...the data are controlled by independent variables. Pursuant to this suggestion, a new way of analyzing data is now being proposed, *existential statistics*. Within this approach it becomes necessary to realize that...
country than in his native land" (p. 270) and may be socially useful as a menial laborer. Nor did Goddard assert that the moron status of the immigrants tested was innate. Summing up his earlier, diverging comments, he addressed the question of hereditary defect or "apparent mental defect by deprivation" in the final pages and said: "We have no data on this point, but indirectly we may argue that it is far more probable that their condition is due to environment than that it is due to heredity" (p. 270).

One may well wonder whether Goddard, who at that time was quite convinced of the hereditary nature of intelligence and feeblemindedness, really believed what he said or whether he was just protecting his rear. But in any case, it should be obvious that anybody seriously interested in the historical issue should read the whole article for her/himself and not just accept my or anybody else's brief quotations because they fit with expectations. Going beyond this one article one finds, incidentally, that the books on feeblemindedness and intelligence written by Goddard during this period made either no mention at all of immigrants, races, or nationalities, or only cursory mention without any indication that they presented a special problem (Goddard, 1914, 1915, 1919, 1920; see also Goddard, 1912, for a defense of the immigrants).

As for the legislative efforts between 1921 and 1924 to restrict the "new" immigration, in which some other psychologists indeed participated, I have not yet found any evidence that Goddard played an active role in them (Samelson, 1975, 1979) apart from being one of 120 members of the Advisory Council of the American Eugenics Society, which supported these activities. Goddard wrote, and did, some rather problematic things, beyond his actual work with the feebleminded; but he seems to have been less ethnocentric or "racist," at least in his publications, than a goodly number of his compatriots. It is a bit unfair to hang a man by a few short quotes; it is also bad history.

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The Saber-Tooth Tiger: One More Time

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Radford's (April 1981) comment on my article (Sprinthall, April 1980) brought forth a comment by Roseman (February 1982) concerning the real identity of an author I had referenced. J. Abner Peddiwell was indeed Harold Benjamin, who did serve as dean of the College of Education at the University of Maryland. And just to spread the glory a bit further, Benjamin was also a member of the faculty at the University of Minnesota, where I learned of his work, pseudonym and all. He was indeed both brilliant and humorous. I used the reference simply because it states the educator's dilemma so succinctly and memorably.

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On Eron on Television Violence and Aggression

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Eron's (February 1982) discussion in this journal of the results from his second longitudinal study, the Chicago Circle Study (CCS), of the relationship, in young people, between TV violence viewing (TVVV) and the trait of aggression contains one mystifying omission. No longitudinal findings are reported! There are nonlagged (i.e., contemporaneous) correlations between TVVV and aggression in abundance (see Eron's Table 1), but not a single lagged (i.e., longitudinal) one. These nonlagged correlations, by themselves, tell us nothing about the question that Eron's longitudinal study was presumably to answer: What is the long-term effect of watching violent TV on the development of the trait of aggression?

At the same time that he does not report longitudinal results, Eron uses the nonlagged correlations to suggest that a positive, lagged correlation between TVVV and aggression has been found—that is, a long-term effect such as was found (for boys) in his earlier 10-year longitudinal study of the 1960s, the Rip Van Winkle Study (RVWS; Eron, Huesmann, Lefkowitz, & Walder, 1972).