

The Nation

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COLUMBIA and New York universities have issued carefully worded statements in reply to *The Nation's* charge that by the application of new types of tests for candidates for admission they had reduced the proportion of Jews in their incoming classes. But the Columbia authorities have not denied that in the two years following application of the new tests the percentage of Jews admitted fell from 40 to 22. And Chancellor Brown of New York University admits: "We do not simply take the student whose application was first on file but the one who, according to the best judgment of our Committee, gives the best promises of making good as a useful member of society." There is no objective test of a young student's prospective usefulness. So vague a standard, applied by old-stock Americans to boys and girls of immigrant origin, naturally results in a limitation of the number of Jews admitted. No committee can be depended upon to apply such a test without conscious or unconscious prejudice. We do not charge that the psychologists who prepare the mental tests have any thought of racial discrimination, but the application of these tests, together with the concomitant tests of character, inevitably gives an opportunity for race prejudice and has, in fact, resulted in discrimination against the Jews. The only way for the universities to disprove our charge is to publish figures showing them to be untrue. We challenge the authorities of Columbia and New York universities to make public their figures upon the proportion of Jews in each incoming class before and after the introduction of the system of psychological and concomitant tests.

