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DR. WALLIN'S REPLY TO MY REVIEW OF HIS
MENTAL HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD

BY F. KUHLMANN, *Faribault, Minnesota.*

In the September, 1914, number of this Journal, I published the book here in question. In the following number of the Journal, Dr. Wallin replies with what he calls an "analysis" of my "article" as an "exposure to the public scrutiny of what purports to be a scientific review." He regards my review as a whole and its different parts as "obviously inspired by personal animosity" "as literally 'shot full' of blunders and animadversions and inaccuracies," with many of the statements as "not only untrue and irrelevant, but utterly and inexcusably false and defamatory"; as a "diatribe," as "juggling with the facts," as "absurd" and "idiotic." The reviewer himself is described as "entirely fully careless of his facts or willing deliberately to distort them in order to misrepresent or malign the writer," as a "man at fighting men of straw, * * * or of ignoring or perverting facts clearly stated, or presenting his own assumptions as accepted facts," as "utterly incapable of writing a reliable, impartial review," and as calling to mind the reviewer's statement that "It is a singular phase of modern literature that it steals with a plagiaristic right hand while it holds a critical left."

A scientific periodical is not the place to answer personal slanders and incriminations. I regret that I cannot show the temperament and state of mind that has produced this "reply," which seems to be directed more against me than against the review. Aside from this, it is a specimen of modern literature, if, indeed, it is entitled to the courtesy of being called literature. While, on the one hand, he seems to have borrowed the English language through for terms with which to describe facts, he on the other hand commits all the crimes against truth and common decency that his imagination has been

There is not a paragraph in the reply that is not saturated with statements either absolutely untrue, or misconstrued in the review, or entirely beside the points in question. The question does not merit the attempt to answer Dr. Wallin. My reply is to show, in part, how much more severe the attack might have been on the author of the book than it was, and how entirely justified. He speaks of a duty to "expose" the author. Had I had any desire to see the author of "Mental Hygiene" exposed, I could have wished for nothing better than the publication of his reply.

The general charge is made that the review is "inspired by personal animus." The review is admittedly and intentionally so perhaps, also, it shows some animus. But that this is a personal, and not aroused by the shortcomings of his work, I alone am in a position to say. There were no grounds for such personal feelings. Yet, Dr. Wallin finds such grounds. For note his strange explanation that the animus is due to the failure to cite my discussions on the Binet scale, which were of his writing, as he says, were not yet in circulation! It would be interesting, further, to know under what circumstances Dr. Wallin regards an "animus" as legitimate. For evidence seems to him entirely proper and in place when he writes his reply to an unfavorable review of his work.

The review states that "The Author's failure to consider the literature previously published, and the copious advice, suggestions, and plans given leave the impression of the unscholarly and capricious." Of this he explains the absence of references to literature. This, is first, because "the chapters which lack references are, almost without exception, reprints of public lectures." If this statement were literally correct, it would not be a sufficient excuse for not appending lists of references to literature. If the same material comes to be published in book form, the list of references of a book are not an audience for a lecturer. But the statement is not correct. Twelve, only, of the sixteen chapters have lists of references to literature are indicated as addresses. In the review these twelve have been altered on reprinting, in book form, leaving only five addresses unaltered. If his own state-

ments needed revision to adapt them to book form, why bibliographies not be added for the same purpose? Did the author regard these revisions of more importance than his findings to those of others?

3. A list of references to Chapter VIII on "The Status of the Binet-Simon Graded Tests of Intelligence" is omitted because, he says, this was frankly only a summary of a larger work he had at the time not yet printed, and such a summary he regards as entirely legitimate. My review is a statement so absurd as to deny the legitimacy of such a summary in itself. It denies the right of the author to label such a summary the "Present Status" of the Binet-Simon tests.

