
In these times, when "juvenile delinquency" shows a marked increase and becomes a major concern, a study of the boy sex offender is doubly welcome. The author, a psychiatrist attached to the Children's Courts, New York City, in this study "seeks to establish the significance of early sex offenses among males in relation to later life behavior." For the purpose of his study, the author divides his case material into two groups: the "primary" group of "true sex offenders," i.e., individuals "having no known involvement in any offensive behavior other than sexual" (108 cases), and the "mixed group," representing boys of the "general-delinquent type" (148 cases).

Most of the book is taken up by statistics concerning "family and home factors," "factors in the personalities of the parents," "age distribution and puberty," "race," "nationality," etc. In working through these statistics—a real endurance test—one asks oneself what relevant conclusions could possibly be drawn from these. One also begins to ask oneself, Where is the boy sex offender? Nowhere in the book, not even in the case histories, does one get an impression of the personality of the boy sex offender, of his conflicts and subjective experiences, of his suffering; all this is smothered by "data" about him. One is also struck by the choice of criteria. For example, in Table 10, p. 64, the following items appear under "Behavior Abnormalities": Enuresis, Nightmares, Fear of dark, Conflict with members of family. In Table 11, p. 72, the following are listed under "Types of Juvenile Sex Offenses": Masturbation, excessive; Group affairs with girls; and heterosexual experiences! The attitude toward such sexual manifestations becomes quite clear from the following quotations:

Healy and Bronner mention 25 per cent of their delinquents as practicing extreme masturbation, which implies that every fourth case was a serious masturbating problem. These figures serve to reflect the intensity of glandular and emotional excitement among early adolescents, and the great need for proper sex hygiene preparation of juveniles as a protection against still other and worse sex practices, such as appear in Table 11 (p. 71).

That 25 per cent of delinquents practice excessive masturbation is not surprising. But the psychiatrist should realize that these figures do not "reflect the intensity
of glandular and emotional excitement among early adolescents” (which means simply brushing aside the whole problem with a platitudinous statement) but the fact that these adolescents have been made incapable of normal, gratifying masturbation. What is really meant by “the great need for ‘proper’ sex hygiene preparation of juveniles against still other and ‘worse’ practices” becomes obvious from the following quotation from Rousseau’s Emile (p. 73):

My son, there is no happiness without courage, nor virtue without struggle—by virtue is meant strength of will—this need arises with the awakening of the passions.

In other words, “proper sex hygiene” means the suppression of “the passions,” of masturbation, by “strength of will.” The author’s own opinion on the subject is expressed as follows (p. 74):

Excessive masturbation should be prevented by redirection of the glandular and visceral energies into channels of vigorous muscular activity, by sports, competitive games, and athletics, as well as wholesome mental preoccupation with an abundance of social interaction.

So, it is a matter of “glandular and visceral energies.” This would imply that it is a matter of normal energies which should have a normal outlet. But no. They should be “redirected” into non-glandular and non-visceral activities, sports, competitive games and “wholesome mental preoccupation.” That excessive masturbation should be prevented is, of course, correct. But not because it is a moral “evil” but because it is a symptom of unhealth. The only rational prevention can be the elimination of its cause. This is the inability of the adolescent to have a normal discharge of these “glandular and visceral,” that is, sexual energies.

The author’s comment on “Group Affairs with Girls” is the following (p. 76): “These occurred in only 3 cases of the primary group, and in none of the mixed group. They were of the mild petting and inspecting nature, and occurred in a group of children on a roof adjoining a school.” He fails to state the “offensive” nature of these activities.

As to Heterosexual Experiences, these “include instances of sexual intercourse with adolescent girls and women and occurred in 12 cases of the primary group, or 11.1 per cent, and in 11 cases, or 7.4 per cent, of the mixed group.” The attitude toward such occurrences is one of horror. The author goes on to say, “Rousseau (who from his own life’s experience must have known) declares, in his classic treatise Emile, that ‘his horror of adultery and debauch keeps him at a distance from prostitutes and married women, and the disorders of youth may always be traced to one or the other.’ ”

As to the Causes of Sex Delinquency, the author finds that “the findings of the study warrant the axiomatic conclusion that no trait, or combination of traits, operates as a specific cause of juvenile sexual delinquency. A variety of causes, of both extrinsic and intrinsic origin, are elicited from the case records” (p. 80).

“Most significant among the extrinsic or determining causes are lack of proper guidance in sex hygiene and inadequate protection of children by parents” (p. 80). As we have already seen, what is meant by “proper guidance in sex hygiene” is sexual suppression pure and simple.

