



# Genius and stupidity; a study of some of the intellectual processes of seven "bright" and seven "stupid" boys

*Lewis Madison Terman*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1906 Excerpt: ...this fault, thinking it possibly only a matter of habit, but with little success. In making the effort to read by larger wholes he miscalls and transposes very many words. I had also little success in trying to get him to tone his voice down to conversational pitch and to modulate it more naturally. Punctuation was little heeded. He has a very marked habit of reversing the position of words in a phrase and of separate sounds in a word. Very often he hits correctly on part of the sound of a word and fills in the rest incorrectly. For example, as instead of so, saw instead of was, with instead of what, wistful instead of wise, icicles instead of ice crystals. Such errors are made in almost every line. Careful re-examination showed no defect of vision. To summarize the results on reading, I may say that the dull boys, as a group, are decidedly inferior to the bright boys. They are less fluent, miscall more words, and have far less expression. The tone of voice is more monotonous and has more of the unnatural 'schoolroom' pitch. The reading is evidently also by smaller units, phrases often being uttered separately as though unconnected. The frequently misplaced emphasis shows that fine shades of meaning are not grasped. Their rate is also decidedly slower, especially with K, M, and N. It must be kept in mind, however, that the stupid boys have done much less reading. (See Individual Sketches, Section XI below.) It cannot, of course, be determined how much of the difference is thus to be accounted for. I believe that careful experimentation giving a detailed analysis of the reading process among these fourteen boys would have yielded important results. Even the mere verbal recognition of words involves the use of intricate mental machinery, and if there is a hit...

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