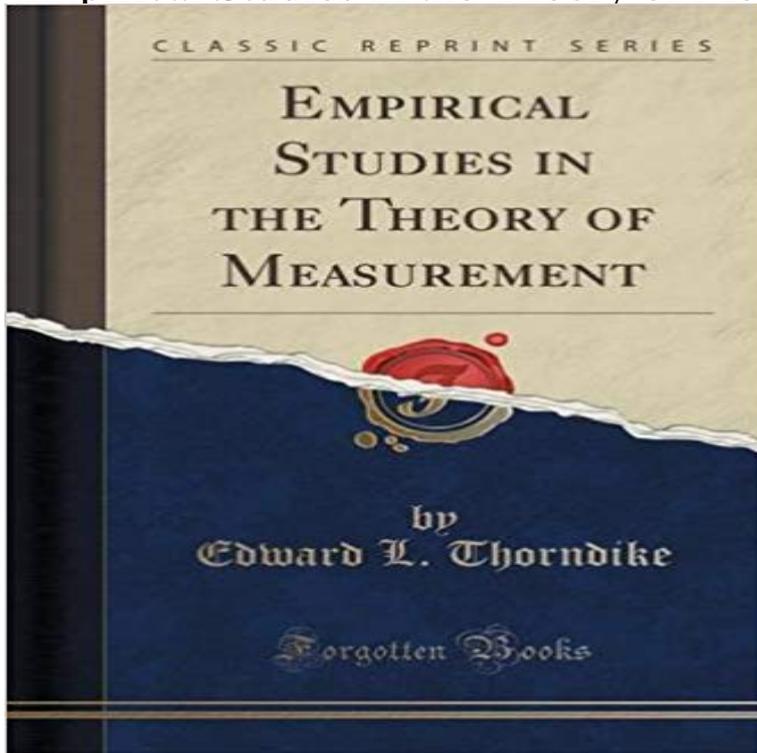


## Empirical Studies in the Theory of Measurement (Classic Reprint)



Excerpt from Empirical Studies in the Theory of Measurement In the present condition of psychology, sociology and education, convenience, economy and directness are as important desiderata in methods of measurement as refinement with respect to precision. The results of these studies justify certain methods which have the decided advantage of giving measures which are direct functions of the data, independent of any hypothesis about the prevalence of the so-called normal distribution, but which have been somewhat discountenanced or at least neglected in both the theory and the practice of statistics. The section on correlation attempts also to make clear just what is measured by a coefficient of correlation and what the dangers are in the application of correlation formulas without constant supervision by an adequate sense for the concrete individual facts to be related. Measurements of Type and Variability 1. The Comparative Accuracy of the Average and the Median The median as a measure of the central tendency of a series of measures has the advantages of greater quickness of calculation, freedom from the influence of erroneous measurements, ease of interpretation and often greater practical significance. It is, therefore, important to know whether the accuracy, with which the median actually obtained from a small sampling of a series conforms to the true median of the total series, is much less than the similar accuracy in the case of the more commonly used measure, the average. It is possible with any given form of distribution to calculate on the basis of the theory of probability the accuracy in either case. Trusting that some one will soon do this for typical forms of distribution other than the so-called normal I have chosen to get empirical data on the same question from actual experiments with random samplings from certain large series of measures. The

median was calculated for each sampling by regarding the total series as measures of a continuous variable, quantity 61, for instance, equalling from 60.0 up to 62.0, quantity 63 equalling from 62.0 up to 64.0, etc. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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