



OFFICE OF
MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

American Consulate General,
Hamburg, Germany,
January 6, 1930.

Dear Doctor Kolb:

I am glad that you were interested in the Ferguson Tables I sent in my last letter. I thought they were quite interesting, especially when they were compared with the Irish Table for the same boards. I shall be pleased to turn over all the data to you at the end of the present fiscal year, and am willing to perform the other tests if you think we can get a sufficiently large number of them.

The visa work here ends at one o'clock every day. We have on an average of ten applicants a day. Owing to the fact that we have only one regular stenographer typing visas, the cases move very slowly and I have about fifteen to twenty minutes between each case. This gives me just about the right amount of time between cases to run the Healy A and B and the Ferguson Boards. Work usually gets started about 10 A. M. and frequently we are finished by twelve o'clock when I have no mental holds; on these days I would have about an hour to do any tests you think best. Ordinarily, when things go smoothly, I can run the Ferguson Boards on about four to six people a day; this would give us about 75 to 100 a month. To date I have run through 94 men and 69 women. It was my original idea to standardize the Ferguson Boards well and get about 200 men and 200 women at least; believe I could do this by July 1st. We might, of course, continue as I have been going and then run in the extra tests you want on the last subject I get about mid-day.

It will also be difficult to perform tests which involve a great deal of explanation or language because my nurse is busy getting the next subject ready while I am doing the testing and cannot do the interpreting. I cannot speak the language yet, but even if I could manage it I do not believe it would be fair to do so in mental tests because of the marked differences in pronunciation. Of course, the nurse is always available after the work is over in the morning until one o'clock.

Trust you will not be bored with the above information pertaining to shop, but I just wanted to let you know the conditions under which the tests here will have to be performed.

I was rather surprised that only two Norwegians out of fifty failed to perform six of the Ferguson Boards. You previously told me about the good showing the Scandanavians made on the mental tests, but the above hardly seems possible. Are you sure that the subjects are not being picked? This record, if true, must be far above the American record.

The subjects I am using are chosen indiscriminately. As a matter of fact, heretofore I have examined almost everyone within the age limit---16 to 35 years. The men are from 95 to 98 per cent farmers, special preference being given to all farmers in accordance with the law. The women are 90% domestics and housewives. We get a good many more men than women.

Regarding the differences in performance of the mental tests at the various German stations, I would like to suggest that possibly Hamburg will make a better showing than the other stations because of its proximity to the Scandanavian countries. A close relationship exists between the Scandanavians and the Prussians both economically and genetically; we have quite a number of Scandanavian types applying for visas here, but I have always made an effort to exclude them from the group of subjects I am using for my tests.

Well, the holidays are now over and I am not sorry. We had a very nice party on New Years Eve here at the Uhlenhorster Fahrhaus, a restaurant that is supposed to be the swellest place in town. We had dinner and everything that goes with it, including plenty of champagne afterwards and it only cost us about \$7.50 a head. That wouldn't meet the covert charge in New York, but booze is much cheaper here than any place I have ever seen. It is a wonder to me that the Germans wouldn't put a bigger tax on it.

Before you come to Hamburg be sure to let me know. I am certain that I can get you a lodging place in a superior type of pension here should you wish to go there; the rates are about \$2.50 per day and include all three meals.

Speaking of theatres, we have a very fine Opera House here and we are both acquiring our musical education this winter. Have seen about two dozen operas so far this winter.

Best wishes to you and yours from both of us,

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Vanduhl