

PSYCHOLOGY

'Romance Addiction' Called Latest Kick

➤ SEX IS BEING USED as a pain-killer for the headaches of modern life, a family counselor said in San Francisco.

"Romance addicts," she charged, are "joining the ranks of the other addicted, utilizing their bodies mechanically to produce momentary anesthesia against the pain of living."

Such performances offer only fleeting satisfactions, she said, and they leave a host of problems in their wake.

At a meeting of the Family Service Association of America, Jeanne Knakal of the Family Service Agency of Marin County, San Rafael, Calif., said sex is becoming separated from family life. "It is seen increasingly as a casual relationship."

This type of emotionally empty relationship, Miss Knakal pointed out, can lead to bitterness and depression. Men and women may turn upon their mates rather than try to face their own problems. Desertion, annulment or divorce often results.

The influence of the mass media, Miss Knakal charged, "subtly fosters superficial contacts between men and women as a desirable goal." Sex then becomes commercialized and distorted.

Miss Knakal has drawn these conclusions from studies of 571 adults, adolescents and children who were seen at the Marin County Family Service Agency during the year ending last September.

Only a handful of these cases had "problems which stem from sexual repression or ignorance of biological facts," she said. The main problems were lack of standards and difficulty in forming mature relationships.

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Nature Note

➤ ALTHOUGH evergreens are commonly thought to be trees that bear cones and keep their needles all winter, there is one evergreen that sheds its leaves regularly with the oaks, maples and other deciduous trees. This is the larch or tamarack, native to the cool, temperate and subarctic parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

The native tamarack is a swamp-loving tree, rarely to be found with its feet out of water. In some parts of the country, it forms great forests in the flat wet lands bordering boggy lakes. In such places it is a pioneer, pushing out over the quaking bog ahead of all other trees, and assisting in the slow upbuilding of the drier land required by them.

Although its native home is in boggy land, the larch does very nicely on higher ground when planted there and enjoys some favor as an ornamental tree. Its wood is coarse-grained, strong and heavy, with yellowish sapwood and reddish-brown heartwood. As a building constructed of larch stands in the sun, its rich resin will turn color to a deep brown.

Its wood is valued in building ships, telephone poles, mine timbers, railroad ties and pilings. The European larch exudes a fine clear oleoresin that is collected and sold as "Venetian" turpentine.

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