

and like appearance, the difference in weight being as 3 to 12. He is able to copy a square, with a pen, so that the square can be recognized; to arrange the two pieces of a visiting card cut diagonally so as to form the original card; and to count four cents in a row. The feeble-minded child, be he ten, twelve, or twenty, who responds to this five-year-old test, but fails to answer the questions set for six, according to the Binet System, is but five years of age mentally.

At first blush it would seem preposterous to suggest that any method could be devised for measuring intelligence. So thought I when the Binet System came under my notice. But I have read and seen sufficient since then to convince me of its accuracy and its ready adaptability to the work of estimating the degree of defectiveness in backward and feeble-minded children. Binet, a Paris professor, first published his series of tests in 1906. For years he had labored to ascertain the mental capacity of normal children at given ages—beginning at one and continuing up to thirteen—and many thousands of little ones were for this purpose placed under his observation.

Establishing with reasonable accuracy what the normal child should be capable of doing at a given age, Binet makes it possible to measure the degree of defectiveness, by years, in a feeble-minded person. The abnormal boy of eighteen or twenty may be shown to be six or seven years old mentally. In other words, he possesses only the degree of intelligence of the child who has just reached the age of reason. The advantage of such a system—developed and varied to meet special conditions—in the care and training of the feeble-minded, can readily be seen. Reinforced by careful observations, tabulated from time to time by those who have charge of the children—at school, at work, or at play—the Binet System can be made a reliable guide in the classification of mental defectives and their training for the greatest usefulness of which they are capable.

Of little use, in most cases, is the History Form, filled by parents or guardians, as far as giving a key to the