

Reprinted from THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY,  
Vol. X, Part 4, November, 1958.

## SOMAESTHETIC ALTERNATION, DISCRIMINATION AND ORIENTATION AFTER FRONTAL AND PARIETAL LESIONS IN MONKEYS

BY

GEORGE ETTLINGER<sup>1</sup> and JONATHAN WEGENER<sup>2</sup>

*From the Department of Experimental Psychology, Institute of Living,  
Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A.*

Eight naive monkeys were trained on non-visual tests of alternation and discrimination. These animals were also taught to perform a test of orientation with or without visual control. Four animals then received bilateral frontal excisions and three (of four) animals survived bilateral removal of the posterior parietal region. Following surgery, all frontal operates were found to be severely impaired on the somesthetic alternation test. The parietal operates, on the other hand, were unimpaired on this test though all gave evidence of defective orientation in space. Some implications of the results are discussed.

### INTRODUCTION

Monkeys with bilateral antero-lateral frontal lesions have repeatedly suffered impairment on two tests when their performance is compared with that of either unoperated controls or of monkeys having cortical lesions elsewhere. These tests have been named Delayed Response and Spatial Alternation. The procedures involved in each test have been described, and the findings comprehensively reviewed, by Chow and Hutt (1953). For the present study it is of especial relevance that a normal animal could pass adequately on both of these tests in their customary form by responding, at least *prima facie*, solely to visual cues. The question therefore arises whether failure on these two tests by monkeys with frontal lesions can be attributed to a specifically visual disorder.

In one investigation by Blum (1952) the traditional form of the delayed response test was modified by the substitution of auditory for visual spatial cues. Blum's findings are not, however, strictly comparable with other results, since the two sounds he used, namely a bell and a buzzer, differed most probably in pitch and intensity as well as in location.

The aim of the present study was first, to establish whether or not monkeys with frontal lesions show impairment on a test of alternation which cannot be passed by responding to visual cues. A deficit on this test would suggest that a specifically

<sup>1</sup> On leave of absence from the Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C.1.

<sup>2</sup> Now at the Department of Psychology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

visual disturbance does not form the basis of the previously demonstrated consequences of frontal lesions. In the second place, it was intended to examine the effect of frontal lesions upon the somesthetic discrimination of monkeys in order to determine what relationship might exist between discrimination and alternation performance. Finally it was planned to include a quantitative evaluation of the finding of Gles and Cole (1953) and Wilson (1957) that spatial orientation in monkeys following bilateral posterior parietal lesions is improved by the exclusion of vision.

#### METHOD

##### Subjects

Eight previously untrained macaques were the subjects of this study. Their weights ranged from 3½ to 6½ lb. at the beginning of training. On the basis of their scores on a preliminary somesthetic discrimination they were divided into two balanced operative groups. Subjects F1-F4 were given antero-lateral frontal lesions, the remainder (P1-P4) received parieto-preoccipital lesions. One animal (P4) died as the result of operation, leaving post-operative results available only for seven animals.

##### Operations

Sub-pial aspirations were carried out by means of a small-gauge sucker bilaterally in one stage under intraperitoneal Nembutal anaesthesia. Especial care was taken to remove all grey matter from the depths of the sulci included within the limits of the lesions. The frontal lesions were designed to extend forwards from the arcuate sulcus over the entire lateral surface. The frontal poles were amputated in one piece within an arc of about 1.5 cm. radius from their tips, but both medial and orbital surfaces were otherwise spared. The parieto-preoccipital lesions were intended to involve the region between the intra-parietal and lunate sulci, extending inferiorly to the superior temporal gyrus and medially over the whole precuneal gyrus.

##### Histological procedures

Following completion of testing the animals were anaesthetized and their brains perfused with formalin, removed and prepared for histological study. Serial coronal sections of 50 μ thickness were cut and every tenth section was stained with thionin. Reconstructions of the lesions of animals F1 and P1 are presented in Figure 1, together with representative cross-sections through areas of cortical resection and thalamic degeneration. Comparable data for the remaining operates are available, but have not been presented since the lesions and associated degeneration in these animals are similar in all essential respects to those of animals F1 and P1. There is some degeneration in the lateral geniculate bodies of all of the parietal operates, but this is somewhat less extensive in the case of animals P2 and P3 than for animal P1.

