Small Chance for Draft Dodos

If Doctors Know Their Own Affairs

Scientific Methods for Detecting Maligners Who Pretend Ailments of Eyes, Ears or Muscles

A word with you, Mr. W. T. Slacker. If you’re inclined to think of dodging the征服 by the usual stratagem of pretending to have some gross physical disability when you get before the local exam board, be forewarned. Once you are Mr. W. T. Slacker there is no evading the fact that you can be called upon to answer questions about your physical status. But here is something that will relieve you of all anxiety. First, you must be aware of the fact that the draft is and has been a fact for the past six months. And secondly, you are invited to take advantage of a service that is available to you. You may have the opportunity to be examined by a man who has spent a lifetime in the study of the subject. And finally, you may be interested to know that the service is free and available to all without charge.

Yes, there is no question about it. The time has come for you to think seriously of doing the draft by “taking” some sort of physical disability. For instance, if you think you can’t do much of anything in the world, then you can do the draft by getting up your courage and going to the local exam board and pretending you can’t do anything. And there are plenty of doctors who will be only too happy to help you.

Once more a bit of advice: It’s better for you to consult with a doctor who has had experience in dealing with your particular condition. The effort to find out whether one can really function when a person is ill is not a simple task. It is true that the raising of an arm by a man who has been examined by a doctor is a way of determining the performance of our army surgeons. Here, with a voluntary army, their efforts have been directed to determining the physical condition of the man who wants to get into the army. With a certain army a man who wants to get into the army has to be examined by a doctor. The doctor examines the patient and tests his arm to see if he can raise it. If he can, he is accepted; if not, he is rejected.

Ordinary professional knowledge usually sufficient equipment for it. There are many instances where an individual’s ability to do his job is not determined by his arm’s performance. However, for the sake of argument, let us say that one’s arm performance is the determining factor.

To illustrate: Pretended deafness is recognized as one of the most difficult things to detect. Here appears an ability of the cross-examiner. Sir John Slacker, in this respect, is a very interesting case.

A reluctant jurymen complained to the court that he was too deaf to serve.

"Surely you are not so sympathetic and indulgent today, "he said, "to hear a man who says that he has long been unheeded?"

"For a very long time, Your Honor, " replied the judge. "I don’t exceed the law."

"You make a very satisfactory jury, " he comforted the judge. "I won’t excuse you."

Now for the Sherlock Holmes touch: it is the duty of the doctor to point out to one finger the exact spot where the pain is felt. This is something that can be done even by the untrained observer. After a little interval, the suspect is asked to point out to the touch the spot where the pain is felt. She should not use where he is pointing, and, if she is an honest man, he may point out a spot several feet away from the other one.

The patient, however, complains of the left ear. His attention must be distracted by various means. One way is to ask him whether the other side hurts, at the same time applying firm pressure to the left ear. If the pain is being deflected, it may be possible to put on considerable pressure on the side that is affected by the slowing without eliciting exhibition of pain.

Every doctor knows the movements will be of no use to him in the treatment of the body, supporting that there is any real pain in the left ear. He must be absolutely sure that the patient has real pain in the right ear. For the right ear, the patient is asked to stand on his feet to the doctor’s hand. If no movement is made, the patient is asked to stand on his feet and the doctor is asked to make the patient do something that is difficult for him. These actions will give him an indication that no sensation is present.

In cases of pretended muscular weakness of one of the arms, a useful method is to lift both arms at right angles to the body and suddenly withdraw all support. If one arm was really incapable of being raised, the support would be withdrawn. The arm would drop limply to the side when all support is withdrawn. The doctor is aware of the trick that is being played on him. He gradually allowed to fall to the side. When a man says he can’t raise his arm because of an alleged paralysis of the arm, the doctor will have noticed the shoulder muscles, if the arm is placed by the examiner in a horizontal position and the man is sympathetically exhorted to be his arm the man is allowed to fall to the side and slowly and gradually let him lie on the face. The shoulder muscles are still capable of exercising their function.

Sir John Slacker shows how a certain man complained that because of an accident he could not move his arm from his body. He examined the man and said he could raise it. The man claimed that he could not raise it because of a sudden and unexpected pain in the arm.

The examiner has to be convinced that the claim is not exaggerated, wholly absent. Experience has shown that the inductiveness of the truth is not always easy. The doctor’s examination of the patient has to be decided as whether the alleged pain is so severe that the man is not able to lift his arm.

A patient tells the doctor that he is having difficulty breathing. The doctor examines him and asks him to take a deep breath. He then asks the patient to exhale slowly. The doctor observes the patient’s breathing and notes any signs of improvement.

An effort has been made to detect the true nature of the patient’s condition. The doctor examines him thoroughly and asks him to perform certain tasks that are difficult for him. The doctor observes his breathing, movements, and reactions and makes notes of any signs of improvement.

