Science And Medicine Series

Color Blindness Is More Common Than Many, Many People Think

(Editor's note: The following is an article in THE TIMES' continuing series on subjects of public interest in the fields of science and medicine. It was taken from a lecture by Dr. David Dzik at an Optometric Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia, last month.)

Color-blind people usually think that everyone sees things the same way they do until people call their deficiency to their attenion.

* * * *

About 5 per cent of all men and boys, and one out of 200 women have a color deficiency to green and red. Since yellow or blue colorblindness is very rare, optometry is encouraging the public authorities to mix the red with a yellow, to help the person blind to red, and to mix the green with a blue, to help the person blind to green, in standard red and green traffic lights.

Optometry has also been trying to get stardardization in the positions of the lights in all traffic signals. Red should be at the top and green at the bottom so that people who are color-deficient to red or green will know that when the top light is bright it means stop, and when the bottom light is bright, it means go.

DANGERS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS

There are some dangers and disappointments in preparing for a career in which colorblindness or color deficiency is a handicap. In the practice of many professions, such as chemistry, the accurate recognition of color may play an important role.

Of course, the teacher realizes that children who are totally or partially color-blind will be frustrated in those situations which require color discrimination. It would help the teacher to know whether or not the child ionotally or partially color-blind. We suggest that the teacher test the child's ability to identify at least the primary colors (red, green, and blue). It would, of course, be the height of folly to attempt to teach a color-blind individual to discriminate between red blind individual to discriminate between red and green. Not only would that be a sheer waste of the teacher's time, but also, and more important, disturbing emotional factors could be introduced. A color "weakness" term would have less emotional impact upon a child than if he were bluntly labeled color "blind", and it should be thought of as a separate defect, not related to intelligence, personality, physical condition, scholastic poten-tial, or diet.

CAREER PREPARATION

In preparing for a career, the color-deficient student sould be guided by his teacher and vocational guidance advisor to those fields where the ability for color discrimination is not requred. In certain occupations a normal color sense is of utmost importance. Here's a list of some of the fields in which color-deficiency is a disadvantage:

Military Academies candidates, biologists, bombardiers, chemists, color printers, decorators, deep sea divers, dyers, electricians, engineers, firemen, florists, geologists.

Jet pilots, map makers, medical practitioners, milliners, navigators, optometrists, painters, railroaders, surveyors, tailors, truck and auto drivers, upholsterers, and weavers.

HUNTING COLORS

Optometrists were the first to question the safety of traditional hunting red, and were the first to undertake research to find safer colors. All colors except red, turn to shades of gray as the light dims before they turn to black. Red, however, changes abruptly to black. Tests have shown that red is definitely not the quickest and easiest color to identify.

One and one-half million American hunters are color-deficient to red and green or partly so, and many hunters can't distinguish between the red of a hunter's coat and the green of a tree. We have hunting casualties because colorblind hunters see the red "warning" colors as a brown or black.

Optometric research in conjunction with Optometric research in conjunction with military and conservation officials, the Na-tional Rifle Association, and the game de-partments of several states have proven that golden yellow and fluorescent blaze-orange are the most visible calors under most kinds of weather conditions, terrain, and back-ground. No one color is best under all hunt-ing conditions. Selection should be bright, vivid colors which will contrast with foliage, terrain, and the season of the war. foliage, terrain, and the season of the year. The American Optometric Association says, "Shoot with your eyes . . . not with your imagination !"

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42. Scottish balladeer 48. Musical 49. Council of 50. Impudent (sL) DOWN 1. Beast of burden.

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Outstanding ministers from copal Church, Greenville, South North and South Carolina are Carolina

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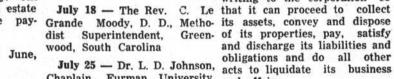
June 20 — The Rev. Charles Blanck, Chaplain - Christ School, Greenville, Church South Carolina

June 27 — The Rev. Isaac M. Gagnal, Executive Secre- that Articles of Dissolution of

tary - Presbyterian Church, Connestee Corporation, a North Raleigh, North Carolina July 4 - Dr. Wilson O. Wel- retary of State of North Carodon, Editor, Upper Room, lina on the 28th day of May, Nashville, Tennessee

July 11 - Dr. Bryce Herbert, Pastor First Methodist poration are required to pre-Church, Laurens, South Carolina

is as follows:



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SECTION TWO

Let Us Do Your Job Printing The Transylvania Times

True color-blindness cannot be cured by optometrists or anyone else. As far as is known ay, color-blindness is permanent.

For further information, consult your vocational guidance advisor, or your family optometrist.