##### Apparatus

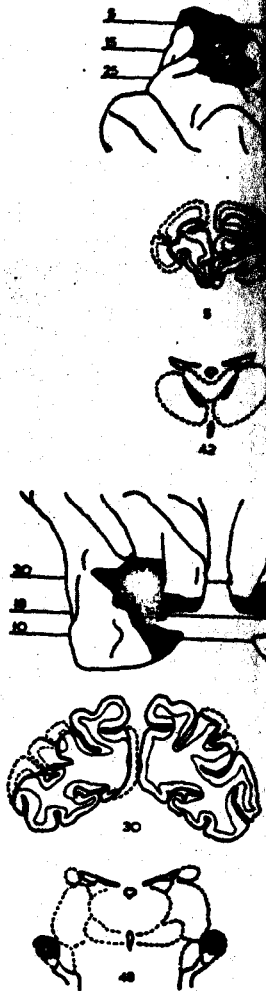
An improved model of the infra-red scanning device described by Cox and Kruger (1955) was used in conjunction with a modified Wisconsin general testing apparatus situated in a light-proof room. The animal was trained to jump into a cage having horizontal bars 2 in. apart. The opaque screen in front of this cage could be lowered to expose a horizontal shelf. The cues and reward containers were attached to this shelf which the monkey could explore by reaching through the bars of the cage. The scanning device permitted the experimenter to resolve detail in two areas on the shelf, measuring 2 in. x 2 in. and 12 in. apart, when the illumination was too low for ordinary vision. Observation of the monkey's hand in close proximity to alternative cues was thus made possible even in total darkness. In removing the lid of either of two food containers the monkey operated a microswitch, so that one of two 6 v. bulbs, set 12 in. distant from the centre of the shelf, lit up on the same side as the response. This signalled that a definite choice had been made, bringing the trial to an end if the response was incorrect or providing light for the animal to find the reward for a correct choice.

##### Tests

All animals were trained to a fixed criterion on tests of somesthetic alternation, somesthetic discrimination and orientation. Informal tests of field defect, spatial and topographic orientation, discrimination between edible and inedible objects and of emotional reactivity were also carried out.

#### TEST PERFORM

*Alternation test:* two v  
ally attached to the shelf  
middle of the shelf. A ma  
in object alternation. Fo  
(½ in. diameter) were fixed



Reconstructions of brain sections through areas of degeneration indicates the extent of the degeneration.

*Somesthetic discrimination test.* However, in the one case with sides 1 in. long, were attached to their centres. Each lid always to the animal erect, the other inverted triangle was the positive test the longer one of two

previously demonstrated con-  
was intended to examine the  
ination of monkeys in order to  
discrimination and alternation  
quantitative evaluation of the  
spatial orientation in monkeys  
d by the exclusion of vision.

cts of this study. Their weights  
On the basis of their scores on a  
led into two balanced operative  
al lesions, the remainder (P1-P4)  
died as the result of operation,  
imals.

small-gauge tucker bilaterally in  
Especial care was taken to remove  
thin the limits of the lesions. The  
he arcuate sulcus over the entire  
one piece within an arc of about  
al surfaces were otherwise spared.  
ve the region between the intra-  
rior-temporal gyrus and medially

