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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

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.

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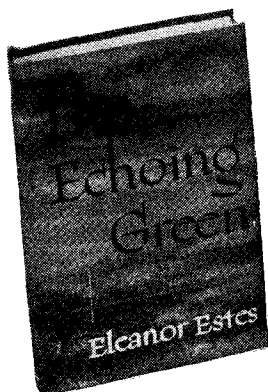
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nisms like repression, sublimation, over-compensation, rationalization—to mention a few—are not considered in this volume. Yet we know that each of these psychologic mental mechanisms can and does affect sex behavior.

Individuals may vary in: (1) inherent biologic endowment, (2) psychologic conditioning and attitudes, (3) emotional personality constellation, and (4) the restrictions imposed by the society and the culture the individual lives in. These studies nowhere prove that the sexual behavior of the American male is dependent solely on any one of these factors, although there is a tendency on the part of the authors to assume that biologic constitutional factors are perhaps more important. Without denying the importance of the constitutional factor, one must point out that the evidence for the part played by the psychologic, cultural, and personality factors is not sufficient for the drawing of conclusions. Herein perhaps lies the point of this review—that it would be of extreme value that such correlated studies be made to understand better sexual behavior in the human male.

Personal knowledge of the investigators can only lead this reviewer to admire the courage, the patience, the humanism, and the sympathy of the investigators who have devoted the past ten years to this important undertaking.

4. Anthropologist

By Ruth Benedict

DR. STONE has compared the Kinsey Report with Havelock Ellis's "Studies in the Psychology of Sex" because they are both pioneer studies in an area of life not previously so frankly explored. From my point of view as a cultural anthropologist it is their differences which are more striking than their similarities. Havelock Ellis based his study on emotionally-toned life stories; he was

interested for instance in the sense of virtue or of shame which accompanied different kinds of sexual experiences: that is, he was interested in problems of personal adjustment and maladjustment. He was interested also in the way people got that way, in the psychological, emotional, and cultural factors which led to particular developments. Within the conceptual schemes of his generation, he analyzed and discussed the conditions of sexual behavior.

Dr. Kinsey's research is something quite different. We shall make a wrong use of his material unless we realize that it does not attempt to study the context within which these sex acts occur. It does not study the context of sex acts in the individual: what ineradicable feelings about sex he learned as a baby, his terrors of not being sufficiently masculine as a young boy, his experience of guilt or pride as a young man, whether as an adult he is physically well-adjusted or whether he is seriously frustrated and despairing. Nor does it study the social and cultural context of sex acts: what acts can be freely acknowledged within the group to which the individual belongs, what different behavior is expected in a big American city, in its Little Italies or Little Polands, its Czech or Irish neighborhoods, or in a rural area in Upstate New York or in Idaho.

What the Kinsey Report has done is to count, add, and average the sexual experiences, the "outlets," which men remember and report in interviews. It is quantitative, not qualitative. Such quantitative study is firmly within the American scientific tradition and we accept it more readily than we do studies which put sexual behavior into some kind of context.

Dr. Kinsey has stated the plan of his study clearly and carefully: he is counting and averaging the number of sex acts. He disclaims study of their context. But American readers are very forthright. They may forget that Dr. Kinsey's findings are not yet the kind of qualitative data on which to base new programs of sex instruction in our schools, new legislation about

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, and Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
DEAD MAN BLUES William Irish (Lippincott: \$2.50)	First appearance in book form of seven long-shorts about murders, killers, gangsters—and one straight detective tale. American scene.	Readers hunting for suspense in socko short-shorts need search no further, and rereading them doesn't reduce thrill-value.	Good collection