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WALDINGER, Bob

Dr. Lederberg,

Cravens is correct in his statement about Brigham's recantation. Brigham clearly recanted his earlier racist views in an article entitled "Intelligence Tests of Immigrant Groups" (Psychological Review 37:158-65, 1930).

Brigham dealt with the problem of how to interpret test scores, and he concluded that existing intelligence tests (particularly the Army Alpha and Stanford-Binet tests) were not adequate for comparative studies of national and racial groups. The following paragraphs from the Brigham article are of particular interest:

If the army alpha test has thus been shown to be internally inconsistent to such a degree, then it is absurd to go beyond this point and combine alpha, beta, the Stanford-Binet and the individual performance tests in the so-called 'combined scale,' or to regard a combined scale score derived from one test or complex of tests as equivalent to that derived from another test or another complex of tests. As this method was used by the writer in his earlier analysis of the army tests as applied to samples of foreign born in the draft, that study with its entire hypothetical superstructure of racial differences collapses completely. (p. 164)

The earlier study to which Brigham refers is C.C. Brigham, A Study of American Intelligence, Princeton University Press, 1923, pp. 210.

The final paragraph of the Brigham article reads as follows:

This review has summarized some of the more recent test findings which show that comparative studies of various national and racial groups may not be made with existing tests, which show, in particular, that one of the most pretentious of these comparative racial studies--the writer's own--was without foundation. (p. 165)

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