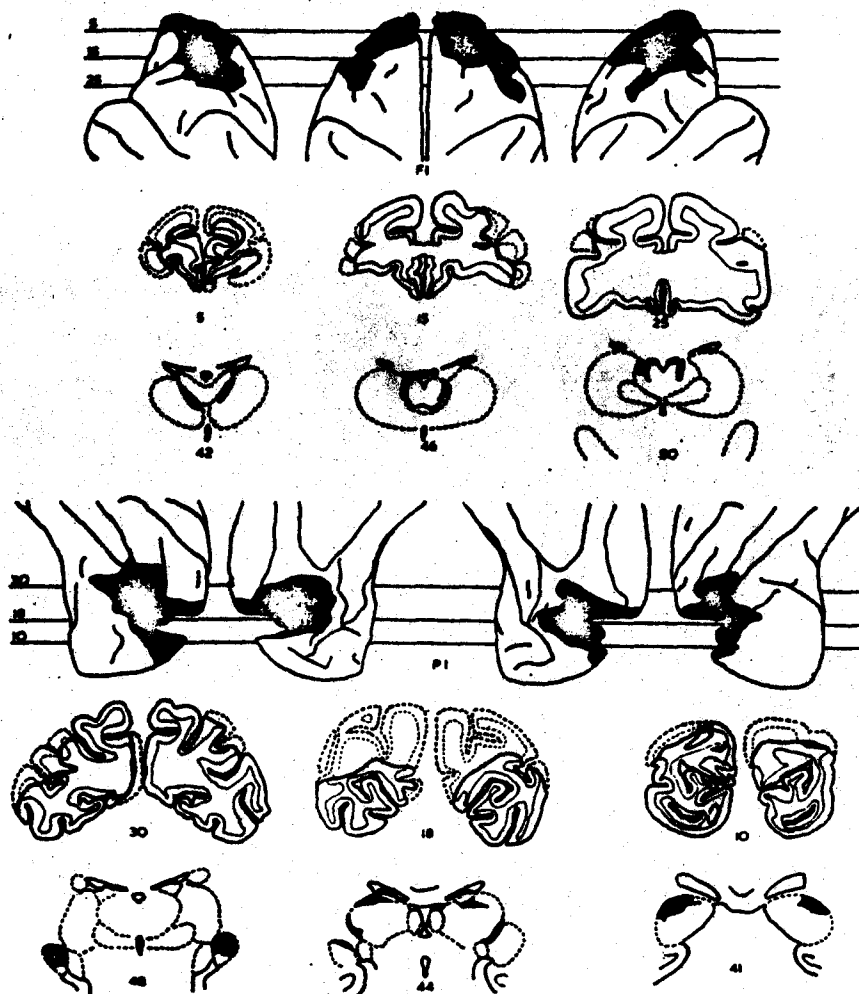
sthetized and their brains perfused  
study. Serial coronal sections of  
ed with thionin. Reconstructions  
are 1, together with representative  
lamic degeneration. Comparable  
ot been presented since the lesions  
r in all essential respects to those  
the lateral geniculate bodies of all  
sive in the case of animals P2 and

described by Cox and Kruger (1955)  
eral testing apparatus situated in  
into a cage having horizontal bars  
d be lowered to expose a horizontal  
this shelf which the monkey could  
he scanning device permitted the  
measuring 2 in. x 2 in. and 12 in.  
sion. Observation of the monkey's  
ide possible even in total darkness.  
e monkey operated a microswitch,  
e centre of the shelf, lit up on the  
ite choice had been made, bringing  
oviding light for the animal to find

tests of somesthetic alternation,  
al tests of field defect, spatial and  
ible and inedible objects and of

*Alternation test:* two wooden food cups,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. square and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep, were symmetri-  
cally attached to the shelf with their centres 3 in. from the cage and 6 in. distant from the  
middle of the shelf. A metal ashtray and a tobacco tin fastened to the lids served as cues  
in object alternation. For spatial alternation two identical 1-in. lengths of wooden rod  
( $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter) were fixed vertically to the centres of the otherwise plain lids.

FIGURE 1



Reconstructions of brains of animals F1 and P1, and representative cross sections through areas of cortical damage and thalamic degeneration. Black indicates the extent of the cortical removal in the surface views and of thalamic degeneration in the appropriate cross sections.

*Somesthetic discrimination test:* the same cups were used in the three versions of this test. However, in the one case identical equilateral triangles, cut out of wood  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick with sides 1 in. long, were attached to the two lids so that they could be rotated about their centres. Each lid always remained on the one side, but one triangle was presented to the animal erect, the other inverted (i.e. one angle directed towards the animal). The inverted triangle was the positive cue for all animals. In the second form of the discrimination test the longer one of two lengths of wooden rod (measuring  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

respectively) indicated the presence of reward. The rods were fixed to the lids in the frontal plane and had a diameter of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. For initial post-operative somesthetic discrimination learning a cross (2 in.  $\times$  2 in.  $\times$   $\frac{7}{8}$  in.) and an inverted T (2 in.  $\times$  2 in.  $\times$   $\frac{7}{8}$  in.) both of wood  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick, served as the alternative cues. Whichever form an animal, selected on its first trial was adopted as the negative cue throughout. Thus the cross (i.e. non-preferred) was rewarded for animals F1, F4 and P2, while the inverted T was positive for the remainder.

*Test for orientation:* a peg-board was fitted to the shelf so that its front edge was separated by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. from the cage. This board, measuring 14 in.  $\times$  6 $\frac{1}{2}$  in., contained three rows each of seven holes. Wooden pegs of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. diameter fitted snugly into these holes so that they projected 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. above the surface of the board. The centres of the two food cups were again 3 in. in front of the cage, but (being separated by the intervening peg-board) they were 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the middle of the shelf. The two lids of the cups were identical, being those used also for spatial alternation. The absence of pegs to either side of the middle of the board indicated to the animal the presence of a reward in the covered cup on that side.

