WOMEN'S FINGERS WORK FASTER THAN MEN'S

A method of measuring the speed in an individual's fingers has been devised. The test has been applied to 1,021 women applying for work in the shops of an electrical company and the results are described in a recent issue of the Journal of Personnel Research by Mildred Hines and Johnson O'Connor.

The equipment used by the experimenters consisted of nothing more than 300 brass pins and a flat metal plate in which 100 holes were drilled part way through. Candidates for work requiring agile fingers are asked to pick the pins from a tray in which they are piled loosely and to place three pins in each drilled hole in the plate as rapidly as possible. They are instructed to try to pick up the pins three at a time in order to make maximum speed. Individuals vary widely in this test. The fastest finish in less than six minutes and the slowest require from twelve to fifteen minutes.

Since the inauguration of this test seventy-seven new women workers have been assigned to the fine meter or instrument work requiring finger dexterity. Subsequent records show that more than 85 per cent of these women are successful in the work. The test also showed that women are much better adapted for this work than are men.

The test is said to eliminate much of the guess work and personal equation factor in the hiring of workers for this type of work.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

METHODS OF DESCRIPTIVE SYSTEMATIC BOTANY. By A. S. Hitchcock. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1925. When you strike a citation in a botany book like this:"Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi" (L.) Spreng." or "Panicum flexile (Gattinger) Scribn., what does it mean? You may have been successful in a routine "keying out" of the plant in your hand; but how did the men work who gave it the name you have found, by what authority did they give it that name, and why are their own names or abbreviations tacked on afterward, as a kind of seal? What do you really know about taxonomy, anyhow? Most of us don't know anything about it: we know the literature of botany or zoology (perhaps), but we don't know the grammar. Professor Hitchcock does for the present generation of young botanists what De Candolle did for those of the past, who were lucky enough to be able to read French readily; he gives us in compact and simple and readable form a book of the rules of the game of systematic botany. This small volume is one of the few books turned out recently that can honestly be called indisponsable in every botanist's working library.

TNT mines have been used by the Coast Guard in the attempt to break up giant icebergs in the northern Atlantic.

How ice loads down a tree was shown by weighing pine needles: the ice laden branches weighed 13 times as much as the others.
