



Mental Set and Shift (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Arthur Thomas Jersild

Forgotten Books, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Mental Set and Shift The fact Of mental set is primary in all conscious activity. The same stimulus may evoke any one of a large number Of responses depending upon the contextual setting in which it is placed. A series Of two-place numbers is being called: to the pupil in an arithmetic class the numbers serve as stimuli for mental addition or multiplication; to the foot-ball player on the field the same numbers serve as signals calling into play certain preparatory muscular reactions; to the man in a trolley car the numbers designate names Of streets. In each case the Objective stimuli are the same, but the response pat terns are widely different. The significance of mental set as here presented is by no means a new Observation in psychology. We stress it only to introduce the considerations which follow. For just as all activity is colored and in?uenced by the predominance Of a mental set, so also it involves an element of constant adjust ment, an element Of shift. The Old laws of span, duration, and ?uctuation Of attention bear witness...



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