

Those IQ Tests Are They Any Good?

There is a growing suspicion among American educators and parents that we have gone to an extreme in our faith in organized testing. From early school years to college entrance, our children and young people are made to face batteries of tests that are supposed to measure their intelligence, their abilities, their achievements, and their possible success. Of urgent interest, therefore, is the vigorous article by John Kord Lagemann in the December PTA Magazine, "Let's Abolish IQ Tests."

The subject is frankly controversial. The PTA Magazine invites "Opinions by Post." The December Reader's Digest is carrying a condemnation under the title, "Let's Look Again at Those IQ Tests." There is bound to be a wide reaction.

Outside the United States, we are told, only Great Britain makes extensive use of standardized tests to grade and classify talent. "Many countries, including the Soviet Union," Mr. Lagemann says, "have considered them and rejected them completely."

It is common knowledge among educators that children who test with an average or low IQ get different educational treatment throughout their school years from those who test high. "A low IQ may exclude him from the opportunity to discover and develop his talents," the article says. "He may score low because he can't read well, and then be hampered in his chances to learn to read well because he has a low IQ. Scores that are designed 'average' may give him an image of himself as an unpromising person, and he may accept accordingly."

The article lists and discusses some of the "fundamental defects."

Unreliability: Scores vary erratically within a six-month period; a child has scored as gifted and merely average; Inaccuracy: A whole classroom takes them at once. They are short, and contain only a limited number of short questions. Therefore, the answers to

them are often guesses.

Similar to IQ tests are the aptitude tests, most of which are of the "multiple choice" type—that is, the child must choose one of several proffered "solutions." If he does not get a certain number of "right" answers it is assumed that he will not do well in college.

There is much more in the article than I have space to share here. A visit to your public library or school to read it in full in the PTA Magazine can be rewarding. The Reader's Digest's able condensation is also worth your perusal.

A final quote on the defects Mr. Lagemann sees in standardized IQ tests: "... they favor one kind of intelligence and know the correct answers—while they discriminate against such central aspects of intelligence as imagination, creativity, insight."

Modern Etiquette
By Anne Ashley

Q. I have been invited to a wedding and reception, and the bride says I can bring my boy friend with me. Should he be sent a gift, or would it be proper for him to share the cost of mine?

A. He is not expected to do either of these.

BOOK BONANZA—Forgetful Chicago and North Western Railway commuters "donated" more than 1,000 paperback books to Chicago area hospitals. Down Runge stocks the books which have been collecting dust in the railway's Lost and Found department.

GOES AFTER CAMERAMAN FOLLOWING TRIAL—Dr. Albert L. Weiner, 44-year-old osteopathic physician convicted on 12 counts of manslaughter in the hepatitis deaths of a dozen patients, lunges at photographers in Camden, N. J. At upper left is Weiner's wife, Helen.

a few of these, according to the article, make a big difference in the score; yet much depends on a child's motivation when taking the test.

Statistics have indicated that IQ tests favor children of well educated parents. For example, in prosperous suburbs, where a child's home environment exposes him to books, magazines, conversation, and cultural interests, one out of four children scores above 125, while in poor neighborhoods only one out of 16 does so. Thousands of bright youngsters whose home environment is culturally negative are deprived by low IQ ratings of a chance at college and scholarships, writes Millicent Taylor in the Christian Science Monitor.

Cited as the worst wrong this mass testing does to children—and serious for the future of the nation—is that "tests favor the conformist over the creative mind." Mr. Lagemann gives this example: "When asked to define language, a high IQ student wrote, 'It is a form or manner of expression.' A high-creativity student wrote, 'Language is the window through which we see experience,' an answer that would never get by in a standardized test."

"What an aptitude test (and this includes IQ tests) does measure is the quality of a pupil's performance in a number of mental tasks," says Dr. Henry S. Dyer of the Educational Testing Service. The score "tells how well he can cope with tasks like those on the test at the time he takes the test, and it tells nothing more."

A group of top scientists were asked to evaluate a list of 28 specific mental abilities and rank them according to their importance in scientific research. Their number one was "the ability to abandon conventional problem-solving methods that have become unworkable and to think of an original solution." (An example of this was to put the eye in the point of a needle and make possible the invention of the sewing machine.) This ability is not measured by IQ tests. Another was "the ability to recognize problems—once defined by Einstein as 'inability to accept the obvious.'"

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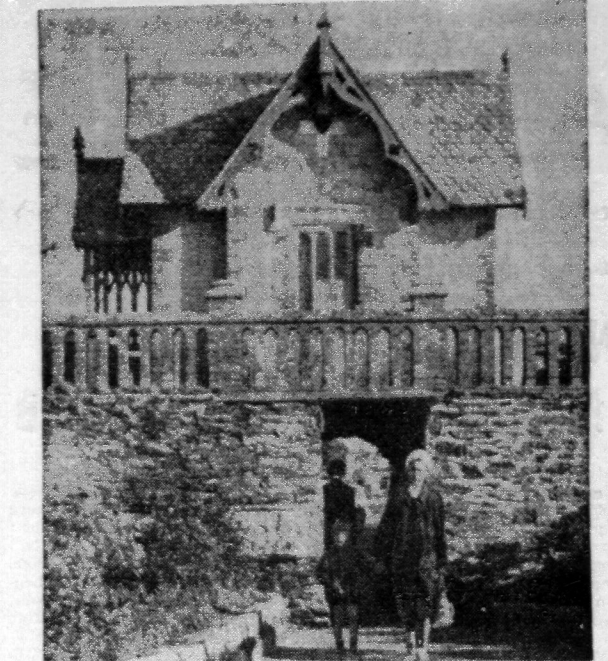
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TINY CHAPEL—This sidewalk in Folmouthe, Cornwall, England, squeezes through a narrow passage over the famous Chapel of Gyllyngdune, which was built in the 19th century.

CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM by Gwendoline P. Clarke

As you know, every year on the Saturday before Christmas, the National Hockey League puts on what is known as "Young Canada Night." To us it is the point of a needle and make possible the invention of the sewing machine.) This ability is not measured by IQ tests. Another was "the ability to recognize problems—once defined by Einstein as 'inability to accept the obvious.'"

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children a generation ago were more creative—less dependent upon commercial toys and entertainment.

What would mothers of preschoolers do today without TV? In dozens of homes you hear the same story—"Come on, now—eat up your breakfast then you can watch Popeye!" Television to young mothers is as good as a part-time baby-sitter.

Well now, for you people who read this column, Christmas is now a thing of the past. We, on the other hand, have another two days to go before the big day arrives. For you it is a time for catching your breath again. You can now collect all those lovely Christmas cards, put them into a box until the beginning of next December. Then you will bring them out once more and go through the same ritual all over again. That is all part of Christmas.

I was talking to Daughter this morning and she said they got their greatest kick out of taking the dogs to do their own shopping. They each took money from their penny boxes and put it into the dog's own shopping bag. But it was a long time before the dogs could get their own shopping. They each took money from their penny boxes and put it into the dog's own shopping bag. But it was a long time before the dogs could get their own shopping.

Sometimes a stray wedge of geese will fly over the Twin Cities, but the wild ducks are seen much more commonly near urban areas than are the wild geese. In fact many wild ducks have become tame residents of the city lakes. On Lake Cormella, in a newly settled area near Southdale in Minneapolis, the property owners began to feed mallards and canvasbacks which nest at the edge of the rose gardens and tramp, quacking and scolding across the lawn.

Along about the second week in December the spirit moves me, and I draw an edge on the ax and wander up into the woods after our Christmas greens. I first did this in the days of horse, when we'd startle the beast, who hadn't done anything since the turnips were in, by leading him forth to be at-

tractor can get mired in these places the wrong time of year, but December ought to be safe. A worst-fancier told me one time that if I'd follow his practices a few worms would quickly remove this swampy condition, but I'm no hand to lay out work for others.

So, from long ago we'd rig in a garden hose and "carriers," usually taking the snowshoes. The air would be crisp and sharp, and we'd churn up over the hill and down through the hardwood to the black growth beyond. In the really older days I fear there was a utilitarian complex to this, for fence posts were in demand. A Christmas tree and a few garlands made the excuse, and permitted the club to receive a "Goverment" check for taking out of production land previously planted to corn. The amount was \$200.

You say it.

—Rocky Mountain News (Denver)

How Can I?
By Roberts Lee

Q. How can I remove grease or oil stains from wallpaper?

A. Make a paste of cornstarch and water, apply, let remain on until dry, then brush off. If this doesn't work to your satisfaction, try a paste of fuller's earth and carbolic tetrachloride. Use in the same manner.

Q. How can I preserve soft rubber goods?

A. Suspend these articles, or rest them on a rack, several inches from the bottom of their enclosure, in which place a small amount of kerosene. The vapor will prevent cracking without injuring the rubber.

Q. How can I keep the bright bands of metal on my kitchen sink and counters from staining my apron black?

A. By touching up these metal bands with some colorless lacquer, or with colorless fingernail polish.

Q. How can I mix a wallpaper paste?

A. Add one tablespoon of powdered alum to one quart of water. Sift flour into the water, stirring constantly, until it has acquired the consistency of dough. Then pour in boiling water until the paste turns; then dilute to desired consistency. If a little crotonic or carbolic acid is added, it will prevent decomposition.

When Wild Geese Fly Back North

The April migration of blue geese, snow geese, and whistling geese through Traverse County is a western Minnesota draws many bird watchers from the Twin Cities to witness a unique and thrilling spectacle. The marshes in this region afford annual resting and feeding stations for from ten to two hundred thousand of the great birds on their way from the Gulf of Mexico to the arctic tundras where they breed. For a few spring days the skies are laced with the long, wedge-shaped strings of flying birds, and the marshes are filled with the rustling and beating of wings, and the honking of many voices. Against a vivid sunset sky the orderly concentration of flying birds, and the swooping and alighting in darkening marshland can be a sight to remember all one's life.

After a few days the handsome birds vanish as mysteriously as they come. How they return to the South in the fall is not certainly known, but, like the golden plover, they probably make a nonstop flight down the East coast to the Gulf. Certainly there is no concentration in the fall comparable to the mass flights of the spring.

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They Nose Each Other

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Snowstorms Don't
Keep On Schedule

One, particularly in Maine, should never presume about the weather. It may well happen that by the time I have penned this lament, and sealed it in an envelope, I'll have to waste a chest-deep in new-fallen snow to mail it. But in late years, nothing like that has happened, and there has definitely been a thinning down of our Christmas climate.

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