4. Several hundred publications were not consulted in Chapter VIII, he says, because not that many existed at the time of the original address, October, 1911, and references were made to the "parallel findings of a few investigators whose publications were available at the time of writing." The difference between these two statements is beside the point. The question is not what was available then, but what was available at the time of the publication of the book. The chapter as it stands does not indicate the "Present Status" of the tests in 1914. The references either have been revised or omitted. Its historic value is destroyed. The second statement is incorrect if he means by "available at the time of writing" all that had been published at the time of his writing. Five other publications only are referred to in the chapter. If this was all that was available to the writer at that time, he should not have attempted to say anything about the subject.

5. It is charged that my statement that he judged the Binet-Simon tests from the results of his examining 333 epileptics "without foundation," because, first, available confirmatory results are cited, and, second, because unpublished results from his general experience with the tests confirm his conclusions. The chapter still has reference to Chapter VIII. The only available confirmatory results cited are those of Katherine Johnson and Goddard (included in the five already mentioned, which together he regards as "more or less unsatisfactory for

) and refer only to one of his conclusions, namely, that for the ages of six to nine are "entirely too difficult." Using these confirmatory results does not prove that they are not judged from the results of examining 333 epileptics. On page 201 we read: "What now do the results of the tests made by various workers indicate with respect to the accuracy of the Binet-Simon scale? The space at our disposal makes it necessary to limit the discussion to a very brief statement of a more extended monographic treatment." (A note here refers the reader to the study of epileptics). On page 202 we have: "When the results (referring to the results of the epileptics) are critically examined it is found, as a matter of fact, that there is an amazing lack of uniformity between the different tests of the same age. The extent of this lack may be expressed in quantitative terms by the average variations between the percentages of successes for all the tests of the same age. No mean variations have been completed for a colony of epileptics." Again on the same page: "The differences between the easiest and the most difficult tests in the same ages, based on the performances of epileptics who classify in the given ages, amount to as much as 50 per cent. in age six, 57 per cent. in age twelve * * * *. It is evident that most of the age-norms contain tests varying widely in difficulty." On page 206 we are told that: "The strongest indictment of the scale furnished by these curves (of the results) is supplied by the mean variations." On page 207 he tells us that the method of using the tests, as followed by others, is defective, as shown by his experience in a colony of epileptics" and "certain types of insane patients." For all these instances no other confirmatory results are given. Yet, Dr. Wallin is able to say that my statement that the tests were not based on the results of examining 333 epileptics is without foundation."

The chapter in question makes no reference to unpublished results of his own, or any of his general experience with tests that confirm his conclusions drawn from results with epileptics. Moreover the chapter was an address given in De-

ember, 1911. The tests were published in 1908, and his serious work with them, so far as appears from his publications, was done with the epileptics begun in the fall of 1910. I was therefore somewhat puzzled to find his statement: "Moreover, it is not amiss to say that years of almost daily use of the tests for the purpose of practical diagnosis with a great variety of cases in university and public school clinics, entitles the author the right to express a professional opinion." This experience seems all to have been gained during the period from the fall of 1910 to December, 1911, eight months of which was given to the study of the epileptics.

7. To my statement that Dr. Wallin could not qualify as an expert according to his own definition, he replies: "I am not aware that I have ever posed as a paragon of skill." My review does not make this charge, directly or by implication, though one would have been entirely justified in charging that the book throughout implies that the author outclassed most if not all his colleagues as an expert in clinical psychology. In the very paragraph in which the present statement is made he enumerates a long list of different lines in which he claims to have undergone training to fit himself for work in clinical psychology, which everyone who has followed the author's activities knows could not for the most part have been so extensive or thorough enough to merit mentioning.

