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Scaling of Human Ability

Yukiko HIGANO*

How human ability can be measured has been investigated by considering the problem of selecting excellent students. The assumption is that excellent students will achieve good results in their annual examinations, that is, the ability can be measured by the results of annual examinations.

The problem of selection has been investigated from the following four points of view. First, the reliability of the entrance examination and the high school record, which are used only for the selection at present, has been investigated. The result is that selection may be done only with the reference to high school record, so well as with the entrance examination. But considering that the selection based on only the intellectual maturity may not be sufficient, personality, LIS and various mental attitude have been studied, secondly. Although the favorable facts which connect these directly with scholarly attainments have not been obtained, these have been shown to predict the student's future. Thirdly, the influences of entrance examination have been studied by comparing the students who have taken entrance examination with those who have not. The result is that the former achieved good results just after entrance but their superior position is not maintained afterward. Finally, the problem of selection of subjects in the entrance examination has been considered. It has been found that the results in English may be reliable to know the ability in English but that the results in mathematics may not be so.

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