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Friendship

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*A ruddy drop of manly blood
The surging sea outweighs;
The world uncertain comes and goes,
The lover rooted stays.
I fancied he was fled,
And, after many a year,
Glowed unexhausted kindness
Like daily sunrise there.
My careful heart was free again, —
O friend, my bosom said,
Through thee alone the sky is arched,
Through thee the rose is red,
All things through thee take nobler form
And look beyond the earth,
The mill-round of our fate appears
A sun-path in thy worth.
Me too thy nobleness has taught
To master my despair;
The fountains of my hidden life
Are through thy friendship fair.*

Gathered at Random

(End)

By way of insight !

«...sex is solely a device for the propagation of the race and except for that purpose should be relegated to oblivion. The crude animalism of this theory is embellished with theological arguments designed to show that true love is consummated only through children and that only thus is it pleasing in the sight of God.»

«...sex is part of human life and, like everything else that is human, contains a mixture of both earth and heaven. »

Statistics:

«Masturbation accounts for 38,5 % of the total outlet for the sixteen-to-twenty (age) group, drops to 25 % and rises to 29 % after thirty-five.»

«Homosexual relations provide 7,8 % of the outlet for bachelors under twenty (years of age) but the incidence rises steadily until it reaches 22,6 % between thirty-one and thirty-five.»

«College men are the lowest in homosexual outlet 2,4 %, while grade school boys owe 6,9 % of their total to this source and high school boys 10,8 %.»

«College men derive 66 % (!) of their outlet from masturbation and 10 % from intercourse.»

«Perhaps the most unpalatable surprise in the Kinsey figures on single men is the conclusion that the percentage of the nation's bachelors who have homosexual contacts rises steadily with each age group. Between adolescence and fifteen years it is given as 27,3 %. Between the ages of thirty-six and forty 38,7 % of bachelors have had such contacts. It is indicated that the proportion of those over fifty is more than half.»

In order to properly appraise any statistics it is not possible to rely merely on a few scattered figures as they are presented here. It should be noted that all the percentages given above apply only to bachelors. While numerous differences occur in the studies of married males, several trends seem to be shared by both the married and the single man.

I would like to call attention to two main factors which have struck me greatly. First, the figures of the Kinsey Report in general, not only the very few shown here, indicate that the sexual behaviour of men with higher education and also those in higher social strata conforms more closely to what is considered «normal». The second fact which may cause amazement is the increase of homosexual activity among men thirty and older.

In the first instance one will have to seek an explanation in the historical and social development of the United States. Prostitution in the United States is virtually absent. There are no supervised brothels here, nor is streetwalking legalized. On the contrary! Any form of prostitution is punishable. Necessarily few men have recourse to that form of heterosexual gratification.

Likewise missing is the «Gespusi»-relationship of Viennese or any other European type. Under the circumstances, the chances are that the young man will marry early and enter that union without any or only very little previous sexual experience, excluding for the moment self-gratification and homosexuality. When the figure for masturbation among unmarried college men is given as 66 per cent, we have at least part of the explanation for male virginity. Unsolved remains, nonetheless, the very low figure for relations with other males in colleges. The existing taboos can furnish only a partial justification. It has been pointed out that men on higher financial and educational levels are more subject to indoctrination in the prevailing standards of normalcy. That, no doubt, is true.

It may be possible to reach a better conclusion by reversing the approach and proceeding from an analysis of the sexual situation of the less fortunate groups. The problem of prostitution is probably the same here. However, an aggravating factor is that what little

underground bidding does exist will be above the budget of a lower income man.

The segment of the population which is less prosperous and may not find it possible to attend college, moreover, is made up of immigrant groups and their first generation, and will therefore not have acquired the puritanical outlook of their Anglo-Saxon compatriots. Where this is not the case — and I certainly do not wish to be understood as saying that either all immigrant groups or later waves are financially unsuccessful or intellectually not enterprising enough, or that the «lower» strata is mainly composed of recently immigrants — then, where the outlook should be the same the inhibitions may more readily fall. Masturbation — I think I can recall a similar statement by Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld — is not an accepted form of outlet in these circles. Whether the greater need for companionship or the less pronounced egocentricism leads to a more frequent sexual union among the middle and working class, I dare not say. I could only well imagine it. From that point of view one can also venture, naturally with reservations, to say that where women are not available a considerable number of men will seek men. At least to me it has always appeared fantastic how many engaged, without being sufficiently inclined, in intercourse with other men.

