

American Consulate General,
15 Merrion Square, Dublin.

March 12, 1929.

Medical Officer in Charge,
U. S. Public Health Service,
American Consulate,
Genoa, Italy.

Sir: (Through Assistant Surgeon General Rupert Blue, Paris,
France).

There is being sent from the headquarters of the Service in Paris, a form containing tests that are useful in the mental examination of Italian immigrants.

It is not necessary that every question on the form be given to every alien held up for secondary mental examination, or even to every one who is finally certified as defective, but in the case of the latter, it is thought that the performance tests, especially the Ferguson Form Boards and Porteus tests, and the Terman tests, appropriate to the ability of the subject certified, should be given to those who are not obviously imbeciles. The reason for this is that a large number of tests reduces greatly the possibility of error, and the record which should be kept in all certified cases will then show a complete picture of the case in the event that it becomes necessary to review it.

The tests under the heading "General Knowledge" are useful more as preliminary questions to determine whether to proceed further than they are for the secondary examination. These questions have not been standardized, but they are known to be very simple even for illiterates, and even mentally defective illiterates may answer them correctly.

The Mullan tests are found in Public Health Bulletin #90 and are explained there, but they can be given without this bulletin. The bulletin, however, explains what a limited number of Italians did with these tests. It is, therefore, helpful in drawing conclusions from answers to them. Observe that several of the tests are given as problems in terms of lire, bread, butter, etc.

The Terman Tests are fully explained in Terman's Measurement of the Intelligence, and briefly in the Record Booklets, copies of which are at your station. In the form the a b c d, etc., represent different parts of the test to be marked with plus or minus depending on whether the answers are correct or incorrect.

The method of calculating the mental age and intelligence quotient is given on pages 137 - 140 of Terman's Measurement of Intelligence. It is useful to calculate this, but it should be borne in mind that the American standard is not valid for Italian immigrants especially for adult illiterates or near illiterates.

The numbers to the left of each Terman test refer to the number of the test on the alternate ~~2~~ given in Terman, except that in the 8 year group the Geometric figure in Alternate 2 refers to the Learning test on page 47, Public Health Bulletin #90.

All the performance tests including the Pintner cubes, have been standardized in America and the median or mental age placed at a certain point. The standardization can be found in the book, "A Manual of Individual Mental Tests & Testing," by Bronner, Healy, Lowe & Shimberg, you have already been requested to requisition this very useful book and I left with you a sheet showing the standardization of five of these tests.

It should also be borne in mind here that the American standards are not strictly applicable to Italian emigrants.

At the end of the form is a summary of the results intended for the entrance of the median mental age and the Terman mental age in a compact form for convenient comparison. A great diversity of results will ~~often~~ be shown, especially with the first four tests, showing that no one of these tests is ~~alone~~ sufficient for a diagnosis. The Manikin test is suitable for children only.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Kolb,
Surgeon.