

Charles Isaac Mosier 1910-1951

The death of Charles Mosier after a very short illness is a great loss to his friends, and a severe blow to work in the field of psychometrics. He was taken ill at his office on Monday, January 15, and died in the hospital the next afternoon with a diagnosis of meningitis.

As Chief of Research and Analysis in the Personnel Research Section, The Adjutant General's Office, he held one of the key positions for directing military research in this country; he strove to make the numerous projects under his direction contribute both to the development of valuable military tools, and to the furtherance of psychology.

He was born in Miami, Florida on June 11, 1910, and completed his college work at the University of Florida in 1932. The same year he was awarded an S. S. R. C. Fellowship and began his graduate work in psychology at the University of Chicago.

In the summer of 1933, Mary F. Fortis and he were married. Their daughter, Mary Fortis, was born a year later. He interrupted his graduate work to accept a position as Instructor in Psychology at the University of Florida in 1933. During the next four years he continued as instructor at Florida, and completed his work for the Ph.D. at Chicago.

His doctoral thesis was on a multiple-factor analysis of neurotic symptoms. This was one of the early studies applying the methods of factor analysis to items, in an attempt to discover the structure of a non-cognitive domain. From 1937 to 1941 Dr. Mosier continued his work as assistant professor and as a staff member of the Examiner's Office at the University of Florida. His papers dealt with various factor problems, such as the effects of random error, and the development of new methods of rotation. During this time he published his articles on the duality of psychophysics and test theory, which mark a new and very intriguing approach to problems in both fields.

In 1941 he went to Washington, D. C. to work for the State Technical Advisory Service, Social Security Board, first as a Research Psychologist, and later as Chief of Methods and Analysis and Chief of

Research and Test Construction. In these positions he was concerned with the development and validation of tests used for the selection of employees working for various federal and state agencies which administered the social security program.

In 1946 he moved to the Civilian Personnel Division of the Office of the Secretary of War and in 1947 to the Personnel Research Section of the AGO. Since then, as Chief, Research and Analysis, he directed a staff of psychologists and assistants in the Pentagon, and has also aided in guiding the numerous outside psychological research projects financed by the AGO. It is fortunate that a person of his ability and research acumen was available for a key position such as this. He was one of the founders of the journal *Personnel Psychology*, and was on the editorial boards of *Psychometrika* and *Educational and Psychological Measurement*. However, his attention to directive work of this sort was a loss in that it meant that he had less time to devote to his own original contributions to psychological theory—in particular, his important treatment of the duality of test theory and psychophysics.

His many friends extend their sympathy to his wife and daughter. They will remember Charlie Mosier not only as a contributor to psychology, but also as a cheerful and energetic companion and worker who carried more than his share in any enterprise.

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