

Trial and Error

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Trial-and-Error, Gradual Analysis, and Sudden Reorganization, Excerpt from Trial-and-Error, Gradual Analysis, and Sudden Reorganization: An Experimental Study of Problem Solving; Archives of Psychology Thinking. Controlled thinking is the X in this problem. It has been assumed to consist of the process or processes that go on implicitly when O solves a problem. Trial-and-error (1) in its broad sense refers to the exploratory nature of the whole course of a thought movement. This definition is accepted by this paper, but Trial-and-success is suggested as preferable, so that these two senses of the term can be more readily distinguished; (2) in its narrow sense refers to solving by "test" or trial moves of varying degrees of blindness as to the goal, from moving a piece in order to find a relation to the goal, to testing the practicability of a seen relation to the goal. It is in this sense that the term will be used in this paper. As such it is meant to take account of the fact that O's behavior is affected by his interpretation of the goal. Manipulation is used to refer to the trial moves themselves (a part of the T.E. process). Restricted Sector of Response (Woodworth) will be used to refer to the Mused by an O after its scope has been narrowed down by his having gained a certain amount of understanding of the goal. At each increase in understanding ("insight") we have the sector of his responses restricted. Insight also has several definitions: (1) In its result sense of understanding it is not used here except in quotes to show how it might be used in the literature. (2) In its functional sense, which is not yet well defined, insight is similar to grasping or educing a relation, and is equivalent to each step in analysis, as defined below. (3) In the sense of sudden recentering it will be referred to as sudden reorganization. (4) In its broadest sense of a temporal gestalt in which the stimulus and the response are coupled directly, it is not considered here because it involves too complex theoretical interpretations, while we are interested chiefly in fact. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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