

troduced because careful discussion of the operational difference in their meanings, and of their unsatisfactoriness when based entirely on small samples, would have diverted attention from the general theme.

The situation in biometrics pointed out by Foster certainly calls for avoidance of " $a \pm b$ " without qualification. As a former biometrician, my feeling is that the needs of biometrics will usually be met by the recommendations given for the case of "systematic error negligible, imprecision not negligible" provided that any "standard deviation" reported is clearly identified as relating either to the *standard deviation of the population* of animals, plants, and so forth, or to the *standard error of the (reported) mean*; and in the latter case it is made clear whether it connotes sampling variation, measurement error, or a combination of both.

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References

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3. *Status Report-National Standard Reference System, April 1968*, Technical Note 448 (National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C., 1968), p. 1.

Can Intelligence Be Measured?

Frank A. Meier (Letters, 27 Sept.) says "Whether or not there are racial differences in intelligence is a legitimate subject for scientific investigation; no one is disputing that fact."

Some *are* disputing that fact. Intelligence has yet to be defined in demonstrable, verifiable, scientific terms which are susceptible to public agreement. In fact, all the so-called research concerning "intelligence" seems to be manipulating a reciprocal measure of accumulated ignorance more than any measure of inherent capability. At least, a child who fails to recognize a noun in a sentence and therefore later does not capitalize personal pronouns, the experts deem "low in intelligence" . . . The word "intelligence" has been a verbal booby trap for centuries. Better forget it.

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