8. My review states that the schema for clinical study similar to the one Dr. Wallin presents "have never proven of great value in practical work," and he replies that I do not present a statement and oppose my private opinion to the "well-nigh universal practice by the ablest examiners in the leading law and medical schools of the country." I reply first that the sentence following the one he quotes from my review gives the reason for my "private opinion." This notes that: "If the author had * * * shown us definitely how the clinical data obtained in his schema could be gathered and utilized in making a diagnosis some contribution would have been made." The thing to outline pages of questions and topics to be asked into concerning a child's past history, but to gather reliable

is quite a different matter. Even if we could obtain data, we have as yet no exact knowledge of the relation between the grade of intelligence of a child at a given time, on the one hand, and these supposed developmental factors in his history, on the other hand. These clinical schema appear very useful to the person who through long experience has had a skill in gathering such data and in evaluating it. But the method they are of little practical use because mental diagnosis with them is dependent on this experience and skill of the person using them. They are not on the same basis with mental diagnosis the use of which requires, relatively, only a very small amount of such skill. It is not the schema, which is only a proper subject for investigation, and not a method at all, but the skill in the use of the schema which is the essential thing. Second, there is nothing in this that interferes with the practice of medical men. I am not aware that the "best clinical examiners" lay more stress on these clinical schema than they do on the experience and skill required in diagnosis, nor that these medical men claim that they are especially able to diagnose grade of intelligence because of their training, alone and as such.

The review states that: "The epileptic has a special mind which causes exceedingly irregular results in Binet-testing. Apparently the author has not discovered this and regards it as irrelevant."

Dr. Wallin claims that this peculiarity about the epileptic is his own discovery and accuses me of appropriating it. To prove the former he quotes from his book: "We are going to frame a picture of an interesting spectacle; a case of mental wreckage, whereby the integrity of various mental functions has been impaired in various levels of mental development; and whereby the lower psychic levels have been destroyed away while the higher levels remain intact." My statement applies nothing as to its original discovery. It also makes no reference to the peculiarity he describes in his further quotations to prove his own original discovery, which is a purely speculative leap of his own imagination, and for which his study shows no evidence. My statement refers to the fact that an

epileptic will so frequently fail in one or several lower and then pass in many much higher tests. To explain this is what he tries to explain, by assuming that lower "levels" have disappeared while higher ones have not is gratuitous.

b. His attempt to corroborate his findings with the tests with the results of others, and his refraining from the tests he points out as proof that he did not regard epileptic peculiarity as irrelevant in discussing the accuracy of tests. We have already noted how extensive his effort has been to corroborate his results with those of others. His refraining from revising the tests because he does not regard his results with the epileptics as reliable for this purpose does not explain why they should still be quite reliable for the purpose of drawing a large number of conclusions as to the inaccuracies and defects.

10. I am accused of "juggling with facts" when I draw my conclusion that "The typical epileptic category is the condition of morosity, * * * while the typical feeble-minded condition is that of imbecility" (p. 186). He now explains that my conclusion had reference only to the inmates of the institutions in question, and that "generalizing the statement applying it to the whole group of institutional and non-institutional epileptics and feeble-minded" was unwarranted. This is what he meant at the time it would have been well said so in the beginning. As the text stands it gives no indication, by direct statement or by implication, that the generalization is not exactly what he intended. My statement that "the epileptics sent to an institution might be selected to any serious degree he does not think likely," is branded as "falsely false," because, as he quotes to prove, he did not deny the possibility of their being selected cases. My reply contains nothing to deny that he considered possible selective factors; it states his final opinion. Moreover, had he continued his quotation from his book another sentence he would have proposed his own sham argument in his reply. For, after mentioning possible selective factors, we read: "We shall not

ly to settle this point until other institutions have under-
similar studies on a large scale. But three general con-
seem assured; first, that the great mass of epileptics
ow the feeble-minded line; second that they do not
ow this line to such an extent as the class of imented
inded; and third, that the curve of distribution is mark-
erent for the two classes" (p. 189). Could he draw these
ons if he did not think that it was not likely that epilep-
t to an institution might be selected cases in any serious

Dr. Wallin has much to say in criticism of my revision
Binet-Simon tests, most of which is foreign to anything
in my review. It is not necessary to reply in defense of
ision. Unfortunately for Dr. Wallin's opinion, its very
reception during the three years since its publication
a harmonize well with his present belated utterances. I
ower in continuation of exposing his methods. Perhaps,
objects to my review as unscientific and not impar-
are to take this as a sample of what he regards as a
review.