#### Training procedures

Animals were given 40 trials per day and tested on five or six days each week. The standard reward for a correct response consisted of  $\frac{1}{4}$  peanut except in the test of object and spatial alternation, when  $\frac{1}{4}$  peanut was provided. Supplementary food was given immediately after testing in sufficient quantities to maintain good nourishment and health. Training was continued on all tests until the animal reached the criterion of 90 per cent. correct in 100 consecutive trials. The last 100 trials are not included in the test scores, according to convention. Auditory cues were eliminated from the test procedure by the presence of a continuous masking noise and by balancing the noise of baiting. Non-correction procedure was adopted throughout except in the case of severe position habits during the initial learning of any habit, and in the alternation test. If the animal responded to one side on ten consecutive trials the positive cue and reward were maintained on the alternate side until the animal went there on three consecutive occasions. Such positional corrections were counted as trials. In object alternation the tobacco tin and ashtray were presented in a random left-right sequence with about 5 seconds interval in between trials. Correct response consisted of choosing that object which had not been rewarded on the previous trial, irrespective of the object's position. In case of error the opaque screen was interposed only for an instant, following which the animal was permitted to correct its choice. In spatial alternation both cups (identical lids) were baited on the first trial. Correct response thereafter consisted of choosing the cup on the side which had not been rewarded on the preceding trial. Trials were separated by about 5 seconds. If the animal removed the wrong lid, the opaque screen was interposed, the lid replaced and the animal given a further trial. This correction procedure was continued until the animal made the correct response. The first trial of a test session (both cups baited) and correction trials at alternation were not counted towards the total of 40 daily trials. The position of the positive cue in the discrimination and orientation tests was randomized in accordance with a balanced (Gellerman) schedule.

The animals were first adapted to the test situation and to responding in the dark by training on an easy somesthetic discrimination test (cube vs. cylinder). Scores to criterion ranged from 140 to 350 trials. They were next trained on the orientation test so that any transient disturbance of orientation might become manifest on the first post-operative test. Half of the animals (F1, F4, P1 and P4) learnt this test in the light (i.e. visual cues were available and animals were not required to touch the pegs), the remainder were given exactly the same stimulus display, but in darkness. In both cases six pegs were initially removed from either the left or right side of the board. The empty holes were situated in the front two rows to either side of the middle one of the seven columns. The animals were taught to go to the cup on the side of the empty holes. When the animal had reached criterion on this stage, only four pegs were removed (again from the front two rows but leaving the outside pair intact). Although performing better than chance no animal was able to meet the criterion on this stage within 500 trials. The aim of eventually teaching the animals to respond to the absence of only one peg to either side of the midline was therefore abandoned. All animals were retrained to respond to the absence of six pegs, and the trials given in the four-peg situation were discounted.

Animals F1, F2, P1 and P2 were next trained to discriminate in the dark between the upright and inverted triangles. Only one animal (P2) passed on this test within 2,000

trials. The best animal last 100 trials. Animals Thus each animal of the discrimination test pre- were trained on spatial a

The remaining four alternation after passing within 2,000 trials. The correct respectively. and finally on the some

After each animal had test) it was allowed 14 order as they were p retention testing. The Informal testing (e.g. of post-operative refer three tests in the same criterion in less than the retention, its performance eventually completed. the alternation test. For all animals were taught a

Informal observation animals with frontal an slow movements with t Within 2-6 hours these hypermotility and pacing gaze) was replaced by f with frontal lesions took a tendency to manipulate periods of 2-14 days. Two of the parietal opera two days in the case of disorientation (in the sens returned. This disorient reaching. Such an anim miss its objective in jump to accept food in their mo the operation. No inacc Difficulties in finding th attributed to this disorie observation despite some reliably ascertained in the edible and inedible objects effect of the parietal lesio in all animals for period move from the furthest c operation no parietal ope No animal in this study r The results on the form animals had required up t learning of the somasthe correct after 1,000 post-op

ere fixed to the lids in the  
tive somaesthetic discrimina-  
ted T (2 in.  $\times$  2 in.  $\times$   $\frac{1}{4}$  in.  
Whichever form an animal  
throughout. Thus the cross  
2, while the inverted T was

so that its front edge was  
in.  $\times$  6 $\frac{1}{4}$  in., contained three  
ed snugly into these holes so  
The centres of the two foot  
ped by the intervening pegs  
two lids of the cups were  
bsence of pegs to either side  
e of a reward in the covered