“Puberty is the most important of the intrinsic causes,” continues the author. “Puberty thus strongly contributes to the commission of sex offenses, but, without benefit of extrinsic factors, the force of puberty would not of itself eventuate in the commission of the sexually delinquent act” (p. 81). This sounds like double-talk. Of course, puberty, by itself, if undisturbed, would lead to the establishment of a normal adult sex life. What makes this impossible and leads, instead, to neuroses,
crime and perversions, is what is here called "extrinsic factors." What this array of "extrinsic factors" comes down to is, of course, sexual suppression in all its various forms, which makes a healthy sexual development impossible. The mention of this fact, however, is carefully avoided.

In view of this moralistic, antise.xual approach to the problem, one would not expect much of a constructive conclusion from this study. Yet, the conclusions are so incredible that they have to be extensively quoted.

"A highly significant indication of this investigation," writes the author (p. 168 ff.), "is that male juvenile sex delinquency is self-curing, provided the latent forces of shame and guilt, inherent in the moral-cultural pattern, are properly stimulated into action. Under such circumstances a boy's mental faculties are shaken to their very foundation, strong reservoirs of shame are dislodged from attachment to the inactive memories of infantile rectal and bladder control days, and powerful self-generating barriers against recidivism are laid down in the personality, which effectively and lastingly resist a return to sexual offenses. This seems to occur regularly when a sex offense is exposed to a boy's family in the open process of a juvenile court and clinic hearing. No other conclusion seems possible from the outcomes, and the following substantiating findings.

Thus, it is common observation for aggressive and calloused juvenile offenders to employ various excuses and defenses in attempts to justify even the most violent general offenses; yet never has a boy appeared in the clinic who sought to justify a sexual offense, however insignificant."

The author illustrates by the case of an 8-year-old boy who said: "Why shouldn't I steal the bicycle? Why should the other kid have a bicycle and me not? He's no better than I am. Why, look at Russia. There everyone is given the same things. What about the bankers, where do you think they get their money? They steal it, that's how they get rich. Look at all of them that's been caught and sent to jail." This same boy, however, "when faced with a petty sex situation on a later day, figuratively melted away. There was not a sign of defiance in his manner or speech. There was no berating of the community as unfair, nor any attempt to justify his act. . . . He felt exposed and stripped of all protection, even that of his parents, who themselves now were gravely concerned over the disgrace to the family and what the neighbors and relatives might think if they should learn of their son's 'depravity.'"

"The success of the court and clinic contact in checking sexual recidivism," the author continues, "does not arise from the direct influence of these agencies, but rather from the circumstance that they effectively serve to provoke into action the internal self-curing processes of shame and guilt. The precise value of the court in the process rests in its facilities for an impressive exposure of the sex offense to the mind of the boy, with members of the family and strangers about, in the open court procedure, with the addition of the benefits derived from psychiatric reorientation by the clinic. These measures seem to provide the fullest opportunity for arousal of the strong latent currents of shame and guilt, which, with little outside assistance, thereafter can continue to operate within the ego and superego, as a continual fortification of the individual against sexual recidivism."

"The study thus successfully brings to light previously unknown basic principles that should prove valuable in the treatment of boy sex offender cases by others besides the courts. Any close approximation of the conditions above postulated, on the part of community psychiatric practitioners, agency workers, or even parents, would probably meet with similarly good results."

Under the heading "Treatment" the author states the following:
"The findings indicate that juvenile sexual offenders should preferably be brought to court and into the court clinic, in order that they may obtain lasting benefits from maximum stimulation of the inherent self-curing potentialities of shame and guilt, . . . and every effort should be made to institute effective measures that will arouse an adequate response of guilt and shame in the boy, as a means of laying down permanent deterrents in his mind against recidivism."

Freud has shown that neuroses, perversions and sexual crimes result from sexual repression, from the shame and guilt about sexuality which is instilled in children and adolescents. Could it be that the author, an experienced psychiatrist, is ignorant of these facts? He is not. For on p. 178 ff. we read the following statement which, in the context of this book, strikes one as rather surprising:

We adults, through our own stupid system of so-called social and economic cultural progress, not only rob the adolescent of his natural right to function as a mature male upon reaching puberty, by surrounding him with laws, taboos, fears, guilts, and restrictions that spell for him sexual inhibition until he is old enough to satisfy our conventional concept of marital responsibility (which is usually at an age past 25) but we lack the decency even to provide him with the needed understanding of his sex functions, so that he may at least achieve a reasonable artificial adjustment to his enforced celibacy. In the manner of ostriches, we make no visible recognition of his sex problems, his visceral cravings, not even his simple need of enlightenment and guidance, by which he might bear his sexual abstinence less stressful, and view his urge to the substitute sex gratification of masturbation, which comes spontaneously to every boy, in the proper light of control and sublimation, instead of with a plagued mind, guilt, misgivings, misunderstandings, hate, and in terms of stray bits of street information.

So, the author is aware of our "stupid system of so-called social and economic progress," of the fact that we "rob the adolescent of his natural right to function as a mature male upon reaching puberty," of the fact that, "in the manner of ostriches, we make no visible recognition of his sex problems, his visceral cravings." And yet, he proposes a systematic "arousal of the strong latent currents of shame and guilt."

