

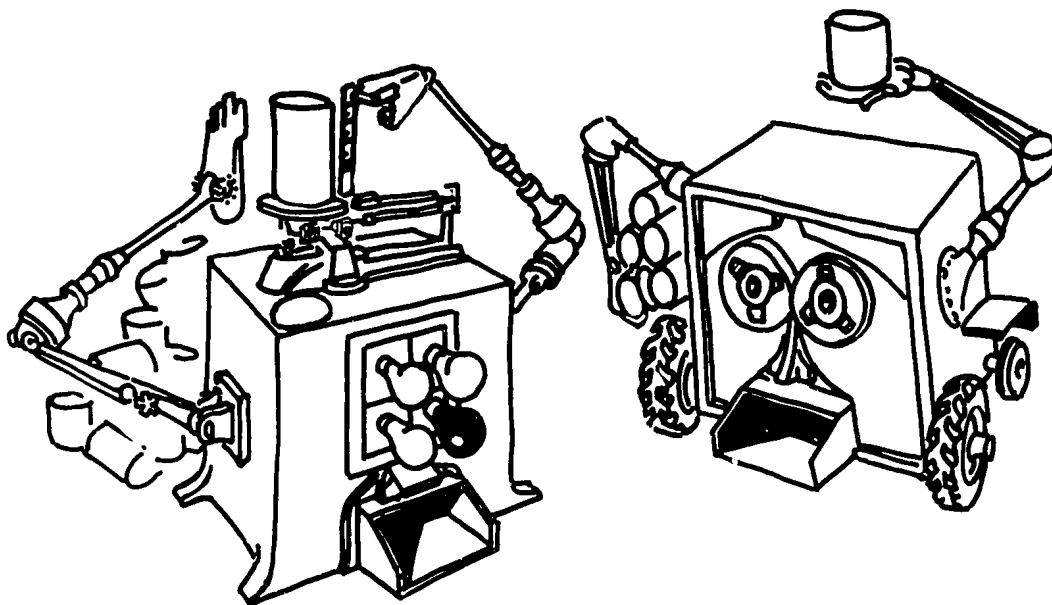


FIGURE 4

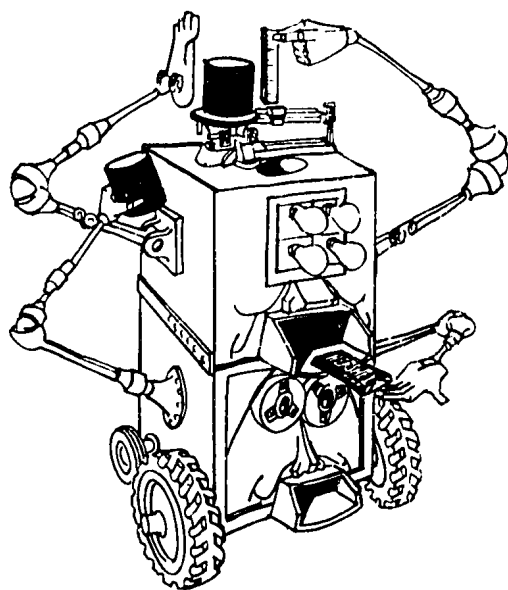


FIGURE 5

digestable foodstuff for his permanent partner, who acts as sensor and effector.

May I assure you that there exist today neither conceptual nor technological difficulties to realize such automata in mechanical and electronic hardware. Indeed, we have the theoretical and technological

know-how to construct systems in comparison to which the two characters of my little allegory would look like simpletons. Given a bit more time, I venture to say that in comparison with these future automata, even we may look like simpletons.

Since man is limited in his capacity to process information and to make complex decisions, and since man's environment becomes more and more intricate, because it is more and more defined by man's own complexity, it is not absurd to predict that within one generation adaptive, decision making automata will play a decisive role in charting the course of human events.

I am sure that most of us agree that we are today in the midst of a major transformation of the human condition, and I am convinced that in this period of transition the role of the psychiatrist will be of paramount importance, because it will be he who will have to deal with the frustrations resulting from our incapacity to communicate with these future automata.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. American Collegiate Dictionary. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1948. (It may be noted that Webster's New World Dictionary,