

Further Studies in the Psycho-Sexuality of College Graduate Men.
(*Mental Hygiene*, July, 1925.) Peck, M. W., and Wells, F. L.

This is a further instalment of the work which has been published in previous issues of the above-named journal. The basis of the present research is the answers received to a questionnaire sent out to American men college graduates. The subjects of the inquiry were mostly of ages ranging from 22 to 27 years, and nearly all belonged to the professional and the wealthier business classes; this latter fact has to be kept in mind, when interpreting the results of the research. The questionnaire contained 112 items, dealing with general personality as well as specifically with sex relations. There are, probably, some interesting correlations, which the authors promise to work out in detail.

Asked at what age their principal information as to sex matters was obtained, over 50 *per cent.* assigned an age previous to that of puberty (taking that period at 14 years), while 16.5 *per cent.* did not get such knowledge until the age of 18 years or over. Nearly 60 *per cent.* obtained their knowledge from companions or from books, the former source decidedly preponderating. But the vast majority were of opinion that this casual mode of acquiring such knowledge was bad, and favoured specific instruction, most of them indicating the father as the proper person to impart such information.

As regards extra-marital sex intercourse, 37 *per cent.* admitted this, while 59 *per cent.* denied it. It is probable that these figures may be regarded as accurate, and they contradict the exaggerated estimates, often given, of the frequency of pre-marital intercourse among young men of the college class. Further analysis of the ages at which such intercourse first occurred indicates that if such contact has not been established at an age approximating 21 years, the chances are considerably lessened, for this group of subjects, that it will be established extra-maritally in later years. The replies lend colour to the view that these contacts are relatively opportunistic, and they do not suggest independent seeking of gratification in response to a coercive urge. Probably a leading feature is the invitation of some more mature woman. Prostitution, however, seems to have only a minor influence; a marked majority denied all dealings with prostitutes, although the implication of that term was strictly defined. The incidence of venereal disease was very low, only one-seventh of the exposed group having contracted gonorrhœa, while syphilis had not occurred at all. The small number who had connection with prostitutes has to be remembered. Whether recent greater liberty in social acquaintance between the two sexes, in this class of society, has made a difference in this respect, would form an interesting subject for speculation. Only 14 *per cent.*, however, admitted that mixing socially with "better-class girls" had any tendency to increase their sexual impulses. The conventional view, that contacts of this kind decrease specifically sexual impulses, has to be kept in mind when interpreting these particular figures. "Minor love-

making," and the reading of modern fiction containing realistic love scenes, were reported by many as definitely increasing sex impulses. Only 3·5 *per cent.* denied masturbation at some period of their lives. Definitely homo-sexual feelings were admitted by 12 *per cent.*, but in only 3 *per cent.* did actual physical contact contribute to this.

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9. Mental Hospital Reports.

City of London.—The event of most importance in this institution during the year under review is the unfortunate ill-health of Dr. Steen, whose devotion to the Hospital as its Medical Superintendent has been such a marked feature for so many years. It is now known, of course, that this illness has culminated in his retirement, and all members of this Association, to which he also gave unsparing work and energy, will recognize the great loss a man of his personality must be to an institution, and will hope that relief from his anxious and trying duties will so ameliorate his condition as to ensure him many years of well-earned rest. Unfortunately for the Hospital, it loses, also owing to ill-health, the valuable services of Mr. Fitch, the very able and energetic Clerk to the Committee, whose work is known to us in other directions.

The City is blessed with powers, not given to, or at least not exerted by, most, of carrying through an Act (City of London, Various Powers Act, 1924) which overrides certain provisions of the Lunacy Act (1890, *et seq.*) giving them power, such as was contained in the ill-fated Miscellaneous Bill, to receive voluntary boarders and to use the title "mental hospital" for all purposes. However right this may be—and it is right—it is certainly contrary to the principles of modern legislation that any local Act should alter fundamentally an existing general Act except and unless the local conditions differ from those generally in being.

During Dr. Steen's absence, and pending the new appointment, Dr. Norman Navarra has ably carried on, as deputy Medical Superintendent, and from his report it is seen that there are at present in the hospital a total of 348 private patients (a proportion of 3 to 2 as compared with rate-paid), also one gentleman and two lady boarders; five voluntary boarders have been admitted since the passing of the Act in July, one of whom recovered completely after a few weeks' residence.

No tabulated statistics occur in this report, but it is to be noticed that no cases of general paralysis, in the initial stage, were admitted during the year, so that further treatment by malaria was necessarily suspended, and cases of dementia præcox failed to give any promising results.

A considerable amount of structural alteration, improvement and addition has been carried out during the year, and a contract has been accepted for still further work providing for extended accommodation, operating theatre, dental room and laboratory.

The hospital has accepted *in toto* the model dietary as suggested in the Report of the Departmental Committee, which is giving