

A TEST OF IMMEDIATE MEMORY

A Thesis

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by

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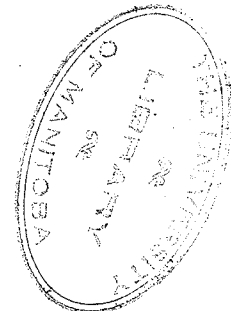


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Much has been written and said, and many tentative theories have been advanced with respect to the phenomenon of creative thought. Undoubtedly, too, much more will be written and many further theories will be propounded before there is complete understanding of this process. The rather common experience of having the solution to a bothersome problem suddenly come into one's consciousness at a time when there is no conscious effort to find a solution poses some interesting problems. Obviously, the elements required for the solution of the problem were present at an earlier period, but there was, at that time, an inadequate organization of these elements. The process which results in the synthesis of these elements in the intervening period is probably the central aspect of the entire problem. With a view to making one further attempt to determine the psychological factors involved in this phenomenon, the present investigation has been undertaken.

Initial consideration of the problem led to the following assumptions: (1) Memory for the discrete elements of the problem must be assumed; (2) There might be supposed to be a process of synthesis occurring, previous to the solution of the problem; (3) A process of organization must be assumed to account for the re-organization of the elements

In mind, there would seem to be evidence of a line of approach with these considerations, and the previous assumptions,

led at a level below that of consciousness, might be expected to indicate whether this process had occurred of organization. Subjective reports from the test subjects elements, in the first case, had been subject to a process from the nonsense patterns, we might well deduce that the the meaningful patterns were better remembered than those degrees of meaningful organization, and if the elements from test composed of discrete elements from figures of varying for remembered than meaningless material. If there were a total trial that material with meaning to the subject is put into a new structure. It is a commonly accepted psychological result in the organization of certain of their elements the assumption that the analysis of existing wholes has of this nature. In general, the approach has been made upon cases of synthesis has received much consideration in studies. Historically, there is little evidence that the procedure for the purposes of this research. Assumptions that have been selected as worthy of investigation of this problem, but those are the specific other significant implications that may be drawn from a conclusion that of consciousness. It may well be that there are least, the entire phenomenon would seem to occur at a level into an organized totality; (4) In certain instances, at