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The Measurement of Motility in Children

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Our program has been:

1. To determine experimentally what kinds of stimuli, associations, and reactions are most natural and basic, thus leading to the measurement of inherent rather than acquired abilities.
2. To secure a simple and practical device which can be transported, set up, and operated without difficulty.
3. To control as far as possible every variable in the procedure, objective and subjective.
4. To measure the performance in this test of certain homogeneous, representative groups of persons.
5. To correlate the results obtained with achievement in the particular vocational or industrial pursuits involved by means of practical criteria.

Suitable apparatus having been devised and the test standardized, we have investigated its value for (1) indicating general motor capacity by a comparison of scores of 158 university sophomores in this test and in seven other motor tests; (2) predicting the probable competence or incompetence of beginners in telegraphy by testing 173 men in the Army Vocational School at this University; (3) the analysis of native capacity of ninety music students for musical action; (4) the prediction of skill in typewriting based on about 280 cases from various commercial courses.

THE MEASUREMENT OF MOTILITY IN CHILDREN

LILLIAN TOW

What we expect and demand in discipline and performance at each age should depend upon a child's development, mental, physical, and functional.

In this laboratory the evaluation for scientific and diagnostic purposes of motor rather than mental capacities is being stressed. The object of this investigation is to find what the motor equipment of children is on entering school. The discovery of the basic motor tests which applied at five and six years of age will give results which are reliable and significant in that they throw light on motor ability. Previous investigations on young children have had for their fundamental purpose the comparison of mental and motor traits. The aim of this study is to investigate the responses of as many different sets of muscles as possible and to compare these responses one with another to see if the nature of one is an index to a corresponding nature in another.

The phases which have been especially studied are:

1. Strength
2. Steadiness of motor coördination
3. Speed and accuracy of voluntary movement
4. Rapidity of movement
5. Quickness of response

The results of such an investigation will help to determine:

1. The movements children can best make
2. The relative ability of children and adults
3. The development of motor control with age
4. The variation of motor control due to sex
5. The variation of motor control in individuals
6. The correlation of motor and mental ability

THE SELECTION OF TALENT FOR STENOGRAPHY AND TYPING

BENJAMIN W. ROBINSON

H. C. Link states that "The application of psychological tests in those fields where their value has been verified, is the only method short of the laborious and costly method of trial and error, which makes it possible to discover the exact ability, both innate and acquired, of an individual. Unless these facts are known, it becomes impossible to assign the individual to the work for which he is best fitted or to give him the training which he deserves. Once the potential and actual ability of an individual has been discovered the vocational selection or training of that individual can be decided with a measurable degree of intelligence."

In our study of measurement of natural capacity and aptitude for stenography and typewriting, the first problem was that of verifying the value of the tests to be used. The mental and motor capacities necessary for a good stenographer and typist were analyzed and two mental and motor tests were selected to be tested as measures of these capacities.

Advanced shorthand and typing students were tested by means of these four tests to determine whether or not the same individual differences were brought out by the tests as those which showed up in the actual work in shorthand and typing. The results in the tests were correlated with the instructor's ranking of the individuals in shorthand and typing as well as with the results of a speed test in typing, and a positive correlation was found to exist.