

Dear Jo:
My mother's memory has been falling for the last couple of years now. She lives with us and can still manage quite well around the house. We would like her to be seen by a doctor but she point-blank refuses to go.

We were wondering if there is some kind of a test that we can give her at home to test her mental faculties. If you know of one, would you please print it in your column as we read it regularly.



gerontology
A. Jolayne Farrell
Mrs. S.M.,

read it know if one would you please print it in your column as we read it regularly.

Dear Mrs. M.:

I am sorry that your mother won't see a doctor, perhaps you can eventually convince her to go.

There are several tests that can be given to assess a person's mental status. One of the easiest to give at home is a simple mental status questionnaire.

The test considers orientation to place, time, person and general memory. It is short and to the point:

1. Who are you now? (Orientation to place)
2. Where is this place? (Orientation to place)
3. What month is it? (Orientation to place)
4. What day of the month is it? (Orientation to time)
5. What year is it? (Orientation to time)

6. How old are you? (Orientation to person)
7. When is your birthday? (Orientation to person)
8. Where were you born? (Orientation to person)
9. Who is the president of the U.S.? (General memory)
10. Who was president before him? (General memory).

TO COME UP with a score for the test: less than two errors indicate mild or no impairment; three to eight errors indicate moderate to advanced impairment; and any higher than that is an indication of severe brain dysfunction.

Should you decide to give this test to your mother, you should make sure she has every advantage of getting a good score. For example, have her answer the questions in a quiet, undisturbed atmosphere while sitting comfortably in her favorite chair. The test can be given two or three times if her responses are not accurate.

Also you may want to use the test over a period of several months or even years to keep a record of her mental status.
Good luck.

'Common ground' for neglected girls

Caring for neglected and troubled children is a worldwide concern. It brought Muriel Hammond, a French special educator, to the Oakland County Children's Village to observe and study procedures.

Hammond is a special educator at the Foyer Leclerc de Fourelles in Dijon, France. This 60-year-old facility cares for 42 girls between 10 and 18 years old who are in "physical and moral danger."

"The same behavior and attitudes are here in the United States with these children as with my girls in France," Hammond said. "The children in Oakland County wanted the names and addresses of the girls in France so they could write to each other. They felt a common ground."

HAMMOND SAID the facilities and procedures at Children's Village greatly impressed her.

"The physical surroundings, building structures and the amount of room that the children have at their disposal are excellent," she said.

She said she was especially impressed with the amount of effort taken to work with the parents of the children. Hammond said that the value of home relationships is incalculable.

"With better understanding between child and parent, the child will

'The children in Oakland County wanted the names and addresses of the girls in France so they could write to each other. They felt a common ground.'

— Muriel Hammond
visiting French educator

not have to be away from home long."

According to Hammond, the most important features of Children's Village are the open communication among administrators and the overall positive attitude toward building relationships with the children. These factors combine to create an "extremely productive and healthy" atmosphere.

"WE ARE HERE to show the children structure and an alternative to the way they live," she said. "We have to know and do everything correctly because we bring background and direction to the children."

"There is a very good feeling here at Children's Village."

EYE CARE

Gordon R.A. Fishman, MD
Diplomat of the American Board of Ophthalmology



DIABETES IN THE EYE

Diabetes is associated with cataract and retinopathy. Diabetics have cataracts more frequently than the general population. They first begin to notice diminished vision when they are reading the newspaper or taking a drivers test. As far as medical science can tell the chemical changes that take place in the body as a result of the diabetes also cause cataracts. Glasses may help for a while, but as the lens of the eye becomes more opaque, vision deteriorates further.

Diabetic retinopathy is a disease of the retina. The retina is a little like the film in a camera. The film only records an image. Your retina is nerve tissue that receives an image formed by light entering the eye. The retina sends this image to the brain via the optic nerve.

Diabetes affects the blood vessels in the retina just as it affects blood vessels in the heart and kidney. The walls of these small blood

vessels become weakened and balloon into bubbles called aneurysms. When these aneurysms break, blood escapes and spreads into the retinal tissues. The presence of fluid from the blood damages the retina. This impairs your vision. Recently, the laser has been used to treat these bleeding blood vessels. Most important, the earlier the diabetic retinopathy is seen, the better it can be treated with the laser. Young diabetics are at a greater risk. Again, it is most important for diabetics to have annual eye examinations and in some cases, twice a year is prudent.

For your FREE copy of Dr. Fishman's brochure 'EYE CARE' write to him at 1777 Astell Rd., Troy, MI 48064 or 23700 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48024

Families Together from Near and Far Join in a Renaissance Christmas



Saturday, November 29, 11 AM-3 PM at Renaissance Center.

"A Renaissance Christmas" is a family day at Renaissance Center...be sure to bring the kids!
Music, Puppets, and the Magic of the Renaissance.

Old world merriment with 40 strolling performers, magicians, and jugglers. Renaissance style! Plus, choirs, carolers and free caricatures.

Breakfast with Santa 8:30-10:00 AM.

Call The Westin Hotel for details 568-8600.

Santa Parade begins at 12 noon.

Elves will take free pictures of your children talking to Santa. Santa will be back every weekend through December 21!

Ronald McDonald Magic Show at 1:00 PM.

"Make and Take" Workshops.

Easy Christmas craft projects for children ages 7-10 to create and take home. Coordinated by the Junior Friends of the Children's Museum of Detroit.

Creatures Great and Small.

Upland Hills Farm will bring together a variety of cuddly farm animals.

The Children's Only Shoppe.

The children's headquarters for modestly-priced gifts for small allowances. Free holiday wrapping service also available.

Renaissance Movie Theatres Present...

American Tail and *Labyrinth* at 12:30 and 2:30 pm. Children \$1.00, Adults \$2.00.

Free Parking in Lot C!

East of the Center, with signs to direct you.

For more information call: 568-5600.



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