

PSYCHOLOGY

Sex Behavior Neglected

► BIRTH CONTROL research neglects women's reactions.

Unless the mysteries of feminine behavior are unravelled, plans to limit the world's population may fail completely.

Women's sexual behavior is not adequately understood, Dr. Mozell Hill, sociologist at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., told SCIENCE SERVICE.

"We are simply making guesses" about feminine behavior, he charged. Unless motivation is understood, Dr. Hill said, birth control programs "will have no impact on any culture in the world."

Governments and private agencies are relying on the hard, cold facts. From statistics on the size, density and geographic distribution of populations, they have been "making inferences" about motivation, Dr. Hill said. Some have come to the erroneous conclusion that lower class women will keep having babies to increase their welfare payments. Actually, he said, "we really do not know" what motivates a woman to have a certain number of children, to establish a certain relationship with her husband, or to be devoted to her family.

A successful birth control program depends not on artificially creating the moti-

vation to use a special method, but on using the appropriate motive from within, Dr. Hill said. He explained that women operate "within the belief system" of their cultures. They do what is expected of them in their homelands. In the United States as in the African bushlands, a birth control program that is not suited to the beliefs and practices of the group will not be used by its members.

Birth control pills or diaphragms would not work in many places, Dr. Hill pointed out. On the basis of his year in Africa studying the obstacles and avenues to fertility control, Dr. Hill said the best method would be one using a needle. Women are used to getting vaccinated or immunized, he said. A birth control inoculation would be just one more in the total health improvement project. The women "do not care about the population explosion," Dr. Hill said. What they ask is "do you improve my health?"

Although the needle would be a suitable method of birth control, research to develop a birth control vaccine is still in its earliest stages. Curbing the world's rate of population growth depends on further, intensive research into methods as well as motivations.

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"The Department will review any plan submitted by the sponsors of Krebiozen (Drs. Stevan Durovic and Andrew C. Ivy, Chicago) and give them its comments as promptly as possible, but until such a plan is submitted there is no action the Department can take looking toward continued availability of the drug for investigational purposes after June 7."

The Department said it required information about how Krebiozen is made and controlled to assure its identity, strength, quality and purity; also the information available from animal studies as to its toxicity, what results have been obtained from the past clinical investigation, and what the program for continuation of the investigation will be. The regulations do not permit the commercial sale of investigational drugs.

The June 7 deadline for investigational drug regulations is unrelated to the proposal that the effectiveness of Krebiozen be tested by the National Cancer Institute. But complete medical records of cases that have been treated with the drug must be assembled to determine whether or not such a test should be undertaken.

Scientific evaluation of the data cannot be made before such records are available, which means the evaluation cannot be made before such records are available, which means the evaluation cannot be made by June 7.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Paddling Pupils Unwise

► CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, forbidden in prisons, is fine for schoolchildren.

Although prison guards can never, under any circumstances, initiate force to handle prisoners, teachers and principals of the District of Columbia would be authorized to use force to control unruly schoolchildren, under a bill now before the Senate.

The House of Representatives has already given them this power in a first legislative step. The use of "reasonable force" to maintain order in the classroom was sanctioned by a 277 to 53 roll call vote.

The passage is in direct opposition to a recent school board vote to uphold the ban on corporal punishment. It is contrary to the advice of experts in handling troublemakers.

A paddling is not going to keep a "tough" from causing trouble or make him any easier to handle. On the contrary, Dr. Robert MacIver told SCIENCE SERVICE, corporal punishment may exaggerate resistant attitudes.

Dr. MacIver, professor emeritus of sociology, Columbia University, is now studying the strategy of delinquency for the National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Md. He said resorting to corporal punishment may be "a confession of failure." Although it has been tried often, there has never been much to show for it.

The Juvenile Court of the District of Columbia runs a project for convicted delinquents.

"We have not found it necessary to use any physical means of handling the boys," Dr. Laurence L. Frost of the court flatly stated. "No threat of punishment" is held over their heads, he said.

The practice of paddling is a "regression to a primitive level," Dr. Fritz Redl, psychologist at Wayne State University, Detroit, said. Although physical restraint may help keep a "tough" under control, physical punishment creates more problems than it solves.

Dr. Redl, who works with highly disturbed and aggressive children, said corporal punishment "works least" for the real troublemakers.

The issue is a mistaken one, Dr. Redl said. The schools need new services rather than a license to paddle.

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MEDICINE

Krebiozen Availability After June 7 in Doubt

► THE CONTROVERSY over the effectiveness and safety of the unlicensed cancer drug Krebiozen will come to a crisis June 7 when the deadline for investigational drug regulations is reached.

When this issue of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER went to press the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare had made a statement, which said in part:

MEDICINE

March for Cancer Cannot Evaluate "Cure"

► PARADES and demonstrations in favor of a cancer "cure" will not make the medication acceptable for Government approval or medical use. Science does not operate that way.

The validation of a medical procedure is rigorous and demanding. A new drug or treatment must work for opponents as well as proponents, for those against as well as those in favor. There must be successes by the hundreds and "control" groups who do not get the treatment.

Krebiozen treatment of cancer has had a long, controversial history of testing and trial on patients. Proponents of the drug have fought for its acceptance at medical meetings and even in the courts unsuccessfully.

Licensing of medical preparations by the Government protects the public. The will to believe that a treatment is effective strengthens a patient's conviction that he is being cured.

Testimonials from users of patent medicine in the old days were often circulated in advertisements long after victims had died.

When a sure cure for cancer, toward which millions are being spent for research, does come, the Government experts will be the first to cheer, just as they have welcomed antibiotics and a dozen other medical successes.

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