behavioral sciences

Increase of male impotence

Governmental guidelines may not be necessary for population control. Nature might solve the problem. Overcrowded mice resort to violence to control population. Humans adapt in a more subtle manner. George L. Ginsberg of the New York University School of Medicine and William A. Frosch and Theodore Shapiro of Bellevue Hospital in New York report in the March ARCHIVES OF GENERAL PSYCHIATRY on an increase in complaints of impotence among young men. They say rapid changes in social mores (attitudes toward premarital sex, the availability of contraceptive methods and, most important, an emphasis on equal sexual rights for women) are partially responsible. A disequilibrium has been created, they say, and its mark on the male partners of the sexually free women. Four case studies are presented in which young men became impotent after being confronted by a woman who demanded sexual performance.

The role of the put-upon Victorian woman is now the role of the put-upon man of the 1970's. This, the researchers conclude, "must be seen in an adaptational and social framework rather than as a purely psychological and particularly intrapsychic phenomenon.""