

conjugation, and accommodation probably contributed little to the present results since the experimental room was darkened and the visual cues necessary for these mechanisms to function normally were absent. The results most likely are attributable to macular development, which continues through the 4th month of life (Walsh, 1957) and changes in refractive error. Infants are usually hypermetropic (farsighted) at birth since the eyeball is too short for the focal length of the optical mechanisms of the eye; hypermetropia usually decreases with age as the eyeball increases in size (Duke-Elder, 1963). Evidence has been offered that the mean refractive error of newborns is 1.5 diopters (Hershenson, 1967). We have offered evidence that at least 5 diopters of refractive error would be required to account for the effects of check size on VER amplitude in this study at the age of 1 month. This suggests that the apparent improvement in visual acuity with age was primarily due to macular development.

In conclusion, these results indicate that VERs to patterned light flashes give valuable information about the development of mechanisms influencing pattern vision in the human infant. Additional investigations will be required to determine the generality of these data and whether or not they are attributable to the development of mechanisms underlying visual acuity as proposed in this study.

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NOTES

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2. Harter, M. R. Evoked cortical potential correlates of visual acuity and pattern perception in humans. Presented at Southeastern Psychological Association, 1969 (in preparation for publication).

Catecholamine excretion as a function of personality¹

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An experiment was designed to study the relationship between urine catecholamine excretion and the personality traits of extraversion and neuroticism. Using chance samples of day-urine, we found a significant negative correlation between extraversion and the amount of urine catecholamines. This relationship is modified by smoking habits. The correlation holds only for nonsmokers.

Although it is well established that excretion rates of adrenaline (A) and noradrenaline (NA) are strongly influenced by stressful situational factors and by momentary affective states (Levi, 1967; Schildkraut & Kety, 1967), there is no good evidence of a correlation with stable, transsituational personality traits (Mason, 1968).

Here we show a relationship between catecholamine excretion and extraversion-introversion (E) and neuroticism-stability (N) as measured by the Maudsley Personality Inventory, or MPI (Eysenck, 1959).

On Eysenck's hypothesis, that extraversion is associated with low and unspecific cortical arousal by pathways from the reticular formation (Eysenck, 1967), we assumed that it also would be associated with a low level of peripheral catecholamines, which regulate blood pressure. The linkage is given by experiments that show that the activity of the cells of the reticular formation depends on arterial blood pressure (Baust et al, 1963). The MPI was also used in two other studies of catecholamine output (Levi, 1963; Fine & Sweeney, 1968), but the results are not clear. Levi (1963), who used peer ratings and MPI scores, presumably on the N scale, for selecting groups of high and low emotional resistance, did not give any data on the relationship between MPI scores and the excretion of catecholamines. Fine and Sweeney, who tested 27 soldiers under different experimental settings in a 3-day experiment, found a positive relation between MPI-N and the noradrenaline-adrenaline (NA/A) ratio, but the meaning of the ratio (as will be shown later on) is in doubt. They found no significant relation between MPI-E and catecholamine excretion, perhaps because they used 24-h samples instead of day-urine only.

Table 1
Product Moment Correlations Between MPI Extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N) and Adrenaline (A), Noradrenaline (NA), and NA + A for the Entire Group and the Subgroups of Smokers and Nonsmokers

Group	n	MPI	A	NA	NA + A
Entire Group	54	E	-.14	-.33*	-.34*
		N	-.21	-.03	-.09
Smokers	27	E	.03	.05	.05
		N	.19	-.12	-.05
Nonsmokers	15	E	.06	-.57*	-.52*
		N	-.40	.21	.08

* $p < 0.05$ (two-tailed)

METHODS

In the present experiment, urine samples and MPI data were collected from 54 men, mostly medical students, whose ages ranged from 19 to 31 years. The means as well as the standard deviations of the MPI scores of the group are quite close to those reported for American students (Eysenck, 1959). The urine samples were collected between noon and 3 p.m. No restrictions were imposed with regard to eating, smoking, or other activities of the Ss prior to the urine sampling, although smoking habits and recent intake of drugs were registered for control purposes. Catecholamine values were measured by a fluorimetric technique (Euler & Lishajko, 1961) modified by the second author. The reliability of the biochemical determinations was assessed by double analysis of 15 of the urine samples. The reliability coefficients were: $r = 0.83$ for A and $r = 0.86$ for NA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Correlational analysis was used also to study the relationship between the biochemical and personality scores. As shown in Table 1, significant negative correlations were found between extraversion and NA ($r = -0.33$, $p < 0.05$) and between extraversion and NA + A ($r = -0.34$, $p < 0.05$). There was no significant relation between catecholamines and neuroticism, as measured by the MPI. Because there are some indications in the literature that cigarette smoking may influence the catecholamine level (Watts & Bragg, 1956; Frankenhaeuser et al, 1968), the Ss were grouped according to their smoking habits.

After pipe smokers and Ss from whom data on their smoking habits were missing were eliminated, there remained 27

cigarette smokers and 15 nonsmokers. Both groups were quite equally distributed over the extraversion scale. The mean E score and the standard deviation were $M = 27.7$ and $s = 8.6$ for the smokers as compared with $M = 29.2$ and $s = 11.5$ for the nonsmokers.

As Table 1 shows, the correlations between E and NA and between E and NA + A hold only for nonsmokers; for the smokers, the correlations are near zero. The moderating function of smoking habits should be kept in mind when the present results on the relationship of E and NA are compared with those of Fine & Sweeney (1968), who could find no such relationship.

Aside from simple measures of A and NA, the NA/A ratio sometimes is used for analysis. Fine and Sweeney remark that "a ratio which represents the balance between the two humors would be better for comparing individuals than would absolute levels [1967, p. 14]." This ratio is of some interest because it may represent a measure of ergotropic/trophotropic balance (Gellhorn, 1965). Unfortunately, however, the NA/A ratio has some properties that may reduce its value for statistical purposes because the ratio increases progressively when A decreases, and if A approaches zero, the ratio approaches infinity. With increasing values for A, the ratio approaches zero. This distorting effect of the ratio becomes even more troublesome if one keeps in mind that the biochemical analysis of small fractions of A is not very reliable. Errors arising from the biochemical analysis therefore will be potentiated by the NA/A ratio. It seems better to use the inverse ratio, A/NA, for quantitative studies because it tends to minimize such errors. A/NA ratios > 2.0 ,

Table 2
Product Moment Correlations Between MPI Extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N) and the Ratios NA/A and A/NA

Group	n	NA/A Ratio		A/NA Ratio	
		E	N	E	N
Entire Group	54	-.27	.32*	.04	-.04
Smokers	27	.09	-.22	.00	.02
Nonsmokers	15	-.53*	.78**	.24	-.35

* $p < 0.05$ (two-tailed)

** $p < 0.01$ (two-tailed)

which would be also distorted, simply do not occur, because the NA output normally is greater than the A output. Using the NA/A ratio, we found some significant correlations with the personality traits, but there were none with the A/NA ratio (see Table 2).

This study, which is just a beginning, reveals some relationship between catecholamine output and personality. The correlations are not very large, and they are influenced by moderator variables (Ghiselli, 1963), but the results are in agreement with Eysenck's theory, that introverts have a higher arousal state than do extraverts.

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- NOTE
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