

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF
INTELLIGENCE
IN CHILDREN (THE
BINET-SIMON SCALE)**

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The Development of Intelligence in Children (The Binet-Simon Scale) by Alfred Binet & Th. Simon & Elizabeth S. Kite

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ALFRED BINET & TH. SIMON & ELIZABETH S. KITE

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF
INTELLIGENCE
IN CHILDREN (THE
BINET-SIMON SCALE)**



A. Binet

(1857-1944)

PUBLICATIONS OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL AT VINELAND
NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH

THE
DEVELOPMENT OF INTELLIGENCE
IN CHILDREN

(THE BINET-SIMON SCALE)

BY

ALFRED BINET, Sc.D and TH. SIMON, M.D.

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TRANSLATED BY

ELIZABETH S. KITE

Diplome d'Instruction Primaire Supérieure
Paris le 23 juillet, 1905

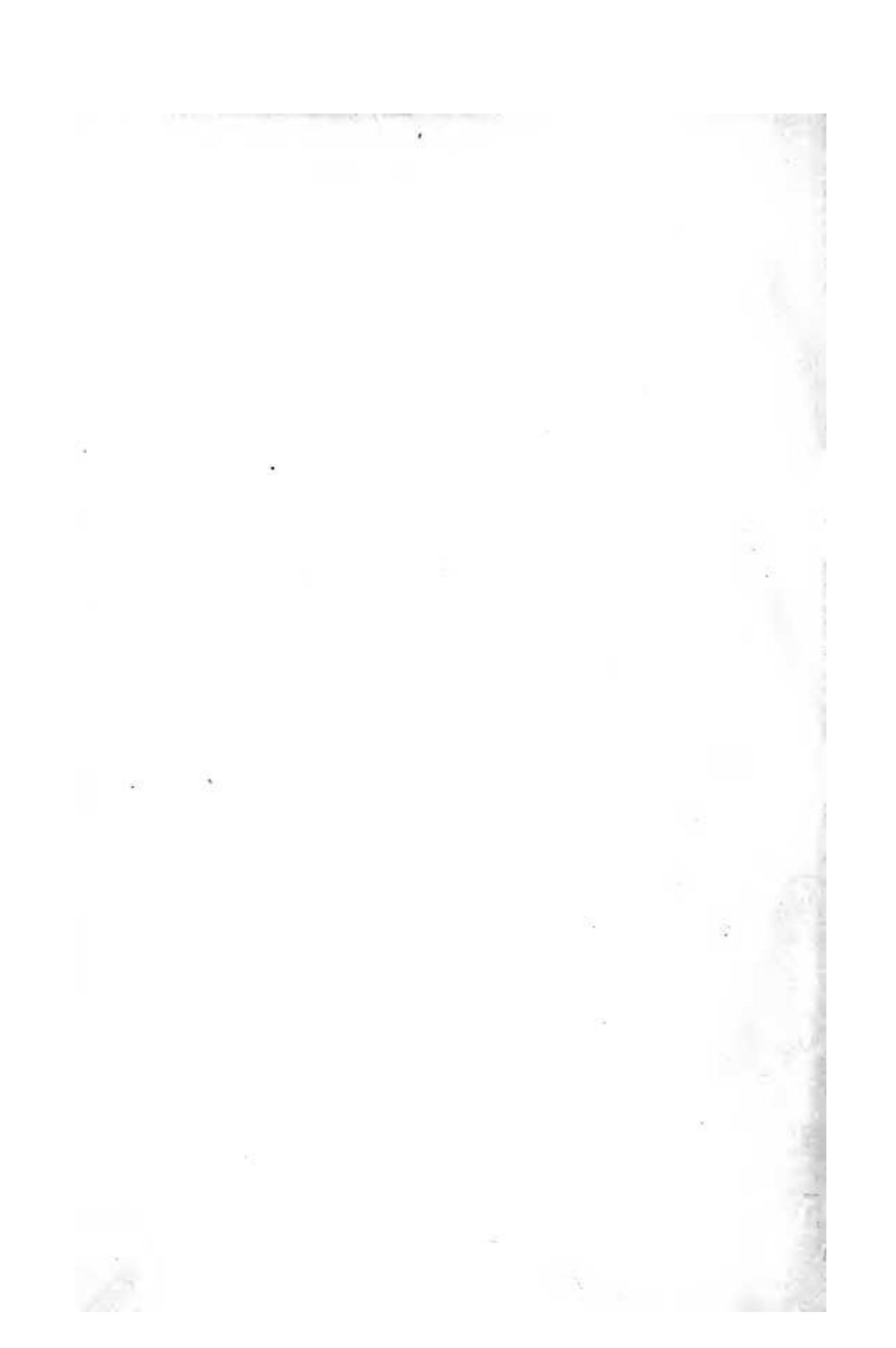
Member of the Staff of the Vineland
Research Laboratory



NO. 11, MAY, 1916

CONTENTS

| CHAPTERS | PAGE |
|--|------|
| EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION | 5 |
| I. Upon the Necessity of Establishing a Scientific Diagnosis of Inferior States of Intelligence. (<i>L'Année Psych.</i> , 1905, pp. 163-191)..... | 9 |
| II. New Methods for the Diagnosis of the Intellectual Level of Subnormals. (<i>L'Année Psych.</i> , 1905, pp. 191-244)..... | 37 |
| III. Application of the New Methods to the Diagnosis of the Intellectual Level among Normal and Subnormal Children in Institutions and in the Primary Schools. (<i>L'Année Psych.</i> , 1905, pp. 245-336)..... | 91 |
| IV. The Development of Intelligence in the Child. (<i>L'Année Psych.</i> , 1908, pp. 1-90)..... | 182 |
| V. New Investigations upon the Measure of the Intellectual Level among School Children. (<i>L'Année Psych.</i> , 1911, pp. 145-201)..... | 274 |