That such a procedure may in fact reduce recidivism of sexual delinquency cannot be doubted. But it is a more than dubious procedure. There are two basically different methods of handling antisocial sexual drives and activities: self-regulation, and moral regulation. Self-regulation would require the exactly opposite procedure of that proposed by the author: the adolescent has to be freed from his guilt feelings and sexual anxieties, he has to become capable of an adult genital life or at least able to masturbate without guilt feelings and with satisfaction. Then, when his primary sexual drive is satisfied, he will no longer develop secondary, perverse and antisocial sexual drives.

The other procedure, that of moral regulation, works on the opposite principle, that of re-inforcing the existing feelings of guilt and shame and of instilling new ones. True, this may have the effect of reducing recidivism, but at a horrible cost, that of psychic castration. An adolescent who becomes sexually delinquent is already sick. If re-inforcing his feelings of guilt and shame reduces recidivism, it does so only because such treatment has made a sexual cripple of the adolescent.

If the author, in spite of his knowledge of the disastrous effects of sexual repression, nevertheless advocates such a procedure, it can only be because he finds himself in a dilemma: As a physician he knows that the adolescent should be freed of his guilt feelings and that he has a "natural right to function as a mature male upon reaching puberty." But apparently as
the psychiatrist of the City's Children's Courts he cannot say so. In that position, he takes the side of society, of what he himself calls "our stupid system of so-called social and economic cultural progress," as against the adolescent who is in dire need of help.

So it comes to pass that Freud's discoveries are put in the service not of the patient, but of sex-negating and sex-suppressing society. This utilization of the knowledge of the mechanisms of suppression, of shame and guilt, has for many years characterized psychoanalytic pedagogy.

In his preface, the author states:

An important field of social concern has seemingly been neglected. In line with this are the pointed remarks of an outstanding exponent of child guidance work: "I don't understand sex delinquency. Nobody understands sex delinquencies. Some day we may..." (W. Healy), and also the more recent remarks of a noted sex authority: "In our present state of ignorance with regard to sexual matters..." (G. W. Henry). Evidently psychoanalysis has not fully supplied the answer on the subject of sex, as many have been led to believe.

One cannot agree with these statements. Psychoanalysis has supplied the basic answers to the problem, and Reich's sex-economy has expanded and amplified them, particularly with the clarification of the primary and secondary drives. It is not true that "nobody understands sex delinquencies." The knowledge is there. One can no longer hide behind "our present state of ignorance with regard to sexual matters." It is no longer a matter of acquiring the knowledge, but a matter of drawing the correct practical conclusions from this knowledge. That, however, takes a more than ordinary degree of honesty and courage.

T. P. Wolfe
Projeto Arte Org
Redescobrindo e reinterpreting W. Reich

Caro Leitor
Infelizmente, no que se refere a orgonomia, seguir os passos de Wilhelm Reich e de sua equipe de investigadores é uma questão bastante difícil, polêmica e contraditória, cheia de diferentes interpretações que mais confundem do que ajudam.
Por isto, nós decidimos trabalhar com o material bibliográfico presente nos microfilmes (Wilhelm Reich Collected Works Microfilms) em forma de PDF, disponibilizados por Eva Reich que já se encontra circulado pela internet, e que abarca o desenvolvimento da orgonomia de 1941 a 1957.

Dividimos este “material” de acordo com as revistas publicadas pelo instituto de orgonomia do qual o Reich era o diretor.
01- International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research (1942-1945).
02- Orgone Energy Bulletin (1949-1953)
03- CORE Cosmic Orgone Engineering (1954-1956)

E logo dividimos estas revistas de acordo com seus artigos, apresentando-os de forma separada (em PDF), o que facilita a organizá-los por assunto ou temas.
Assim, cada qual pode seguir o rumo de suas leituras de acordo com os temas de seu interesse.
Todo o material estará disponível em inglês na nuvem e poderá ser acessado a partir de nossas páginas Web.

Sendo que nosso intuito aqui é simplesmente divulgar a orgonomia, e as questões que a ela se refere, de acordo com o próprio Reich e seus colaboradores diretos relativos e restritos ao tempo e momento do próprio Reich.
Quanto ao caminho e as postulações de cada um destes colaboradores depois da morte de Reich, já é uma questão que extrapola nossas possibilidades e nossos interesses. Sendo que aqui somente podemos ser responsáveis por nós mesmos e com muitas restrições.

Alguns destes artigos, de acordo com nossas possibilidades e interesse, já estamos traduzindo.
Não somos tradutores especializados e, portanto, pedimos a sua compreensão para possíveis erros que venham a encontrar.
Em nome da comunidade Arte Org.

Textos da área do desenvolvimento infantil

Texts from the area of child development

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