

PSYCHOLOGY

Men Are Weaker Sex

Men undergo more physical and emotional illnesses which lead to higher death rate. They also are faced with more dramatic crises indicative of aging.

► MEN are really the weaker sex. They have more severe emotional illnesses, more physical illnesses leading to death, a higher alcoholism, delinquency and suicide rate.

These are the findings of Dr. George Lawton, New York psychologist who has specialized in the problems of the middle years and old age. Speaking at Cooper Union, he pointed out that it is much more difficult for men to age successfully than women.

Dr. Lawton stated that men both in the realm of employment and sexual performance face more dramatic crises indicative of aging. The dividing line between the first and last half of life in men and women is very much sharper for the male. He presented a list of rules of "What Every Man Should Know," stressing that a man as he got older had to exchange speed and quantity for strategy, skill and quality.

Many a tired businessman is tired because he is overworking to escape from close emotional relationships with his wife and members of his family, Dr. Lawton believes.

A modern woman needs even more than her home, a husband and children in order to give her a complete sense of purpose and intellectual stimulation, Dr. Lawton pointed out. He said that every woman, regardless of her financial situation, needed a part-time job, community activities, and some creative outlet. He also stressed the point that women in the middle-income bracket tended to do less work than they should and their husbands do more work. In such a case a wife, in order to help her husband enjoy life more and perhaps even live longer, should help share her husband's work load and share his economic and mental burdens.

Dr. Lawton's recommendation was that both men and women undergo regular examinations, both medical and psychological. The psychological examination for middle-aged men and women would have the following objectives:

1. To show executives and professional men how to slow down, to switch from a strenuous life to a slower but still as interesting, nourishing one.

2. To show inter-relationship between job attitude and philosophy of life on one hand—and sexual difficulties (impotence, etc.) on the other. In women, the relationship between career and difficulty in establishing an emotionally satisfying relationship with men.

3. To save marriages. Seventy-five percent of marriages ending in divorce could be saved if *both* husbands and wives went

to psychologists not later than 10th or 15th anniversary. Fifty percent could be saved if one partner went. Lukewarm marriages could be improved.

4. Relationships with children would be far happier as the children grow older, happier for both child and parent.

5. To study aptitudes of men and women; see changes in vocational interests and abilities; suggest job changes for men. Women could build up life outside of husband and children. Might need a real job some day, whether for money or not.

6. Both men and women need psychological guidance for creative outlets, even if they pass muster as far as personal adjustments go.

Science News Letter, December 31, 1949

HOME ECONOMICS

Handi-Coat Is Attractive, Useful and Rain Repellent

► HANDI-COAT may soon become a familiar word to women who do the family shopping. It is the name given to a new, government-designed coat of light-weight,

water-repellent cotton shown by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

As part of a program to make available useful clothing that gives protection against rain, snow and sun, the coat was designed by Clarice Scott of the department's Bureau of Human Nutrition and Economics. Manufacturers of ready-to-wear and patterns can get the design of the coat without charge.

Features of the coat include a slot for a shopping list and a sleeve dispenser for paper handkerchiefs, in the sleeve, a place for pen and pencil to stand upright in the pocket, a long zipper closing, a pleat that allows comfortable walking, and a plastic carryall that folds into a pocket when not in use. A plastic film that slips over the grocery bag in the carry-all for protection against rain can be folded into a little pocket on the outside of the carry-all when not in use.

Science News Letter, December 31, 1949

On This Week's Cover

► A .22 caliber bullet smashed through a glass jar, then broke an electrical conductor to take this picture. Breaking of the conductor set off a high-speed photolight, which illuminated the action for two-millionths of a second.

Science News Letter, December 31, 1949



SCIENTIFIC SHOPPING—The handi-coat carry-all, made with plastic over stiff cardboard, is right size for the largest grocery bags. It can be carried to the store folded like a purse.