning curve.

Matthews - Org. Chem. text. Crile

→ Change in P. of synapse  
Sherrington's ref. in his writings  
to learning - just inferred & attributed  
to him.) The tasks of P. of synapses determining  
P. of elec. burst.

McDowell: neurone pressure & drainage as of  
water in pipe system.

Max Meyer - interneur. act. in pathways  
not functional are opened up by  
suction, elec. discharge.

Johnson's drainage theory  
J.C. Eccles by electrical potential  
Fail to account for one-way assoc.  
which is character. of much learning

### 5. Specific sensitization

⇒ in learning & allergies

Meterhoff: Cells simultaneously  
excited tend to develop chemicals which  
form interfering chemicals

Weiss specificities doesn't fit data on  
electrical conduction

## Taylor's Physiology of Brain

All theories based <sup>on</sup> assumption that  $\Delta$ 's are at particular synapses or between particular cells. Won't work accdg Radley.

Thing which learned is generalized - sensory, motor,

a. Sensory equivalence - one eye to other, figure falls on diff part of retina,

b. Motor equivalence - monkey right & left hands on latch box. Knocked out cortex of left so monk used untrained right.

Don't learn specific muscle coordination but pattern in relation to axis - posture of ready.

c. C.N. equipotentiality.

d. Retroactive inhibition. Learning habits of a type tend to knock out other habits of same type tho assoc is not identical

Alterations of memory traces in course of time. Patterns distorted toward more familiar objects + toward greater symmetry.

Trace = everywhere, nowhere, hypothetical  
Attempts to be more definite

### 1) Neural reverberation

There's really  
my own old  
memory

Miss Smith's bk on memory 1972 probably  
Continuous activity in neurons  
which affected by every spike. Total  
part of individual in every act.

### Cobbekke also

### 2) Analogy w. chemical gradients ~~last 10 yrs~~ Brain modeling D. Lewis see his works

Koch's theory in Dynamic Psych. Isomorphism reproduced  
in C.N. syst. spatial characters of stimulation

### 3) Irradiation Idea - wave analogy

- trace must be reproduced thru out large areas of cortex. - must be replicated in the system.

Cortex is essentially a network. any distorion into it results in spreading potential waves.

Get standing waves from a pattern w. interference  
points of inhibition + reinforcement.

Impossible

C.N.S. doesn't transmit waves like a liquid  
so patterns of reverberatory circuits instead of waves  
scintillations of migraine ectoma - fortification  
figures

None to consider equivalence on motor  
side also. (most in relations to <sup>positive</sup> axes of body)

Conditioning not a prototype of all learning.

Difficulties in extending C.R. to include all..

Gestalt = an alternative theory of learning  
vs. associationism. Kärkyian, Levine  
& Wheeler identify learning vs. structuring  
of Memories are plastic, dynamic, undergo  $\Delta$ ,  
same laws apply to organization of p.jn also  
apply to organization of memories.

Deny importance of repetition in fixing memory.

Definite time limits in S in staircase illusion & in seeing complicated patterns.

Gestaltists' denial of association of individual items. "really just presenting a problem and not the solution of it. Kohler is about only one who sees need for physiological interpretation.

Innate organization coherence, closure, etc & perhaps logical relation to ideas.

No innate organ for language. any child could learn any language as easily as any other. But once learn one language, get grammar organization which serves as background. What learned is not so much single words, as the flow of the language. (The posture).

Laws of learning is there one law for fission of learning

Contiguity

Repetition, practice [w. a purpose]

Law of effect

Structuring - logicality, etc.

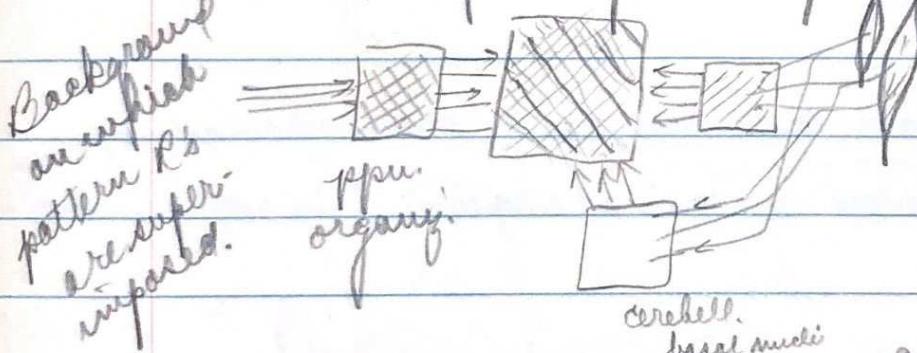
Principle, Recency, Intensity.

