

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGISTS

The following open letters to the members of the American Psychological Association have been received through the chairman of the Committee on Qualifications and Certification of Consulting Psychologists. Although they specifically concern the situation in clinical psychology, the matters dealt with are of interest to all psychologists. During the past few years there have been numerous instances of the exploitation of different communities by persons not proved as professional psychologists but who are unknown for their psychological experience and investigations. Psychology, and its derivatives, has become one of the most popular "catch words" of the time, and it is being widely utilized, largely for easy financial gain, to the detriment of psychology, both science and technology, and of professional psychologists.

THE EDITOR.

TO THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION:

Mental examinations, and recommendations in the management of cases, are now made in the name of clinical psychology by persons of inadequate equipment therefor, involving improper risk to the persons whom they examine, and to the social agencies responsible for them. Psychological criteria, however valuable, are not sufficient guides in the detailed treatment and final disposition of pathological cases.

It is usually impracticable to determine for the occasion the qualifications of persons attempting so to practise. The American Psychological Association is the body properly responsible for the scientific and ethical standing of this division of the problem. With the expectation that such action by the association will better coordinate the psychological factor in the interest of the patient, it is considered that this association should formulate the requirements which it regards as essential to the proper functions

of the clinical psychologist; and should upon application issue to those whom it finds thus qualified, documentary evidence thereof.

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TO THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION:

Mental examination, interpretations of the results of psychological tests and recommendations based on these are sometimes made in the name of clinical psychology by persons with inadequate equipment for such an important task. This involves improper risk to individuals examined and possible mismanagement of the case by families and all sorts of social agencies. We feel that on account of this there is the greatest need for thorough training of clinical psychologists in both normal and abnormal psychology, since problems presented to them lie in both fields.

To insure even approximation to the proper standards it is necessary to have some authoritative recognition of fitness. The American Psychological Association is the body logically responsible for scientific and ethical standards in this branch of professional work. With this in view we consider that this Association should formulate the requirements which it regards as essential to the training of the clinical psychologist, and should, upon application, issue to those whom it finds thus qualified, documentary evidence thereof.

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