

Pathfinder

January 28, 1948: p. 26

Searchlight on Sex



(image added)

Zoologist Kinsey. *For prejudice, he substitutes facts.*

Since civilization began, society has issued laws, explanations, prejudices and moral codes about sexual behavior. People assumed these were (1) based on hard fact and (2) widely obeyed. Suddenly both beliefs now show signs of collapse.

What began their undermining was the publication this month of an 800-page factual survey by an Indiana University zoologist, Alfred C. Kinsey. (*Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*. Saunders, Philadelphia: \$6.50.)

This survey had been carried on over a 10-year period by Kinsey and a small group of trained associates (two of whom, Wardell Pomeroy and Clyde Martin, helped write the book). To make it, Kinsey, a trained zoologist and statistician, brushed aside all preconceptions about what is true or untrue, right or wrong, concerning sexual behavior.

Hard Facts. He and his associates simply interviewed 12,000 U.S. citizens, to find out how they had actually behaved. The results are objectively detailed in this book. It raises questions whose eventual answers may affect our legal, social and personal codes.

The first question is: How does actual sexual behavior compare with conventional beliefs and patterns? Kinsey answers this explicitly:

"Our laws and customs are far removed from the actual behavior of the human animal." For example, Kinsey found that about half the sexual outlet of males comes from socially disapproved and illegal methods.

Sexual Patterns. These vary enormously at different social and educational levels. Males who have never been beyond grade school tend to think pre-marital intercourse inevitable, but regard as immoral or unpleasant many forms of sexual activity approved by better-educated groups.

About 95% of U.S. males at one or another time engage in sexual practices which are illegal, the Kinsey survey showed.

Conclusions. The second question raised by the Kinsey report is: What effect will his findings have on our laws and social attitudes? Most scientists are not in a hurry to answer these momentous questions. But they hope many sex "delinquents" and neurotics will be spared penalties and guilt-feelings which make adjustment more difficult.

But there seemed to be wide agreement on one point. The Kinsey report provides the first concrete knowledge to guide lawmakers, doctors and sociologists in dealing with many sexual problems. Formerly they had no information, or wrong information (some of which will be hard to root out from our laws and social attitudes).

Kinsey's research really has only begun. In all, he plans to interview 100,000 Americans, including women, and report on a whole assortment of problems tied in one way or another to sex.

what modern women **WANT**

New Studies Highlight the Emotional Differences Between Men and Women

Recent studies by Indiana University's Institute for Sex Research has established a significant difference between the emotional reactions of men and women. Men, Doctors Kinsey, Pomeroy, Martin, and Gebhard found, have a greater capacity to be sexually stimulated by psychological factors, and this difference accounts for much of the misunderstanding of women by men. The sociologists discovered that most modern men cling to the notion that there are no fundamental differences between the need and desires of the sexes, and that once detached from the taboos and inhibitions of a Victorian society, women face the pleasures and experiences of the world a man's way.

But women's ways and demands are quite alien to men's, the researchers found. Women are cold to men's fantasies, hostile to the erotic talk and glamor images from which men draw sexual pleasure. A woman's love life hinges on tactile pleasure and an awareness of emotional warmth. Most modern women in time find their men lacking in a sensitivity on these scores.

One marriage counselor put it this way: "Most of the women I know complain that American men are no good as lovers—which is what most American men say about American women. But the truth of the matter is that American men don't make love—they only work at making love."

Said another: "Most men make love the way they make automobiles. They think 'know-how' is a formula; you learn it in engineering school—then you're set for life."

Most of the marriage surveys made within the last few years indicate that to the degree that modern women have become emancipated they have become more demanding erotically. Their demands, however, follow the logic of female psychology and bypass the patterns common to men. The consensus is that chief quality women seek in a man is sensitivity. This means a moment-to-moment awareness on the part of the man to their shifting centers of feeling, to their subtle changes in mood and excitement.

In addition to sensitivity, modern women demand an essential intelligence—a quality sometimes defined as the ability to solve new problems correctly.