He says: "First, I have contended that the revision or
ment of a scale of intelligence for normal children
based on the testing of normal children * * *. Kuhl-
s produced a revision for normal children which is based
esting of feeble-minded children, at least so far as con-
own distinctive experimental contribution to the re-
with the negligible exception of 'forty normal adults'
re given only two higher-age tests, only one of which is
test." His contention, merely, that no revision of tests
al children can be legitimately made except on the basis
s with normal children is not in itself convincing. My
of using results with feeble-minded in making changes
ests is clearly and fully stated in my revision and other
that the revision refers to. Had he pointed out defects
method, not taken into account by myself, his criticism
point might have been worthy of attention. His present
tion" carries little weight.

b. He says further: "He eliminated eleven tests 1908 scale, added nine new ones and shifted six, but he is to state that only a 'few' (sic) of these changes were made in his work on the feeble-minded." This is a most interesting statement, coming from one who accuses others of willfully misconstruing. On pages 4 and 5 of my revision we read the following: "2. Shifting of Tests to Other Age-Groups. In making these changes all available data were taken into account to place them accurately. (References to literature include 38 articles). For the age groups III to XII, including three tests were shifted. * * * In accordance with the practice of others all the tests of Group XIII were shifted forward. Several tests "the procedure was changed slightly to make them more equally difficult with others in their group. This was done on the basis of my results with the feeble-minded alone." "3. Elimination of Poor Tests. * * * In general, the tests eliminated are those most likely to be influenced by the variable amount of training." (Reference to the literature cited here shows that the eleven tests eliminated only one was dropped because of results with the feeble-minded alone). "4. Reduction of Tests for Each Age-Group and Addition of New Tests. Of these (the new tests added) IV 5 and X 1 only are new. V 5, X3, XII 5, and XV 4 are taken from the 1911 revision. XV 5 is borrowed from Goddard. X 5 and XI 5 are modifications of tests that have been used by different authors. The norms given for the last two are based on the results of their use on forty normal adults and fifty feeble-minded. The mental age corresponding to the age group in which they are found. The norm for IV 5 is based on the results of a hundred feeble-minded with mental ages ranging from one to five. This test has given exceptionally uniform results characteristic of this mental age."

c. The last statement quoted above from Dr. Wechsler continues as follows: "Nor does he state in respect to the directions for giving the tests which he supplies and in so far as he has altered the procedure of others must be taken into his work on the feeble-minded, or otherwise spun from

of consciousness.'” Binet and Simon in a great many fail to give specific directions on how to proceed in test and how to interpret responses obtained. Every must supply these for himself. I have supplied them, personally examining over 1300 feeble-minded children, considering the literature on the tests bearing on this. In the Psychological Clinic for December, 1911, Dr. published “A Practical Guide for the Administration of Binet-Simon Scale for Measuring Intelligence,” in which he adds and alters directions for giving the tests and interpreting responses, not found in the original, or based on any of his own in examining normals. In this he specifically says: “The attempt has been made to outline the procedure which we have found most satisfactory” (p. 218). Does Dr. Wallin object to my standardization of the tests because it is based on the examination of 1300 feeble-minded instead of 333 epileptics because it is “spun from my inner web of consciousness” instead of from his own?

He objects to my tests for the ages of three months, six months and one year, because the norms for them are based on observations in literature,” and because “not a single child has been tested in these ages.” This is a good illustration of a apparently deep-rooted aversion to accepting other people’s observations, manifested throughout his book. My revision cites the literature in which these observations are given. They are the observations of Preyer, Moore, Shinn, Major, G. V. N. S. Parnell, and many others these authors cite. Dr. Wallin does not object to the reliability of these observations, or that my tests are based on these observations accurately. It is simply because I did not myself added my own verification, and because, as I say, “the norms for them are necessarily based on a small number of cases in a number of instances.” But evidently I did not have said “small number,” since he regards twenty-five as a quite adequate number in his own study on the effects of a hygiene treatment.

