

Educators Introduce 'Teaching Machines'

By I. C. LI NEUBARTH

When you turn your future children over to their first kindergarten teacher . . . watch out. They may be "conditioned" instead of taught in years to come.

A device called a "teaching machine," is already on the market and, according to John Hundleby, research associate

in the Division of Academic Research and Services, "it is almost inevitable that the concept will be accepted in the future."

A teaching machine is essentially a self-testing device, he explained, something like covering up the answers in a book and then looking to see if you got them right.

"Machine enthusiasts" view them as mechanical tutors which lead a person by the hand through a series of simple questions until he is able to handle more complex concepts easily.

All of the devices that have been called "teaching machines" use what can be called the "Socratic" method of teaching. They present the student with questions and answers, problems to be solved or exercises to be done.

But, unlike a book of practice problems, they provide some type of automatic feedback so the student is always aware of his errors and progress, Hundleby said.

"This looks like the major advance in educational psychology in a long time," Hundleby said.

At present a few machines are in use at Harvard, where B. F. Skinner started experimenting with them.

The teaching machines differ from television teaching in three ways. First, continuous active response is required from the student so that he constantly applies each new step. Second, the student is informed immediately whether or not his answer is correct.

Third, the student proceeds at his own rate, repeating lessons as often as necessary. According to Hundleby, this has a definite advantage over classroom instruction where the teacher cannot take the time to keep explaining a point to a slower student, while holding

Brazilian Trip Open to Sophs

Undergraduates who will have completed their sophomore year by the end of this semester are eligible for the second annual "Junior Year in Brazil" program at the University of Bahia in Sao Salvador, Brazil, according to an announcement from New York University, sponsors of the program.

The program, scheduled to run from July 1, 1960 to June 10, 1961, will be divided into four parts. They include a preliminary language and orientation period, the first and second semesters and a summer study-travel workshop period. Participants must have a working knowledge of Portuguese or Spanish.

Application forms which must be returned by May 10 may be obtained from the Brazilian Institute, New York University, Washington Square, New York 3, New York.

—Atlantic City, N.J., is built on an island one mile wide and ten miles long.

Southern Negro Fights Discrimination--

(Continued from page five) "The odds are too dramatic. We will assert our rights in the courts and in the jails and in the streets and wherever men are."

One of the leaders of the Nashville demonstrations, Rev. C. T. Vivian, sums up the moral state of the Southern Negro this way: "We are the new Negro and nobody can take this away from us, whether it be the mayor's committees that wait too long or members in our own ranks who rebel against us or those in our community who think our meth-

ods are too dramatic. We will assert our rights in the courts and in the jails and in the streets and wherever men are."

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back the quicker ones.

A mechanical "teacher" guides and corrects the student at each step to insure mastery of one idea before going on to the next. The degree of difficulty between steps is tested until the jump is so slight that no one can get lost or loose the concept, he said.

Some machines provide informative reading material, comparable to a lecture, and the student must give correct answers based on the information given. Others are just a series of questions and answers, Hundleby said.

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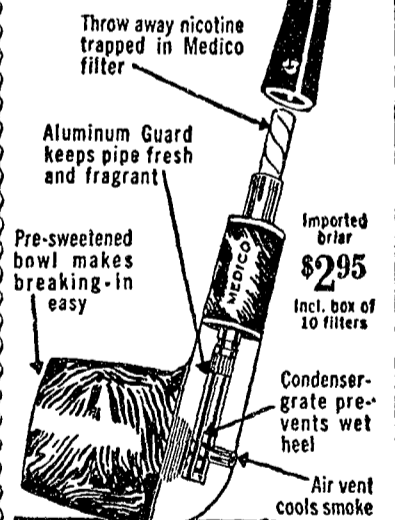
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