

## A NEW TEST FOR STUDYING THE PSI-MISSING PROBLEM IN ESP

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Psi-missing appears to be not an exclusively parapsychological phenomenon, but seems also psychological, physiological and even physical. Low scores often reached with Zener cards may often result from preferences or aversions felt by the subjects toward one or more of the figures. If such preferences are of a subconscious nature, observations made in BM tests can also be made in OM, DT or STM tests.

To eliminate emotional content from images, we have created a test constituted of a series of similar but slightly varying figures.\* All are visible to the subject constantly, in heterogeneous sequence. He does not realize exactly which of them he crosses out, so that the process remains unconscious. One stimulus is used, as compared with five in the Zener cards. This test was intended to determine whether ESP is an accumulative process: whether repetition of the same stimulus in eight lines manifests itself by an accumulation of hits at the end of the test. The subjects are told only that they will be submitted to a psychological test, with no mention of telepathy.

The stimuli of this "crossing" test, although apparently similar, are evidently not so for the unconscious or subconscious, which is affected by the rest of the figure. Use of a single symbol seems to exclude pre- and post-cognition, since there is no accumulation of hits at the beginning or ending of the test, but quite the contrary. Not informing the subjects

\* "A Proposed Constellation Test for Group Experiments" (*The Journal of the American Society for Psychological Research*, vol. XLIII, no. 9, 1949).

that they are being examined for ESP is unfavorable, since directing the subject's thoughts toward the stimulus or the agent is an indispensable condition. And the ease with which group trials can be made rapidly fails to demonstrate "poly-psychism."

Consciousness can undoubtedly prevent the working of subconscious activities, including the supernormal. Gardner Murphy has rightly observed that it is in dreams, hypnosis and automatism that the paranormal appears because normal inhibitive functions have disappeared. But what is true in deep sleep is not true for intermediate states. In certain states the subconscious opposes conscious activities, and may oppose the supernormal. Yet in certain passive moods the separation between the conscious and unconscious states is not clear-cut. This may lead to a mingling of introspective effort and imaginative projection. Subtle fluctuations in states of consciousness between waking and waking-sleep are sufficient to influence ESP favorably or unfavorably. We think that differences in card-results, according to elapsed time between presentation of the stimulus and the answer, are related to these states of passivity. Extroverts are more aware than introverts and "well adjusted goats" are better than ill-adjusted ones. If the latter show negative deviations it is due to conscious desire, just as the "well adjusted sheep" show positive deviations.

There is on the one hand a complex of antitheses in our unconscious, and on the other hand a parallelism between mental states and physiological conditions of the brain. We hope the latter may be measured by the electroencephalograph. We agree with what Dr. Rhine said in 1934: that there is a relation between negative tendencies and relaxation.