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PSYCHOLOGY AS A CAREER¹

PSYCHOLOGY is the science which deals with the nature of human and animal behavior and with the direction of its forces from the point of view of mental life.

There are as many words in the dictionary with mental connotation as with physical. There are as many mental phenomena subject to scientific study as material phenomena. The mental sciences may in the near future have as many branches and embrace as large scope as the material sciences.

As out of the pure physical sciences have come engineering, medicine, architecture, and other forms of applied material sciences, so in the near future will come the applications of psychology to education, medicine, industry, art, and all other varieties of human endeavor in which scientific knowledge of human or animal behavior can be made of practical value.

The opportunities for a career in mental science will, in the near future, be as numerous as in the material sciences.

No science is more intimately and practically related to the conduct of human life than is psychology. It is, indeed, concerned primarily with those facts and principles of experience and action upon which our understanding of ourselves as conscious beings and our ability to understand and sympathize with our fellows depend.

PURE PSYCHOLOGY

As now taught in the best colleges and universities, psychology is presented in several fairly differentiated courses. Ordinarily there is one general introductory course of one year furnishing a general survey of the subject from

¹ This article is one in a series published from the various divisions in the National Research Council under the general topic, "Opportunities for a Career in Science."

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