Dr. Nevins S. Seriniaw, head of the Department of Nutrition and Conference chairman, said that the purpose of the conference was to examine the slowly growing body of evidence suggesting a significant relationship between early malnutrition in human populations and subsequent alterations in performance on various tests, on learning and on behavior.

"It is recognized that the evidence from experimental animals is much better and easier to interpret than the fragmentary and frequently conflicting observations on human populations.

"Nevertheless, the subject is of such importance to both the developing countries and to the nature of national and international efforts to assist their economic and social development that an international conference of this sort can be of very great value."

Value of teachers

Learning process examined

How much does a teacher teach, and how much does he impart the learning process?

In his opening address, Dr. Land gave answers. Two Cambridge experimenters have attempted to answer this question. Their studies were carried out in a project known as the "machine" which gives answers. Their results show that youngsters gain a group of notions far beyond that which they receive in the classroom and that the students enjoy the experience.

These are the conclusions of Dr. Land, president of the Roan Corporation who was visiting Institute Professor at MIT, and Stewart W. Wilson, a graduate student at MIT, as written in the January issue of Technology Review.

While in conventional science instruction, the teacher dominates the lesson and sometimes loses the interest of his students, the ideal way of learning a subject from a student's point of view, is to discuss the material with an expert.

Extra-curricular studying

In their experiment, Dr. Land and Mr. Wilson selected a group of 15- and 16-year-old boys who volunteered to participate in the experiments. Thirty schools belonging to one school district, one at a time, had a chance to study the experimental machine, which could answer questions on atomic physics or astronomy. The machine consisted of tape reels which played the appropriate tape when it received a question. The boys could interrupt their question at any time, using a control panel on the machine, put it down, or ask a new question. The tape reels were not repeated, beats or more information. These sessions lasted an average of one hour. The students in the participating schools enjoyed them.

Follow idea, then switch

This preliminary study has shown that the willingness of a student to work at a subject depends on the attitude of the teacher. In the author's words, "Attitude is one of the factors that want to structure knowledge in their own way. They want to follow an idea for a while, until they are satisfied with it, and then pick up another idea. They do not honor the logic which centuries of work has structured a subject, because they do not feel that peculiar and single logic in themselves."

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