

PROFICIENT YEARS AT SPORTS

going hypothesis is a valid one. And, if valid, it will be possible to determine, for groups of individuals, which particular chronological age level, or fraction thereof, is most propitious both for the specific types of behavior that have been mentioned herein and for many others as well.

It seems obvious that, in much of the unorganized competition that is constantly taking place between the various age groups, some of the age groups are greatly handicapped, others of them are slightly handicapped, and some, perhaps only one, at any rate not more than a very few, possess a distinct advantage. And the keener the competition, the more valid, within limits, the foregoing statements. It seems likely that future generations of psychologists may be able to express these facts with mathematical precision. Indeed, it should be possible to construct, for each specific type of measurable behavior, of a given standard of excellence, something analogous to the mortality tables that have long been utilized by life insurance companies. Like the mortality tables, the probability tables that are here suggested would apply only to groups of individuals of a given chronological age. Such tables obviously would not apply to every individual within a given age group.

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