

# Aptitude Tests

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One of the devices most commonly used by universities to overawe incoming freshmen and to make them conscious of the tremendous amount of knowledge connected with the institution, is the college aptitude test. The test, presumably, is to serve as a key to the student's ability along various lines. How this purpose is served remains a mystery to the poor subject. The average college freshman cannot see how such a garbled mass of nothing can lead his instructors to a better understanding of his educational needs.

An interesting theory has been advanced recently by a group of prominent freshmen concerning this test. They profess to doubt that any information of any kind is obtained from the results. The theory is based on the remark of a faculty adviser to the effect that the poorest student is very likely to be the student who thinks that he knows more than his instructor. These learned men insist that the test is merely an attempt to impress the student with his own stupidity. He is told how the results of the test are to be used, and convinced that his own density prevents him from seeing how this can be done. He is from that moment a mental recluse awed by the

magnificent glow of knowledge which surrounds the faculty members.

For further information supporting their claim, our theorists go to the test itself. An examination shows that the questions are progressive in nature. That is, they range from simple calculations at the first to involved and complex problems at the end. The first question is often something like this: "K. had eight apples. He ate one, dropped two down a manhole, and was given five. How many had he then?" To even the most dull-witted of high school graduates, the answer is obvious. The questions become more and more difficult, until the last few are far too involved for anyone. "Potatoes are 50c a bushel. If they sell on the open market at ten for 5c how many would be necessary to fill the number two hold of the Queen Mary?" Obviously, it would take more than a genius to solve this. Therefore, the gentlemen continue, we know one thing. The person being tested is somewhere between a moron and a genius.

While this new theory of aptitude tests is most interesting, I do not quite agree. I think that results are obtained through Black Magic.

