

behavioral sciences

PSYCHOLOGY

Dream content studied

Despite advances in the study of the physiology of dreams, little is understood of the psychology of dreaming. Dr. R. L. Van de Castle of The University of Virginia reports in the June *PSYCHOLOGY TODAY* that he and Dr. Calvin Hall have developed a comprehensive system for analyzing dreams that makes systematic dream studies possible. They have established norms for their system based on 1,000 dreams of male and female college students.

Their research shows that the dream-content of men and women is quite different. Women have fewer aggressive dreams than men, but women typically report non-physical and verbal types of aggression. Half of the male's aggressive encounters involve physical violence.

Women report few overt sex dreams, but when they do, the involvement is primarily with men they know. The male dreamer more frequently reports unfamiliar women as sex partners.

Women report dream changes that are concurrent with physiological changes such as pregnancy and menstruation. During the last trimester of pregnancy they show a seven-fold increase in baby references. They anticipate grotesque babies or production of a litter of animals. During menstruation they note colors of red and pink; their dream relations with men are accompanied by hostility.

SOCIAL RELATIONS

Interdisciplinary changes

Harvard's Department of Social Relations is undergoing fundamental reorganization. For 24 years the department has been an interdisciplinary experiment housing social and clinical psychology with social anthropology and sociology.

A year ago, work in clinical psychology was separated from social relations with creation of a university-wide Program in Clinical Psychology and Public Practice.

This year a Department of Sociology will be re-established. Prof. George Homans, chairman of the new department, says a major factor in the change is that sociologists find they do not share the knowledge necessary to evaluate people working in other specialized fields, such as developmental psychology. And, he says, sociologists' interests are moving toward macroscopic, interdisciplinary work with political sciences and economics, rather than with individual-oriented psychology.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Cheating and sex

Women cheat on exams more than men, an experiment with college students indicates. Personality factors also entered into the decision to cheat when college students were confronted with failure.

The sample of 121 men and 155 women was divided into experimental and control groups and placed in a situation in which it appeared that cheating would be undetected.

The experimental subjects were told that the average college student could complete 271 of the tasks in the

testing period allotted. In reality the average task completion was only 200. Subjects were asked to estimate their anticipated performances against these norms.

Although males demonstrated a greater expectancy of success and a higher level of aspiration than women, report Drs. Leonard Jacobson, Stephen Berger and James Millham of the University of Miami in Florida, the men cheated less than the women.

Cheating was particularly prevalent among those women who were high in self-satisfaction, the researchers report in the May *JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY*. But subjects of both sexes who scored high on need for social approval and the self-satisfaction measures were prone to cheat.

SOCIOLOGY

Soviet juvenile delinquency

A study of available statistics shows that the predominant source of Soviet delinquency is the working class, Dr. Walter Connor of the University of Michigan reports in the April *AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW*.

The trouble arises, he says, because there are limited opportunities for workers' sons to transcend their class origins. They are culturally handicapped in competitive scholastic situations and often end up academic and disciplinary problem children. If a youth becomes a complete drop-out—one who "neither works nor studies"—he presents a particular problem.

However, gang delinquency of the American type does not characterize Soviet youth. The groups that do appear are small and unstable.

Dr. Connor reports that the Soviet regime has been largely successful in its efforts to prevent the development of an independent youth culture. The provision of largely immobile youth organizations holds little interest for many young people and often contributes to the boredom of which young people complain. But there is no alternate culture.

He concludes that the delinquency shows little pattern of political protest. To the extent that the delinquency is rooted in protest, it is against the drabness that characterizes lower-class adolescent life, he says.

GERONTOLOGY

Work and happiness

Statistical data compiled during a 13-year study on aging strongly indicate that work satisfaction and a positive attitude toward life influence the life span.

Dr. Erdman Palmore of Duke University Medical Center has based his conclusions on 270 subjects between 60 and 94 years of age at the university's Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. The subjects underwent a series of tests designed to disclose the factors that most influence an individual's adjustment to aging. In the study 38 variables were correlated with the longevity quotient; four of them emerged as significant predictors of longevity.

The combined variables of work satisfaction and happiness showed the highest correlation with longevity, .36. Physical fitness ratings showed a .21 correlation, while the extent of tobacco use had a negative correlation of .21.