

MEDICINE

Safe Ski Binding Urged For Mountain Troops

► THE NEW TYPE of ski binding favored by sportsmen should be abandoned by Uncle Sam's mountain troops in favor of an older style, "safe" binding, Dr. John R. Moritz, of Sun Valley, Ida., advises (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Jan. 9).

About three-fourths of all ski injuries during the past three years at Sun Valley were the result of twisting strain, Dr. Moritz reports.

"Translated into terms of disability, this represents over 90%," he adds.

This group of injuries could be reduced to a minimum, he states, by using the old style safe binding which allows the foot to become disengaged from the ski when severe twisting strain is applied. The new type of binding, developed to give greater skill in racing and greater control in making turns, limits the motion of the foot on the ski to a hingelike action of a few degrees.

"When the ski point becomes fixed in heavy snow," Dr. Moritz explains, "the foot also becomes fixed. Consequently the weight of the body going forward makes it necessary for something to give and it is usually the lower extremity."

Science News Letter, January 16, 1943

PSYCHOLOGY

Failure in School Can Be Predicted by Blot Test

► SCHOOL SUCCESS or failure can be predicted by means of the Rorschach, or inkblot test, it is indicated by a study of 166 junior high school students by Dr. Helen Margulies of Queens College, Flushing, N. Y., (*Archives of Psychology*, July).

Psychologists have long been puzzled by the failure of intelligent pupils, reports Dr. Margulies. Previous studies using standard psychological tests and techniques, have failed to show any cogent reason for this, as one eminent psychologist put it. It was recognized that emotional problems, or maladjustment, are no guarantee of failure, any more than a high I.Q. is a guarantee of success. Some method of measuring the total personality, in response to its environment, was lacking.

The inkblot test, devised in 1911 by a Swiss psychiatrist named Rorschach, purports to be just such a method. It consists of ten inkblot pictures, five of

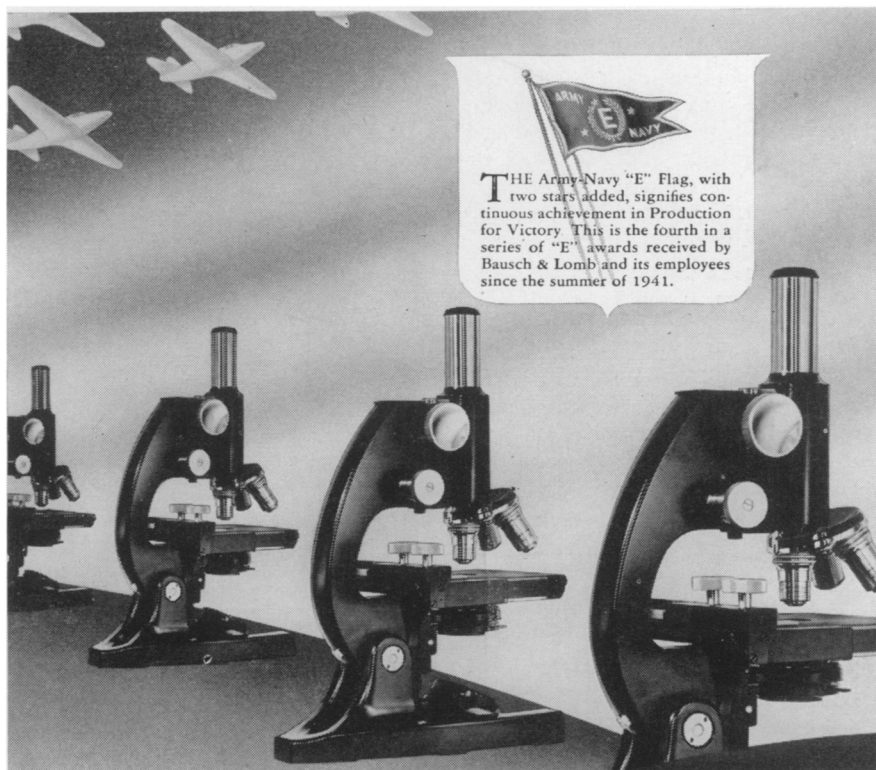
them brightly colored and five black and gray. The subject is asked to tell what he sees in them, much like seeing figures in clouds. Some patterns of response indicate normality, others schizophrenia, and so on. Experts can make very minute and specialized distinctions on the basis of ten little inkblots.

Widely used by psychiatrists to aid diagnosis, the Rorschach test had never been fully established as a method for determining the efficient or inefficient use of mental capacities, as claimed. The present study by Dr. Margulies was undertaken to investigate this claim, and

also to find out whether the Rorschach would reveal significant differences between successful and unsuccessful students. Positive results were obtained on both counts.

One hundred and sixty-six junior high students of above-average or superior intelligence were given Rorschach tests. Those who were failing in school-work showed certain combinations of traits and the successful group showed significantly different combinations, which can be used to predict success or failure, according to Dr. Margulies.

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