

*Teachers' Reactions to Maladjustments of School-Children.* (*Brit. Journ. Educ. Psychol.*, vol. iv, p. 11, Feb., 1934.) Laycock, S. R.

As the result of a questionnaire submitted to 167 elementary school teachers, the author found that the teachers laid more emphasis on violations of general standards of morality and integrity, transgressions against authority, violations of school and classroom regulations and other school-work regulations than on pupil's difficulties with other children or on undesirable personality traits. The ratings of a Canadian group for seriousness were compared with Wickman's findings for a group of mental hygienists, who almost reverse the ratings of the teachers. The writer pleads for the training of teachers in mental hygiene.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Behaviour and Personality Difficulties in School-Children.* (*Brit. Journ. Educ. Psychol.*, vol. iv, p. 30, Feb., 1934.) McFie, B. S.

From the experience of the Department of Psychological Medicine at Guy's Hospital, it was found that personality difficulties in school-children were drawn unduly from the group of active behaviour disorders or habit disorders of a type disturbing to parents. Personality deviations were not recognized for their full significance in all cases; they exist to a disturbing extent in our school-children. The figure yielded by the survey, made in this paper by school teachers, of 46% must be taken as a considerable under-estimate, since many difficulties cannot be discovered by observation at schools.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Mental Ability and its Relation to Physical Health and Social Economic Status.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxii, p. 101, June-Aug., 1933.) Maller, J. B.

The study is based upon the investigation of 100,098 fifth-grade pupils enrolled in 579 New York public schools. The populations of these schools were found to differ enormously in regard to mental ability and physical health. Similar variability was found among the neighbourhoods of the city, with regard to vital indices and social economic measures. Mental ability was found to correlate positively with measures of health and with index of social economic status. Even when social economic status is held constant, the correlation between intelligence and health remains significantly positive. Mental ability was found to correlate negatively with death-rate, birth-rate, infant mortality and juvenile delinquency. There is some reason to suspect the presence of a factor common to measures of intelligence, physical vitality and vocational and social adjustment.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Further Data on the Stanford-Binet VIII- and IX-Year Tests.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxii, p. 94, June-Aug., 1933.) Wallin, J. E. W.

Some of these tests are too easy and some are too difficult. This part of the Stanford-Binet scale is in need of thorough revision. Life and experience exert a positive influence on some tests. The reactions to psychological tests may differ for normal, subnormal and mentally deficient children of the same intelligence (Binet) level. The "unselected" groups of children, on which norms are usually based, and which are assumed to represent symmetrical distributions of cases, may, in fact, be based upon highly "skewed" distributions. The Stanford-Binet scale is a less valid measure of intelligence for adults than for children.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Another Attempt at Measures of Extraversion-Introversion.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxii, p. 88, June-Aug., 1933.) Roberts, C. S., and Fisher, V. E.

The usual tests upon which these measures are based are not even theoretically valid; the tests do not place the subject in an actual situation, but only require him to imagine it. Further, many of the tests have a wholly insignificant coefficient of correlation with each other. The authors experimented with 35 university

students. Each was first interviewed, for 30 to 60 minutes, and graded, as regards extraversion-introversion, on a linear scale. Each then filled out a Bernreuter "personality inventory". Finally, each was tested with a modification of Snoddy's mirror-tracing device. The results show that the personality inventory and the mirror-tracing test are not measuring the same thing. On the other hand, there was a significant correlation between the personal judgment ratings and the time in the mirror-tracing test. The validity of the inventory type of test is highly questionable.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Reaction of Native White Convicts to the Bernreuter Personality Inventory.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxii, p. 138, June-Aug., 1933.) Hargan, J.

The inventory was administered to 100 consecutive white admissions to Sing Sing Prison, New York. The results show that this inventory possesses distinct value in the case of subjects of a mental age of twelve years or more, so that there is no trouble with reading the questions. The research will be continued. In all these investigations we must remember that we are dealing with a convicted group, and that the findings do not necessarily apply to the "criminal" group as a whole.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*A Review of Experiments on Humour.* (*Psychol. Bull.*, vol. xxx, p. 752, Dec., 1933.) Perl, R. E.

Many different types of statements, anecdotes and situations have been considered funny, and have been classified according to their appeal. Neither intelligence nor personality type are closely connected with appreciation of humour in general, but the preferred jokes seem to be influenced by these factors. The surprise element ranks high with children. College students appreciate naïve jokes, or those based upon the inferiority of another person. Extraverts prefer jokes based upon superiority of the exposure of unrevealed thoughts, while introverts prefer jokes connected with repressions. Suggestion plays an important part in judgments of humour.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Associative Tendencies in Psychoneurotics.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxii, p. 108, June-Aug., 1933.) Tandler, A. D.

An attempt was made to apply the free association method to a group of 50 psychoneurotic adults, 12 male and 38 female, ranging in age from 20 to 35 years. Sub-groups of the general classification were disregarded, since pure types of psychoneurotics do not exist. It is possible that there are included two differing groups under the general classification. One group is characterized by a constitutional inadequacy of associative behaviour. This group may be thought of as the true psychoneurotic, whose symptoms develop and become fixed on the basis of connections of an inferior sort, with resulting tensions. The other group, showing no associative pathology, may be regarded as presenting an emotional responsiveness to situational difficulties. We must differentiate between the emotional disturbances of normal individuals and psychoneurotic behaviour. The latter is usually stupid behaviour; the former often involves genuine situational difficulties of considerable complexity. The present study offers a suggestive field for differentiating the psychotic from the psychoneurotic, and for differentiation within the psychoneurotic group.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Sociology of the Neuroses [Soziologie der Neurosen].* (*Arch. für Psychiat.*, vol. xcix, p. 339, 1933.) Birnbaum, K.

This paper deals with the question of the social aspect of the neuroses in the way of a "general sociology", going into more detail for some types only. The author divides his subject into three main chapters: (1) The effect of social life on neurosis; (2) the effect of neurosis on society; and (3) the social treatment of neurosis.

With regard to the effects of social life on neurosis, he emphasizes that