INTRODUCTION

The first contribution of Drs. Binet and Simon to the problem of measuring intelligence appeared in *L'Année Psychologique* for 1905.—This volume reached America early in 1906. The Vineland Research Laboratory for the psychological study of feeble-mindedness was opened in September of the same year. My first work as director of this Laboratory was to search the literature for anything that bore upon the problem. The above article had attracted so little attention from the American psychologists that in spite of dilligent search in bibliographies, reviews, original sources and by appeals to personal friends, Binet's work in this line was never brought to my attention. It was not until the Spring of 1908 when I made a visit to Europe in the interests of the work that I learned of the tests. On that trip a visit was made to Dr. Decroly in Brussels. Dr. Decroly and Mlle. Degand had just completed a try-out of tests by Drs. Binet and Simon of Paris. Upon my return home I began at once to use the tests on the children of the Training School, employing Decroly's article as the source of information. Later I obtained Binet's article. These were the "1905" tests, not the scale. In December 1908 I published a six-page account of these tests.

In 1909 appeared *L'Année Psychologique* giving the "Scale," with the grading by years. Probably no critic of the scale during the past six years has reacted against it more positively than did I at that first reading. It seemed impossible to grade intelligence in that way. It was too easy, too simple. The article was laid aside for some weeks. One day while using the old tests, whose inadequacy was great, the new Scale came to mind and I decided to give it a fair trial. In January 1910 we published the first abstract of the scale—being a brief summary of the 1908 Binet-Simon article.

Our use of the scale was a surprise and a gratification. It met our needs. A classification of our children based on the Scale agreed with the Institution experience. Soon others began to use the scale. Then came the critics. Their criticisms showed such a thorough misunderstanding of the plan, purpose

and spirit of the authors of the Scale that we realized what an injustice had been done by publishing our condensed outline—16 pages out of 90. We at once resolved to publish a complete translation. Permission was obtained from Dr. Simon and the work was begun. It had to be crowded in with other work of the Laboratory, and, hence, there have been many delays. At last, however, the book is presented to the public. We regret the delay, but perhaps the present is the best time for presentation. Certainly it was never more needed than now.

It will seem an exaggeration to some to say that the world is talking of the Binet-Simon Scale; but consider that the Vineland Laboratory alone, has without effort or advertisement distributed to date 22,000 copies of the pamphlet describing the tests, and 88,000 record blanks.* This in spite of the fact that the same matter has been freely published in numerous other places. The Scale is used in Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, China, and has recently been translated into Japanese and Turkish.

The literature on the Scale has increased enormously; in 1914 there was already a bibliography of 254 titles; yet in all this time no complete translation of Binet's work on the Scale has appeared. A number of criticisms have appeared, many of which could not have been written if Binet's complete discussion of his Scale had been available to the critics.

It is little less than marvelous that the tests have had such a remarkable acceptance even in the mutilated form of our condensed abstract. That the Scale was so eminently useful in this abbreviated form shows the masterly work of the authors.

By many persons the Measuring Scale of Intelligence is supposed to be a mere incidental chapter in Binet's work. Scarcely anyone in America realizes to what an extent it was his *magnum opus*. That his writings on this subject fill a book of this size will be a great surprise. And yet this is only the half. Another volume the size of this (already translated and which we hope soon to publish) is devoted to the application of the Scale. Moreover, many other writings of Binet show how large a place it occupied in his thinking.

* (Note: This pamphlet is a 16-page condensation of Chapter IV of this book, with such revisions as our experience with the tests on American children seemed to justify.)

This book as a whole constitutes a complete history and exposition of the Measuring Scale as Binet left it.

In Chapter I the authors show the origin of the Scale and their first methods of attacking the problem.

Chapter II describes the first results—a series of test questions arranged in order of difficulty but not yet assigned to definite years. An immense amount of work had been done on this series, and the authors may have been justly proud of what they had accomplished, though it was soon to be largely discarded for a much more useful plan. This was the so called "1905 Tests."

Chapter III shows the laborious and painstaking methods of standardization. Nowhere does Binet more clearly show his genius. It is here that he has taught us the method which must be used in all extensions or revisions of the Scale, that lay any claim to scientific value.

In Chapter IV he gives us the Measuring Scale for Intelligence—the so called 1908 Scale. It is the most complete statement of the Scale.

Chapter V gives some of his later 1911 corrections and revisions—his last word on the subject.¹ In making up this book we have attempted to include everything Binet and Simon wrote explanatory of the Scale. The reader will find many repetitions and some contradictions, and the date of each article should be taken into account in deciding which is the authoritative statement. It has been thought best to include all of these repetitions and contradictions, in order to show the development of Binet's own thought in regard to his Scale. Only in this way does the marvelous work that he did on this subject become fully appreciated.

The translation has given rise to the usual translator's difficulties. Binet at times uses not only highly technical terms but also terms of his own invention. The usual "untranslatable expressions" are found. Moreover, it is clear that typographical errors occasionally crept in. Where this was certain and it was clear what the correct form should have been, we have taken the liberty of making the correction. Where we have been unable

¹ In this year he also prepared a final statement of the Scale for the "Bulletin de la Société libre pour l'Étude psychologique de l'Enfant." This has been translated by Dr. Clara Harrison Town, Lincoln, Illinois, 1913.