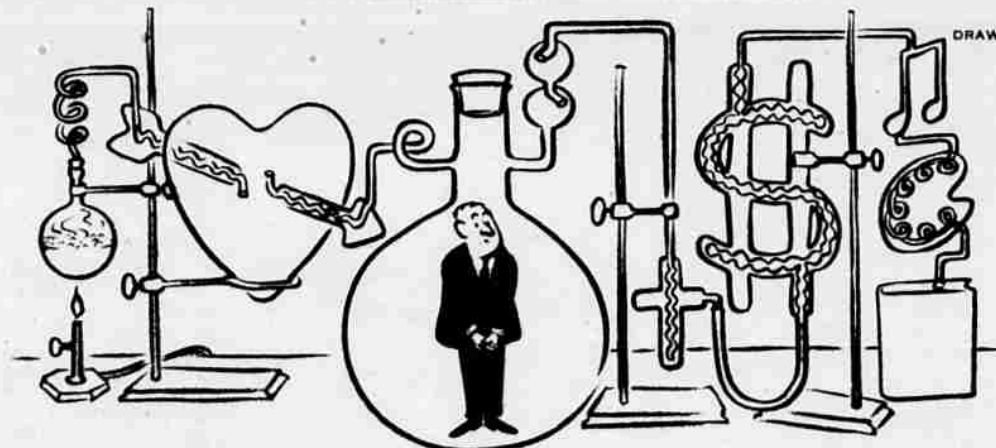




Science Looks at You and Your Job

Here are some of the surprising facts that your choice of occupation reveals

By JOHN E. GIBSON



Farmers have the highest rate of connubial bliss.

IF, LIKE MOST OF US, you have to work for a living, you probably enjoy talking shop. Recently, science has been doing that, too. Through studies of various kinds, scientists have put your job, mine, and everyone else's under the clinical microscope and come up with some interesting revelations.

They have found out, for example, that your choice of occupation reveals a great deal about your personality. They know now that the kind of work you do affects your chances of a happy marriage. And if you have wondered precisely what it takes to make a top executive, they can answer that, too.

Scientists have even tackled the toughest and most controversial question of all: "Are you getting paid enough for the kind of work you do?" (Because neither employer nor employee would be able to answer this question objectively, they put the vote to the American public.)

Look at some of the interesting things learned.

What does your choice of occupation reveal about your personality?

Investigators have found that people with certain personality traits tend to select specific occupations. Here are some of the findings.

Teachers, authors, librarians, and artists are the most discriminating in their tastes and are the most capable of making subtle and delicate distinctions. They are likely to be acutely sensitive to their surroundings. They are inclined to be deeply religious. However, they often let their hearts rule their heads, and most of them lack astuteness in the management of money or property.

Businessmen, lawyers, and accountants tended to be the least concerned with aesthetic values, and the most hardheaded about practical affairs.

Doctors ranked low in ability to handle money, and were among the least political-minded. They showed a marked tendency to prize facts, truth, and knowledge above material considerations.

Occupations ranking highest in concern for the well-being of others included housewives, nurses, and social workers.

The least disposed to be religious or philosophical were the bankers and lawyers.

Does what you do for a living have any bearing on how happy your marriage is likely to be?

Yes. The findings on this score may surprise you. Most people think that whether you are a banker or a bookkeeper, whether you earn your living with

your mind or your muscles has little to do with successful marriage. It is also commonly thought that marital strife occurs most frequently in the high-income brackets. Almost the reverse is true. This viewpoint probably stems from the publicity given to the marital troubles of prominent people.

The American Institute of Family Relations studied the marriages of a typical cross section of the population. The specimen group, 3,528 couples, was carefully selected to be representative of all the various occupations. All the marriages were of more than five years duration. The degree of happiness of each marriage was arrived at through interviews with close friends and relatives. The findings of the study are as follows:

1. Farmers (and those engaged in other agricultural occupations). There were more happy marriages in this group than in any other, over two-thirds (68 percent) being rated as happy.
2. Professional men (doctors, lawyers, scientists, teachers). This group ranked second; 61 percent of their marriages were rated as happy.
3. Executives (and owner-proprietors of large businesses) came third, with a happy home life in 59 percent of the cases.
4. Small-business owners, white-collar workers, and salesmen. Less than 55 percent of the marriages in this occupational category were listed as happy.
5. Skilled workers (carpenters, electricians, plumbers). This group came just a little below the small-business owners, with slightly more than 54 percent reported as being happily married.
6. Semiskilled workers (waiters, truck drivers, elevator operators, and workers in crafts requiring a comparatively short period of training or apprenticeship). Domestic tranquility took a drop here. Less than half (47 percent) in this category had marriages which could be classified as happy.
7. Unskilled workers. This classification had the most domestic strife. Less than 42 percent had marriages which the investigators rated as happy.

What does it take to make a top executive?

Sociologists from the University of Maryland and Louisiana State University studied 50 top-level executives and 50 first-line managers in the same occupational environments. Each executive was asked to make a candid statement about the qualities he felt he possessed which his subordinate managers lacked, and each manager was asked: "What attributes do your company's executives have which you feel you and your fellow managers lack?"

The investigators found that executives and managers were in substantial agreement on the following points. The executives had exceeded the managers in: better understanding of human nature; energy, alertness, and initiative; rounded, attractive personalities; ability to solve problems and make long-range plans; tact and poise; determination and strength of personal character; both education and training; and willingness to delegate authority, accept responsibility, and make decisions.

As a man climbs higher in his occupation, and is subjected to the greater pressures which accompany heavy responsibility, is he more likely to crack under the strain?

No. A study of men engaged in various occupations, conducted by General Motors Research Institute over a 10-year period, showed that as men progressed to posts of greater responsibility their personality adjustment was markedly improved.

And although the study confirmed the fact that an individual's personal adjustment affects the occupational level he is able to reach, its findings clearly demonstrated that achieving a higher job status in itself makes for better personality adjustment. So don't refuse a promotion out of fear that the increased responsibility might get you down.

Other studies show that men in the most responsible positions average fewer breakdowns.

Are you getting paid enough for your work?

The American Institute of Public Opinion recently conducted a nationwide survey on this subject. If the public wrote the pay checks, here are the salaries they would pay: stenographer, \$3,000 a year; carpenter, \$2.50 an hour; baby sitter, 75¢ an hour; garage mechanic, \$2 an hour; store clerk, \$3,000 a year; day laborer, \$1.50 an hour; policeman, \$4,500 a year; high-school teacher, \$5,000 a year; U.S. Representative, \$10,000 a year; president of a \$10-million firm, \$32,500 a year.

The main point is: are you happy with your job? If not, what would you rather be doing? If yes, chances are you're good at it, and this shows up favorably in your personal life.



Scientists even tried to learn if you're being paid well enough.