Modern experimental psychology was founded in Germany in 1878 and was brought to China in the late 1910s. However, psychologists and historians have done little research into how and in what ways the new psychology were brought from the West to China. Using the psychological works of Chen Daqi (a scholar now commonly regarded as the first psychologists in China) as exemplars, I will argue that a strong sense of pragmatism, the ideology which prevailed the Chinese academia in the late 1910s, largely affected the transference of psychological knowledge from the West to China in the first decade of the Republican era.