7/6/82 Diff. in Retar People #3

had much trouble with remembering names. Lately my memory for everything is not quite as good as it used to be, but it used to be that I might not recognize a face but I would remember the name almost always, and any fact & I knew about the person. It was my ability to remember words but not to remember numbers was strange, particularly as I always liked mathematics, and greatly enjoyed doint it. When I would go for a walk in Wilmington sometimes, in order to have something to think about, I would take two numbers at random with three figures numerals in each, and then try to multiply the two in my mind, as I went along. I enjoyed the multiplication in my minds, but the problem was remembering the different parts of the **kak**x task until it was completed. Yet until recently I rarely had difficulty with remembering words. When I was in eighth grade my father told me about a system memory system that he had found useful. Included in this system was a set of sounds that related to certain figures, so that one could remember numbers by making up words with the sounds with sounds corresponding to the figures. When we first moved to Hatfield I found that it was extremely difficult for me to remember the phone number 855-4376. But not long after we cam I once dialed it from further north in Pa° and dialed 885 instead of 855. Fortunately that number did not answer. And then I looked it up and saw how I had been mistaken. Time after time I have had difficulty in recalling my phone number. However, very soon after we got it I made up a crazy combination of two words which would represent it. There words There was no sense to them. The words were filial room cash. There is no sense to these words; yet I had no difficulty whatever in remembering these words and on innumerable occasions, when I couldn't think of our phone number I immediately thought of these words and then translated them into the numbers.

Thus I have had certain abilities which probably could have been developed far more if I had been aware of it them, and certainky weaknesses could probably could have been compensated for much more if I had been aware of it. them. If a young person could take various tests to learn what his strong points and his weak points are, it might be a tremendous help as he grew should grow older.

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