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The Reliability of Certain Scales for Measuring Attitudes

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dren of the same age and mental level remain fairly constant over comparable intervals. In the orphanages these children represent the lower mental levels, but in the institutions for the feeble-minded they are among the higher mental levels. It would appear that the differing mental levels of the two environments set different patterns of environmental stimulation.

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THE RELIABILITY OF CERTAIN SCALES FOR MEASURING ATTITUDES

A. R. LAUER AND ROBERT TAYLOR

A list of 100 words were checked for five degrees of preference by 118 adult male subjects of post-college age. The attitude categories were arbitrarily called; liberal, socialistic, sports, risk and annoyance, law enforcement, racial and religious, and cultural. The reliability coefficients ranged from $+ .77$ down to $+ .29$. The highest reliabilities were found for the attitudes of law enforcement, liberalism, and risk and annoyance. The lowest reliabilities were for the attitudes toward race and religion, socialism and the sports.

It is not inferred that this is a general phenomenon, however, but rather it is more likely to be due to the items of the test. Intercorrelations of the separate tests are also presented. Negative correlations as high as $- .85$ were obtained which not only confirms the reliability but throws considerable light on the validity of the categories used.

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