

## COLOR BLIND OFTEN DO NOT KNOW FACT

Those So Afflicted See World Entirely Differently From Others.

How little we know the inner experiences of our fellows is shown by the comparative recency with which the facts of color blindness have been brought to our knowledge. Many a person with defective color vision has lived his life not knowing that others saw the world differently from himself. In fact, no one seems to have been aware of inability to see color until Tuberville in 1864 called attention to it. The matter was again referred to by Dalton in 1794 and then was scarcely mentioned for the next fifty years.

It seems strange that men should have lived side by side for centuries, gathered fruits when they were ripe, reveled in the glories of autumn foliage, taken hope from the rainbow, painted canvases in color, looked upon color splashed sunset skies and fallen in love with blue eyes and golden hair and yet never have suspected that there were some among their fellows to whom all this glory of color was as absent as the sun from the midnight sky and that for them nature wore perpetually a robe as gray and somber as a lint covered roof beneath winter clouds. Yet to the color blind the whole world appears but in shades of gray which may range through all degrees of intensity from the purest white light to the deepest black.

### Not Conscious of Color Blindness.

And it may seem even stranger that the color blind are as oblivious to the difference between themselves and others as are those with good vision. Many a color blind person doubtless goes through life without his defect being discovered, and it is not at all uncommon that one first becomes aware of the defect by accident. Last winter a young man, a college student, was brought into the laboratory here, who first became aware of his trouble when he differed from the other members of his boarding club about the color of a red gate. Yet this man, who upon preliminary examination evidenced a considerable defect had always selected his own ties and was planning to do his major college work in chemistry with no suspicion that he might encounter difficulties there to which his fellows might not be subject. Another young man first found out his defect when he called a red switch light green, and I remember a student of my college days, who, although he could guess when cherries were ripe by their size, had absolutely no power to discriminate a red from a green paper when the two were made of the same brightness. Yet this man did not become aware of his difficulty until he heard the matter of color blindness discussed in a college class.

Reported studies of color blindness indicate that about 4 per cent. of men are defective in this way, and it has been generally supposed that women have better vision in this respect than men, the reason usually given for the difference being that women get more practice in matching colors than men do. There are two bits of evidence, however, that stand in opposition to the supposed superiority of women in color vision. The first is an experimental study recently made by Professor Hays on the students in Mt. Holyoke college. He examined 457 women and found among them 104 who showed marked color deficiency. Further examination of twenty-three out of this 104 showed six almost, if not wholly color blind, and the other seventeen with marked deficiency in ability to discriminate color. Such results indicate that exhaustive examination would probably overturn any supposed inferiority of men in this respect.

### Seems to be Inherited.

A second fact also seems to indicate that the usually accepted theory is unfounded. This is the fact that most color blindness seems not to be the

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result of individual acquisition, but that it seems to be inherited. If this is the case there is no known reason why men rather than women should inherit it. Where the defect results from disease the chances seem equal for the two sexes except that tobacco and alcohol seem the most common causes of its presence.

Color blindness exists in varying de-

grees. Some are wholly color blind; some are blind to all those colors, tints and shades in which red and green are components, and others are blind to colors, tints and shades in which yellow or blue occur. The second group are called the red-green blind and are the most common variety. The last are called yellow-blue blind and while less common than the red-green variety are yet more numerous than the wholly color blind. Besides these three well-defined classes there is a far larger number of persons who, while they seem to see all colors somewhat are confused with hues that lie near together in the color scale.

The totally color blind see all visible objects in different shades of gray. A red leaf and a yellow leaf differ only as would two pieces of gray paper of different brightnesses, the yellow leaf appearing lighter than the red. Just because nearly all things differ in brightness as well as color such persons are able to get on in the world without difficulty. It is only when two objects of the same degree of brightness, but of different hues are presented that they make any mistake.

### How One Cast Was Discovered.

A concrete case may serve to make some of these points clearer. A young man twenty-four years of age came to a college in a neighboring state. He had been for some time a brakeman on a railroad, but when he came up for a second examination he had some difficulty with naming some of the colors shown him and was rejected. Only once before did he remember having had any difficulty with colors and that was when his father had set him to sort the red ears out of a large heap of corn, most of which was yellow. He remembered that when his father came to look over the work he was not greatly pleased, and intimated it as his belief that the boy had been careless, although the boy protested that he had done his best. On entering a class in psychology he was found by the teacher to be unable to perform

certain of the experiments. He was taken into the laboratory for an extensive and thorough examination. The result showed that while he could see greens of certain sorts, but not others, and that he was wholly unable to see either yellows or blues except as light and dark shades of gray. Yet this man had passed the first examination for the position of brakeman on a railroad and had held the position for some time. In such a position he had in his keeping valuable property and the lives of men. Examination into his family history showed that there was color blindness in the immediate preceding generation on both sides of the house. The case, therefore, seems to be one of inheritance.

(By M. E. Haggerty, Director of Psychological Laboratory, Indiana University.)

### LIVE POULTRY WANTED

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17-1f

A German musical comedy, which had a success in Berlin under the name of "Creole Blood," is to be produced in this country by John Cort, with the title of "Jacinta." Carrie Reynolds will have one of the leading parts.

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## BABE MAY WIN ITS MOTHER \$25,000

Widow Seeking Heavy Damages for Husband's Death—A Novel Plea.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—Of course, from its mother's point of view, the baby that came to bless Mrs. William Johnson on Sunday is worth more than all the money in the world. But this baby may bring Mrs. Johnson \$25,000 or some part of it in real cash.

Mrs. Johnson's husband was killed by a falling beam last February, when working for the Riter-Conley Manufacturing company on a building it was constructing. His widow, who had two children then—Willie, seven and Alma, four—sued the company for \$25,000. A jury gave her a verdict for \$1,500 in May. Supreme courts Justice Goff set it aside. He said, in effect, that a good, industrious husband is worth more than \$1,500 to a wife and mother of two.

Herbert C. Smythe and Hendelberger and Robinson, Mrs. Johnson's lawyers, tried the suit again for her and the jury disagreed. It came up once

more before Justice Gavegan. Mrs. Johnson and her posthumous baby were in the Harlem hospital, an institution which the Harlem stork knows as well as if that bird were a carrier pigeon.

But Willie and Alma were in court, in charge of Mrs. Emma Midberg, who is taking care of them at their home, 221 West one-hundred-and-forty-eighth street. Willie had a vague idea, which he tried to convey to Alma that "because papa is dead somebody is going to give us some money."

With the same idea, Mr. Smythe asked Justice Gavegan for leave to amend the complaint so as to demand \$50,000 instead of \$25,000. Then he told the justice about the new baby and argued it is twice as expensive to take care of three children including a baby, as of two. Besides, the widowed mother will miss her husband

who can never embrace its father twice as much now that a little one has arrived.

"I suppose he would have asked for \$100,000 if the new baby had been twins," murmured Scott McLanahan, counsel for the company.

Mr. McLanahan showed the justice large models of the hoisting machine and derrick used in constructing the building. He argued that the company had been guilty of no negligence when the beam fell and that if Johnson had not been under it the beam would not have even scratched him. Mr. Smythe displayed similar models and insisted that the derrick and hoisting machine were deadly engines.

Justice Gavegan seemed much more impressed by the new baby than by the models and told Mr. Smythe to amend the complaint and demand \$50,000.



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