

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Translated from the German (1930)

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NEW YORK
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1931

4786 22-5.

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Set up and electrotyped.
Published May, 1931.

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K. G. a. A., Munich, 1923.

SET UP AND ELECTROTYPED BY THE J. S. CUSHING CO.
PRINTED BY THE BERWICK & SMITH CO.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

Since the introduction of *Gestalt* psychology into America a few years ago by Professors Köhler and Koffka, American psychologists have become increasingly conscious of the immense strides being made in experimental and theoretical psychology in Germany. We have, of course, translations of older German psychologists like Wundt, Külpe, and Ebbinghaus, and reviews of German literature like Titchener's *Elementary Psychology of the Higher Thought Processes*, but apart from what has appeared from the pens of Professors Koffka and Köhler, we have little or nothing in English concerning developments going on in Germany at the present time.

The author of this book, Professor Johannes Lindworsky, is one of the most outstanding and original of that large number of German psychologists who cannot be numbered among the *Gestalt* group. Professor Lindworsky is now head of the psychological department of the German university at Prague, the oldest of the German universities. He was trained under Professor J. Fröbes, whose two-volumed *Lehrbuch der Experimentelle Psychologie*, will probably remain the standard for scholarly reference books on both sides of the Atlantic for some time to come; and under Professor Oswald Külpe, the pioneer in the experimental investigation of higher thought processes.

Experimentelle Psychologie is characterized by an excellent summarizing of the most recent experimental data and by a spirit of fairness which it exhibits in organizing facts under general theoretical principles. Besides informing the reader, it stimulates him by critical remarks and suggestions for further thinking and experimentation. The most unusual

feature of the book is its detailed treatment of the apprehension of relations. This is regarded by the author as one of the fundamental categories of psychological processes — just as basic as, say, sensation, perception, feeling, et cetera. Other features of the book are: a comprehensive treatment of the interrelationships between the different sense modes, and in particular of the dominant part played by vision; a critical examination of the interdependence of image and perception; and a survey of the common but exceedingly complex combinations of relational data with data of sense, imagery and feeling. The author points out that the types of configurational experience glorified by *Gestalt* psychologists represent only one phase of this very significant yet admittedly undeveloped field of interrelated organic experiences.

In contrast with the custom in most American treatises on psychology, Professor Lindworsky devotes an adequate portion of his book to the consideration of three of the most complex and important, yet most neglected, phases of mental life — namely, thinking, feeling, and willing. He presents the results of his own extensive experimentation in this field in addition to an excellent report of the experimental evidence from recent important German investigations, and thus contributes by far the most inclusive and adequate picture of the field that we now possess. Professor Lindworsky makes use of certain practical features of what is known in academic circles as act psychology and association psychology, but he cannot be fairly characterized as an act psychologist or as an association psychologist because of his broad appreciation of the facts and theories emphasized by other systems, and because, after all, his treatment is individualistic and cannot be adequately categorized under any system.

HARRY R. DESILVA

LAWRENCE, KANSAS
March, 1931

FOREWORD TO THE FOURTH EDITION

The third edition, which has been out of print for some time, has been considerably revised in preparing the present fourth edition. Besides modifications and completions, the reader will find certain changes in content. For example, alterations have been made in the discussion of *Gestalttheorie*, and in the treatment of the theory of attention. Likewise, experimental investigations upon the higher feelings, which have not yet been published, lead to a very different view of the matter than that indicated in the preliminary exposition given here. The author himself regards the remodeling of his conception of the knowledge of relations as of great importance. He has not, however, given it a prominent place in the text, but has merely sketched it in connection with other theories. A more comprehensive discussion of this theory may be found in my *Theoretische Psychologie*, Leipzig, Barth, 1926.

Nevertheless, the new theory of relations has exerted some influence upon this edition, in so far as at the time of writing it was intended to throw light on the earlier stages of the development of the knowing of objects, of the feeling of certainty, of perception, and image, et cetera, which arise without any consciousness of relation, and yet which determine the behavior accompanying the later developing stages of insight. Many a digression has on this account lost its "conciseness." Likewise, some of the intellectual narrowness has vanished, and I hope, a treatment of the facts which is truer to life, has been attained.

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A Spanish translation has appeared between these two editions, and an Italian and an English translation are in the process of preparation.

JOHANNES LINDWORSKY, S.J.

KÖLN,
December, 1926

FROM THE PREFACE OF THE FIRST EDITION

The present textbook of experimental psychology was written expressly for the *Philosophischen Handbibliothek* series, but after it was written I perceived that its right to existence was not limited merely to a place in that collection.

The task of preparing this book was greatly facilitated by the existence of the excellent *Lehrbücher der Experimentellen Psychologie*. I hold in highest esteem the work of my former teacher, J. Fröbes, S.J., whose comprehensive and reliable reporting of psychological literature has been widely recognized. Professor Fröbes, moreover, was kind enough to look through my manuscript, and to help me improve it by contributing a number of valuable criticisms. I wish at this time to render most hearty thanks for this assistance.

Although I do not believe that an extensive dependence on the work of others needs a defense, on the other hand I do feel obligated to justify, very briefly, the fact that in a textbook for beginners, I have frequently departed from the customary mode of treatment of the problems. Both the limitations of the space at my disposal, as well as the didactic requirements of a book of this sort, prevent me from going into details in presenting a viewpoint. Furthermore, on account of my previous investigations of problems of higher thought processes, and of the psychology of the will, my views on a number of things are different from the orthodox views. Consequently, I have advanced my own views, and not the views of other people, in the text. Thus, for instance, to mention only one case, there is my conviction of the fundamental importance of the knowledge of relation which is rarely

absent in human cognitive experience. (In animal experience, on the other hand, it has never been demonstrated.)* This concept gives the whole book a characteristic tone. It is by no means my intention to claim that all of the views expressed here are established truths. Accordingly, I invite the beginner to immerse himself in my theories, but at the same time let me caution him to exercise his critical ability constantly. In addition he should use the table of contents industriously, since even the order of treatment frequently varies from the orthodox arrangement.

*I sought to explain this view of animal consciousness in my book *Das schlussfolgernde Denken*, p. 440 ff.; also in my review of W. Köhler's *Intelligenzprüfungen an Anthropoiden*, Vol. I (1917) in *Stimmen der Zeit*, Vol. 95 (1918), p. 386 ff.; and of his *Nachweis einfacher Strukturfunktionen* usw. (1918) in *Stimmen der Zeit*, Vol. 97 (1919), p. 62 ff.

ABBREVIATIONS

APs: Archiv für die gesamte Psychologie.

CgEPs: Bericht über den . . . Kongress für
experimentelle Psychologie.

FPs: Fortschritte der Psychologie.

ZaPs: Zeitschrift für angewandte Psychologie.

ZPaPs: Zeitschrift für Pathopsychologie.

ZPs: Zeitschrift für Psychologie.

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INTRODUCTION