The Durr Parable

Over 40 years physicians reported experimentation proving the effectiveness of a procedure that was seldom used.

Since then it has been tested on many groups. The averages of these tests have almost always shown it to be helpful and have not shown it to be harmful.

Leading physicians praise it and continue to recommend that it be used in conjunction with other procedures.

Despite the research and respected professional endorsements, only a small percentage of physicians permit its use, even though when properly prescribed it would be beneficial.

The situation is pure fiction, but if it were true it would be almost certain that we would be shocked when it was uncovered.

The proved effects of acceleration and its lack of use by most educators is an exact parallel of this hypothetical situation.

In fact, if you will return to the above paragraph and substitute the word "educators' or "teachers" for the word "physicians" you will have a relatively brief summary of the status of acceleration in our schools.

From The Gifted Student W K Durr 1964, p96