

INVENTS A MIND READER.

Dr. Carl E. Seashore Produces a Psychergograph — Absolutely Unique Instrument.

“Butcher, baker, or candlestick-maker; banker, broker or speculator; lawyer, doctor or dentist?”

“For which of these businesses or professions is my son peculiarly fitted?”

Dr. Carl E. Seashore, assistant professor of philosophy of S. U. I., has invented a delicate instrument that answers these queries, in a certain sense.

It is the psychergograph—a mechanism that is not exactly a mind reader, but which, nevertheless, possesses what the superstitious would be prone to describe as the magic power of weighing the mind's qualities.

It scientifically and accurately tests and records the idiosyncrasies and characteristics of the mental attributes of those to whose intellectual seats it is applied.

The peculiar adaptability of this or that boy or girl, man or woman, to any particular mental duty or labor is definitely gauged by use of the psychergograph—the existence of which is due to Dr. Seashore's inventive genius, and the like of which exists nowhere else in the world.

The instrument will prove especially valuable to the employer who desires to determine the relative brightness and ability of applicants for positions. Dr. Seashore invented it, however to meet the need for an instrument which would measure the mental actions and their characteristics so that they could be better studied in his laboratory.

He devoted his original model to the study of pupils in our public schools. The experiments were uniformly and strikingly successful. The mechanism faithfully picked out the brightest pupils, the dullest, the phlegmatic, the nervous, the diligent applicant and the speculative “stabber.” Since its initial use, however, Dr. Seashore has remodeled and greatly improved the psychergograph.

The apparatus is unobtrusive in appearance, consisting of two parts, one looking like a typewriter and the other like the graphic recording apparatus on a telegraph instrument. Its operation is simple, the closing of an electric key and pressing a clock lever being all that is necessary to make the recording go out automatically. The university students who are induced to be tested by it, however, approach it with fear and trembling and much urging, being naturally afraid of an instrument that may read their most secret thoughts. Seated in front of the instrument the student places a finger on each of the four keys, as in typewriting. The keys may be labeled with words, pictures, colors, or various symbols. If with colors, the keys will be red, white, blue and green. One of these colors will be seen in a slot in front of the keys. The key of this color is pressed by the operator. By electrical action the color in the slot is immediately changed. This color key is pressed, and another color appears, and the action is continued as long as desired.

The other part of the psychergograph records by means of five pencils working on a continuous tape the amount of work done, the time required for each action, and the quality of work. Unbroken attention to the work before him is required of every person if he would not have the tape show a large number of errors and many fluctuations.

The psychergograph may be adapted to diversified experiments and uses, and the process and conditions

of work may be varied indefinitely. To students of anthropology it promises much, for it may be devoted to comparisons of the relative mental powers of one people and another. The much vexed problem: “Are man's mental powers superior in character to those of woman?” may also be solved by Dr. Seashore's invention. Child study, too, will find a useful complement in the new instrument.

Dr. Seashore himself is modest about his great invention, and does not boast that he has a mind reader. In an interview concerning the invention he said: “It is not a mind gauge that measures the whole mind, but the power to do certain kinds of mental work may be measured correctly by it, such as attention, discrimination, perception, sensation and voluntary action.”