SUCCESES AND FAILURES OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

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It is customary to claim for psychology that, while it has a long history as a branch of philosophy, it can be excused for a considerable degree of immaturity because of its youth as a branch of experimental science. As the decades go by this excuse becomes less and less convincing. There are several very active and successful sciences, as physical chemistry and bacteriology, which are really younger than experimental psychology. If these sciences have made more rapid progress than psychology, the reason may be that they are working with phenomena that lie further from everyday experience, so that their discoveries are more striking. Other reasons can be suggested.

1 Annual Sigma Xi address, Indiana University, March 13, 1941.