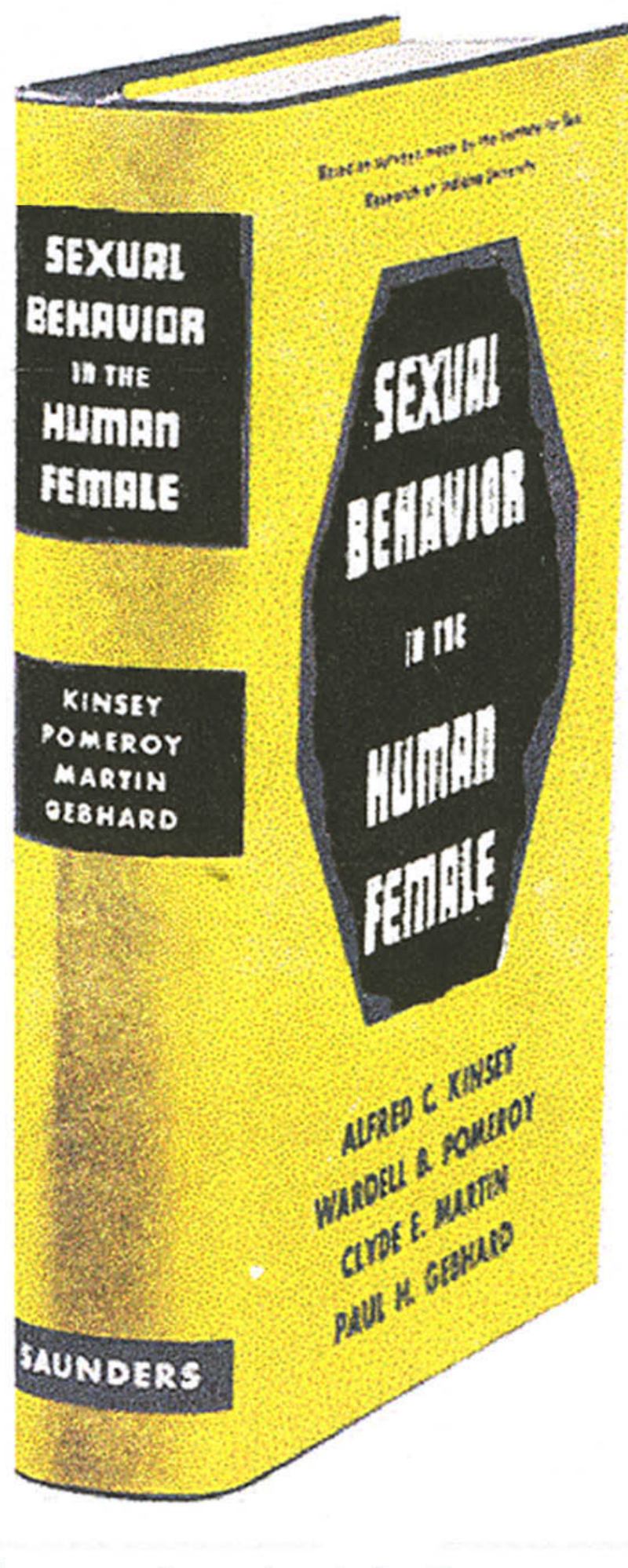
Psychologists maintain that all other qualities women seek in men are secondary to these. Good looks, stability, dependability, position—all are desirable, but not essential. Clinical discussions indicate that women today by and large have less sex interest than men, a lower sex capacity, are less interested in impersonal erotic stimuli—but are more demanding in immediate, subtle overtones and psychological details of sex.

Pre-marital amorous experiences were found to have a direct bearing on the modern woman's ability to find sexual adjustment in marriage. Contrary to what many moralists have advocated in the past, amorous adventures before marriage tend to create the emotional maturity which leads to happy and lasting marriages. The inference is that women with the least Puritanism in their behavior patterns are the ones most likely to make good wives.

Said Dr. Emily Mudd, President of the American Association of Marriage Counselors, quoting one of the current studies: "American women emerge 'warmer, wiser, and more healthfully suited to a happy life with American men than most of our fathers or mothers ever wanted us to believe.'"

TEMPO

August 16, 1954: p. 44



OldMagazineArticles.com