Again, it is charged that my lower age tests “are applied and used by a large number of uncritical Binet test-

ers, * * * who have assumed, and with justice, that the of the placement of the tests has been demonstrated." I seem to be held responsible for the "uncritical Bine using the tests, for which there might be some justification. I had advocated that no special qualifications are required for use. But had Dr. Wallin cared to do so, he might have done so on pages 8, 9, and 10 of my revision my statements "Qualifications of the Examiner," in which occurs the following: "The failure of the general public, of the school teachers and medical profession in particular, to appreciate the requirements (referring to qualifications of the examiner) present leading to an extensive misuse of the tests, which necessarily tend to the result of depriving the tests of their general recognition of their merits and the public of the benefit of their use." On my claims as to the accuracy of these tests, he might have read as follows: "The institutions for feeble-minded are as a matter of fact constantly being asked to pass on the mentality of children less than ten years old. They are doing so at present with inadequate accuracy. In an effort to meet this need I have added tests for three years old children, six months, one year, and two years." In discussing the possible merits of these tests, I conclude that I believe, however, that on the whole these added tests are about as well as the others in the scale because they are designed to measure larger rather than smaller steps in mental development of the child. Yet, under the circumstances, they must be used tentatively at present" (pp. 6 to 7). Finally, he repeatedly does in his reply and elsewhere, to the effect of discussing unpublished facts that prove his point, in that his own experience with these tests has shown them to be accurate, and states that an organizer of baby clinics would find them impractical, without naming the person. Under the circumstances I do not feel compelled to accept his word as an established fact. In the same manner, I might reply that my experience of several years with these tests in examining feeble-minded children in using them in baby clinics and elsewhere emphasizes

what he states his to be, and proves more than what is claimed for them in my revision.

In contradiction to a statement of the review, he does not know of "several leading oral hygienists" who do experience improvement in intellectual efficiency in the course of several months following dental treatment. He is quick to take exception to the form of my statement, "no one expects," in taking its obvious meaning, "no one reasonably qualified to expect." Elsewhere we have the repeated contention that the qualifications of an expert clinical psychologist are a reliable mental diagnosis. Here, when he needs their services, the "oral hygienists" merely, seem to be qualified to measure the amount of mental improvement in question.

The review objected to his using tests without norms to measure mental improvement after dental treatment, and said that: "We do not determine whether a set of tests measure 'intellectual efficiency' by consulting 'norms,' but by knowing the character of the tests which are employed. What the tests measure can only be determined by a critical examination of the tests themselves." Dr. Wallin here lays claim to his own powers, in face of the fact that the whole subject of mental tests in psychology is full of disputes and doubts as to the relation and degrees the different mental functions are measured in given mental tests. If one can choose tests so easily to measure changes in "intellectual efficiency" by merely "examining their character," why did not Binet and Simon and other investigators follow the same method in devising intelligence tests? But this point was not the main criticism made by the review. Granted that the tests he used do measure "intellectual efficiency," this does not do away with the need for norms. Suppose in his "A-test," for example, the 27 children showed a 50 per cent. improvement six months after dental treatment. What conclusion can we draw as to the effect of dental treatment when we have no results on what amount of improvement would have been made by normal children, or by these 27 children without dental treatment? Obviously none, which doubt-

less explains why Dr. Wallin attempts to hide the matter by trying to defend a relatively unimportant point.

14. The review pointed out that he used only five to determine improvement in "intellectual efficiency," while another place stated that the Binet-Simon tests should be increased to ten for each age group to make them more reliable. He replies that he did not advocate this increase to ten to make them more reliable "as individual tests," but only to afford a comprehensive survey of different functions and an accurate clinical picture." Let it be granted that the reliability of an individual test in itself and alone is not affected by the addition of additional tests; also, that the review does not accuse him of such absurdity.

15. The second part of his statement in reply fails to meet the criticism. "Intellectual efficiency" is a composite of different mental functions as well as what the Binet-Simon tests are designed to measure, and should for the same reason require a larger number of tests "in order to afford a comprehensive survey of different mental functions."

