CONSTANCY OF I. Q. IN MENTAL DEFECTIVES, ACCORDING TO THE STANFORD-REVISION OF BINET TESTS.

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The data of Table I were derived from retests of 126 inmates of Children's Hospital, Randall's Island. The retests were made as part of the routine work of the institution and the cases are, therefore, unselected, excepting that epileptics were excluded. The intervals between the tests varied from six months to three years; the ages of the subjects from four years to 28 years; the I. Q.'s of the first test from 20 to 90. The records were made by trained psychologists, accustomed to the reactions of mental defectives.

The data of the table show the plus or minus changes of the second test over the first in points of I.Q. It will be seen, on inspection, that these subjects as a group did not deteriorate. The average change is an increase of $+1.28$. The middle 50 per cent lie between -3.3 and $+4.8$ variation. The Standard Deviation was found to be 5.83.

It is significant that the curve does not differ from the one worked out by Terman from the records of unselected school children. ("The Intelligence of School Children," p. 141 ff.) The indication is that mental defectives are not more variable than normal subjects. It is not assumed, however, that the question of the constancy of I. Q. is settled until further studies have been made covering regular intervals and including repeated tests of the same cases over a number of years.

The injustice of disposing of persons under suspicion of mental defect on the basis of a single test is clearly demonstrated. A large percentage of the cases shows variations which operate to change the classification, and, in cases above the obvious imbecile type, only observation and re-testing can discover the individuals who require permanent supervision or institutional care. Composite ratings, including non-language and performance scales, together with the Stanford-Binet, have been found to give truer evaluations of problem cases, since they give weight to the manual abilities which sometimes express a degree of intelligence hidden by language inhibitions.

Amount of Difference	Number of Cases
+17	1
+16	0
+15	0
+14	2
+13	2
+12	3
+11	3
+10	4
+ 9	1
+ 8	2
+ 7	7
+ 6	3
+ 5	3
+ 4	6
+ 3	10
+ 2	8
+ 1	11
— 1	13
— 2	5
— 3	9
— 4	10
— 5	4
— 6	5
— 7	3
— 8	3
— 9	1
—10	0
—11	1
—12	1
—13	2
—14	0
—15	0
	1
	124