

FOUR EAPLES EXAMINE THE WEEKLY REPORT

Cliffs Saturday Review

of LITERATURE

VOL. XXXI No. 11

MARCH 13, 1948

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Joseph George Hitrec, author of "Son of the Moon." (See page 14)

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The End of a Faith

By GERALD HEARD

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tur' Review

Kinsey. *After three months of furor, we feel justified in assigning to Dr. Kinsey a category all his own. . . . To bring out the implications of the Kinsey study, SRL asked Dr. Abraham Stone, marriage counselor, author, eugenicist, and president of the American Association of Marriage Counselors, to assemble the opinions of four experts in fields pertinent to the report. Dr. Stone leads off with his own review, followed by Morris Ernst, author and legal expert. Dr. Bernard Wortis is head psychiatrist at Bellevue Hospital, New York; Ruth Benedict, Columbia anthropologist, is the author of "Patterns of Culture."*

1. Eugenics

By Abraham Stone, M.D.

KINSEY has done for the present generation what Havelock Ellis did for the previous one. Ellis, with few valid statistical data but with deep insight and understanding, depicted the various manifestations of human sex behavior and opened man's mind to an appreciation of the varieties of human sex patterns. Kinsey and his co-workers, on the basis of a unique collection of sex histories obtained through personal interviews of some 5,000 men, have given us in the present volume a factual and provocative study of male sex behavior which will enrich human knowledge and which is bound to influence markedly man's thinking and attitudes.

The main theme of the Kinsey book is a study of the frequency of male sex experiences, and of the types of "sexual outlets" which lead to orgasm. These two manifestations are analyzed in great, often in minute, detail in accordance with several biological and social factors. They are correlated with the age of the individual, the age at which he becomes adolescent, his educational background, the occupational class to which he belongs, his rural or urban background, and the nature and strength of his religious affiliations.

The emphasis of the study is perhaps too exclusively upon the physical and mechanistic aspects of sex activity. Little attention is given to the psychological and emotional overtones of sex satisfaction—to affection and tenderness and human sentiment as influences in sex behavior. The word "love," for instance, is hardly mentioned and does not even appear in the index. But this is only the first volume and the subsequent ones will perhaps deal more fully with the more subtle aspects of human sex conduct.

At the beginning of the volume, Kinsey states that "each person who

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN MALE. By Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, and Clyde E. Martin. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co. 1948. 804 pp. \$6.50.

reads the report will want to make interpretations in accordance with his understanding of moral values and social significance; but that is not part of the scientific method, and indeed scientists have no special capacities for making such evaluations. Nevertheless, throughout the report, directly or indirectly, bluntly or subtly, in many ways, Kinsey does make interpretations and evaluations" of his findings. He does not, it is true, pass judgment on any form of sexual activity, but he does point out the social implications, and creates an "attitude" in his approach to these problems. As Morris Ernst remarks in his review below, "Others must take on that chore. Evaluating or recommending is a corrupting influence on fact-finders."

The statistical data collected by Kinsey and his co-workers on the sexual behavior of the American male will be the source of a vast amount of comment, discussion, and debate. Some of the findings have been fairly well-known before and will not cause much surprise to the informed reader. There are other data in the report, however, that had hitherto not been recognized that are of tremendous social significance. Many of them have a direct and immediate bearing upon the problems of sex education, marriage, and family living.

What are some of the implications of the Kinsey report?

(1) Of basic importance is Kinsey's emphasis on early conditioning as of paramount importance in determining

the sex pattern of the individual. The attitudes engendered in childhood may determine a boy's sex pattern for life. This fact may have long been recognized by psychiatrists and child educators but Kinsey reinforces this knowledge with impressive statistical data. This knowledge will have to filter down to the general public so that parents may reevaluate their thinking, their attitudes, and their approach in child rearing and development.

(2) Also of importance is the question of age in relation to the frequency of sexual activity. A fact which had hitherto perhaps not been recognized is that maximum sexual activity occurs in the teens. Boys between sixteen and seventeen have more frequent sexual arousals leading to orgasms than they will have at any other period in their lives. With an increasing lag between the ages at which boys biologically mature and economic security is reached, there is a period of several years in the life of every boy when his sexual drive is apparently at its highest and for which no socially sanctioned outlet has yet been provided. The boy seeks his outlet in various fashions, in masturbation, in petting, in hetero- or homosexual relations—but all of these outlets still have the stamp, of social disapproval and are therefore a source of much anxiety and conflict to the individual. What can be and should be done to alleviate the physical and psychological harm thus induced is a problem which the educator, social scientist, religious teacher, and physician will have to face frankly and squarely in the future.

