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A Comparison of Two Hostility Inventories using an Abnormal Population

By I. S. CLARK

The Regional Poisoning Treatment Centre of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, under Dr. Henry Matthew, is located in the only locked ward in the hospital. Not only patients suffering from self-poisoning are admitted, but also patients under police surveillance, emergency psychiatric admissions and patients with 'delirium tremens'.

These patients constitute an abnormal population and are known to rate high in a hostility test (1).

At present two inventories on hostility are available; one compiled by Caine-Foulds (British), and one by Buss-Durkee (American). These two inventories have been compiled by different methods (2) (3), and have different subscales except for one labelled 'Guilt', that is common to both.

It was decided to undertake a comparison of these two inventories using, as subjects, patients admitted to the Centre over a two month period. Each subject was given a copy of both the Caine-Foulds and the Buss-Durkee questionnaires with instructions on how to complete them printed at the head of each copy.

A total of 60 subjects completed both questionnaires, classified as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Self-poisoning	20	28	48
Self-injury	2	1	3
Others	7	2	9

Buss and Durkee quote their *total* hostility value, with 'Guilt' as a separate value; whilst Caine-Foulds and Creasy include 'Guilt' in their *total* hostility value. It was decided to test, for correlation by r, the Caine-Foulds total hostility values, which include 'Guilt', with:

(a) The Buss-Durkee total hostility values including their 'Guilt' value, then:

(b) Excluding their 'Guilt' value.

The Caine-Foulds and Buss-Durkee results were examined for normality of distribution and were found to be approximately normal. The correlation coefficients r_a and r_b were computed. The results obtained were:

(a) $r_a = 0{\cdot}8368 \quad p<0{\cdot}001$.

(b) $r_b = 0{\cdot}7890 \quad p<0{\cdot}001$.

Both these values are highly significant.

A logit transformation of the two correlation coefficients r_a and r_b was carried out, and it was found that the correlation was not significantly improved if 'Guilt' was either included or excluded in the Buss-Durkee total value.

To conclude, in this comparison, using an abnormal population, it has been shown that there is a high correlation between the Caine-Foulds and the Buss-Durkee total hostility scores; and that although Buss and Durkee do not include 'Guilt' in their own published *total* hostility scores, its inclusion or exclusion does not significantly improve the correlation. Thus results obtained from using either of these inventories can be usefully compared.

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