

PSYCHOLOGY

GI's Queries on Sex

► HERE ARE SOME of the questions asked by GI's in Germany about sex:

What are the best methods of birth control?

Can exposure to radar or high-altitude flying make men sterile?

Will wives separated from their husbands for long periods suffer psychological ill effects from abstinence?

These are only a few of the 1,127 questions asked by GI audiences of lecture teams who traveled throughout the German occupation zone.

Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey of the University of Indiana, called his now-famous report, "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male." Dr. Fred Brown of Mount Sinai Hospital calls his report on GI sex questions, "What American Men Want to Know About Sex." It is published in *THE JOURNAL OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY*.

Birth control questions were the most-asked, with persistent interest shown in the so-called "rhythm method" of contraception.

Curiosity about sex expression and questions on sterility were tied for second place in frequency among the queries put to the lecturers.

More than 20,000 U. S. troops in Germany during the first six months of 1946 attended the panel on sex—called "Sex: Fallacies, Facts and Problems"—which Dr. Brown originated. GI's were encouraged to ask questions. The list which Dr. Brown reports on was compiled from the queries by the soldiers.

The GI's in Germany were concerned over possible effects of abstinence, both on themselves and on their wives.

Some of their questions betrayed interest in some of the more popular fallacies about sex. They wanted to know about the effect of foods such as oysters or eggs on potency. Others asked about tobacco or alcohol. A published report that a German prisoner

had undergone a sex transformation brought frequent questions about sex abnormalities.

Dr. Brown found that the program indicated great ignorance of sex. There is a need, he declared, "for reliable sex information in America."

"Sex Hygiene" lectures given in colleges and universities are "too guarded and overloaded with moral admonitions and pre-

cautions to meet the needs of adults," Dr. Brown charged. Lectures on sex, he commented, too often discuss what the lecturer believes is important, not what his audience wants to know.

A program such as the sex panel for GI's in Germany should be given in high schools and colleges, he suggested.

Not included in the list of frequently asked questions, Dr. Brown pointed out, was one which was heard often from the floor during the panel discussions:

Why are questions of sex so avoided by the American people?

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RADIO

Radio Transmission Coded

► AFTER MARCCNI demonstrated radio 50 years ago, its first application for transmitting intelligence used a telegraphic code consisting of a series of short pulses. Later, radio was developed for speech transmission, but recent developments again use a code of short pulses, this time for the transmission of speech. A complete cycle has been made back to something like the telegraphic code used by Marconi.

This new development was described to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers by H. I. Romnes of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York. The system is known as pulse code modulation. In this samples of a speech wave, taken at intervals, are transmitted instead of the continuous wave.

In the system explained by Mr. Romnes, samples of the speech wave are taken 8,000 times a second and each sample is translated into a seven-unit code which carries over the radio circuit information as to the magnitude of the sample, thus permitting the speech wave to be reconstructed at the receiving end.

Systems have been built in the laboratory in which information as to samples from 100 different speech channels may be transmitted over the same radio channel on a time-sharing basis, he stated.

The advantage is that there can be great disturbances, variations and distortions in the transmission medium without affecting the quality of the speech, since it is only necessary to determine at the receiver whether the signal is present or absent, with no gradations in between, in order to perfectly reconstruct the original speech signal. In this system millions of signal pulses are sent each second, while in the system used by Marconi only tens of pulses per second were sent.

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Electric Energy Dear

► COMPARATIVE costs of transmitting energy in the form of coal, gas, oil and electricity were presented at the same

meeting by R. E. Pierce and E. E. George, both of Ebasco Services, Inc., New York City. It has been rather usual practice to locate power plants near fuel and water and transmit the energy electrically to the load. If the transmission of electrical energy produced from fuel involved distances in the order of 200 miles, the economics of the practice is questionable, they said.

Electric transmission at high load factors is competitive with hauling coal for any distance up to several hundred miles. Electric transmission is generally much more expensive than transporting energy by gas or oil pipe lines. If gas or oil is to be used for fuel, a power plant location near where the electricity is to be used will always be the most economical, they declared.

From hydroelectric plants energy is transmitted as electricity. The so-called "cheap power" from such sources is not cheap if the energy has to be transmitted to a distant market. With the investment cost of a hydro plant generally greater than for a similar size steam plant, hydro power would be more costly than steam power by the time it was delivered a few hundred miles away. In areas of low fuel cost, hydro power transmitted even shorter distances would be more expensive than steam power.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

METEOROLOGY

Artificial Rain Making Attempted in India

► ARTIFICIAL RAIN MAKING is being attempted in western India because of delay in the arrival of the rains of the monsoon. Ice pellets will be dropped from airplanes in an attempt to bring moisture to the suffering millet and rice crops.

The Indian Embassy in Washington is inviting cooperation from American scientific institutions in the experiments which are in the newly-grouped states called Saurashtra.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

Plastic Coasters and Tiles

EMBED REAL FLOWERS in NEW Magic PLASTIC



Now create many unusual things like the distinctive pansy coaster shown—made by embedding real pansies in Castolite—the "magic" liquid casting plastic. Comes crystal clear, or may be dyed to

MANUAL 25¢

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