(3) The striking differences in sex behavior among different social levels as revealed in the Kinsey report opens a new field for social thinking and social education. Throughout his life, the boy who is destined to have only a grade-school education will differ materially in the degree of his sex behavior and the source of outlets he will seek for his sexual satisfaction from the boy who will go to high school and to college. The psychiatrist



MARCH 13, 1948

DEFINITION

young gull (2)

B. A fraction of a considered as to (mil.).

C. Propped; supported (Scottish).

D. Name for any young swain (from The Vergil).

E. Great ash tree, symbol of universe (Norse).

F. A word Ruskin used about architecture.

G. To set upon (4 w).

H. In medieval armor for the hips and f.

I. Benevolent rescuer (Twist (Dickens)).

J. German physical philosopher (1853-1909).

K. Civil War battle, Grant victory over

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty words, the definitions of which are given in a column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered. These numbers appear under the dashes in a column headed WORD. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the squares are for convenience, indicating which word in the definitions each letter in the diagram belongs. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes, then write each letter in the correspondingly numbered square of the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled, you will find (by reading from left to right) quotation from a famous author. Read up and down the letters making nothing. The black squares indicate end of words; words do not necessarily end at the right side of the diagram. When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's Ninth International Dictionary (second edition).

and physician, the jurist and the minister who deal with sex problems and sex delinquencies will henceforth have to be much more aware of the educational and occupational background of those who come to them for counsel or before them for judgment.

(4) The intensity of a boy's sexual drive is, according to the report, determined to a considerable degree by the age at which he becomes adolescent. The earlier adolescence begins the more sexually active the boy will be not only during his youth but even in later life. There may be some question about the accuracy of this particular inquiry so far as it depended upon men trying to reconstruct from memory the date of the onset of their adolescence, but if the data are accurate, they show that frequent sexual activity in youth does not impair the sexual capacities at a later age. This is contrary to some statements found in literature on sex behavior and should help to allay many fears and anxieties of young people who have believed that their energies are being "used up" in frequent sexual arousal and orgasm.

As the age at which a boy becomes adolescent depends to a considerable degree upon his constitutional characteristics and the level of his general



metabolic processes, it would seem that the degree of a man's sexual capacity is genetically determined. How he will exercise his sexual functions, however, the outlets he will seek for his sexual needs, whether he will resort to masturbation, premarital relations, or other sexual experience—this, according to the Kinsey findings, will be determined by his social culture and other environmental influences.

(5) The problem of premarital relations confronts us with two aspects for consideration—the moral and the medical. From the latter point of view, the dangers inherent in promiscuous sex relations before marriage are the spread of venereal disease and the occurrence of unwanted pregnancies. The data show that at college level contraceptives are almost universally used and the incidence of both venereal disease and pregnancies is low. On the other hand, among the grade-school population contraceptives are rarely used, with a consequent high frequency of venereal infections and premarital pregnancies.

(6) On the basis of the Kinsey report, the frequency of homosexual relations is high. Kinsey's studies indicate that "at least thirty-seven percent of the male population has some homosexual experience between the beginning of adolescence and old age." It should be made very clear, however, that unless carefully read and interpreted the thirty-seven percent figure may be misleading. It applies to men who have had any kind of homosexual experience in their lives, and in some instances this may have been but a single experience. It would be like assuming that anyone who had ever stolen a penny from his mother's pocketbook should be classed as a thief. Aside from this, however, the figures still show that ten per cent of men between the ages of sixteen and sixty-five are homosexuals for at least three years and four per cent are exclusively homosexuals throughout their lives. This is very much higher than previously reported figures on the incidence of homosexuality in our culture.

How valid are the statistical data presented? Dr. Wortis discusses this question in his review below. A word of caution, however, is essential. The Kinsey data should not be regarded as final authority on questions of male sex behavior. Kinsey's findings will have to be more adequately supported by physical and psychological studies, a point which Dr. Benedict stresses also from the cultural point of view in the following review.

But whether the statistics in this first study are representative of the entire American population or not, is really hardly of basic importance. The fact remains that Kinsey has successfully broken through an almost impenetrable wall of taboos, prohibitions, and inhibitions and has explored many "untrodden paths" of human sex behavior. These areas he has clearly marked and charted for those who have sight to read and the will to understand. His report will have immeasurable influence upon the sex mores of our time and our civilization.

