



Applied Zoology

KEEN observation and accurate knowledge of the ways of animals may be only an intellectual pastime in civilized lands where life is easy and food comes out of a slot machine or a can, but to the Eskimo such knowledge is the price of survival itself.

How ingeniously his wisdom about animals is used by this man of the Far North, "who can make the most out of nothing," is told in *Natural History* (May), by its editor, Dr. Edward Weyer. Dr. Weyer spent several years studying the Eskimo, observing them in Alaska and North Greenland.

Wolves are a pet hate of the Eskimo. They are extremely difficult to shoot or trap, as any white hunter can tell you. Yet Okluk can make them kill themselves. One trick is to smear the blade of a sharp knife with blood, then bury the handle firmly in the snow, leaving only the blade sticking upright. The wolf, scenting blood, comes and licks eagerly. So avid is he that he does not notice he has cut his tongue, and that it is now his own blood he is licking. In the end he bleeds to death.

Another trick on the wolf is to take a slender, flexible piece of whalebone, like an old-fashioned corset stay. This is sharpened on both ends, bent into a spring-like loop tied with sinew, and embedded in a lump of fat. This is put outside to freeze, then thrown where the wolf will find it. The ravenous beast "wolves it down" at a gulp, the digestive juices loosen the sinew, and the sharpened ends of the whalebone spring to inflict fatal internal wounds.

Seals are the Eskimo's prime source of both food and clothing. They are exceedingly difficult to stalk, yet Okluk

has learned to imitate their movements so well that if necessary he can creep right up alongside of them as they bask at the edge of open water. He even imitates the scratching sounds they make as they flipper along. Then when close enough, a quick grip on a flipper with one hand, a knife thrust home with the other—and Okluk has his seal.

Science News Letter, June 10, 1939

PSYCHOLOGY

"Wandering IQ" Claim Is Disputed by Psychologist

HEATED discussion among scientists over the so-called "Wandering IQ" will concern parents who naturally want their children's intelligence quotient (IQ) to do any wandering in the upward direction.

The IQ, according to one school of thought, is no fixed thing determined before birth by the child's selection of ancestors. Environment, say these psychologists, can move the IQ up or down. Children taken from stupid parents and adopted by intellectual foster parents will grow in mental stature so that the quotient, which is mental age divided by chronological age, actually increases.

Sending your child to a good nursery school while he is still very young, these investigators contend, may change him from an average youngster to a genius.

"Don't grasp at the bubble," is the warning to be taken from a criticism of such claims appearing in the *Journal of Psychology*. "Statistical incompetence under the influence of wishful thinking," is the verdict of Dr. Benjamin R. Simpson, educational psychologist of Western Reserve University, who holds faulty statistical methods responsible for the evidence obtained at the University of Iowa for the "wandering IQ."

The conclusions, he indicates, are based on average scores for the whole group rather than on a comparison of Johnny at the age of two with Johnny when he is ten. The dropping out of children at the lower end of the IQ scale would influence results greatly, and this influence was not taken into account, he charges.

Meanwhile, in a new study at the Rhode Island College of Education, Dr. Grace E. Bird has made a comparison of IQ scores of nursery school children with later scores of the same individual children.

The IQ's she found, were sufficiently constant to indicate that the test is still valuable when administered under stable conditions. But some individuals go

RADIO

Prof. Samuel W. Fernberger, psychologist of the University of Pennsylvania, will be the guest scientist on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Monday, June 19, 5:45 EDST, 4:45 EST, 3:45 CST, 2:45 MST, 1:45 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Monday.

up or down in IQ apparently because of their tendency to variability and quite regardless of either change of environment or unevenness of maturation. One child gained as much as 25 points. But the average gain was only 5 points, the average loss, the same.

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A hitherto unknown herd of 400 wild horses was found in Wyoming during an airplane round-up count of wild life.

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