

YOU ARE JUST A STATISTIC

This is how you will look as a statistic when your census record comes to Washington. No longer identified by name, you become a numbered card; and the information you give to the census taker is transferred straight from his big schedule sheet to the card as a code consisting of punched holes. When run through electric tabulating machines, the punches can be counted with uncanny speed and unerring accuracy for compiling census reports on the state of the nation.

PSYCHOLOGY

Ink Blots Serve as Clue For Predicting Success of Insulin

Things That Patients See in Fantastic Outlines Give Doctors an Idea of Degree of Mental Ill

INK BLOTS promise to prevent many of those grim disappointments which follow the failure of a mental patient to respond to the new insulin shock treatment on which so many hopes are pinned.

A method for sorting out in advance those who can be healed by the shocking, expensive treatment from those who can not was reported by Dr. Zygmunt Piotrowski, Columbia University psychologist, to the meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Atlantic City.

The insulin treatment has brought

about dramatic restoration of those afflicted with the living death of schizophrenia or dementia praecox, one of the most frequent of all the mental diseases. But insulin can not cure everyone.

The clues used by Dr. Piotrowski are ink blots. They look like ordinary ink blots such as you might make by dropping blobs of colored ink on paper and then creasing the paper so as to spread the ink in fanciful patterns.

Sixty schizophrenics at the New York Psychiatric Institute and Hospital were asked to look at these Rorschach ink blots and tell what they saw, just as you

might vision pictures in clouds or curling smoke.

From their answers and with no other knowledge of the patients or their symptoms or history, Dr. Piotrowski made his predictions of the outcome of the insulin treatment.

These "blind" predictions were hits in 53 out of the 60 cases—a record accuracy of 88%. This is the highest accuracy that has ever been obtained in predicting the outcome of the new insulin therapy.

The ink blot is no crystal ball in which to see reflected the future of the patient. Dr. Piotrowski is able to make his predictions by comparing the responses of his patients with those of other persons. Answers similar to those suffering from a badly deteriorated brain indicate a very bad outlook for recovery after the treatment. Answers indicating that the patient is not making full use of what intellectual powers he has are hopeful. Those already doing their best are unlikely to improve. Those who are intellectually unimpaired but who are in a depressed state are likely to improve markedly.

The experiment was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, director of the Psychiatric Institute.

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Census Will Have Errors

AS THE Census Man rings America's doorbell during these current weeks, he will collect a certain number of lies along with his facts. These will be due to the attitudes of the men and women questioned, Dr. J. B. Maller, of New York University, told the Eastern Psychological Association, and some of them will have nothing to do with the recent discussion over income questions.

Men and women hate to be 40 years old. This Dr. Maller discovered from a study of several reports of the U. S. Census. They also seem to object to being 30 and 50. The number of persons giving their ages at 29, 39, and 49 are consistently and significantly larger than those admitting to 30, 40 and 50. Even fewer will admit to 31, 41, or 51.

Older people, on the contrary, prefer the round numbers. More people give their ages as 70, 80 and 100 than claim 69, 79 or 99.

Recent legislation concerning child labor and social security will affect the accuracy of age records, Dr. Maller said. But it is important, he indicated, to consider the attitudes of the persons questioned when evaluating the answers.

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