Your Literary I.Q.

By Howard Collins

BAD HOUSEKEEPERS IN FICTION

Anna Mary Wells, of West Allenhurst, N. J., asks you to identify the bad housekeepers of fiction briefly described below. Allowing five points for each one you recognize, and another five for either the story in which she appeared or the author who created her, a score of sixty is par, seventy is very good, and eighty or better is excellent. Answers are on page 33.

1. She quarreled with her husband because he brought a guest home to dinner unexpectedly the first time she had tried to make jelly and he and the guest laughed at the mess she had made of herself and the kitchen.
2. Terrified by a sadistic father-in-law, this delicately reared young widow allowed his lonely house on a moor to revert to the condition of a stable.
3. She wrote letters soliciting funds for African missions while her children tumbled about the house dirty and in rags.
4. This "child-wife" was unable to control the servants, keep the household accounts, or even arrange the furniture efficiently.
5. Spending her time in daydreams about romance and the life of the nobility, she neglected her house, squandered her husband's money, became involved in love affairs, and brought him to ruin and herself to suicide.
6. Her husband cooked breakfast and brought it to her in bed, where she spent the rest of the morning thinking about him and her lover.
7. This slatternly mistress of a young medical student climaxed a long and stormy relationship with him by destroying everything in the apartment he had furnished for her.
8. She went about her housework barefooted and in a shapeless Mother Hubbard, but from a meal of biscuits and fatback she always had plenty to share with a stranger.
9. Enjoying poor health, she lay about on sofas and allowed slaves to mismanage her household until her husband's cousin came from New England to care for it.
10. She ran a fashionable household cleverly on no money, but neglected her only child, and, left to herself, lived happily in squalor in a garret.

2. Law

By Morris Ernst

ROCKEFELLER, Indiana University, and the Kinsey staff have made an outstanding contribution to that neglected portion of the law which touches on marriage, the home, and personal behavior patterns related to sexual drives or suppression. After the statistical base of this report is enlarged by studies in geography, race, cultural backgrounds, etc., our statutes on divorce, homosexuality, lesbianism, fornication, adultery, illegitimacy, and all collateral areas—even such as shoplifting—will of necessity be subjected to fierce reappraisal. This prediction is easily understood by those familiar with the tension now evident between the natural law schools and the realist or behaviorist schools of law.

In 1787 the Founding Fathers thought of law in terms of God-Given Rights. "Natural" rights were derived from Sinai or some other mount. Only after Darwin hit at the immutability of life did the law reexamine the gospel of "status quo." Thereafter courts reversed themselves with frankness. Decisions were related to fact rather than myth. In economic fields of law Brandeis encouraged the basing of opinion on facts rather than fancy. Not so in the law of sex behavior. At times the average man—if there be such—was sure of the extent, for example, of extra-marital activity among his friends, and at times his guess may have approximated the figures proven by Kinsey. Nevertheless, society feared to search for the statistical proof, since man is often more comfortable in accepting a "frame of reference" quite at variance from the "facts" as known to him. This gap between fact and fancy permits latitudes of behavior inconsistent with false symbols written into legal sanctions, and the symbol is often used as a condonation of personal acts or as an absolution of personal quiet. Thus the filthy-minded juror is the first to condemn a book, and obscenity laws are still subjectively applied, for there is little objective data on the relation of printed words to man's activity. Before Kinsey, divorce laws had to be written with dreams and illusions. We had no data to help proscribe areas of public condemnation or approval in fields of adultery, fornication, lesbianism, homosexuality, etc.

The result of such ignorance was evident to many. A great social time-lag existed between statutory standards and the practices of our people. For example, if adultery in fact would nullify a marriage, as many statutes presume, forty per cent of college-bred

males are then, in fact, divorced. When the countervailing Kinsey report on women is completed the total figure may prove that we have in fact few married friends left, or if the law against contraceptive use in Connecticut were not wholesomely nullified by contrary acts, that dark state, in a half century, would be as over-populated as India or Puerto Rico. Hence, we must make distinctions between the guilty and the convicted—i.e., who gets caught! Nullification is often a blessing even though less than the ideal sought by people who wish to reduce the number or acts of disturbing mavericks, and at the same time control the rate of change of community patterns. Failure, to repeal often spells little more than lack of courage to confess an error.

