

† Educating Both Halves of the Brain

A Two-Day Conference Designed for Professionals and the General Public Who Are Concerned with Teaching, Learning and Brain Research.

One of the greatest mysteries of life, the human brain, has been unfolding through advances in neuroresearch during the past several years. Since Roger Sperry's initial experiments severing the large connections between the two hemispheres of the brain, recent dramatic findings have led to possible applications in many fields. Dr.

Sperry believes a key consequence of recent brain research has been "a swing in psychology and neuroscience away from hard-core materialism and reductionism toward a new and more acceptable brand of mentalism that tends now to restore to the scientific image of human nature some of the dignity, freedom and other humanistic attributes of which it has been deprived by the behavioristic approach." Numerous experiments have demonstrated that the two hemispheres of the brain are specialized

for different functions: the left for verbal and analytical thought, and the right for intuitive, philosophical patterns of thinking.

Dr. Sperry says "Our educational system and modern society generally with their heavy emphasis on communication and on early training in the 3 Rs discriminate against one whole half of the brain . . . In our present school system the attention given to the minor hemisphere of the brain is minimal compared with the training lavished on the left or major hemisphere."

Our present understanding of the brain can contribute to developing educational research, theory and practice and assist educators at all levels to build on their experience and to consider educational problems and opportunities within the framework of what is now known about the specialization and interaction of the two halves of the brain.