or six days each week. The  
except in the test of object  
plementary food was given  
ood nourishment and health.  
the criterion of 90 per cent.  
included in the test scores,  
n the test procedure by the  
he noise of testing. Non-  
use of severe position habits  
st. If the animal responded  
ard were maintained on the  
occasions. Such positional  
obacco tin and ashtray were  
s interval in between trials.  
not been rewarded on the  
error the opaque screen was  
as permitted to correct its  
e baited on the first trial.  
he side which had not been  
at 5 seconds. If the animal  
lid replaced and the animal  
l until the animal made the  
baited) and correction trials  
trials. The position of the  
randomized in accordance

responding in the dark by  
ylinder). Scores to criterion  
orientation test so that any  
on the first post-operative  
in the light (i.e. visual cues  
pegs), the remainder were  
n both cases six pegs were  
rd. The empty holes were  
of the seven columns. The  
y holes. When the animal  
oved (again from the front  
forming better than chance  
in 500 trials. The aim of  
only one peg to either side  
retrained to respond to the  
ion were discounted.

te in the dark between the  
l on this test within 2,000

trials. The best animal amongst the remainder (P1) achieved 71 per cent. correct in the last 100 trials. Animals F1, F2 and P1 were therefore taught the length discrimination. Thus each animal of these four reached criterion on only one form of the somaesthetic discrimination test pre-operatively. Finally all these four animals (F1, F2, P1 and P2) were trained on spatial alternation in darkness.

The remaining four monkeys (F3, F4, P3 and P4) attempted somaesthetic object alternation after passing on the orientation test. However, no animal met the criterion within 2,000 trials. Their scores over the last 100 trials were 40, 58, 53 and 56 per cent. correct respectively. They were all therefore trained on spatial alternation (in the dark) and finally on the somaesthetic length discrimination.

After each animal had passed on three tests (in addition to the preliminary adaptation test) it was allowed 14 days' rest and then retrained on each of the three tests in the same order as they were passed originally. This phase of training was called pre-operative retention testing. The animal then received its lesion and was allowed 14 days for recovery. Informal testing (e.g. for field defects) was done during this period. Thereafter the stage of post-operative retention consisted of retraining each animal once again on each of the three tests in the same order as before. If, however, any animal failed to regain the criterion in less than the maximum score for all the animals on that test during pre-operative retention, its performance on the next remaining test(s) was assessed before the former was eventually completed. Re-training was continued only for 1,000 trials post-operatively on the alternation test. Finally, after varying periods of rest and 5-6 months after operation, all animals were taught a new somaesthetic discrimination (cross vs. inverted T).

### RESULTS

Informal observation after operation revealed striking differences between the animals with frontal and parietal lesions. The frontal operates made purposeless slow movements with their limbs as soon as they recovered from the anaesthetic. Within 2-6 hours these limb movements had merged into the typical picture of hypermotility and pacing. Any kind of pre-operative avoidance (e.g. aversion of the gaze) was replaced by fearlessness bordering on the aggressive. All four animals with frontal lesions took food within 6 hours of recovery from the anaesthetic, although a tendency to manipulate tactually and then discard some food items persisted for periods of 2-14 days. There was no evidence of field defect nor of disorientation. Two of the parietal operates on the other hand were transiently blind (for a period of two days in the case of P2), and all three surviving animals showed severe visual disorientation (in the sense of Holmes, 1929) as soon as reactivity to visual stimulation returned. This disorientation was manifest in gross inaccuracies in jumping and reaching. Such an animal will not infrequently strike its face against an obstacle or miss its objective in jumping by a foot or more. All three parietal operates preferred to accept food in their mouth (even so inaccurately) instead of in their hand following the operation. No inaccuracies in bringing the hand to the mouth were observed. Difficulties in finding the way between the home and test cages were tentatively attributed to this disorientation, which persisted during the six months' period of observation despite some improvement. The extent of field defects could not be reliably ascertained in these animals, but all three were able to discriminate between edible and inedible objects without error on the twelfth post-operative day. A further effect of the parietal lesions was to greatly increase the fear and withdrawal responses in all animals for periods of 21 days or more. Thus P3 would not spontaneously move from the furthest corner of its cage for 11 days. For 36-48 hours after the operation no parietal operate would eat so that recourse was had to force-feeding. No animal in this study reversed its hand preference as a result of operation.

