

The Modification of Perception during Hypnotic State

By Hitoshi Kato

The phenomenon of the hypnotic state has been well known universally since ancient times. But the hypnosis itself has not been scientifically explained at all up to the present time. For example, in respect of the well known phenomenon of the modification of perception during hypnotic state, it has not been fully explained, whether it is the true modification accompanied by the physical and physiological change or a mere automatical verbal reaction which is influenced by the suggestion given to the subject.

Since the time of C. L. Hull, the hypnosis has been investigated with more scientific and experimental methods than in the stage of A. Mesmer. Nowadays, the study of hypnosis does not stay in such a pseudo-scientific state as the former time saw, and yet there remain numerous true scientific researches for the future. Now, we can say with more certainty that the modification of perception during hypnotic state may be accompanied by the physical and physiological changes. And at the true fact has been more clearly established, the hypnosis may be a new frontier of the study of perception or personality, when seen from a psychological point of view, and furthermore when seen from a medical point of view, it may enlarge the range of its appliance to the psychiatry or mental and physical diseases in general. We expect that the remarkable activity of recent investigation in this field will create a new branch of the science of mind.