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PART 2 The Highland Park Press PART 2

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1924

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WANT EXAMINATION SAME EVERYWHERE
URGES STANDARDIZATION

Psychology Professor Thinks It Would Improve Education Says Present Plan Worthless

Standard public school examinations with the same or similar questions to be submitted to all of the pupils in schools of the United States, may result from efforts now being made at Northwestern university by Prof. A. R. Gilliland, professor of psychology, who in association with Prof. R. H. Jordan, of Cornell university, has just published a book entitled "Educational Measurements and the Classroom Teacher."

Both these authorities are agreed upon one point: The old hit-or-miss examination or test, given at stated or varied intervals in the grade schools of the nation must go, and in their stead there should be substituted standardized tests upon scientific understanding of pupils, their intelligence, their achievements in scholarship and similar ratings.

Virtually Worthless

It seems that when teacher ordinarily gives Willy and Susie the regulation examinations the tests are virtually worthless from the standpoint of the pupil and the teacher alike. For instance, Prof. Gilliland asks this: If there are ten questions in the examination, should a miss of one, mean a grade of 90, if that question (say, in arithmetic) is incorrect as to final result, but with the method of figuring correct and a minor error causing the mistake? Dr. Gilliland claims that some teachers mark such a paper, if all other questions are rightly answered, as high as 97, while some rate the test at 90 and others at 92 or 93. Moreover, the same teachers will seldom, if ever mark the same examination at a similar rate upon this hit-or-miss system; if errors in marking occur with respect to all ten questions, the professor holds the case against hit-or-miss tests is complete. Hence the need for a standardized test and scientific basis of compiling the tests.

Can Be Standardized

Tests in arithmetic, algebra, spelling, reading and writing can be standardized, the professors state, and present graphs, diagrams and scientific data to prove this claim. The entire hit-or-miss examination system of the "Little Red School-house" as well as the modern brick and marble institution is hard hit by the up-to-the-minute psychologist and educator in this book.

"Examination papers are not corrected accurately even when made properly," is the claim. "Whenever papers have been sent to groups of teachers to be corrected according to given standards, but without further instructions, the variations have been so marked as to reveal the greatest inaccuracies in marking generally."

Astonishing Fact

"A more astonishing fact has been brought out by experiment, in that papers corrected by groups of teachers have been submitted to them after a considerable lapse of time, for re-correction, and it has been demonstrated that the same teachers will not correct the same papers twice alike."

While neither of the professional authors of the new book have made an estimate of the number of public schools now utilizing standard tests, it is said this number is not large compared with the total number of grade schools, city and rural, and the pupils in attendance, where the old system prevails.

RAILROAD EMPLOYEES IN EXERCISE CLUB
Form Organization for Regular Physical Training by Y. M. C. A. Expert

Employees of the New York Central railroad who work in LaSalle street station have started regular calisthenic exercises in a club room in the depot every Monday, Wednesday and Friday noons under the direction of H. C. Trangenstein, associate physical director of the Central Y. M. C. A.

C. A. Slauson, 75, special agent, who has been 52 years in the employ of the railroad, who lives at the Gladstone hotel, is one of the enthusiastic members of the class along with girls and young men of 15 and 17 years of age.

GETS DAMAGES

Mrs. Lucy M. Varin of Birmingham, Ala., was given a verdict for \$8,000 damages against two city detectives who raided her home in a fruitless search for liquor.

USE SCHOOL

A successful summer's work is reported by the Highland Park community center, near Richmond, Va. The school auditorium was used as a

meeting place for the community orchestra, for the annual flower show, and for the community rehearsals.

A friend inquires what "folk songs" are. Well, you can hear them every

morning when the women folks sing yeast cake." Also the same inquiry is made about "folk dances." Well, you can see considerable folk dancing when they step on a hornet's nest out in the country.

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