The results on the formal tests are presented in Tables I to IV. The four frontal animals had required up to 830 trials to reach the 90 per cent. criterion during initial learning of the somaesthetic spatial alternation test, but none exceeded 64 per cent. correct after 1,000 post-operative trials. On the other hand the scores of the remaining

TABLE I  
NUMBER OF TRIALS TO CRITERION ON THE SOMAESTHETIC SPATIAL  
ALTERNATION TEST

<i>Animal</i>	<i>Pre-op. learning</i>	<i>Pre-op. retention</i>	<i>Post-op. retention</i>
F1	400	180	1,000 + (50 per cent.)
F2	720	160	1,000 + (61 " " )
F3	830	440	1,000 + (64 " " )
F4	810	60	1,000 + (52 " " )
P1	240	160	150
P2	910	70	170
P3	710	130	40

1,000 + indicates that the animal failed to reach criterion in 1,000 trials. Figures in brackets indicate per cent. of correct responses in the last 100 trials. Animal P2 was trained at each of the three stages to a criterion of 80 per cent. correct.

TABLE II  
NUMBER OF TRIALS TO CRITERION ON THE SOMAESTHETIC  
DISCRIMINATION TEST

<i>Animal</i>	<i>Pre-op. learning</i>	<i>Pre-op. retention</i>	<i>Post-op. retention</i>
F1	640	70	420
F2	820	190	670
F3	760	110	40
F4	610	40	0
P1	370	110	30
P2	610	0	60
P3	770	200	30

Animal P2 was trained to discriminate between triangles; the remainder were trained to discriminate between lengths.

TABLE III  
NUMBER OF TRIALS TO CRITERION ON THE VISUAL AND SOMAESTHETIC  
ORIENTATION TEST

<i>Animal</i>	<i>Form of test</i>	<i>Pre-op. learning</i>	<i>Pre-op. retention</i>	<i>Post-op. retention</i>
F1	Visual	410	150	110
F2	Somaesthetic	1,270	330	420
F3	Somaesthetic	520	300	20
F4	Visual	500	100	430
P1	Visual	610	10	280
P2	Somaesthetic	1,860	190	1,200
P3	Somaesthetic	710	430	660

SOMAESTHETIC SPATIAL

Post-op. retention
000 + (50 per cent.)
000 + (61 " " )
000 + (64 " " )
000 + (52 " " )
150
170
40

each criterion in 1,000  
of correct responses  
at each of the three  
it. correct

SOMAESTHETIC

Post-op. retention
420
670
40
0
30
60
30

tween triangles;  
ninate between

UAL AND SOMAESTHETIC

Pre-op. retention	Post-op. retention
150	110
330	420
300	20
100	430
10	280
190	1,200
430	660

TABLE IV  
NUMBER OF TRIALS TO CRITERION ON THE NEW SOMAESTHETIC DISCRIMINATION TEST ADMINISTERED POST-OPERATIVELY (CROSS vs. INVERTED T)

Animal	Trials	Animal	Trials
F1	280	P1	170
F2	380	P2	70
F3	460	P3	400
F4	370		

three animals following parietal lesions fell easily within the range of all the pre-operative retention scores on this test. Animals P1 and P3 actually required fewer retention trials after than before operation. During initial learning of the alternation habit some animals persisted in selecting the incorrect side during several consecutive corrections following an error. Such perseverative errors during correction trials were as a rule associated with position habits. However, not a single instance of perseveration occurred during pre-operative retention testing. Impaired alternation in the frontal operates was accompanied by a striking increase in the amount of response perseveration. Thus a frontal operate would repeat its incorrect choice (i.e. go to the previously correct side) on up to 20 consecutive trials before making the alternate response. This perseveration was manifested to some degree following the majority of incorrect responses, irrespective of laterality, during the first 200-300 post-operative alternation trials. It persisted despite improvement throughout testing. Thus the incidence of perseveration following an incorrect response is 58.9 per cent. in respect of 192 errors during the first 100 trials, and 30.9 per cent. in respect of 173 errors during the last 100 of 1,000 post-operative alternation trials for the four frontal animals combined. Three or more corrections were required in 37.5 per cent. of errors during the first 100, and in 8.1 per cent. during the last 100 trials. There was little if any increase following frontal lesions in the incidence of position habits, except during the first 200 trials of F4.

