

Kinsey. *Some weeks ago SRL visited Dr. Alfred Kinsey at the Astor Hotel, a midtown inn popular with the convivial, his headquarters for inquiries into Gotham sex customs. We found him tired-eyed and peaked, overcome with yawns after months of fifteen-hour quiz-days—not a man for josh or chatter, but courteously interested in tabulating our “history.” As indicated in the introduction to “Sexual Behavior in the Human Male,” he has a direct gaze, wide smile, and firm handclasp. Research will take another twenty years. (So far women show “a greater diversity” than men.) What does he hope to achieve? “Nothing . . . just accumulate the facts. I have no axe to grind, no objectives.” These he leaves to others, like the symposia reviewed below.*

Tabulations and Taboos

SEX HABITS OF AMERICAN MEN. A Symposium on the Kinsey Report. Edited by Albert Deutsch. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1948. 244 pp. \$3.

AMERICAN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND THE KINSEY REPORT. By Morris L. Ernst and David Loth. New York: The Greystone Press. 1948. 191 pp. \$1.96.

Reviewed by RAYMOND G. FULLER

HERE are two books about the Kinsey report, and they are welcome for good reasons.

“Sexual Behavior in the Human Male,” by Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, and Clyde E. Martin, was and still is a specialized report of a piece of scientific research into the occurrence and frequency of certain acts or experiences, according to different age levels and social groups; it is primarily biological and largely statistical. Not all of those who talk about it, or have written of it, have ever really read it in the entirety of its 800 pages; otherwise, not so many would have missed so much of what the authors said in criticism and explanation of their own work. Moreover, many of its readers can hardly have had sufficient qualifications for understanding its technical, scientific, and statistical content, or they would not have been misled so far and often by certain of its startling percentages. Some apparently have seen in it a perfect orgy of sexual misbehavior from which no individual is safe, while others seem to have found extenuation of the way men do behave.

One contributor to the Deutsch symposium thinks that “the wise reader will not restrict his reading to second-hand sources but will study ‘Sexual Behavior in the Human Male’ for himself.” This is doubtless good advice, depending somewhat, however, on whether the reader is wise enough for the task and on what is

meant by “second-hand.” The present reviewer recommends to the general reader that he turn to the Deutsch symposium as either a supplement or a preliminary to the reading of the Kinsey report, and suggests that it might even serve as a substitute. For in this clearly and competently written, comparatively brief volume, he will find: (1) accurate presentation of the most significant facts and figures contained in the original source, (2) correction of numerous misinterpretations and actual distortions of the findings that have gained wide circulation, and (3) discussion from varied points of view of social and ethical implications and applications that are scarcely touched upon in the report, if mentioned at all.

There is more in this symposium about the sexual problem in human life and society, on the basis of the Kinsey findings, than there is in the report itself, since there is more in this problem (which consists of many problems) than biology. As Professor Kinsey and his associates wrote, “The social values of human activities can be measured by many scales other than those which are available to the scientists.” Here, at first not second hand, are evaluations of the report and its meanings for people from leaders in such fields as psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, statistics, law, probation, penology, marriage counseling, sex education, and religion. Of especial interest are the three essays

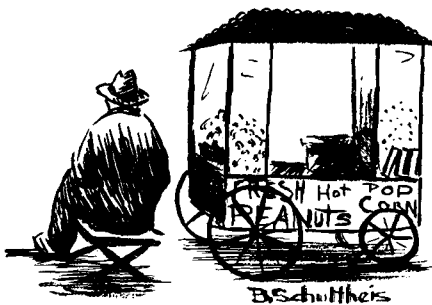
on “Religious Aspects” (“A Protestant Viewpoint,” “A Catholic Viewpoint,” and “A Jewish Viewpoint”), and the one entitled “Significance for American Women.”

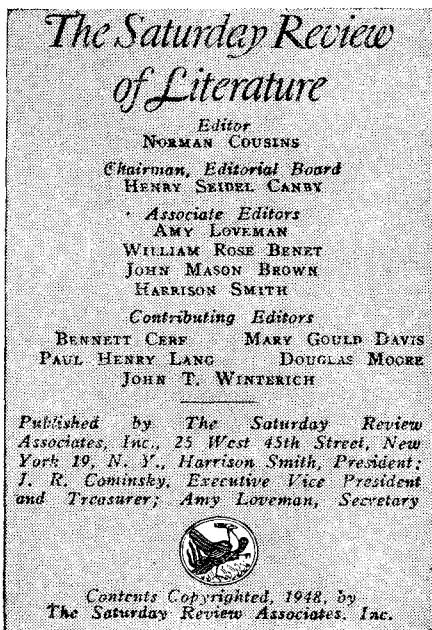
Not that all the contributors are uncritical of the Kinsey report, but none expresses hostility. The general attitude is that it will do good. Not fearing the truth, what they seek is the whole truth and they want the most help they can get from the Kinsey report. Nor are they all of one mind, for there are many conflicts of opinion and response even as to the same agreed matters of fact. To illustrate the divergency, one contributor is seemingly pleased that “eighty-five per cent of the total sexual outlet of married males is confined to their wives,” while another puts it this way: “Marital intercourse provides only eighty-five per cent of the total sexual outlet of the married population.” (Italics supplied.)

