Psychology: Philosophy and Physiology Influences

Name

Institution Affiliation

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Many interactions exist across different fields of science. Most of these associations are interdependent and add significance to each area. Combinations of other realms of science lead to the creation of insightful disciplines. Philosophy concerns itself with the essential nature of existence, knowledge, and reality while physiology considers the proper functioning of living organisms. These two domains have a profound influence on psychology and are regarded as the origins of themes in the discipline.

John Locke's Contributions

John Locke, a philosopher of the early Age of Enlightenment and the Age of Reason, is renowned for several contributions. His opinions had a significant impact on the growth of Political Philosophy and Epistemology. Locke is revered as one of the most impactful early Enlightenment philosophers. Most of the time, he is believed to be the first of the British Empiricists, a crusade that included David Hume and George Berkeley, that presented the initial resistance to the Continental Rationalists of the 17th century (Stanford, 2017). Locke contended that a large part of human notions are extracted from experience, and the comprehension of which people are skilled is thereby very restricted in its certainty and scope. His Philosophy of Mind is usually referenced as the beginning of contemporary ideas about the self and identity. Moreover, Locke hypothesized, different from Christian and Cartesian philosophy, that the mind was blank slate (tabula rasa) and that individuals are conceived devoid of instinctive concepts.

John Locke's notions of personal identity were uniquely radical and a vital contribution to philosophy. Moreover, his skepticism regarding the materiality or immateriality of the soul was greatly debated in the better part of the 19th century, and contentions on personal identity were highly recapped in the 20th century (Stanford, 2017). A large of part of this stems from the

Clarke/Collins controversy of 1707–08. Locke's interpretation of free agency is just as revolutionary and essential as his explanation of personal identity with which it is associated (Stanford, 2017). However, it is apparent that it was not as contentious as his interpretation of personal identity. Locke's opinions on the subject are still of high pertinence to contemporary discourses on compatibilism and free will.

Ernst Weber's Contributions

Ernst Weber designed the notion of the just-noticeable difference between two comparable physical stimuli and made essential findings on the sense of touch. He is the father of psychophysics, which is a branch of psychology that focuses on the relationships that exist between mental states and physical stimuli.

Additionally, Weber revealed the resistance of the capillary bed, the significance of the blood volume, and its impact on the distribution and movement of blood (Goentoro Lab, 2013). His efforts are the vital foundations for the accurate study of the movement of fluids in elastic tubes. Even though topics on blood circulation have successively been subjected to comprehensive analysis, Weber's endeavors, along with few additions but no significant modifications, have continued to be its basis.

Furthermore, Weber made great contributions to the field of physiology concerning the circulation of blood. Along Eduard, Ernst discovered that stimulating some parts of the brain or the peripheral end of the vagus nerve with electric impulses lowers the activities of the heart and even makes it pause (Goentoro Lab, 2013). This was the first time that nerve action led to the suppression of autonomic activity, instead of stimulating it. This became a crucial breakthrough in the development of physiology not only for its implication on the circulation but also due to the finding unveiled a yet undiscovered but vital form of nerve action.

How philosophy and physiology have influenced psychology. The earliest roots of psychology can be found several centuries back where there existed the writings of revered philosophers. More than two centuries ago, Aristotle, a Greek philosopher, authored expansively on themes such as memory, sleep, dreams, and the senses (Pennsylvania State University, 2014). Furthermore, he elucidated on the temperaments and traits of several animals. Most of Aristotle's conceptions continued to be prominent until the dawn of modern science in the 17th century (Pennsylvania State University, 2014). In this period, René Descartes, a French philosopher, suggested an ideology known as interactive dualism. This doctrine was based on the notion that there was a delineation between the brain and the mind and that these two entities interacted to generate emotions, sensations, and other conscious occurrences.

In our present day, psychologists continue to contend about the association between the brain and mental activity. What is more, philosophers provided the foundation for another challenge that would become pivotal to psychology, the nature-nurture topic. For eras, thinkers argued which was more substantial: the natural disposition of the individual or the environmental impacts that cultivate the individual. Psychologists still emphasize on this problem, which today is commonly formulated with regards to heredity against the environment. These philosophical discourses shaped the areas that would be reflected in psychology. However, there was a restriction to the extent the early philosophers could further the perception of human behavior. The strategies of these thinkers were constrained to logic, intuition, and observation.

Conclusion

Historians attribute the writings of Greek philosophers such as Aristotle, as the first noteworthy work to be prolific in psychological thought. These philosophers considered vital issues such as the association of individuals to society, the nature of free will, and the operation

of the mind. For centuries, thinkers continued to have challenges with these concerns, and psychology ultimately developed from the base of philosophy. Moreover, psychology gained its foundations from physiology, another area that had been studied for millennia. In reality, there are founders of psychology that were once scholars of physiology such as William Wundt.

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