Contiguity recognized by all. Similarity  
and repetition may induce other than strengthening but

Factors contributing to fixation of habits & memory

Cells of CNS. are firing all the time - comes out  
in behavior only when excess impulses delivered.

Pattern of relations to each other in firing, tho'  
continuous, keeps changing. Effects of various  
S are superimposed upon the basic activity



All this determined in terms of space coordinates - patterns w. respect to environment

- A "set" enforces further direction of activity and throws a whole field of associated P's into readiness for functioning.

When a set taken, the activities which come out  
are contaminated by what's to come. (spoonerisms)  
Whole sentences formulated at subthreshold  
level before starting.

Freudians start at wrong end by assuming  
that it is only in dreams these mix-ups occur.

"Warming up" in extreme lecture or a  
conversation - words + associations + organization  
gradually begin to come forth.

At same time nips out extraneous  
associations. A given item may call up  
entirely diff. associations depending on set

Reflex chain associations - are schemes by  
which whole system of organization is activated  
at once.

Set consists of a subthreshold excitation  
of a whole series of activities.

Implicit temporal organization of a sequence  
before it comes out.

Organization of language, - of music

/ basic rhythm ties things together

when a rate started seems to spread thru system and take care of phasic reactions going on. A basic pattern modifying what is superimposed upon it.

verb - mark, direction in space coordinate  
words get tied up early w. " " .

noun - setting gives it relation to space + time  
generalization into a category which relates it into a main system

schemata of reinforcement which act as a mold. determine order. (vs. set)

Problem of Attention & hydriod tent. regen.



Certain active centers represent activity around them & limit type of activity in that region.

## Role of Consciousness in Learning

Learning once considered criterion of consciousness

Instances of learning w/out awareness

salivary secret, pupillary dilatation to subconscious cues that cannot be reported

"tics", typing errors, etc.

Philosophers emphasize consciousness as spanning time in a way which physical events do not.

Contiguity not only simultaneous - but together in attention = something more than mere contiguity. More coherent the better, more structure the better. Repetition apparently doesn't help in itself. does not strengthen bonds.

## Law of Effect

Maurer = strongest present proposal.

Cards in w. animal studies

Thorndike supports it.

Distinction between the association and the fixing of the association. Many associations are made & few fixed.

Rats recall where food located for 48 hr after finding it once - if familiar w/ the room.

= delayed reactions. The approach, transition, and many other things learned in habit formation besides the "habit" concentrated on.

Proprio R's of *musca* & *drosophila* -

Reverse from positive to negative under various conditions - same in higher forms, & in man according to physiological state predominant.

## Motivation

for evacuation of distended rectum

" filling up by empty stomach

→ general activity till release of tension - been over-generalized.

Psang cut off contractile part of stomach & got hunger just the same, but fullness caused inhibition as before.

Morgan denervated stomach and got effects on hunger by changing sugar level.

Believes central effect. Like respiration - & hunger contriv. have to be started by somatic

First - central dehydration as in hunger  
sex drive - endocrine effect on all reproductive activities. Excitement reinforces itself.  
builds up, catælysmic.

Danger of use of conception of energy & motivation nervous, mental energies etc., systems of psycho-hygiene

Cannis idea of drives from thalamus, leading to mutual facilitation of various systems reinforcing or cancelling

Know nothing about what "drive" is.

Law of Effect - no behaviour or habit to have in incidental learning. animal case.

contiguity in field of attention

motivation & relation not the fixing agents themselves, but increase association through attention & thus contiguity in field of attention

Doesn't see how L of Trian can act as a fixing agent.

## Gestalt System & Learning Rev of Koffka

Assume every S<sub>n</sub> leaves a trace of some sort - chemical -

No suggestion of problem of serial order. <sup>sentinel organizing</sup>

They don't translate static spatial order into motor sequences.

Traces all organized in gestalten - deny the linkage of elements.

Trace persists by virtue of its organization

Traces interact w. each other & w. <sup>present</sup> simultaneous excitations processes.

Trace or process diff'rent located.

A description of the behavior of memory traces - but not a theory of what the traces are.

Kohler's dynamics of brain fields. more concrete

In anoxia & other conditions get visual ppn OK, but it is not remembered any time.

Dr. Mowrer - An law of effect

The R. that remains among situations,  
the S that produced it, has important  
influence.

a purely verbal system

fairly simultaneous occurrence of excitations  
in field of attention?

[Never learn any new basic reactions.  
They can all be performed first - & have  
& be performed first before they are learned.  
Learning consists of adjusting the background  
set & organizing it so ~~new~~ S appear & get  
new effect] So traces need not be specific

Visual after images may reappear spontaneously  
up to 48 hrs after experience.