

One Plus One Equals Ten, by Binary System

Schenectady, N. Y.—Junior probably won't buy it, but one and one make ten when added on an electronic calculating machine.

On the other hand, he might buy it — considering that under the number system which calculators use, he could learn his addition and multiplication tables in his first day at school.

According to T. M. Berry, General Electric Company engineer, whose work centers about calculating machine design, most "electronic brains" work with a number system based on only two numbers instead of ten.

"Binary System"

The method, known as the "binary system", uses only the symbols "0" and "1" and disregards two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, and nine.

First ten numbers in the system are 1, 10, 11, 100, 101, 110, 111, 1,000, 1,001, and 1010. As compared to the decimal system, 0 is equivalent to 0, 1 is equivalent to 1, 10 is equivalent to 2, 11 is equivalent to 3, etc. "There's nothing tough about it, really," Berry said, "it's just a question of what you're used to."

1949, incidentally, was the year 11110011101.

1 Plus 1 Equals 10

With only two symbols, the addition tables are simplified, to say the least: 0 plus 0 equals 0; 0 plus 1 equals 1; and 1 plus 1 equals 10. Berry thinks a reasonably bright child could commit this mass of information to memory before noon on his first day in school.

The system is used in calculating machines because it simplifies design considerably, Berry explained. If a machine is set up to handle numbers in a decimal system, its parts must be able to react in ten different ways in order to register any number from one to 10. With the binary system, calculating machine parts need register in only two ways: either "1" or "0".

Electrical Devices

Electrical devices are essentially two-position machines, and are ideally suited for handling the binary system, Berry said. The alternatives of "1" and "0" can be registered in a calculating machine as an open or closed switch; as a current flowing in one direction or the other; as a plus or minus ways, each giving a choice between only two alternatives.

The attractiveness of combining electronic tubes and the binary system in a calculating machine can be understood, when one realizes that a tube can handle as many as 5,000,000 alternate choices in a second, according to Berry.

He does not advocate abandoning the decimal system in favor of the binary system for everyday use, one reason being that the binary numbers take up about three times as much room as those of the decimal system. He does, however, find certain features of the binary system tantalizing.

Are Matters of Faith

For instance, there is no way of proving arithmetically that three times four equals 12 in the decimal system, or that two times two equals four. Both are matters of faith, learned by heart. Berry points out that both propositions can be proved with binary numbers.

Three times four becomes 11 times 100 under the binary system, and their product is 1100, which is binary-talk for 12. Two times two becomes 10 times 10, the product of which is 100, or the binary symbol for four.

One times one equals one in both systems, and in both cases is still a matter of faith, Berry admits.



Dr. Hansford D. Johnson

Luke 2:52; telling of Jesus' growth in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and Man, is a remarkable summary, says Dr. Johnson. "It is the pattern on which any normal, ideal life is patterned. Leave out any part and you have a defective character."

Meet . . . YOUR FACULTY

By Martha Martin
Cluster Feature Editor

The white-haired gentleman whom we see each chapel day is Dr. Hansford D. Johnson, dean of the Roberts School of Christianity.

Dr. Johnson, the son of a farmer, is a native South Carolinian. He moved to Georgia as a young man. A graduate of Mercer, he studied for the ministry at the Newton Theological Institution, now the Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. Dr. Johnson held pastorates for 25 years before coming to Mercer ten years ago from the Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Dr. Johnson teaches several Biblical courses and a course in homiletics. He said that he likes teaching very much. "It enables one to have contact with young people who are enlarging and enriching their world of values," he commented.

Medical Students May Take Tests May 13, Nov. 6

PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 10.—The Medical College Admission Test, required of applicants by a number of leading medical colleges throughout the country, will be given twice again during the current calendar year, according to Educational Testing Service, which prepares and administers the test for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Candidates may take the MCAT on Saturday, May 13, 1950, or on Monday, November 6, 1950, at administrations to be held at more than 300 local centers in all parts of the country. The Association of American Medical Colleges, through its Committee on Student Personnel Practices, recommends that candidates for admission to classes starting in the fall of 1951 take the May test. The results will then be available to institutions in the early fall when many medical colleges begin the selection of their next freshman class.

