

In hysteric individuals, he explained, the two wills become separate and antagonistic factors in the personality. The hypobulic will attaches itself to an easily excitable group of ideas and is continually being brought by them into the foreground. When this false contact is loosened, the two types of will unite again, and the hysteria is cured.

Hysteria was described by Dr. Mayer as a turning away from actualities. The rational mind, finding some situations in life unsatisfactory, shifts the burden of its inefficiency to lower mental mechanisms.

"Mussolini is hypobulic," he said, "because he is playing like a hysteric with low-threshold stimuli to which he responds with all his being rather than to reasoning motivated conduct.

"Hypobulia exists as the predominant attribute of a strong personality, for it is not a weak-will at any time. The fanatical prohibitionist is an example of a hypobulic personality."

TOO MUCH INTELLIGENCE TESTING, SAYS CHILD EXPERT

"There is too much of a tendency to reduce human intelligence, human behavior, and human beings in general to mathematical quotients," declared Dr. H. W. Potter, who addressed the recent meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Potter deplored the tendency to brand troublesome individuals as mentally deficient merely because they grade low on formally administered mental tests.

"Such diagnosis may easily result in gross injustice and real harm," he said.

Apparent mental deficiency or backwardness may be due to many causes other than lack of intelligence, he pointed out:

"It is not uncommon to find a child more or less retarded in school who is reacting with some anti-social behavior because of emotional or temperamental instability, certain home situations that seem to perplex and worry him, troubles between his parents, or illness. He may have a glandular disorder which could seriously affect his mental condition. Mental retardation may come as an aftermath to sleeping sickness.

"It is absolutely necessary to probe into all of these factors, before the diagnosis of mental defect can be made with certainty. Once such difficulties are cleared up, the backward child may be found to be endowed with normal intelligence, indeed, possibly superior intelligence."

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