Differences between the two operate groups are less consistent on the somaes-thetic discrimination tests. Again all parietal operates relearnt their pre-operative discrimination following operation within the range of pre-operative retention scores (P1 and P3 actually required fewer trials for post-operative than for pre-operative relearning). However, while two of the frontal animals, F3 and F4, likewise showed improved retention post-operatively, the remaining two, F1 and F2, were not able to regain criterion after the operation within the range of trials required during pre-operative retention. For this reason and because both nevertheless reached criterion in fewer trials after the operation than during initial learning (i.e. showed 34 and 18 per cent. saving respectively), animals F1 and F2 may be said to display a "retention defect." An analysis of comparison behaviour (i.e. trials on which the animal touched one or both cues before making its choice) and of the incidence of position habits failed to reveal any differences between the records of F1 and F2 on the one hand and those of the remainder on the other. The test performance of F1 and F2 is best described as exceptionally variable, and it is noteworthy that F1 reached 83 per cent. correct during post-operative trials 21-120 and that F2 made only 16 errors in the 100 trials beginning with the 360th post-operative trial. As will be seen from Table IV, the learning scores of the two operate groups overlapped on the new post-operative somaes-thetic discrimination (cross vs. inverted T). The mean number of trials to







ms, as compared with 213 for

criterion in the test of *visual* required more than 150 trials to ls than for original acquisition tion test the maximum pre- P3 was 430 trials. This score and P3, though both animals red during original learning. frontal and all three parietal. This impairment can not be nly were animals retrained d to fail to do so to three weeks ssing on the other two tests. ties interfere with the execu e first 150 trials post-operative > complete the first 40 trials ached through inappropriate. Even when she succeeded in she had difficulty in finding. cation she eventually shifted (mainly over-reaching) were e differences as between right bility was similar both in the al, and most probably ceased ter some 200 trials in all cases.

lateral antero-lateral frontal performance of monkeys on pairment persisted within the lo the present findings throw the first place the possibility have as their consequences a it could still be argued that ted in the light a disorder of operates. On the other hand > underlie the impairment on esence or absence of supple- view of the outcome of other conjunction with the present st plausibly regarded not as a supra-modal order. Their r has not been established in ccessful performance by three o necessarily contraindicate ailure to establish firmly an and the implicit food reward. tuation . . ." constitutes the rontal operates. For in the nt of choice. The significance

of the excessive response perseveration (which has previously aroused comment) likewise remains obscure, although this kind of stereotyped behaviour may merely be one *consequence* of the animals' inability to respond successfully under certain conditions.

In considering the present findings on the somaesthetic discrimination tests it may be recalled (in connection with the retention defect of animals F1 and F2) that a proportion of frontal operates has not uncommonly failed on tests of visual discrimination (cf. Chow and Hutt, 1953). The unimpaired retention by the parietal operates (as assessed by reference to the range of the pre-operative retention scores of all seven animals) is less readily accounted for in view of the findings of Pribram and Barry (1955) and of Wilson (1957). However, when only those of their data which pertain to tests administered both pre- and post-operatively are considered, the defect consequent upon lesions confined to the posterior parietal and pre-occipital regions is seen to be both variable (four out of their seven parietal operates failed to show impairment on one out of two tests) and mild (only two out of seven animals required more trials for post-operative than initial learning on one or both tests). The findings of Glees and Cole (1953) in two parietal operates, and the comprehensive investigation of Bhanu (1951) are broadly in accord with this view (although the lesions in their animals did not extend as far on to the medial surface as do those from this laboratory). A new discrimination learnt initially after operation has, on the other hand, been generally found to be impaired more severely than one learnt pre-operatively. Since the range of learning scores by unoperated but otherwise comparable control animals on the new post-operative discrimination (cross vs. inverted T) has not been ascertained, it cannot be claimed that the parietal operates are unimpaired on this test. It has nevertheless at least been demonstrated that the performance of the parietal operates is not inferior on this test to that of the animals with frontal ablations. In connection with the demonstrated relationship between test difficulty and severity of post-operative impairment it is noteworthy that the discrimination retained successfully after operation by P2 (the triangles) was so difficult that three animals were unable to master it within 2,000 trials before operation. Thus the present results underline the need for further inquiry into the effects of posterior parietal lesions.

A number of investigators (Glees and Cole, 1953; Pribram and Barry, 1955; Wilson, 1957) have referred to defective visual orientation in monkeys with parietal lesions. Ferrier wrote in 1886 of a monkey given bilateral lesions of the angular gyrus: "On the fourth day (after operation) some indications of returning vision were observed, but the animal never during the whole period of its survival—over two months—regained perfect vision, but always exhibited some uncertainty or want of precision in its endeavours to seize things offered it, or to pick up minute articles of food from the floor, such as currants or grains of corn" (p. 282). In the present study, orientation both with and without visual guidance was assessed quantitatively, and parietal operates were found to be selectively impaired on both forms of the test. However, no quantitative data concerning this phenomenon are known to be available elsewhere in the literature dealing with sub-human behaviour, so that confirmation of the present findings is required.

