

EXPERIMENTS IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Experiments in educational psychology by Daniel Starch

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DANIEL STARCH

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IN
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

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PREFACE

THIS book is designed to serve as a guide for laboratory experiments in educational psychology. Only those experiments have been selected which have a more or less direct bearing upon educational problems. It is intended to be a laboratory manual for experimental work done parallel with an introductory course in educational psychology, or in other introductory educational courses in which the psychological aspect is emphasized.

No previous training in experimental work is necessary. The directions are so given that in most experiments relatively simple apparatus is used. For many experiments the material is contained in the book, for others it may easily be constructed, and for the rest it must be obtained from the sources indicated in each case.

In pursuing the laboratory work the order of the chapters permits of considerable flexibility. All chapters except V and VI are independent of one another and any desired order may be adopted. The work is intended to occupy two hours weekly through one semester. It is best to divide the class into groups of not more than eight or ten, in charge of an instructor who shall see that the experiments are done accurately and the notes written up carefully.

In order to emphasize the practical aspects of the principles brought out in the various experiments, a brief set of exercises is placed at the end of each chapter which should be worked out and handed in as a part of the laboratory notes. Additional references are given to excellent practical problems which may best be assigned for discussion during the recitation hour.

I wish to express my obligations to Professor V. A. C. Henmon, who suggested numerous changes in the manuscript, to Dr. B. Q. Morgan, who read the manuscript, and to Professor W. F. Dearborn, with whose coöperation several experiments, particularly those in Chapters V, VII, and VIII, were planned

D. S.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,
June, 1911.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

THE chief changes in this revision consist in the addition of three short chapters (II, III, and IV), several tables of results for various tests, and a number of questions on the results of experiments. Verbal changes have been introduced here and there, with a view to making the directions for experiments or the interpretation of the results more definite. The writer has found it profitable to introduce into the work of his own classes the use of educational scales and tests for school subjects. In that case it is necessary to omit certain experiments in this book in order to make room for such additional tests within a semester's time. Such omissions will depend necessarily upon the plan of the course and upon the facilities available. The writer has omitted the following experiments in the order named: *d*, page 140; and *c*, page 142, in Chapter XIII; Nos. 2 and 3 in Chapter XV; Chapters XVI, XII, and XIV. The number of these experiments to be omitted depends necessarily upon the amount of other work introduced.

February 1, 1917.