



WOULD THIS FRIGHTEN YOU?

Would you be scared if your home were the center of the storm pictured here? Wives are more afraid of lightning than are their husbands. Girl students fear it more than their male classmates.

to reassure yourself that all is well. Or you may go so far as to telephone from your office to your home to have someone look into the matter for you even though you may really know that you have turned it off as you customarily do. But once you have secured the necessary reassurance, your mind is then at rest.

The neurotic individual must return again and again and still has no peace of mind.

Or in these days of antiseptic treatment of wounds, you may have developed a dread of infection. Every time you cut yourself, or whenever you see any one else receive a bump or scratch, you must see to it that the wound is properly sterilized. The neurotic person having the same dread would be kept busy all day long scrubbing and sterilizing and disinfecting to remove germs and possible although improbable sources of infection.

"The investigation has been largely exploratory," Dr. Willoughby says of his research, "and on the basis of the results so far found the opinion may be ventured that extremely interesting and significant problems might be uncovered and studied in this field."

Particularly he suggests the interest in studying the relationship between neuroticism and the duration of marriage, age, and size of family.

Results already obtained indicate that couples having three or more children are emotionally better adjusted than

those with smaller families. Dr. Willoughby is careful to point out, however, that it is possible that a reverse statement of the relation might be more correct—it may be that the better adjusted couples are more likely to have the larger families.

Another striking fact which is suggested by the preliminary data obtained by Dr. Willoughby is a calming effect upon the nerves of husbands brought about by the arrival of the first child, and a reverse effect of the same event on the wife.

College students of both sexes seem to be less self-centered and happier in relation to their environment than do the married couples of the same educational and social level studied. The latter, however, appear to have dropped out some of the inner tensions of their students days as they grew older.

Marriage Taken Seriously

At first thought, this finding will surprise those who have been led by modern theories of psychology to believe that neuroticism has its origin in repressions of the sex desires. Married women in general, however, despite the prevalence of divorce, probably take marriage vows very seriously even when the husband is most incompatible and when emotional adjustment is impossible. Tension in such a case is likely to be considerably greater than it is among a group of young college students who, in these days, have attained or appro-

riated a considerable measure of freedom from sex taboos.

If you are married, you may have noticed some tendencies toward neuroticism in your wife or husband. If so, beware of using this fact as a weapon in a marital spat, for the data from Dr. Willoughby's research have made it a two-edged weapon.

By having married couples fill out the questionnaire for spouse as well as for themselves, he found that the ability to see neurotic traits in one's wife or husband is associated with neuroticism in oneself. And that is particularly true when the neurotic traits are falsely ascribed to the partner in marriage. Women are more discerning than men in sizing up the other person, however.

There is also a real relationship, although it is not very great, between actual neuroticism in one of the pair and neuroticism in the other. It would seem that wives are most likely to be neurotic. But if they are, then they most likely think that the husband is a bit that way, too.

And perhaps he is!

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CHEMISTRY

Chemical Society's Prize Given for Work on Atoms

THE AWARD of the American Chemical Society's thousand-dollar Langmuir prize to Dr. Frank Harold Spedding, 30, of the University of California was made in recognition of his researches on the differing behavior of atoms at ordinary temperatures and at very low temperatures.

His experiments were conducted at temperatures ranging all the way from that of an ordinary room down to the point where liquid hydrogen "boils" into its gaseous state, which is 252.7 Centigrade degrees below freezing point. In an atmosphere of such extreme cold, the behavior of atoms discharged from various substances is quite different from what it is under ordinary circumstances, and a study of the light rays they give off gives information on the composition of matter.

The Langmuir prize cannot be given to any chemist more than 31 years of age, the object of this limitation being to encourage younger men.

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