In the light of the above scant observations the Kinsey contribution must eventually affect all our sexual legal folkways. The present proposal for a uniform divorce law will take on real meaning against the full Kinsey figures. Then for the first time we may have some data against which we may ask: Are we ready for a national pattern? Will it be the lowest common denominator? Are we finished experimenting in our forty-eight separate state laboratories? Should adultery be the testing ground for smashing the home? Do the facts lead to different standards for divorce depending on presence or absence of children—a concept not yet entertained by any state? The Kinsey re-

port may be known as the "Great Legal Question Mark"—provided Kinsey and his staff are wise enough not to hint, even, at any answers, recommend to the doctor a typewriter without adjectives or other letter combinations capable of making evaluations. Not a single passing comment should be made on the effect of the data on present laws, or the effect of the existence of the present laws on the data. Others must take on that chore. Evaluating or recommending is a corrupting influence on fact-finders. It's time now for a staff of lawyers, with zeal and wisdom equal to the Kinsey group, to study the material. Even this first addition to the Kinsey staff should be remote from moral appraisals. It's enough of a job for them to put into parallel columnar form the Kinsey data, the laws of each state, and the impact of such laws on the crime enforcement figures available. Against facts society can appraise its goal for men and women in our cultures and our climates.

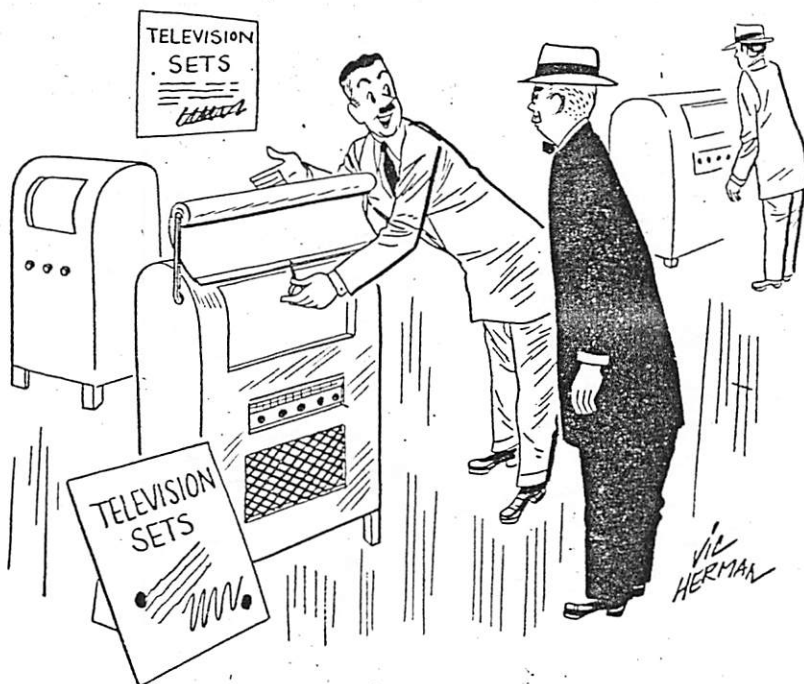
Such are the exciting and important implications and potentials of the Kinsey Research Magnificent.

3. Psychiatry

By S. Bernard Wortis, M.D.

THE KINSEY, Pomeroy, Martin report is undoubtedly one of the most important of contributions to our knowledge of the capacity and va-

(Continued on page 32)



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KINSEY

(Continued from page 19)

riety of male sexual behavior. It might more accurately be labeled "Sexual Behavior of 5,000 American (United States) White Males," since the study is restricted to this group. The study draws from a variety of occupational groups, from many educational, social, and economic segments of society, and also includes comparative studies of people who come from rural and urban settings in the United States.

The sampling of American males is as yet inadequate and the data given are weighted in favor of the urban, and the under-thirty-years-of-age population. The charts are also weighted by the histories of certain professional groups out of proportion to their percentile representation in the population at large. These factors, one hopes, will be corrected by the larger statistical collection envisaged by the authors.

The reader, too, must constantly keep in mind that this report is best understood as a census of the capacity and variety of sexual expression of 5,000 American males who were willing to talk about their sexual behavior. The data must in no wise be interpreted in terms of whether such behavior is normal or abnormal, or whether the individuals interviewed were well-adjusted or maladjusted. Correlating information on individual physical health or illness, or on personal psychologic health or illness is not available in this study.