The book by Messrs. Ernst and Loth is dedicated “To a people who, not under a dictatorship, can still work out their own salvation by the free spread of knowledge” and to the authors of the Kinsey report, “who have enriched the marketplace of thought.” Their emphasis is strongly on the liberating effect of knowledge and on this new opportunity “to study behavior so that it can be elevated nearer to the ideal, not to remodel the ideal to the pattern of behavior.” The discussion covers a wide range, including the need of amendment of the law to make it stronger, not weaker, through more realism and intelligence in dealing with such matters as divorce. “But of course the solution of the divorce problem does not lie in the courts or the law at all. It rests upon our success in clarifying and stabilizing the important issues of the home and family in our society.” Attention is paid to sex and obscenity in literature and the movies, and to censorship. The subject of one chapter is birth control.

This book begins: “The Kinsey report has done for sex what Columbus did for geography.” Which would seem to imply that Kinsey discovered sex, an impression the authors correct in the next sentence by referring to Columbus as an explorer. The distinction between discovery and exploration is rather important. America was here before Columbus, and sex before Kinsey (indeed, before Freud). It is the Kinsey exploration that has now been discovered, and these two books about it are further explorations into adjacent territories.

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To the Class of '48

NO ONE has to tell you that much of the ground has slipped away on which the world had hoped only three years ago to build a sound and enduring peace. No one has to tell you that the small and very precious ground yet remaining will be used up completely if present world tensions continue to mount and multiply as they have in recent months.

And so, we ask ourselves: How did all this come about? What about the United Nations? Why should we now be faced with the very emergencies that the United Nations was designed to prevent?

Today, after having traveled for almost three years on the road from San Francisco, it is not too soon to measure our progress, to see where we are, and, more importantly, to see where we are going. The time has come to take a good, long, hard look at the United Nations as it stands today.

The time has come to take a general inventory of accomplishments and failures, strength and weakness.

The time has come to face up to whatever that inventory reveals and requires.

The time has come to make it possible for all peoples — all peoples everywhere — to rekindle their faith in the promise of the United Nations.

The time has come to justify that faith.

* * *

If we wonder why it is that the United Nations has so far been unable to carry out its original purposes, we have only to consider these three obstacles:

(1) The United Nations lacked the necessary authority to deal so early

in its development with major emergencies.

(2) The United Nations lacked the machinery of enforcement to carry out its decisions.

(3) The Unanimity Principle of the Security Council blocked effective action by the very agency set up to enforce the peace.

Under the circumstances, the United States found itself forced into the role of an emergency fire department, rushing here and there around the world to do what it could to stamp out early flames before they became a general conflagration.

There is no point in fooling ourselves. No one nation can be expected to prevent or put out all the fires indefinitely. Nor can one nation be expected to minister to the world's ills indefinitely, or act as a policeman indefinitely.

In the long run, the health and well-being of the world will best be served by common action—by a pooling not only of material resources but of the much deeper and richer spiritual resources. Such common action can and must be developed within a revitalized United Nations. For three years we have protected and sheltered the organization through its infancy and growing pains. We have kept from it many of the burdensome issues under whose weight the organization might have collapsed.

But we can postpone the coming-of-age no longer. If we want the United Nations to do a man-sized job of keeping the peace, we shall have to give it more than boy-sized authority. The United Nations must become the heart, soul, and body of world law, with legs and arms to carry it where it has to go to protect the peace and enforce the peace. That is why it is imperative that the United States propose a review conference of the United Nations under Article 109 of the Charter.

Nations today, large and small, are insecure. In the absence of a world organization with sufficient powers to insure their safety, they find it necessary to embark understandably on vast military programs. And since almost every portion of the globe is strategically important for military reasons, the nations are inevitably competing with each other to control—militarily or politically or both—as much of the surface of the earth as possible.

Therefore, the initial job of such a review conference would be to find out what type of strengthening of the United Nations would be essential before member nations would feel secure enough both to call a moratorium on militarism and to relinquish control of external areas.

As part of such a discussion, it is to be hoped that the United States would emphasize that a strengthened United Nations means adequate powers to make, enforce, and maintain world law. It is to be hoped that we would make clear our willingness to be part of such a strengthened UN. For only if the United Nations has these adequate powers should we ourselves be willing to modify or halt our program of military preparedness. We want to be certain that any disarmament program will not be a one-way street traveled by most of the nations in the thought that it is the true road to peace while other nations are speeding down a secret highway to surprise aggression.

The problem, then, is twofold:

(1) Provide for a police force with adequate powers to stop aggressions or violation of world law anywhere in the world.

(2) Draw up a time-table for the creation and building-up of the police force in such a way that no nation will be without means of insuring its safety until the United Nations forces are adequate.

The new warfare, with its many new weapons of mass destruction, must be brought under control. We are referring not only to atomic weapons but to all the fantastic new killers that have been or can be developed in the world's laboratories.

BUT control requires power. This power must be carefully defined and screened so that it will be responsible at all times. The United States should be opposed to any attempt to invest the United Nations with a large police force unless that force is made responsible by operating out of the institutions of law. World law must be enacted with the utmost care, and all questions of possible violations brought before a world court.

Against such a background, the police force could more properly be called a "peace force."

Another point America might submit to a review conference is that the peace of the world is too important to be removed from the individual. At Nuremberg, the United Nations established the principle of individual guilt. For nations are only aggregations of individuals. Nations do not make war. Only individuals can make war. But the United States should be opposed to any extension of world law bearing upon the individual except for those cases clearly affecting the common security. The secret manufacture of outlawed weapons, for example, would constitute a threat to the common security of the peoples of the world. No nation

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