

Commencement-Homecoming

COMMENCEMENT, 1933, is going to be a real Homecoming, if present plans succeed and interest already manifested by alumni continues. Encouraged by the 100 per cent increase in attendance of alumni at the Commencement exercises last year, President Westfall and Secretary Cleckler laid plans this year for making Commencement the second Homecoming of the year.

Commencement-Homecoming will have as high marks the appearance as Commencement speaker of a member of the University of Oklahoma Association, George B. Parker, '08as, of New York City, editor-in-chief of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, and the address of another celebrated member of the Class of '08, Charles Edward Marsh of Austin, Texas, as Commencement-Homecoming luncheon speaker. Mr Marsh is owner of one of the largest independent chains of daily newspapers.

Despite the vagaries of the depression, response to invitations to members of the Class of '08, which will hold its quarter-century reunion and the Class of '13, which will hold its twenty-year reunion, indicates the largest attendance thus far at class reunions, even exceeding the record set by the Class of '06 in 1931.

Preliminary plans are being made by old Pe-et men to have a luncheon, but details of this plan were not available at the time of going to press. Dean Edgar D. Meacham, '14as, hopes to present plans for reviving this oldest of campus honor societies, which has been eclipsed somewhat by the lure of the "national" honor groups on the campus.

The Commencement program has been changed materially since first announced in the *Magazine*. Originally planned as a two-day event with the university services to be held in the Stadium, the Commencement has been shifted to the Fieldhouse and extended to three days.

Under the revised plans, the annual Alumni-Senior dance will take place the night of Saturday, June 3, at 8:00 P. M. in the Oklahoma Union ball room. The reunion banquet will be held Sunday night in private dining rooms in the Oklahoma Union building.

The annual meeting of the Association has been changed constitutionally, with the result that the only group meeting of alumni this year will be the annual luncheon, following the Commencement

exercises, at which Mr Marsh, President Bizzell, President Westfall and a representative of the board of regents are expected to speak.

The Stadium-Union Memorial Board, facing its most critical year, will hold its meeting preceding Commencement exercises Monday morning in room 100, Oklahoma Union. The annual meet-

ing of the University of Oklahoma Association executive board and the election of officers for the new year, will take place at 2 P. M. in Room 100 Oklahoma Union building.

The plans for the Commencement-Homecoming admit of more leisurely visiting with old friends and faculty members than those of any previous Commencements. The increasing interest in Commencement by alumni indicates a real desire for unhurried visiting with friends, usually prevented in the rush of the football Homecoming. Practically all faculty members will be on the campus then, without classes, thus assuring opportunity for visiting them without the usual hurry attendant at the football Homecoming.

A maze constructed by Dr. M. O. Wilson, associate professor of psychology and used in a study of the delayed response problem in the psychological laboratory of the university. White rats are being used as subjects. The results of this problem have particular significance in an understanding of the process of learning (Photo below)

Animal psychology

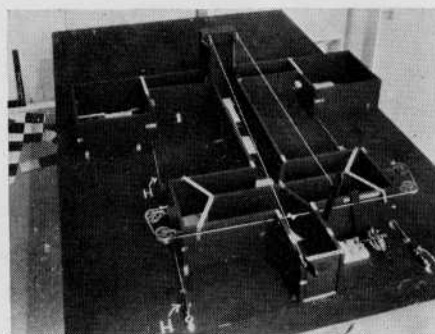
BY M. O. WILSON

IN many departments of psychology in the United States and Europe an attempt is being made to study the nature of mind by a genetic approach. That is, by investigating the responses of animals as well as young children the possibility of determining the nature of mental life and how it becomes organized in human adults is assumed. Since experience is strictly a private affair, the study of mental life of even another human must be by an indirect method, namely, inference. But this is doubly true in the case of animals, since the language function is absent and, therefore, no description of experience by them is possible. Thus it is

inferred that an animal has had a certain experience or has performed a given mental act when it has responded in a manner similar to a human under similar conditions.

For the past few years the department of psychology of the university has carried on some work concerning the nature of the learning process as revealed by the behavior of white rats under experimental conditions. The research has been supported by a grant from the Faculty Research Fund.

