A SHORT SCALE FOR RATING "ACTIVITY-WITHDRAWAL" IN SCHIZOPHRENICS

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EXPERIMENTAL work on the performance of schizophrenic patients indicated that different patterns of response were to be found among patients who could be considered subjectively as withdrawn and inert on the one hand, and sociable and active on the other. This subjective classification appeared to cut across diagnosis within the schizophrenic group.

In order to make this observed classification more objective, the literature on rating scales of psychiatric patients was considered to find items which appeared to be relevant to the subjectively observed classification described above.

Finally, nine items were abstracted from the M.S.R.P.P. Scale devised by Lorr *et al.* (1), and a further item was constructed to measure the apparent friendliness of the patient. All items were modified to be scored on a five point basis if they were not already so scored. The 10 items are shown in the appendix.

One hundred schizophrenic patients, 66 men and 34 women, were rated independently on the scale by two charge nurses in the case of the men, and two ward sisters in the case of the women. The mean age of the men was 40·9 S.D. 6·5 years, and that of the women 45·5 S.D. 9·19 years. The men had been in hospital for a mean period of 8·2 S.D. 7·3 years, and the women 6·4 S.D. 5·1 years.

The 10 scale items with sex and age as additional variables, were intercorrelated and a centroid factor analysis carried out. Three factors significant by McNemar's (2) criterion, were extracted. The loadings obtained after rotation are shown in Table I. Short definitions of items are given to facilitate reference.

TABLE I

Rotated Factor Loadings for Ten Scale Items, Sex and Age

Variable Item	I	II	III	Direction of Scoring
1	·42	·54	·00	Restless
2	·90	−·06	−·05	Overtalkative
3	·56	·70	·00	Overactive
4	·80	−·19	·03	Many friends
5	·90	·12	·04	Loud speech
6	·76	−·14	·06	Many interests
7	·91	−·03	−·02	Much conversation
8	·48	·66	−·06	Hurried actions
9	·89	−·11	·09	Likes company
10	·91	·02	·01	Talks too much
Sex	·44	−·32	·36	Female
Age	·19	−·16	·34	Old

It is seen that Factor I has positive loadings on all the items, while Factor II has its highest loadings on items 1, 3 and 8, which are concerned with activity

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rather than with sociability and talkativeness. The third factor is a doublet loaded on sex and age.

If a vector is extended through a cluster of activity items, 1, 3 and 8, it is found that the correlation between this vector and the vector representing Factor I is of the order of ·70. It is probably therefore not of practical importance to divide up the items into two groups for separate use.

The inter-rater reliability for the 10 items is ·79 for all raters, while that for male raters rating male patients is ·83, and that for female raters rating female patients is ·66.

Before this analysis was completed a shortened version of the scale omitting items 1, 3, 5 and 8 was used as a criterion of "sociability-withdrawal" in two studies (3, 4), where it was found to distinguish between groups of schizophrenic patients showing, or not showing, a facilitatory effect of extraneous sound or light on simple R.T. The effectiveness of the scale as a research criterion is shown by its usefulness in these two studies; further work to determine its standing with respect to other variables is to be undertaken.

Appendix

Items in Activity Withdrawal Scale

1. (42)* How much does he move around? Does he sit all day unless pushed to follow routine? Or, is he usually walking around or restlessly moving some part of his body?

1	2	3	4	5
Usually motionless	Underactive	Moves about as appropriate	Restless	Almost constantly moving

2. (8)* Compared to the average person, how taciturn or talkative is he? Judge only the amount of speech; do not consider its relevance nor whether it was spontaneous or elicited by questioning.

1	2	3	4	5
Mute throughout interview	Distinctly less	As talkative as average	Distinctly more	Conspicuously overtalkative

3. (46)* Does he usually give the appearance of being tired and worn out or lively and energetic as compared to others?

1	2	3	4	5
Almost completely worn out	Tired	As lively as most	Livelier and more energetic	Overactive and abnormally energetic

4. Does he have friends in the ward?

1	2	3	4	5
None at all	Acknowledges one or two other patients	Has one or two fairly regular friends	Is normally friendly	Makes friends with as many people as he can

5. (20)* Compared to others, how loud or intense is his speech? Is it barely audible or is it loud and (or) intense?

1	2	3	4	5
Almost inaudible	Distinctly less audible or less intense	As loud as average	Distinctly louder or more intense	Shouts or yells

* Numbers in brackets refer to numbers of items in M.S.R.P.P. Scale (Lorr *et al.* (1)).

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APPENDIX—*continued.*

6. (57)* How much interest does he show in the things going on around him? Which of the following does he do: (*a*) listen to the radio or watch television; (*b*) play games; (*c*) read newspapers or magazines; (*d*) go to dances or socials; (*e*) talk about ward happenings, sport or news events; (*f*) write letters; (*g*) go to parties?

1	2	3	4	5
Interested in nothing, just sits	Any one	Any two or three	Any 4 or 5	All 6 or more

7. (56)* How often does he speak to others? Does he ask for things, say hallo, ask questions, make comments, or otherwise start a back and forth conversation?

1	2	3	4	5
Never	Occasionally	Less often than the ordinary person	As often as the ordinary person	Nearly always speaking to someone

8. (71)* Compared with others are his reactions (walking, talking, gestures) slower and more deliberate, or, do they appear faster or hurried?

1	2	3	4	5
Markedly slower	A little slower	As fast as average	A little faster	Conspicuously faster or hurried

9. (58)* Does he stay by himself and avoid others, or does he like being with people?

1	2	3	4	5
Always stays by himself. Ignores everyone	Usually by himself. Mixes sometimes	About as much alone as with others	Usually in company with others	Always in company with others

10. (52)* Typically how much does he talk if spoken to?

1	2	3	4	5
Does not answer	Only 3 or 4 words	Less than the ordinary person	As much as the ordinary person	Hard to stop

* Numbers in brackets refer to numbers of items in M.S.R.P.P. Scale (Lorr *et al.* (1)).

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