Rescue Coopke, Deputy Attorney General in Charge of New York Dock

The patient has had to think whether or not he is really suffering. There are also certain objective symptoms that may be of help. For instance, he may be shaky or pale or puller of the pants. There may be dilution of the pulp of the eye. One authority states that the pulp will sometimes be slightly rosy or bluish rather when pain is really felt. There may be increased tearing of the eye.

Allergic partial blindness is not as dif-

ficult to detect, says Sir John, as might be supposed. It is an impressive number of ways whereby, relating to nothing but vast uses of the eye, and equally simple contrivances, one may be deceived by the pretender who is trying to pass as a sufferer. The more obvious means are defective.

There is an effort to be tried as a man who is suspected of hiding his illness. Place him twenty feet away from a pier on which is fastened a candle of Snell’s. The candle is supposed to indicate the line beyond which he can not reach with his fingers. Then hold him ten feet nearer the pier and give him a finger to touch with similar letters of the same size, but printed backwards, in his hand to be held before the pier and in front of his eyes. Then tell him to read the letters which he is supposed to read.

The patient is now standing at half the distance from the mirror that he was in the beginning. He reaches for the letters and, after a little interval, the patient has read the letters. Then he is asked to read the letters that were printed on the mirror.

That is the second instance. The next thing to be considered that he is pretending that he can only see with one eye may be easily de-
tected with the ordinary netural stereo-
ascope, and printed in black and white as graphs prepared for the stereoscope have been. The description of the subject printed on the bottom of one photograph only, will actually correspond the right eye. This printed matter, when read through the stereoscope, is seen with the right eye only. If, therefore, it is read, it proves that the right eye is not blind.

If the printed matter is reversed over a mirror of a piece of a paper, and the same words are printed similarly printed at the bottom of a photograph of opposite the left eye; and the support against reads the description, the tongs with the right, or, altogether, the left eye. Another useful test is based on the fact that if one glass of green glasses he will not see that green is green. Print on a piece of ordinary note paper the letters T and H. He describes the letters as to be made with a very soft red, and the others with a very black pen. Suppose he is who is being examined cannot read the letters T and H. You will now find that a piece of red paper from a photograph is to do in front of his right eye, and a black paper letter in front of his left. If he spells T H E O R Y, then it is with the right, or, altogether, the left eye. The red glass absolutely prevents the red letters from being seen with the left eye, and as he has read the
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red letters, he must have done so with the right eye.

Sir John cautions that in making this test it is important not to mark the letters heavily, or the impression of the letters, apart from the color, will show on the paper and can easily be read. It is for this reason that the examiner is warned to use a soft red pencil. Red ink is not suitable.

Pretended deafness is one of the most difficult forms of malingering to detect. Deafness of long standing can be diagnosed from the voice. The characteristic monotone of the deaf is only found in pronounced and genuine cases. A man who is deaf in one ear and who wishes to hear naturally and involuntarily turns his head toward the speaker. Vowel sounds are better heard than consonants.

Even these few facts, used with guile, have proved sufficient to trap many a malingerer. A man who has obstinately refused to hear has, after a long examination, been caught by the simple ruse of being told, in the same tone of voice: “All right, you can go now.”

There are many tests. Some, for instance, with the tuning-fork, which placed near the opening of the ear, or against the skull back of the ear, or in the middle of the forehead, produce different results upon a person who is genuinely suffering from one or another form of deafness, results which it is impossible for the malingerer to describe unless he has professional knowledge and can use it readily.

Here is a simple method of testing the hearing recommended by Sir John: One ear of the suspect should be closed by one of the examiners placing the palm of his hand accurately over the opening of the ear and pressing it firmly. The suspect is then blindfolded, and he is tested at various distances by means of a watch, tuning-fork, or whispering. And the results must be definitely recorded. If malingering is being attempted, it is impossible for accuracy to be maintained, and the recorded results will vary in an amusing way. The hearing distances will be found to increase gradually as the testing continues. For instance, the suspect is asked whether he hears the watch at, say twelve feet. If he says no, the examiner noiselessly approaches until, perhaps at two feet, he admits that he hears it. This is noted and the experiment repeated several times. The bandage covering the eyes is removed, and the whole experiment is fully explained. Then the eyes are again blindfolded, and the experiment repeated. At every stage a careful record should be made in writing. In time the suspect becomes very uncertain of his ground, and his answers become so inaccurate that there is no question that he is telling a falsehood.

All of Sir John’s remarks were confined to men who were trying to fleece railroad and accident insurance companies and such. Failure simply meant a business venture that went astray. The conscript malingerer before one of Uncle Sam’s local exemption boards will have this further—and very big—handicap: Failure will mean heavy fine and imprisonment.