The problem has been approached by two or three experimental methods but the one by which most of the work has been done is the delayed response method. The essentials of this method are the presentation of a situation to an animal and then at some distant point in time or space requiring the animal to respond without the presence of any objective traces of the original cue. The apparatus used in this problem is an H shaped maze in which one side of the H is the stimulus or cue compartment, the other the response compartment and the bar between them the delay compartment, at either end of which is a food box. The animal is introduced into one side of the maze where he is directed to



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ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGY

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the right or left by a door. He then crosses to the opposite side, where he must choose his own response in terms of the direction he was forced to go in the cue compartment. There is no sign here to indicate which direction to take.

Approximately one hundred rats have completed the problem to date. The results show that some rats can learn the problem while others can not. Some learn it with ease while others find it extremely difficult. The results justify the inference that learning is primarily a muscular function, that is, in this problem the rat gets a directional orientation as it makes the lateral excursion to the right or to the left through the cue compartment and responds in terms of this muscular set-up at the crucial points in the response compartment on the opposite side.

The argument supporting this assumption is many fold. The introduction of any condition which is calculated to disrupt this muscular pattern, such as distractions and emotional disturbances due to extraneous noise or electric shock which cause the rat to stop or hesitate while running, will reduce the scores very materially.

Thus the rat can respond to the representation of stimulus factors which are not present at the time of the response. It perhaps represents the genesis of symbolism exhibited by human subjects in such processes as ideation, imagination and reasoning.



THE PROVINCE OF THE LAW

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of able men whom the vocation attracts makes competition extremely keen. Success is coming more and more to be possible only to the person who combines with special personal qualifications, a competent educational preparation. In general it may be said that while the profession offers very large financial rewards to a successful few, these prizes are keenly contended for and are the rewards only of exceptional ability backed by competent training.

The largest rewards by way of income are given to lawyers who become legal advisers of large business enterprises. But the greatest rewards in a more immediate sense are found in the pursuit of the profession conceived as a form of public service. The opportunities of a lawyer to assist in the development of a better social order have always been, and will increasingly be, his greatest reward. No field of public service offers a wider range of opportunities to men of different talents and tastes.

I am often asked for preliminary ad-

vice by persons contemplating the study of the law. The question is, does this closely crowded, highly difficult profession offer possible rewards sufficient to constitute an inducement to tempt ambitious young men to seek to obtain the fruits of legal professional success? To answer this question it is first necessary to postulate the possession of a proper ideal and unless he is willing to work toward the end of making himself a high class, honorable and ethical lawyer he had better stop on the threshold and not enter at all into this difficult field.

My advice to such a person is study yourself carefully and take an inventory of your qualities. Make a catalog of your talents before deciding. Are you physically fit? Do you have vigorous health? Are you capable of enduring great nervous strain? Are you reasonably free from bilious and nervous breakdowns that often attend on the trial of long and difficult cases. Is your eyesight good and can it endure the immense amount of reading required in the profession? Is your voice attractive? Does it have power? Does it carry conviction? Are you mentally quick and acute or are you slow and labored. The legal profession has no place for you unless your mentality is vigorous, your intellectual perception keen, your power of analysis of a situation more than usual. Are you capable of concentrating upon difficult problems hour after hour and far into the night? It is necessary that the successful candidate should be a man inured to labor, and one who expects to attain success not by genius but by industry.

The temper of a lawyer is an enormous factor in his success. It must be under control. Nothing is more disastrous than to let it escape. Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad applies more completely perhaps to the trial lawyer than to any other professional man. The gift of expression, of smooth, attractive, convincing speech is a great asset to the lawyer. Not that it is necessary to be born with the "gift of gab," rather is it necessary for one through many years to cultivate his vocabulary and the habit of thinking upon his feet and expressing himself in exact, clear terms. I have known many young men who had no special gift of speech who became through earnest and persistent practice skillful and magnetic public speakers. In this connection the main point is to know your case and know your thought. If you have no cloudiness in your thinking, no cobwebs in your brain, but on the other hand are full of your case, enthusiastically determined to try it right, then with a good vocabulary and education and reasonable preliminary practice in public

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