

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SCIENTIFIC APTITUDE TESTS.

These tests were administered to 234 students in the first three years of the B. Sc. course during last session. The tests are designed to measure the capacity of the individual to do creative scientific work, not the capacity to accumulate scientific information and pass examinations. They were constructed at Leland Stanford University and the results there showed a high degree of correspondence with the estimate of the professor and only a fair degree of correspondence with class marks. The study is merely preliminary and any results or conclusions are therefore to be regarded as tentative. For that reason it should be continued over a period of years to ascertain if possible its relation to work being done in the Graduate Faculty.

Perhaps the most striking result is the high correlation between the standing of the student in the university and his matriculation marks in science subjects. This means that the student who does well in matriculation may be expected to do well in university examinations and if that is to be regarded as the test of scientific aptitude then no more is required. This result also means that the university examinations and the matriculation examinations measure the same thing for that is what a high correlation signifies. This may be no great credit to the college methods. It is a well known fact that in most cases the schools teach science inadequately and the student passes his matriculation examinations on the basis of information and a knowledge of mechanical technique. Apparently this looms large in the university and we are doing a good deal of the same thing of which we accuse the schools.