The peg-board test differs from other discrimination tests chiefly in that the positive and negative cues are immediately adjacent to one another. The location of the alternative cues is also not identical with the location of the two food cups. The exceptionally high initial learning scores of two animals on the somaesthetic form of the orientation test partly resulted from the animals' neglect to explore the peg-board for many trials. However, all of the animals re-tested on this version after operation

at once attempted to touch at least one end of the board before reaching for either food cup. It is not clear whether the parietal operates experienced difficulty in differentiating between the positive and negative cues, or in relating discriminated cues to differences to the choice of cups, or in some other aspect of the task. The evidence from an analysis of comparison behaviour (i.e. instances on the somaesthetic version where an animal touched both ends of the board before selecting a cup) is not helpful. The number of such comparisons did not materially change as a result of operation. It may, however, be relevant that both P2 and P3 went to the incorrect cup after comparing both cues more frequently following than before operation (in 21.7 per cent. instead of 12.5 per cent. of comparisons). In any case the impairment of the parietal operates on the formal orientation test (a "retention defect" in all 3 animals resolved at a time when they were still lacking full precision in reaching for food. Also it is noteworthy that this deficit was manifested both in the light and dark, contrary to expectations based on previously reported observations on reaching. The orientation test may not therefore be revealing the same disturbance as was apparent to informal observation. Even more tenuous, but deserving of further investigation, is the supposition of a relationship between the demonstrated consequences of parietal lesions in monkeys and the clinical symptomatology of visual disorientation so carefully analysed by Holmes (1919) in cases of parietal injury.

We would like to express our appreciation to Dr. K. H. Pribram for raising the primary problem forming the subject of this investigation; for providing us with laboratory facilities; and for skillfully performing the surgical operations. We are also greatly indebted to Prof. W. Blackwood, of the National Hospital, who has placed histological assistance and facilities at our disposal, and to Dr. M. C. Smith for her invaluable help and advice in interpreting the histological material. R. R. Cox designed and built the infra-red scanning device. This study was supported in part by a grant from the Department of the Army, under Contract No. DA-49-007-MD-401.

## REFERENCES

- BLUM, J. S. (1951). Studies of the posterior "associative cortex" in monkeys; cortical organization in somaesthesia. *Comp. Psychol. Monogr.*, 20, 219-49.
- BLUM, R. A. (1952). Effects of subtotal lesions of the frontal granular cortex on delayed reaction in monkeys. *Arch. Neurol. Psychiat., Chicago*, 67, 375-86.
- CAMPBELL, R. J. and HARLOW, H. F. (1945). Problem solution by monkeys following bilateral removal of the prefrontal areas: V. Spatial delayed reactions. *J. exp. Psychol.*, 35, 110-26.
- CHOW, K. L. and HUTT, P. J. (1953). The "association cortex" of *macaca mulatta*: a review of recent contributions to its anatomy and functions. *Brain*, 76, 625-77.
- COX, R. R. and KRUGER, L. (1955). A device for observing animals in darkness. *Amer. J. Psychol.*, 68, 666-9.
- FERRIER, D. (1886). *The Functions of the Brain*. (2nd ed.) New York.
- GLEES, P. and COLE, J. (1953). Comparison of anterior parietal lesions (areas 3, 1 and 2) with posterior parietal lesions (areas 5 and 7) in trained monkeys. *5e. Congr. neurol. int.*, 3, 362-7.
- HOLMES, G. (1919). Montgomery Lectures. *Brit. med. J.*, 2, 230-3.
- PRIBRAM, H. B. and BARRY, J. (1955). A further behavioural analysis of parieto-temporo-occipital cortex. *J. Neurophysiol.*, 19, 99-106.
- PRIBRAM, K. H. and MISHKIN, M. (1956). Analysis of the effects of frontal lesions in monkey: III. Object alternation. *J. comp. physiol. Psychol.*, 49, 41-5.
- WILSON, M. (1957). Effects of circumscribed cortical lesions upon somesthetic and visual discrimination in the monkey. *J. comp. physiol. Psychol.*, 50, 630-5.