

### Status through marriage

A long-term study of 83 women has shown that intelligence and academic aptitude do not necessarily lead to higher status in marriage.

Glen H. Elder Jr., University of North Carolina, reporting in the August *AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW*, assessed attractiveness and education as two modes of achieving higher status through marriage.

The subjects—from working-class and middle-class families—were born in the 1920's and extensively studied through the 1930's with at least one follow-up study in adult life. As a measure of social mobility in marriage the father's social position was compared with the husband's at about the same comparative point.

Results indicate:

- The women who moved up in status through marriage were characterized by physical attractiveness, a desire to impress and control others, high aspirations for the future and an avoidance of steady dating.

- Physical attractiveness among women from the working class was more predictive of marriage to a higher-status man than educational level. The opposite was found among middle-class women.

## CHILD WELFARE

### Changes to strengthen social services

The Children's Bureau, a part of the Social and Rehabilitation Service of the Office of the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, has moved to the new Office of Child Development, maintaining its role in coordination of child and parent programs. It will also continue to investigate and report on matters pertaining to the welfare of children.

A Community Services Administration has been established, consolidating programs for children and adults previously under the Children's Bureau and other agencies of the Social and Rehabilitation Service. It will be responsible, at the Federal level, for social services offered through state and local welfare agencies.

The administering of health programs for maternal and child health services, crippled children, maternity and infant care and health of school and preschool children, previously handled by the bureau, will comprise a new unit under the Health Services and Mental Health Administration.

## SOCIAL RELATIONS

### Parent loss affects marriages

The ability of young couples to sustain a successful marital relationship and the age at which either partner lost a parent show a clear correlation, report Drs. Gary Jacobson of Harvard Medical School and Robert G. Ryder, chief, family development section of the National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Md. They studied 90 couples who lost a parent prior to marriage.

A group—13.3 percent of the couples—which suffered loss at a median age of 17 showed the most successful relationships. They were close, communicated freely and were grateful for the spouse. They resolved their argu-

ments quickly and enjoyed satisfying sexual experiences.

In 18.5 percent of the cases the wife had lost a parent in mid-adolescence, and in these cases, a pattern of marked sexual unresponsiveness by the wife was seen. The husbands in this group were forbearing and patient.

Husbands who lost their father at age eight—15 percent—had problems with dependency and identity. Arguments were more frequent in this group.

The group with the worst prognosis—11 percent of the couples—lost a parent at age seven. These marriages were characterized by prolonged periods of anger and intermittent sexual relations, the researchers report in the October *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ORTHOPSYCHIATRY*.

## ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY

### Most middle-class teens are straight

A Chicago psychiatrist believes that most middle-class American teenagers grow up with the desire to become a part of the suburban middle-class culture into which they were born.

Dr. Daniel Offer of Michael Reese Hospital's Psychosomatic and Psychiatric Institute in Chicago bases his contention on a study, started six years ago, of 73 teenage boys in two middle-class suburban Chicago high schools. He followed them with psychological tests and interviews from freshman through senior years of high school and now follows up the results with yearly interviews and questionnaires.

The most significant finding, he believes, is that all adolescents do not go through a continuous period of being at odds with the world.

The boys in the survey differed from disturbed teens in that there was absence of stress, no economic or emotional deprivation in their lives, their parents were relatively stable and secure people and there was a high degree of communication between boys' parents.

The boys admired their parents and shared and reflected their values; success in school was of utmost importance to them, and more than 90 percent wanted to marry and have families like the ones in which they were raised.

## NARCOTICS

### Drug deaths in England

Deaths from overdoses of drugs have reached epidemic proportions in England, according to Sir Derrick Dunlop, chairman of the Government's new Medicines Commission in England. There are nearly as many victims of drug deaths as road accidents.

Of the 6,700 deaths in Britain from poisoning and gassing during 1967, most were caused by drugs. There were 7,400 deaths from road accidents in the same time.

Most people who commit suicide are now using tranquilizers and sleeping pills, but most of the deaths are really self-poisoning; those taking overdoses did not intend to kill themselves, but merely escape personal problems by creating a crisis.

In 1967 six million prescriptions were written for tranquilizers—enough to treat one person in 10 for a month; 20 million prescriptions were given for barbiturates and another 5.5 million for hypnotic drugs.