The MCAT consists of tests of general scholastic ability, a test on understanding of modern society, and an achievement test in science. According to ETS, no special preparation other than a review of science subjects is necessary. All questions are of the objective type.

Application forms and a Bulletin of Information, which gives details of registration and administration, as well as sample questions, are available from pre-medical advisers or directly from Educational Testing Service, Box 592, Princeton, N. J. Completed applications must reach the ETS office by April 29 and October 23, respectively, for the May 13 and November 6 administrations.

"We've got to get rid of some of this extraneous noise", snorted a physics prof. He then walked calmly out of the room.

Thinking most of the extraneous noise had just left, some of the students rose to follow. Their joy was short-lived. The prof flipped off the cooling system and stalked back in with more vigor. —"The Daily Texan."

What Do YOU Think?

By Johnny Lewis

Question: Do you think mercy killings are justifiable?

Bobby Simpson, senior, Atlanta—

"No. Many doctors have said that patients are incurable and beyond hope for life, but many patients in this stage have regained health and happiness. Many people do not believe in prayer to save someone, but rely only on the doctors. With the doctor's skill and faith in the Lord, there is always hope."

Sally Serson, senior, Statesboro—

"Yes, mercy killings are justifiable if the case is that the patient in question will die because of an incurable illness. The only trouble is that the question will arise whether a disease is incurable. If a law were passed justifying mercy killings, who would be the person to say whether it was a mercy killing or murder?"

Ronald L. Eason, junior, Macon—

"Absolutely not! In the first place it is not man's prerogative to take life that God has created. The advocates of euthanasia overlook the facts that not more than one case has been declared incurably hopeless, and that many of the sick survived, or that a person in such a serious condition has no (or very little) control over his

senses in regard to those who say the patient should be able to request death. False logic is so elastic."

Rutherford Brown, sophomore, Macon—

"Yes. It is not fair to the incurable person to let him wait for death in agonizing pain. Thousands of dollars are spent annually to keep an incurable person alive only to let him live a longer life of pain. Mercy killings are the only fair things to do for such a person."

Ann Black, junior, Baxley—

"There are so many cases on record of people who have come back to life when it seemed that death was certain and only a matter of minutes or hours, that mercy killing could not be justified. God made us and it is His will whether we live or die. Mercy killing, even with the permission of the victim would be unjustifiable since the situation at the time would greatly influence his mind."

Katherine Wilson, freshman, Eatonton—

"No! I do not believe that any physician has the right to determine whether or not a human being should live. As long as there is a spark of life, it is the duty of the doctor to do everything in his power to save his patient. Anything less than this should be considered murder!"

Theory States People Eighty Percent Dead

Laurence, Kansas — (ACP)—A new speed reading course at the University of Kansas applies the theory that proper seeing is a skill that needs to be learned like playing a piano or speaking French.

The theory was developed by Dr. Samuel Renshaw, experimental psychologist at Ohio State University. He believes that if a person is able to see better, he will also be able to read more accurately and quickly.

"Most people are about 20 percent alive, as far as their basic senses are concerned, says Dr. Renshaw.

The system is applied at the University of Kansas class by flashing digits on a screen. Students write down their impressions and later check for accuracy. The course requires seven weeks.

Phi Mu and Chi Omega Win Girls' Basketball

Phi Mu took Alpha Delta Pi 22 to 9 last Monday night in the first game of the evening. M.I.C.A. was trounced by Chi Omega 30 to 13 in the second game.

High scorers for the various games are as follows: Phi Mu, Molly Wheeler with 16 points; A.D. Pi, Doris Hobby scoring 8 points; Chi Omega, Jane Busbee with 18 points; and M.I.C.A., Barbara Castleberry, making 11 points.

The games next Monday will be played between A.D. Pi and M.I.C.A.; Phi Mu and Chi Omega.

Lots of Dog-gone Room



When a sportsman asked Fisher Body officials how many hunting dogs could get comfortably into the expanded luggage compartment of a 1949 Fisher Body, a quick experiment was made with the results seen above—a three-star success. The extra room permits more luggage, too.

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—Rūbāiyat of Omar Khayyām

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