

PSYCHOLOGY

Character Tops Looks

➤ GOOD CHARACTER and not good looks is considered most important by mentally healthy college students in picking a wife or a husband. This was shown by a survey of 118 well adjusted college men and the same number of college girls asked to indicate traits most essential and those least essential in a future mate.

In fact, beauty or good looks is rated as least essential by one out of four men and by two thirds of the girls surveyed.

Men and women are agreed in placing moral character, similarity of interests and intelligence at the top of the list of traits essential in a potential mate.

No one of either sex regarded education or congenial in-laws as most essential. No girls placed a top rating on good looks in a potential husband although 1.78% of the men consider it of top importance in a future wife.

In spite of minimizing the importance of education, a great majority (77% of the men and 92% of the girls) believe that a college woman should marry a college man. A somewhat smaller percentage (52% of the men, 66% of the women) think that a college man should marry a college woman.

Among both college girls and college men, college students are preferred for dates, the percentage with this preference being higher for girls than for men. But they had different reasons. The girls like the college date because "the college man is more mature," has "better prospects for the future" or "has more knowledge of what is going on in the world."

The college man likes to date college girls because they are "more level-headed," "more intelligent," or "more pleasant."

The few girls who prefer the business man date do so because they think him "more mature," "more independent," "more responsible." Most of the men who prefer the business date have nothing good to say about her, but they do not like the college girl, believing her "too smart for her own good," "too conceited," "too intellectual," "too snobbish."

Report of the survey by Drs. James P. Vail and Virginia M. Staudt, of Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn., and Notre Dame College, Staten Island, N. Y., is contained in the JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY (July).

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

Reported to Harvard Observatory from Mexico's Tonanzintla Observatory by Dr. G. Haro, director, the most recent "new star" was found on a photograph taken Aug. 7. Its announcement was held up because of fear that there was confusion with the earlier outburst that was discovered by Dr. Fritz Zwicky of Palomar Observatory, California. Both novae were 7.5 magnitude upon discovery, but the Zwicky nova has now faded to 11th magnitude.

The positions of the two stars are less than a degree apart, but that does not mean that they are actually close together in space or that the two explosions are connected in any way. Both novae are in the constellation of Scorpio.

A star of 15th magnitude, which is very faint, has been discovered on earlier photographs in the exact location of the Zwicky nova. This faint star which presumably became bright was found on plates at both Harvard's South African station and the University of Michigan Observatory.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

Some of the giant *tank ships* that carry crude oil and petroleum products will hold as much as 10,000,000 gallons.

MEDICINE

Balloon Detects Cancer

➤ A FOUR-INCH long balloon with tiny silk brushes on the outside may help in better detection of stomach cancer. This is one of the most difficult of all cancers to diagnose in time to save the patient.

The silk brush balloon was designed by Drs. Frederick G. Panico, George N. Papanicolaou and William A. Cooper of Cornell University Medical College and Bellevue Hospital, New York. They announced it in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Aug. 12) in Chicago.

The idea is to brush from the stomach lining some of the loose cells shed by the cancer. These cells stick to the ends of silk which form the brush and are withdrawn with the balloon. They can then be transferred to glass slides and examined under the microscope.

Dr. Papanicolaou has previously shown that cancers shed cells and that if these can be washed or wiped off the body tissue they can be used for diagnosing cancer. With stomach cancer, it has been difficult to get any of the cells out of the stomach.

The abrasive action of the silk brush balloon does a better job of getting cells out for examination than other methods, Dr. Papanicolaou and associates find. Normal stomach lining resists having its cells brushed off.

The balloon needs to be perfected, though

in routine use it may not give as accurate results as in the test studies. But the results, the New York group believes, "give some basis for optimism" with regard to such a method for detecting stomach cancer.

For best results, the stomach must be empty and clean before the brush balloon is used. And the method cannot be used on patients with active bleeding from stomach or upper digestive tract.

The 70 patients on whom the new device was tried were put on a liquid diet the day before the test. The stomach contents were sucked out by stomach tube the night before. The balloon was swallowed uninflated the next morning. Then it was slowly inflated and moved back and forth so that the brushes would come in contact with all parts of the stomach. This was repeated five or more times during an hour. "Slight discomfort" was felt when the balloon went down the back of the throat.


Science News Letter, August 19, 1950

ASTRONOMY

Second Nova Found In Southern Sky

➤ A NOVA or exploding star has blazed forth in the southern sky close to where another nova of the same brilliance appeared on July 20.

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