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The Use of the Wechsler-Bellvue Intelligence Test in the Study of Mental Deterioration

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PERCEPTION OF BODY TILT

EARL SCHUBERT

In the experimental runs the subject sat in a chair on a platform about five feet square. The platform could be tilted either by the experimenter or by manipulations on the part of the subject. The amount of tilt was controlled by means of a hydraulic system, which was relatively silent. The subject was carefully blindfolded during all trials. For each trial the experimenter set the platform at a pre-determined angle of tilt and then signalled the subject to bring himself back to the level position. Measurements were made for both longitudinal (forward-backward) and lateral (sidewise) tilt. The principal finding was that "errors of adjustment" were less for lateral than for longitudinal directions of tilt.

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THE USE OF THE WECHSLER-BELLVUE INTELLIGENCE TEST IN THE STUDY OF MENTAL DETERIORATION

BERNARD WEBB

It has been suggested that the Wechsler-Bellvue intelligence test may be useful in the study of mental deterioration. The general purpose of this paper, then, is to investigate the usefulness of this test in measuring mental deteriorations and discerning its nature. This, in turn, involves two problems: (1) Do the various types of mental deterioration show characteristic test score patterns? (2) Is it possible, by the use of the differential test score method (balancing of certain sub test scores affected by mental deterioration against the sub test scores of those which are relatively unaffected), to devise differential indices for the various types of mental deterioration?

In answering the first question, two methods were used. The first method was that of determining the mean of the sub test scores in each diagnostic group and arranging in rank order. The other method used was that of considering the significant devia-

tions of the individual sub test scores from the mean of each individual test.

As to the second problem, Wechsler has proposed a ratio that he feels will hold in normal and organic mental deterioration, and Dr. A. I. Rabin has proposed a differential ratio for schizophrenic deterioration. The validity of both ratios was checked.

The test results used were those of approximately 80 schizophrenics, 15 epileptics, 25 paretics, and 15 alcoholics.

The results from this particular group so far tend to show no significant differences in the test score patterns of the various psychoses, and the proposed ratios to be of little use. The Wechsler-Bellvue test seems to be only what it was devised to be, i.e., a test of intelligence and of very little value in the study of mental deterioration.

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