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PSYCHOLOGY

Yes and No Responses Clues to Personality

THE TENDENCY to say "yes" or "no" consistently indicates the nature of a person's personality, it has been reported.

Drs. Arthur Couch and Kenneth Keniston of Harvard University report in the Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, 60:151, 1960, that persons who consistently answer "yes" or "true" on questionnaires also tend to be impulsive, dependent and anxious. Persons who habitually disagree and answer "no" or "false" on various tests are responsible, stable persons who control their impulses.

The tendencies of yes-men and no-men were confirmed through tests and clinical interviews. Yes-men were shown to be individuals of weak self-control—who gratify their impulses without reservation and who easily respond to suggestions given them.

No-men, on the other hand, inhibit and suppress their impulses and reject attempts to influence their emotions.

All this may indicate the more profound reasons for the development of the two types of personality, the psychologists report. The implication is that during an early period of personality formation, the two types found opposite answers in regard to certain controls of the self.

Yes-men, still relying on outside control, indulge in the gratification of impulse. The no-men take over the external control of themselves which their parents originally had, and suppress their own impulses.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1960

PUBLIC HEALTH

City Air Too Dirty for Air Conditioning

URBAN AIR is usually so polluted that in an air-conditioned building "the use of outdoor air should be reduced to a practical minimum," an executive told a session of the 1960 Building Research Institute Spring Conference in New York.

Arthur J. Hess, president of Hess, Greiner & Pollard, Los Angeles, Calif., said that it is generally better to clean and recycle indoor air than to bring in outdoor air.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1960

Questions

ASTRONOMY—What is the difference between a white dwarf star and a neutron star? p. 292.

PHYSICS—What are magnetic storms and how are they produced? p. 293.

PSYCHOLOGY—What are the origins of man's three brains? p. 291.

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