

SOCIOLOGY

**Dependent Male Theory
In Alcoholics Questioned**

► THE PATTERN of a dependent, inadequate male alcoholic married to a dominating woman has been questioned in two studies reported in New Brunswick, N.J., in the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 23:590, 1962.

Interviews with 141 wives of alcoholics in Sacramento County and selected communities of California, however, showed that 42.5 per cent "imputed dependency" as a characteristic of their husbands.

"If you added up all the time I spent rubbing his back it would amount to a whole year of our marriage," one woman said. Another said, "He thought of me more as a mother than as a wife," and another reported that her husband was "spoiled and pampered by his parents."

Dr. Edwin M. Lemert of the department of sociology, University of California at Davis, with the help of John McNamara, research sociologist, reported that in more than one-half of the marriages there was a history of a drinking problem before marriage, or the drinking problem appeared coincidentally with marriage. This emphasizes the problem of whether dependency caused the alcoholism or alcoholism caused the dependency, they pointed out.

Dependency conflicts or independency goals may be important among the stresses leading to alcoholism, the researchers suggested. For some types of workmen who find emotional satisfaction in their jobs and in the comradeship of their fellow workers, intoxication may be a means of withdrawing from the family situation.

In other cases, the married alcoholic desires maternal care but has repressed this tendency to conform to what is expected of him as an adult. Drinking becomes a solution to his conflict, at the same time satisfying the need to be independent and dependent.

The second report, on outcomes of alcoholic marriages, was based on a study by three researchers at The National Council on Alcoholism. Their findings on stress among 69 wives of alcoholics revealed least stress among the 23 who had remained with drinking husbands. Although they had suffered a medium amount of physical abuse, they reported the least infidelity and the least amount of trouble with police. Margaret B. Bailey, Paul Haberman and Harold Alksne reported the study.

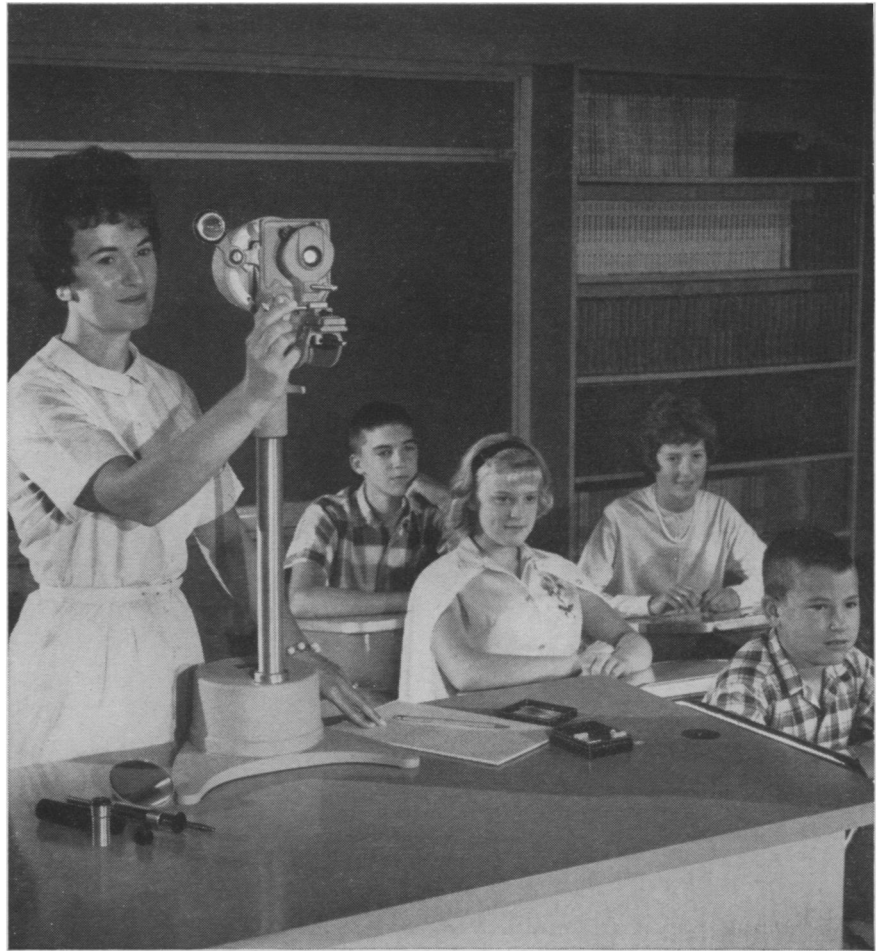
• Science News Letter, 82:423 December 29, 1962

ZOOLOGY

**Restless Mink Now
Take Tranquilizers**

► USUALLY RESTLESS, unsociable and vicious mink became amazingly more friendly, companionable and compatible when given the tranquilizing drug, called reserpine, in their drinking water. Experiments at Michigan State University raise the hope that these animals may be raised in colonies rather than individually in cages, the common commercial practice today.

• Science News Letter, 82:423 December 29, 1963



NOW! bigger,
brighter views make
science learning surer!

A Tri-Simplex Microprojector lets you show details of microscopic specimens—wet or dry—to the entire class at once. Students learn better because they see and understand better. And now there's a new optical system with a 43× objective and swing-in condenser . . . and a super-efficient 12× objective . . . to project bigger, brighter, sharper images than ever before. Try it in your classroom and see for yourself.

BAUSCH & LOMB



**BAUSCH & LOMB
INCORPORATED**
16936 Bausch Street
Rochester 2, N. Y.

- I'd like an obligation-free demonstration of Tri-Simplex at my convenience.
- Please send me data sheet E-254.

Name

School

Address

City Zone State

