swers are "concrete, with no inference," whereas the good answers reflect an awareness of the functions and attributes of salt and water.

Arguing about culture in its own terms is slippery. But the pro-testers claim that lack of cultural bias is proved by the absence of item-group interaction. If an item is culturally biased, says Gordon, it will appear in a different place for different groups when individual items are ranked according to difficulty. Test-makers purportedly have eliminated items that rank differently according to race. It turns out that blacks, if anything, are scoring better than whites on the famous fight item.

This information does not score with the anti-testers. Hilliard's answer to the item-group argument is that such statistical analysis gives no clues as to why testees give the answers they do.

Many people are trying to figure out how to get out of the double bind that IQ testing exemplifies. Some have grabbed onto the left- versus right-hemisphere model of brain functioning. The IQ tests are said to measure what have been labeled left-hemisphere properties: verbal, temporal, analytical, sequential abilities (such as vocabulary and mathematics), whereas right-hemisphere capabilities—holistic, spatial, intuitive, nonverbal, and, by implication, the real seat of resourcefulness and creativity. Some have proposed that tests geared to right-hemisphere properties could make a truer distinction between ability and achievement. Creativity tests do in fact exist, but they do not seem to be contributing anything to do with the immediate problem, which is how to get everyone in on the basic skills necessary for successful functioning in the United States of today.

Briefing

New Smallpox Outbreak Leads Scientist to Suicide

The laboratory-associated case of smallpox that occurred in Birmingham, England, last month seems so far to be under control with no secondary cases having yet developed. But the incident has ended in tragedy for both Janet Parker, the laboratory photographer who contracted the disease, and Henry Bedson, the smallpox expert who headed the laboratory where she worked.

Parker, whose condition was reported to be improving, died in a Birmingham isolation hospital on 11 September. Her death was preceded by that of Bedson, who had been taken to hospital with throat wounds a few days after Parker's smallpox was diagnosed on 25 August (*Science*, 8 September). Bedson, aged 40, died of his wounds last week. "I am sorry to have misplaced the trust which so many of my friends and my colleagues have placed in me and my work," he said in a note made public after his death.

Compounding the tragedy is that it is not yet clear that Bedson did misplace any trust. An inquiry is still in progress to ascertain how Parker, who worked in a room on the floor above the smallpox laboratory, could have been exposed to the virus. Airborne transmission in such circumstances has been reported occasionally from hospitals but not in a laboratory. There is no air duct or other direct route connecting Parker's room and the laboratory.

With the danger period almost over, no secondary cases have so far occurred in England, even though 39 close and 196 casual contacts of the patient had been identified. CDC smallpox expert Stanley Foster says he had expected a few secondary cases, although not too many because the time of year is unfavorable for smallpox transmission in temperate zones.

Parker's father, Frederick Witcomb, died in the same hospital the week before his daughter. Developing a fever, he had been admitted as a possible contact but his death was apparently due to a heart attack, not smallpox.

The Birmingham case posed the hazard of secondary outbreaks not only in England but also in the United States. A co-worker of Janet Parker traveled to North Dakota on 18 August, a week before Parker's smallpox was diagnosed.

The Center for Disease Control dispatched a smallpox expert to the farm where the co-worker was staying; she developed no symptoms and is now out of the danger period, thus averting a possible recrudescence of smallpox in North America.

Kennedy and Brezhnev Make Deal over Levich

Soviet academician and electrochemist Benjamin Levich is about to be allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union through the good offices of Senator Edward Kennedy. So too are the members of 17 other Jewish families.

Kennedy announced this particular fruit of his 2-hour meeting with General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev earlier this month at a press conference held in the hearing room of his Senate health subcommittee. Flanked by representatives of a dozen Jewish organizations, Kennedy told the assembled television cameras that the Soviet Union had "agreed to reconsider the cases" of the 18 families, and that he had "every expectation" they would be permitted to leave in the near future.

Kennedy seemed to have more on his mind than the 18 families and used the occasion to promote two of his other concerns, detente and disarmament. Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union reached a peak this summer, he observed, but the recent downward spiral in relations "may be at an end."

"The most important message that I have brought back," Kennedy said, "is the genuine desire of General Secretary Brezhnev to move ahead on a variety of arms control limitations," such as SALT II and the comprehensive test-ban treaty. In a potshot at domestic opponents of such treaties, Kennedy quoted Brezhnev as being "troubled by what he at least interprets as confusing signals in some particular areas of policy." The Russians did not doubt Carter's own desire for arms limitations, the senator added.

Kennedy reported himself as having told Brezhnev, in so many words, that no arms agreement would get through the Senate unless the Russians showed greater concern for human rights. Brezhnev's undertaking to release the 18 families is perhaps a response to this concern, as well as a gesture to a man who, if today's polls were plebiscites, would be President. Another aim may be to prove that Kennedy's approach to human rights is more effective than Carter's.

The Committee of Concerned Scientists, which has campaigned for 6 years for Levich's release, was on hand to express its thanks to Kennedy.

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