

DEPARTMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHIATRY

June 20, 1962

Oscar Krisen Buros, Editor
The Mental Measurements Yearbook
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Buros:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the face hand test. During the period 1949-1952 a number of younger workers in the laboratory of Dr. Morris B. Bender at New York University participated in studies of double simultaneous tactile stimulation. In the course of these investigations we developed a concept that the perception of two simultaneous stimuli was a learned procedure, achieved by most adults within 10 trials of the test.

In various populations failure to discriminate the two stimuli was common, especially in young children, severe mental defectives, aged, and most interestingly in adults with altered brain function regardless of cause. That is, adult patients with organic mental syndrome fail to discriminate the stimuli within 10 trials.

We have found this test so useful that we described such failure in adults as an index of the organic mental syndrome.

In studying the responses of children and mental defectives we came to the conclusion that the ability to discriminate the two stimuli was to develop between the 5 and 7 year of life and was highly correlated on mental test examinations with a mental age of 6 years. We thus concluded that the face hand test as a satisfactory index of mental age above or below 6 or 7 years.

I am enclosing a list of references which indicate the early publications of this data. The Director of the service, Dr. Morris B. Bender, summarized the studies of his laboratory in a monograph "Disorders in Perception" published by Charles C. Thomas in 1952.

The equipment for the test is extremely simple. It necessitates the use of fingers or ~~at~~most two safety pins. I am also enclosing a copy of a review report recently published from this laboratory which may help you.

Sincerely yours,

MF:gp
encl.

Max Fink, M.D.