16. My statement that he has regarded group tests as unreliable because he used on the 27 children in question, as unreliable because he uses them is branded as an "inexcusable perversion of facts in the case," and to prove this he quotes other statements at great length which he also made about group tests. If he had merely continued one of his own quotations in the next three sentences he would again have condemned himself with his own words. We read on page 221, "Five tests require written responses. But the clinical psychologist must reduce written responses to a merely nominal value partly because children differ in the rate of skill in writing without evincing a corresponding difference in intelligence, partly because many abnormal children suffer from specific defects of the hand, so that they cannot do themselves justice in the graphic tests." Can there be any question about the accuracy of this statement here?

17. I misquote him, he says, in stating that he does not believe for the results of any test to be reliable it must be repeated.

psychologist, because he stated explicitly that "psycho-amateurs * * * may be competent to administer formal logical tests." He omits the remainder of this sentence, reads, "provided they have been sufficiently trained." He regards mental tests as the chief factor in methods of making a diagnosis as to intelligence, and a large part of the book is essentially a harangue against the reliability of the "amateur" diagnosis. On page 142 we have: "All that can be expected from the Binet testing by persons who are not expert psycho-examiners is usually merely an independent confirmation of the pedagogical rating assigned the child in the schools," it is doubtful whether the Binet tests will afford an amateur (black-face his) in clinical psychology deeper insight into the operations of the child's mind than the pedagogical tests afforded to the observant teacher." On page 132: "The proper management of these cases, whether for the purpose of examination, recommendation or prescription, can only be done by a medical educational specialist." On page 113: "The more difficult tests * * * should invariably be made by the expert clinician-psychologist."

The reviewer's statement that "These tests were given by me or by proxy, and he does not tell us anything further about the proxy" brings the absurd reply that by implication I am to his using a proxy, instead of to his not stating the conditions of the proxy to conduct mental tests.

The statement that he does not tell us anything further about the proxy is regarded as "groundless" because, he says, further statements were made in the original publication. The reason given admits all that the review stated or implied.

The review charges that "The statement as to the interval between dental treatment and the giving of the series of mental tests is very indefinite," to which Dr. Wallin replies: "If the reader desires conclusive evidence that I am utterly incapable of writing an accurate, reliable, and fair review, let him consult page 277, where the precise interval in every sitting is given." I, too, desire that the reader follow both my criticism and his reply, here as else-

where. His reply here is one of many good illustrations out of how adept Dr. Wallin is in trying to hide his eyes by attributing them bodily to the reviewer, regardless of shred of evidence.

a. First, in his reply here "sitting" presumably sittings for the mental tests, for he nowhere in the chapter gives any dates for sittings for dental treatment. "Accuracy" have called for his saying so.

b. Second, the giving of precise dates for the sittings for the mental tests the review does not deny. Information alone is of little value, when equally precise information is not given for the dental treatment.

c. Third, page 277 to which he refers the reader for precise dates has not a word about these dates.

d. Fourth, to repeat my original criticism, his statements as to dates for dental treatment, etc., and make it absolutely impossible to determine just what he had between treatment on the one hand and mental tests on the other. On page 276 we are told that the dental treatment was given "during the first few months of the experimental year," which was from May, 1910, to May, 1911. On page 277 we learn that mental tests of series 1 and 2 were given before dental treatment; that "the last four tests (3 to 6) were given during the course of treatment, or after its close"; that "the first two tests were given from three to five months after dental treatment had been completed for all the pupils, and the last 3 and 4 were given only one or two months after the close of the treatment for more than half the pupils." On page 278, incidentally, and in another connection, gives the dates for five of the six sittings for the six series of mental tests. In the chapter says about dates. It seems to represent Dr. Wallin's idea of "accuracy" of statement. To verify the justice of my criticism, let the reader try to figure out from the text what the time intervals were between dental treatment and mental tests.

