

other; fifth, by bringing this continuous reservoir-pipe into communication with the brake-cylinders at pleasure, through the agency of compressed air admitted from the main reservoir into the other brake-pipe; sixth, by such construction and arrangement of intermediate devices that, by simply discharging compressed air from this continuous reservoir-pipe, a communication will be opened from the auxiliary reservoir to the brake-cylinder, whereby the brakes will be applied; seventh, by a system of valves and ports, which shall effectuate all these results by their automatic action, except as their action is governed by the engineer at the main reservoir.

Science News Letter, June 11, 1932

PSYCHOLOGY

Intelligence Tests Not Good For Measuring Immigrants

INTELLIGENCE tests now available must be revised or the methods of scoring changed before they are satisfactory for testing immigrants, it appears from a report of Dr. Lawrence Kolb, senior surgeon of the U. S. Public Health Service, before the meeting of the American Association for the Study of the Feebleminded.

The law now provides that no mental defectives shall be admitted to this country. But although psychologists have devised special tests which do not require the use of language, the scores on these tests do not give a true picture of the mental ability of the person tested, Dr. Kolb found. His conclusion is based on the results of tests given to 3,000 persons desiring to enter this country from Europe.

Men do conspicuously better on these non-verbal, or performance tests than do women, although there is no reason to suppose that the men are more intelligent than the women. Children able to read and write do the tests as well as their illiterate mothers, and, because of the difference in age attain a higher intelligence quotient, which is mental age divided by actual age. Young adults do better than older adults. And the difference between the illiterates and those who can read is very high.

These facts seem to indicate that ability on the tests depends to some extent at least upon the stimulating character of the environment and upon the education as well as upon innate capacity which they are supposed to measure, Dr. Kolb believes.

Science News Letter, June 11, 1932

SOCIOLOGY

Depression and Race Suicide Are Blamed on Rush to City

ECONOMIC problems such as the present depression, as well as sociological problems like race suicide, may have their origin in the recent rush of people to large cities, it was pointed out by an address of Dr. Clarence G. Campbell, president of the Eugenics Research Association.

The city population of the United States was greater than the rural population by 5.8 per cent. in 1920, but by 1930 the excess had jumped to 28.3 per cent., Dr. Campbell told the meeting. This change in the population has been associated with important economic changes, he pointed out.

If prices and production in both city and country were so arranged that the city dwellers used all the produce of the country and paid sufficient to enable the rural population to absorb all the urban manufactures, then all would be well, he said.

"But suppose on the other hand that the urban community, from some cause, places a higher relative value upon its products and its services, and takes the arbitrary stand that the total rural products are only equivalent in value to two-thirds, say, of its own total production. For a time it might continue to produce this excess third, under the impression that the rural community, or parties unknown, would come forward with something to exchange for it. But it would

before long cease to produce this superfluous third which it could not exchange, and the urban element concerned in this production would be without employment and without means to exchange for its substance."

Such a situation, Dr. Campbell said, leads to the condition with which we have become familiar of great surpluses, both of urban and of rural products, which can find no market for their exchange, and of great numbers of able individuals who cannot be employed.

Science News Letter, June 11, 1932

ECONOMICS

Rubber Cheaper Than Wood Used for Kindling in England

RAW RUBBER now selling for less than kindling wood is being used to light open fires in many British homes. Cut into strips, one pound of rubber costing about five cents will serve to kindle seven or eight ordinary fires. Although not generally realized, crude rubber burns easily without any offensive smell. The British owners of rubber plantation stocks are encouraging the use of rubber in starting the coal fires of England in order to dispose of the excess that has depressed the price below the cost of production.

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