

IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE INTELLIGENCE FROM PICTURES

Individuals attempting to judge intelligence from photographs can obtain as accurate results with their eyes closed as with them open is the decision of Dr. Donald A. Laird and Herman Remmers of Colgate University.

Nearly 400 persons were asked to arrange ten or more pictures of persons of measured intelligence. Select the brainiest or most intelligent faces and arrange them in a descending order of intelligence, were the instructions. It was found that women were no better judges of intelligence than the men, but that both men and women had a tendency to rate women a little higher in the scale than men.

Groups of four or five were asked to work together with the same unreliable result. The tests were gone over again by a professional "character reader and vocational expert" and he did not better than the average person in arranging the pictures.

Other conclusions arrived at as a result of the tests were "Older persons have no better abilities in this than do the younger, and the more intelligent persons have no better abilities in this than persons with less intelligence."

"The average-person-at-large still possesses a large modicum of belief in his abilities in 'sizing up' others by appearances," the investigators comment. "The school superintendent demands a picture of the candidates for positions in the public schools. No picture, no job. A picture taken within certain date limits is one of the necessary qualifications for entering the consular service. And so the gauntlet runs from federal to individual in accepting their abilities in estimating certain characteristics from personal appearance, more especially from photographs."

SEES AIRPLANE AS PLAGUE CARRIER

Spread of plagues into regions as yet free from them is a danger than threatens with the increased use of airplanes in long distance traffic, according to Air Commodore David Munro, of the British air service. In his presidential address to the Society of Medical Officers of Health, Commodore Munro pointed out that though there is at present no yellow fever in India, the species of mosquito instrumental in its spread is abundant, and that it would require only one fever patient to start an epidemic there. Similarly, an air-borne victim of sleeping sickness from Africa might start the disease in some other tropical region at present unvisited with this scourge. At present, with the bulk of travel carried in steamers, quarantine rules are comparatively easy to enforce, but the development of air traffic wipes out sanitary frontiers as effectively as it does military ones.

CHESTNUT BLIGHT TAKES GIANT LEAP

The chestnut blight, which has till now been supposed to have reached only to central Virginia, has taken a tremendous stride and appeared in southwestern North Carolina, according to G. F. Gravatt of the Office of Forest Pathology, United States Department of Agriculture. On a recent reconnaissance trip in the south Mr. Gravatt discovered a considerable area in the famous Saluda district of the Blue Ridge Mountains which showed signs of severe blighting. He estimates that