21. Dr. Wallin claims that he has mentioned disturbing factors that might invalidate conclusions to

dental treatment study. The review does not deny this; it criticizes him for drawing the conclusions he did under the circumstances. It is not enough to point out faults in one's experiments; one should show some evidence that these faults have been considered in the final conclusions drawn.

He replies that he did not base his conclusions "wholly on the results of the psychological tests." "Some of the supporting evidence consisted of clinical studies made by duly qualified dentists and physicians. The reviewer evidently does not know of the existence of such data." I reply that the reviewer would not suspect the "existence of such data" from any mention in his chapter, for no mention of such is made. Again, if he based his conclusions partly on such data it is in conformity with his frequently and emphatically expressed opinion that dentists and physicians are not qualified to judge the question involved.

Further, he says: "I do not know that my critic has made any contributions to the science of oral hygiene which would give him a special insight into the physical and mental effects of thorough sanitation and thorough mastication." The compliment may be returned. His own study on the subject is hardly adequate, either in quantity or quality, to justify the claim to "special insight." But the justification of my criticizing him on this subject without "special insight" depends on the nature of the points criticized. Are they peculiar to this particular subject, or are they points involving matters common to most any psychological experiment?

Again, he has shown no scruples in disregarding his own work here. In a recent number of the Psychological Clinic he claims to have the "special insight" required for criticizing the methods and results of field workers but also in evaluating hereditary data. Here he notes that: "Many family charts are based on the sheerest guess work, on data supplied by persons quite lacking in scientific discrimination and quite unskilled in the art of hereditary, psychological, or clinical diagnosis. It is one thing to send out field workers, teachers, nurses, and social workers who are novices in

the methodology of scientific research, to interview relatives, friends, enemies, clergymen, physicians, and officers with regard to the mental condition of the contem-
porary or ancestral relatives of the cases under investigation; on the basis of the field-workers' reports, have some one who has probably never seen or examined a single relative construct awe-inspiring heredity charts, definitely and minutely labeled and evaluated. But it is quite a different thing to assume that because certain symbols have been stamped on a piece of cloth, the correctness of the markings or the truth of the hearsay or snapshot estimations and diagnoses has been conclusively established." (See *The Psychological Basis of Heredity*, 1914, p. 3). This he labels the "prevailing methods of gathering hereditary data." But this is not all. He not only has a remarkable insight into the qualifications and methods of the majority of our present field workers, and knows that they are utterly incompetent to gather the data, and that they do not make diagnoses as to mentality of individuals, causes, etc., but that of merely gathering the facts from which such diagnoses can be made; he has also the technical knowledge required to interpret such data and call to account the highest American authorities whose specialty is the study of heredity by the methods of the field workers. "I shall in no way concern myself," he says, "with pointing out the confusing, blundering, slipshod, inaccurate, and scientific ways in which many—fortunately not all—of the hereditary charts have been worked up and interpreted. I know, yet, what reader knows of any field work or study in this line, that Dr. Wallin has done to entitle him to the claim of a "special insight?" My review of the "*Mental Heredity*" shows that the book gave the impression of the amateurish. The most pertinent quotation is more; it is sophomoric, which applies equally well to much of his book.

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NEWS AND NOTES

The following interesting note is communicated by Dr. James C. Smith of Syracuse, New York.

A year or two before the death of the second Mrs. Wilbur, she related the following interesting account of the accidental first meeting of Dr. Seguin and Dr. Wilbur, in the railway station at Albany, N. Y.

It will be recalled that Dr. Seguin emigrated from Paris, France, to New York in 1848. In 1851 he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and there began the practice of medicine. Not being satisfied with the work nor his success in Cleveland, in 1854 he decided to return to New York City. On his way there, for some reason, he stopped off at Albany, and took a seat in the station to wait for a train to New York. On the same day Dr. Wilbur happened to be in Albany on business, and also went into the station to await a train for New York, and incidentally took a seat by the side of Dr. Seguin. They naturally entered into conversation with one another and were soon surprised to