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Some Visual Puns

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SOME VISUAL PUNS

CHRISTIAN A. RUCKMICK

Puns are usually thought of in connection with auditory stimuli in the form of words with a double meaning. It is possible to transfer this phenomenon of double meaning to the visual field. The process may be studied in various transitional forms (1) in the illusion of reversible perspective; (2) in the addition of objects not definitely outlined, and (3) in the alternation of figure and background.

These studies are of interest in the light of recent discussions of the psychology of meaning and because of investigations emanating from Gestalttheorie, or the psychology of form.

Various figures were devised and tested out with a view to making a comparative study of their effectiveness in eliciting this double meaning, and of the order in which these meanings came without verbal suggestion from the experimenter.

(Illustrated with stereopticon slides.)

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 GENERAL BODILY TONUS OF STUTTERERS AND
NON-STUTTERERS

LEO B. FAGAN

I. Using an apparatus devised to measure muscular tonus as indicated by the resistance offered to an unexpected blow against the back of the free swinging hand, the muscular tone of stutterers and non-stutterers was studied under several conditions. For stutterers the conditions were (1) silence, (2) stuttering, (3) normal unobstructed speech; for non-stutterers (1) silence, (2) normal speech.

Fifty non-stutterers were studied under the conditions specified and in every instance of the 50 Os resistance to an unexpected blow on the back of the free swinging hand showed an increase during normal speech.

Ten stutterers were studied under the conditions specified and the resultant data reveal that during stuttering resistance to the unexpected blow on the back of the free swinging hand increased in each case; and secondly, that during normal unobstructed speech the resistance, in each individual case, dropped to a level below that of normal resistance during silence.