

PSYCHOLOGY

Typical Sex Offender Found Shy Introvert

► THE TYPICAL sex offender is more likely to be shy, introverted and religiously-inclined than brutal and violent.

This is indicated in a psychological survey of a group of sex offenders at the Metropolitan State Hospital by Dr. James Marsh, psychologist at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School.

The survey shows that sex offenders, in contrast to a comparison group of students, tend to shy away from group activities and dislike parties. Many are unusually fearful of lightning and earthquakes and apprehensive in the dark.

The majority read the Bible and pray frequently. In general they have a strong moral sense. They dislike "dirty" stories and burlesque shows. They do not believe in women smoking and think "drinking" is wrong, although most have used alcohol excessively.

Most of them are conscience-stricken about their sex offenses. In many instances, the "victim" was found to be the initiator of contacts and often maintained sexual relationships over a period with an offender, who because of fear or guilt wished to terminate the relationship.

The key to their difficulties seems to lie in unfortunate family relationships. Their childhood was marked by broken homes or consistent family discord. Many have never married and, in fact, are afraid of women. A majority of the married ones have had extreme marital difficulties. Their problems result in a deep seated neurosis.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

MEDICINE

New, Longer Lasting TB Drug on Trial in Patients

► A NEW drug for fighting tuberculosis is now on trial in a group of some 40 or more patients, Drs. Helen C. Dickie and Frank C. Larsen of the University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison, Wis., announced at the meeting of the National Tuberculosis Association in Atlantic City.

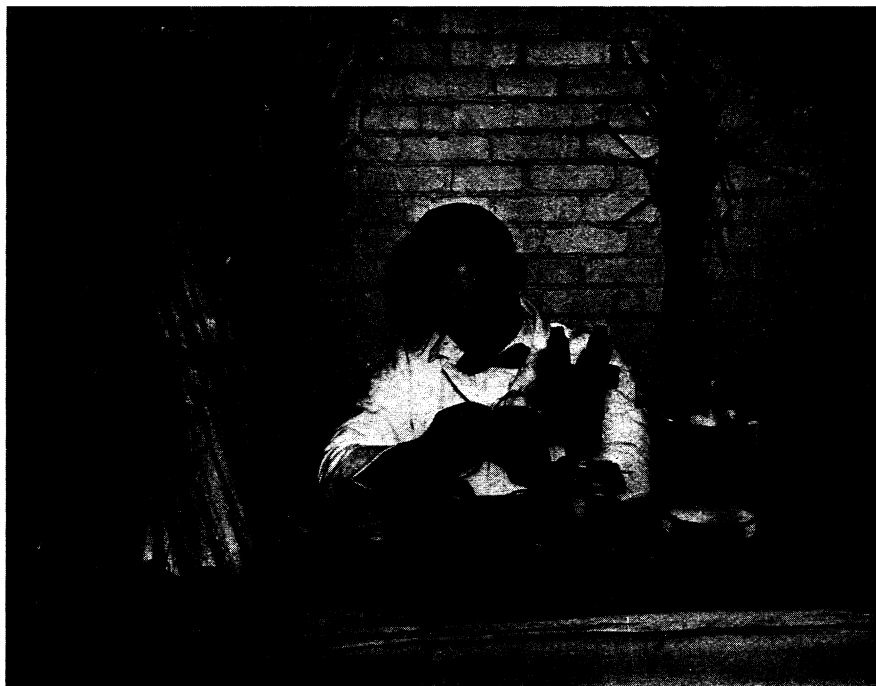
There is hope that the new drug will be even more effective than isoniazid because it is absorbed more slowly and stays in the blood serum longer, but it is too early yet to be sure about this.

The new drug has no name so far and is called by its laboratory title of RO-24969. It is derived from isoniazid and was developed in the laboratories of Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., in Nutley, N. J.

So far, the drug has shown no toxic action and is as effective against tuberculosis as isoniazid.

Because no one knows yet whether tuberculosis germs will develop resistance to the new drug, the Wisconsin doctors advise using it with streptomycin or, preferably, with PAS.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954



A NEW FIBER—Long fibers can be obtained easily from the cattail, the tall, spiked plant that grows in swampy areas. Leland Marsh of Syracuse University is shown here examining some of the strands.

AGRICULTURE

Predict Cattail Growing

Harvesting cattails may some day be a profitable business for farmer's swampy lands. Raising this spiked plant could help to solve the world's food problems, it is suggested.

► HARVESTING CATTAILS growing in swampy areas will become a highly profitable business some day, two Syracuse University plant scientists have predicted.

Swamp land may turn out to be as valuable as some of the golden wheat fields of the Middle West, Dr. Ernest Reed, chairman of the University's department of plant sciences, and Leland C. Marsh of the department's Cattail Research Center believe. The center was established after research showed that the tall spiked plant has almost unlimited uses.

The world's food problems could be solved in part by growing cattails on a large scale, Dr. Reed said. This plant is known to botanists as *Typha*. Laymen sometimes call it a reed, tule, flag, rush or reed mace.

Nearly a dozen by-products have already been obtained from this "weed," and scientists expect to find several more in the next year.

This is how the center says the plant can be used:

The "root," or rhizome, can be eaten like potatoes, or ground up to make a flour for baking. Cattail cookies taste good, the scientists said. The starch content is high

enough for it to be used as a substitute for cornstarch in pudding. The flour can be fermented to produce ethyl alcohol, valuable as anti-freeze, for medicinal purposes, as a cheap industrial solvent and many other purposes.

In addition, the flour makes a good substrate for growing some molds from which antibiotics are produced. Fibers can also be produced from the "root."

The stem of the cattail has traditionally been used to caulk the ends of barrels to make them watertight. For centuries the leaves have made rush furniture, baskets and mats. Three companies in northern New York fill the limited demand of barrel makers and supply all of the cattails for rush furniture in this country.

Much more important uses for the stem have now been revealed. Mr. Marsh has extracted soft fibers from the stems and leaves by treating them chemically. He believes these fibers can be used for most of the purposes that jute is used today—to stuff furniture, make string, burlap, webbing, etc.

Mr. Marsh has also extracted from the stem an adhesive substance, a polysaccharide, that may prove useful as an adhesive for paper, as sizing for paper, and