AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY OF MENTAL AND SOCIAL MEASUREMENTS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649056057

An Introduction to the Theory of Mental and Social Measurements by Edward L. Thorndike

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD L. THORNDIKE

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY OF MENTAL AND SOCIAL MEASUREMENTS

Trieste

AN INTRODUCTION

TO THE

THEORY OF MENTAL AND SOCIAL

MEASUREMENTS

BY

EDWARD L. THORNDIKE

PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY IN TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
RECEIVED
AUG 9 1920

NEW YORK
THE SCIENCE PRESS
1904

C. C. Davidson
Jan 1904

569082

COPYRIGHT, 1904
BY EDWARD L. THORNDIKE

STANFORD LIBRARY

PRESS OF
THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY,
LANCASTER, PA.

PREFACE.

Experience has sufficiently shown that the facts of human nature can be made the material for quantitative science. The direct transfer of methods originating in the physical sciences or in commercial arithmetic to sciences dealing with the complex and variable facts of human life has, however, resulted in crude and often fallacious measurements. Moreover, it has been difficult to teach students to estimate quantitative evidence properly or to obtain and use it wisely, because the books to which one could refer them were too abstract mathematically or too specialized, and omitted altogether much of the knowledge about mental measurements most needed by the majority of university students.

It is the aim of this book to introduce students to the theory of mental measurements and to provide them with such knowledge and practice as may assist them to follow critically quantitative evidence and argument and to make their own researches exact and logical. Only the most general principles are outlined, the special methods appropriate to each of the mental sciences being better left for separate treatment. If the general problems of mental measurement are realized and the methods at hand for dealing with variable quantities are mastered, the student will find no difficulty in acquiring the special information and technique involved in the quantitative aspect of his special science. The author has had in mind the needs of students of economics, sociology and education, possibly even more than those of students of psychology, pure and simple. Indeed, a great part of the discussion is relevant to the problems of anthropometry and vital statistics. The book may with certain limitations be used as an introduction to the theory of measurement of all variable phenomena.

CONTENTS.

ILLUSTRATIONS.