The recorded occurrence of a variety of overt sexual behavior is based on voluntary interviews. What an individual tells about his sexual experience in one interview depends on the skill of the interviewer and the attitude and capacity to recall of the person being interviewed. Information collected by interview techniques is subject to defects caused by conscious or unconscious factors that may distort memory. Some persons can remember or recall their sexual experiences and attitudes clearly. Some belittle and some exaggerate their sexual experiences; and in some individuals emotional or neurotic drives color the sexual performance and memory. To be more reliable, the two-hour-interview data need to be corrected by individual intensive study of groups of persons included in Kinsey's figures.

The reader must also remember that the presence of certain statistical findings is not always proof that their existence can be considered "normal." Health surveys of some rural or urban areas have shown a high incidence of

nutritional deficiency. Such a finding, however, by no stretch of the imagination should be considered a "normal" condition for that population.

Aside from these basic critical remarks, it is clear that much of importance has come from the study. There is verification of the existence of infantile sexuality. The Kinsey data show that sexual activity in the male is present from birth to death. Research by others indicates that the neuro-muscular patterns for sex behavior are present in the infant at birth. However, the conditioning or facilitation of male or female sexual patterns depends also on psychologic and cultural factors. Endocrines are not the sole determining force in human sex behavior. What Freud called the "latent period" of sexuality—i.e., the period between phallic curiosity and the sexual activity of puberty—is not solely a biochemical phenomenon. Much of this so-called "latent period" is the result of a damper on sex activity imposed by our culture. Freud and Havelock Ellis had the intuitive wisdom to sense this. Kinsey has given us statistical confirmation of this bio-cultural phenomenon.

The authors show that a large portion of the male white population has polymorphous sexual impulses. There is variation of the sexual pattern in different intellectual and cultural levels. Evidence is presented to show that early sexual activity does not lessen later potency. This is an interesting and important biologic observation. The incidence of masturbation and petting is higher in the individuals of higher cultural levels, and this group also has a lower rate of

FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT: No. 247

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 247 will be found in the next issue.

ZC YMXSZ KLAZN, YCOLHLV

NVLSD, CV ECOLVTMQ, OSF

LHLV FC TVLL SF S TAFY.

U. VMFRAZ

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 246

The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything.
EDWARD PHELPS

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 who makes no mistakes
 usually make anything
 EDWARD PHELPS

premarital intercourse. Petting to climax is reported to be relatively common among the better educated.

The data shows that the sexual patterns of the young male adults of today have not changed significantly from that of their father's time, indicating that perhaps our present-day cultural and social attitudes have not modified basic sexual biologic behavior. Many sons may be surprised to learn that father and grandfather were not so old-fashioned after all!

Sexual mores at different educational levels tend to remain relatively uniform for that group. The authors show that eighty-five per cent of all males have premarital intercourse, and approximately thirty per cent of married men have extramarital intercourse. Within marriage, a variety of sexual outlets is used, especially in the upper educational levels.

Another interesting finding is that approximately thirty per cent of all males have had some homosexual experience. These are only some of the many items that will impress the average reader. There are many more that have not been picked out by this reviewer.

In the absence of definite medical and psychologic studies of the individual person, conclusions concerning these findings should be limited merely to a statement of the statistical recording of the performance of individuals. The quantitative data given measure one aspect of man's behavior, charted out of context of his total behavior, and divorced from consideration of the individual's thoughts, emotions, health, or illness. Present-day medicine recognizes that health and behavior can be altered by biological, psychological, and social forces. Indeed, current interest in psychosomatic or comprehensive medicine emphasizes this point. Sex behavior is often a delicate barometer of human adjustment. But the role of such universal mental mecha-

LITERARY I.Q. ANSWERS

1. Meg (Mrs. John Brooke), in "Little Women," by Louisa May Alcott.
2. Catherine Linton Heathcliff, in "Wuthering Heights," by Emily Brontë.
3. Mrs. Jellyby, in "Bleak House," by Charles Dickens.
4. Dora Copperfield, in "David Copperfield," by Charles Dickens.
5. Emma Bovary, in "Madama Bovary," by Gustave Flaubert.
6. Mrs. Bloom in "Ulysses," by James Joyce.
7. Mildred Rogers, in "Of Human Bondage," by Somerset Maugham.
8. Ma Joad, in "The Grapes of Wrath," by John Steinbeck.
9. Marie St. Clare, in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Harriet Beecher Stowe.
10. Becky Sharp (Mrs. Rawdon Crawley), in "Vanity Fair," by William Makepeace Thackeray.

MARCH 13, 1948

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