

MEDICINE

Profile System Urged

If Army classified men according to their qualifications for specific Army jobs, instead of overall standards, many rejects could be used.

► THE ARMED FORCES could draw on many of the 30% to 35% of men called up for draft who are now being rejected without decreasing efficiency if they instituted the profile system of classifying all potential draftees. By use of this system they could place men with minor physical and mental defects in jobs they could handle adequately.

This is the opinion of members of the committee on physical standards in the Armed Forces of the National Research Council, all of whom are doctors.

Two years ago a similar committee, set up to advise the Armed Forces, recommended to them the appointment of a high level body to study the profile system. This was not done. Therefore, the committee, which met a month ago, will shortly send another recommendation to the Armed Forces, this time much stronger.

The profile classification system entails finding out the minimum physical and mental qualifications necessary to perform each of the thousands of different jobs to be found in the Armed Forces. To take an extreme example, a man with an artificial leg might have the qualifications necessary to perform the duties of a typist—although he couldn't qualify as an infantryman.

While the committee, headed by Dr. John Stewart of the University of Buffalo, does not expect the Armed Forces to take one-legged men, it believes that many uses could be found for men now being rejected for minor physical handicaps if their capabilities were compared with job qualifications under the profile system.

Right now, if a man has one minor

physical handicap which disqualifies him for the draft, no record of his potential capabilities is kept. He is rejected and, so far as the Armed Forces are concerned, he is marked unfit to do any of the jobs in the Army, Navy or Air Force.

Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey has complained about the high rate of rejections in the present draft. He finds it difficult to fill the needs of the Army from the limited pool of otherwise qualified men in the 19 to 26 age bracket. Former Secretary of War Robert Patterson has spoken of the "fantastic physical standards" set up by the Armed Forces.

However, the Army, at least, is interested in the profile system. Right now experts are going over all the thousands of job classifications, fitting them with the minimum physical and mental standards necessary to fill the jobs. The Army experimented with a profile system toward the end of World War II and is classifying samples of potential draftees by the profile system right now.

The Navy and the Air Force, on the other hand, have systems of their own.

Although Army officials say that a profile system would be instituted the day total mobilization became necessary, some of them are reluctant to use it during partial mobilization. They believe it is necessary to keep standards high because the men entering service now will have to be the leaders and the teachers of men to come in under total mobilization. Therefore, they say, minimum physical and mental standards necessary to do the job are not enough.

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● RADIO

Saturday, December 23, 1950, 3:15-3:30 p.m., EST

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Howard Meyerhoff, Executive Secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science, will discuss "A Preview of Christmas and Big Science Meetings of the Week."

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