CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSIONS

The present and the last chapter deals with the evaluation of the work as well as with what could further be done with the test for no sensible research worker claims one's work to be perfect or so complete that nothing further needs to be done. The horizons of knowledge are infinite and the honest explorer never reaches the brink. In fact there is no place for self complacency in research.

Evaluation

It is an experience to look back upon the past from a distance. The mere recollection of what has been experienced is itself rewarding. It is certainly a pleasure to remember the entire process through which the investigator had to pass. The long laborious days that any research worker has to live, often become boring while they are being lived. But the perspective changes when the work is over probably because one then carries in hand the fruits of labour. These fruits can be categorized in two types:

(i) The degree of scientific perfection attained during the process of developing the test

(ii) The uses to which the test can be put
The degree of scientific perfection:

It would be agreed that each decision was made on scientific basis and no pains have been spared to check the validity of the test items and select the sample on the basis of various variables. The three curves of mental growth for the boys', girls' and mixed groups are found to be regular inspite of the small sample size. This is no small an achievement and one does not have to be modest in ascertaining that what has been achieved is not just good luck but a very obvious outcome of the care and industry employed in the development of the test.

Various available methods of checking the reliability of the test have been employed and the fact that it has been checked with homogeneous groups such as ages and grades is a sufficient evidence of the critical approach to the issue. Various validation procedures, including a rather unusual number of external criteria, were used for validating the test.

However, perfection with regard to any psychological instrument cannot be claimed and is not claimed in the present case also. The most apparent among the limitations, is the sample size. Each norm group is composed of forty individuals only. But one can hope to be forgiven for it in view of the limited scope
of research leading to a degree as well as in view of the satisfactory results obtained. For the same reasons, the present investigator cannot be expected to establish the predictive validity of the tests also. One might also shear at the limited geographical area covered which happens to be just the city of Ahmedabad. But it is not accepted as a limitation for two reasons. It would have been foolish to attempt to cover a wider geographical area when the sample size had to be limited. Besides, claims for the applicability of the tests beyond the city of Ahmedabad are not strongly made. In chapter 5 it has been very specifically mentioned that such a claim can be legitimately made only if the present sampling is accepted as a cluster sampling and if cross generalization studies are made.

The real limitation of the test is its applicability to lower age groups. The tests can be used with them but one has to be very cautious in interpreting the results for two subtests of the battery do not work quite satisfactorily at that level.

Uses:

As the present test is likely to be used only by qualified individuals, it is not necessary to enumerate in detail the uses to which it can be put. It can, of course, be used wherever measurement of general
intelligence is needed for guidance and selection purposes. They can be used, with real advantage in case of academically retarded students, who may be verbally handicapped and in case of students whose IQs on group tests appear to be doubtful. As in case of all individual performance tests, the observations made during the administration of the tests, will help the examiner analyse the testee's behaviour for understanding his attitudes and personality traits. For example, the examiner can study his reactions to difficulties, his ability to concentrate, his patience and perseverance etc.

When the test is widely used and data accumulated, it may be possible to study the data for predicting the academic level expected of testee and for predicting his success in various vocational courses. The test has the potentiality of being developed for clinical uses also.

Further Studies

It is often said that a research worth the name does not contribute only to the advancement of knowledge but points out directions in which the seeker of knowledge can advance. Among several such directions, the following can be enumerated.

1 Cross generalization studies on different types of samples can be taken up as already
pointed out earlier.

2 Though no sex differences have been observed in the present investigation, the fact could be checked on a different and larger sample.

3 The applicability of the test to the lower age groups can be critically studied.

4 Scatter analysis of each of the six subtests for clinical purposes can be undertaken.

5 It would be particularly useful to study the responses of the mentally retarded to various items of the test.

6 Development of norms for using the test with the deaf-mute appears to be a must as no such instrument is available in Gujarat and the present one being performance tests can be administered with pantomime directions.

7 It would be beneficial to develop norms on groups of unskilled workers as well as on groups of adults who are either illiterate or whose education is very meagre. All the three types are likely to be verbally handicapped and so can profitably be judged with the help of performance tests such as these.

8 The need for numerous studies to establish the predictive validity of the test cannot be over emphasized.