

PSYCHOLOGY

Musical Taste Tested

► THE old adage "No accounting for tastes" failed to receive scientific support from a survey of musical tastes of more than a thousand residents of Evansville, Ind.

Whether you would rather hear the Boston "Pops" Orchestra playing "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes" or Ted Daffan's Texans sounding off with "Beyond the Shadow of a Doubt" depends on your sex, your age, how much you have heard of either kind of music before and also upon your social class.

This was discovered in a survey conducted by Dr. Karl F. Schuessler, a sociologist now at Indiana University. He reports his findings in the *American Sociological Review* (June).

If you want to see how your own musical taste measures up, listen to the following records in addition to the two mentioned above: Bach, "Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C Major," by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra; "Sugar", a jazz piece played by the Capitol Jazzmen; Piston, "The Incredible Flutist", by the Boston "Pops"; Strauss, "Vienna Life," by the Andre Kostelanetz Orchestra; Tschaikowsky, "Andante Cantabile," by the Minneapolis Symphony; and "Time and Time Again," by the Wayne King Orchestra.

If you are a man, don't be too surprised if you don't care much for any of these pieces.

"The enjoyment of classical music in American culture is primarily a feminine reaction," Dr. Schuessler concludes as one result of the survey. More women than men like all types of music, he found.

Hill-billy music is the only kind preferred by more men than women.

Old people like old songs, the survey revealed. Persons 50 years or more old like "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes" and "Andante Cantabile."

As you might expect, musical training helps to account for your musical taste. Training makes people dislike jazz and hill-billy music. It does not, however, affect your liking for popular selections like the Wayne King record. Both untrained and trained ears delight in the Strauss waltz.

Your social and economic background affects your taste, too. Wealthy people enjoy classical music, while poor people like jazz and hill-billy, it was indicated.

Comparison between a group of 58 Negro girls and 78 white girls from about the same economic position showed that it is not the Negro that prefers jazz. The differences disclosed mainly that the Negro girls are less forced into a mold by definite standards of taste in their group. White girls have stronger opinions and are more enthusiastic about the waltz, jazz and popular music.

That religious training also influences your musical taste was revealed by the fact that some church workers refused to take part in the test. They informed the investigator that "only religious music is suitable for the edification of man."

Dr. Schuessler is now planning new studies which may help explain musical tastes within certain types of music. He also hopes to investigate the importance of your personality in your taste for music.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1948

ENTOMOLOGY

Flies Can Be Reared on Dog Biscuits and Yeast

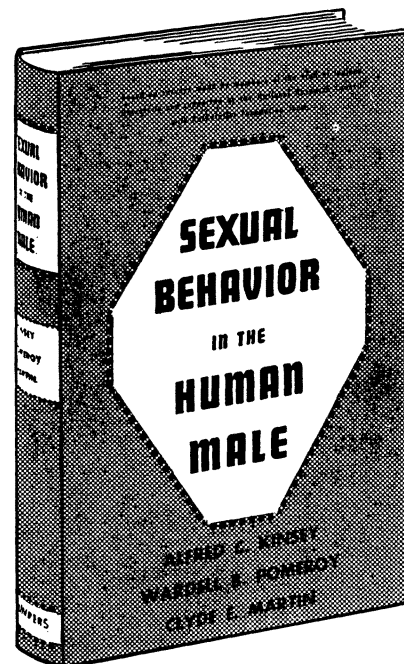
► FLIES by tens of thousands, needed for laboratory tests of the strength of DDT and other insecticides, as well as for research purposes, can be successfully fed through their infancy on moistened dog biscuit made to ferment by the addition of yeast. This new food for fly larvae is described by Dr. Hubert Frings, Pennsylvania State College entomologist, in *Science* (June 11).

Both houseflies and blowflies can be reared on this diet, despite the fact that in nature houseflies normally lay their eggs on horse manure and blowflies deposit theirs on decaying meat or other carrion. If the food mass becomes too moist while the larvae are growing, Dr. Frings adds coarse sawdust or fine wood shavings; the larvae take care of the mixing themselves.

Dog biscuits prove an exceedingly economical material for the mass rearing of flies. At current retail prices, one cent's worth provides food enough for 300 larvae.

After the flies emerge as winged adults they are kept in wire cages, on a diet of cube sugar, dry milk powder, and water. Flies thus fed provide a more dependable testing means for insecticides than their wild brethren brought up on slum rations.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1948



The KINSEY REPORT

In a recent Gallup public-opinion poll, overwhelming approval was given the publication of this book. Issued in the interests of better sex education and sociologic adjustment, this is definitely a report of great significance. Authorities acknowledge it to be one of the most important contributions to society to be made in the past 50 years.

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