

TEST SHOWS WOMEN MORE IRRITABLE THAN MEN

That women are more irritable than men has been generally admitted, but a woman physiologist has now brought definite proof that this is so. Miss Emily Williams of the University of Illinois proved it by means of the knee-jerk test on 63 men and 70 women. This test, Miss Williams said, is considered a reliable index to the general body tone and irritability.

The women proved to be the highest kickers, it was found, and exceeded the men by 42 per cent. in the distance kicked. When a sharp blow of a little less than 2 ounces was applied to the knee ligament, the men kicked to an average height of not quite 14 inches but the women to more than 19 inches. The men, however, were more irregular, for both the highest and lowest kickers were found among them. The knee-jerk was absent in men much more frequently than in women.

"The knee-jerk is now used to diagnose injuries to the spinal cord," Miss Williams explained. "In the disease known as locomotor ataxia certain nerve tracts are injured and the jerk is lessened or lost altogether, depending on the severity of the disease. The same is true in infantile paralysis. According to the results of various investigators, practically any variation in the general bodily tone or irritability will be shown in the knee-jerk.

"One investigator found that the jerk was affected by exercise, cold baths, food, music and mental activity. Another observed that hunger greatly increased the response. Two others, in studying the factors which increase and lessen the knee-jerk, noticed that any painful stimulation of the nerves as by pinching, burning, freezing, electric shock, or exposure of the eyes to the glare of a burning magnesium wire increased the distance of the kick.

"In this experiment," Miss Williams continued, "college students between the ages of 18 and 24 were used and all the tests were made on normal subjects under similar conditions. A uniform blow of 50 grams, or less than 2 ounces, was insured by means of a simple machine. Each subject registered about 100 kicks, and the results showed that women are definitely more irritable than men."

WHAT IS MAHOGANY? QUESTION NOW UP TO FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

When is mahogany not mahogany? The U. S. Federal Trade Commission is called upon to solve this riddle, which has more than a little commercial importance. There are a number of dark reddish tropical hardwoods that lay claim to this name, which came to mean in woods what "sterling" means on silver, not long after the discovery of America.

The first woods to be called mahogany were from the tree genus known to botanists at Swietenia. The five species in this genus have no common English names, and their wood is known simply by locality names, like "Honduras mahogany", "Cuban mahogany", etc. Woods of similar appearance, though not necessarily of the genus Swietenia, are marketed under the trade names of "Philippine mahogany", "African mahogany", and similar titles. The Federal Trade Commission is now trying to decide whether the use of the name "mahogany" should be restricted to the single genus that first made it popular, or whether it should be broadly interpreted to include all species now bearing it.