The second point I want to bring out is the increase of homosexuality with advancing age. Here too, I believe, the unavailability of women for those men who are emotionally equipped with that desire must be made to account — at least partly — for the rise of incidences. A society which is unwilling to provide outlets for as deep-seated a call of nature need hardly be surprised at such «strange» manifestations.

I would like to bring this into relationship with what the authors of «American Sexual Behaviour and the Kinsey Report» have to say in their chapter on American sexual habits as compared to foreign. «But he (Hirschfeld) studied the most extreme cases, for it was not understood to what extent homosexual experience might be spread through the population among men and women who were finding their chief sexual outlet through other activities.» Granting even certain time-conditioned shortcomings in the Hirschfeld statistics, the American writers, nonetheless, bypass a very important factor. Homosexuality in Europe, certainly in Germany, was indeed confined to those who had this or a bisexual disposition. For any man in whom the primacy of a women-directed desire was sufficiently well established, the need to tread forbidden paths never arose. For the equivalent of one dollar physical release could be obtained in half an hour's time and there were available various other, more cultured, more expensive, more steady and less expensive forms to gratify one's pleasures or needs. The statistics of the Kinsey report should therefore not be taken too universally; rather do they reveal a somewhat unique struggle in which the American male finds himself.

It should not be ignored that homosexuals in Europe, as our publications there show, do not consider themselves exclusively «deviates»

from the norm. Instead they are very positive about all that which this inclination implies. Social ostracism and the legal situation still keep many away from our organizations, and the irresponsibles are found in all walks of life. Yet all that most of the groups and their magazines stand for cannot just be expressed in terms of sexuality. Subsequently the movements designed to bring about sexual equality before the law take a more reserved view of those who merely hover along the outskirts seeking the pleasures there, since they cannot find them elsewhere, and avoiding responsibilities, since they are not mentally equipped to be consistent in that direction.

"Enlightenment" in Australia

Sydney — «Use of the lash against persons convicted of male sex perversion should be considered», Judge Berne suggested at the Quarter Session today. His Honor described the prevalence of sex perversion among males as «a disgrace to the community». He said use of the lash was permitted under an amendment to the Crimes Act, which also provided a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment for indecently assaulting a male.

After being told by the Chief of the Vice Squad that male perversion in New South Wales, particularly Sydney, had «jumped to alarming proportions,» Judge Berne described such offences as «vicious foreign imported habits». «Picture shows, parks and public W. C.s are all infested with these types,» he said. «They are so low that even the criminal scum have no desire to be associated with (them). The serious part of the matter is that no child is safe with these people about, and parents can hardly afford to let their children out of their sight. It is no exaggeration to say that, in the field of criminal activity, no greater danger has ever menaced the community . . . It is useless to treat offenders with kid gloves; it is necessary to treat them without mercy. It is a very serious crime, and it is an offence that even the lowest animals would not commit. The serious part of the matter is that (their) desires are to pollute others. Medical science cannot curb (their) unnatural instincts, and there is only one language which can curb (them) . . . the language which is expressed in the armed tongue.»

Asked by His Honor if male perversion offences were particularly rampant among «certain foreign elements in our community,» Inspector Crothers said that was so, and apparently such persons did not understand that it was the wrong thing. He gave the following figures of sex crime incidence: In 1933, 22 sex offences by males; 1945, 19; 1946, 31; 1947, 79; 1948, 194; 1949, 284; 1950, 265; and 1951, 155. After Insp. Crothers had read out comparative figures of female prostitution and male perversion, Judge Berne commented: «In other words, these men have forced the women prostitutes out of business.»