Preface

The APPA has dealt with the problems of sexual behavior at three points in its history. The first was its role in the formation of the American Psychoanalytic Association which developed as a spin-off from the APPA in 1912. At that occasion Morton Prince warned the readers of the official journal of the Association (Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology) not to be dismayed to see the journal publish papers on sex in the wake of Freud's new ideas. The second occasion was the symposium in 1949 on Psychosexual Development in Health and Disease which was organized in response to the early epoch-making work of Kinsey. The present symposium is the third occasion.

A comparison of the table of contents of the 1949 symposium with that of the current symposium reveals the interesting fact that there is no overlap in authors in the two symposia, and no overlap in the sections nor chapter titles. It is as if an entirely new field had arisen during the last two decades. In the
1949 symposium an entire section was devoted to the psychoanalytic approach; in the current volume only one paper deals with psychoanalysis under the title: "Psychoanalysis and physical intervention in the brain: the mind-body problem again." The new developments in the current volume are on prenatal hormones and subsequent sexual dimorphism of behavior; brain function and sexual behavior; maternalism and women's sexuality; sex, marital status and family structure; sex education; and the psychophysiological aspects of the sexual act and treatment of its disturbances.

As was the case with the editors of the 1949 symposium, the present editors feel the need for pointing out that they could not cover the entire field. Thus the following topics are known to have been omitted through lack of time, despite a three-day program, or unavailability of speakers: postconceptional reversal of chromosomal determinants of morphologic and behavioral sex in fish and amphibia; prenatal medicational and other effects on subsequent sexual behavior in mammals; radiographic brain studies and sexual behavior in mammals; pheromonal or odiferous stimulation of sexual response in subhuman primates and human beings; effects of precocious and delayed puberty in human beings; adult gonadotropic and gonadal hormone levels and homosexual versus heterosexual gender identity; the phenomenon of falling in love; psychedelic drugs
and enhancement of erotic experience; and ethnosexologic studies of sexual pairing and mating. No doubt there are other new branches which were on the tree of sexual research too young to have yet been perceived by the program organizers when they planned the program that became the table of contents of this volume.

It has always been the function of The American Psychopathological Association to envisage the impact of new developments on normal and abnormal behavior. In its forward looking programs it has provided platforms for topics before they reached the stage of general professional interest and long before they reached the stage of popular acceptance: it anticipated the currently widespread scientific interest in depression by about a decade in its 1951 symposium; the current interest in diagnosis and prognosis in its 1953 symposium on Current Problems in Psychiatric Diagnoses; the current interest in addiction in the 1957 symposium on Drug Addiction and Habituation; the present interest in the problems of the aged in the 1961 symposium on Psychopathology of Aging. Now, in keeping with this forward looking tradition it is providing a ready platform for the burgeoning renewal of scientific interest in sexual behavior.
One published symposium, however, should just be the beginning. Public support for research in the traditionally sensitive areas of human sexuality is still difficult to obtain. The determinants of sexual incompatibility between couples must be sought, even if that research runs contrary to current mores such as requires observing a videotape of the couple during coitus. Systematic studies of infantile and juvenile sexual play in relation to normal adolescent psychosexual development are also needed. The sexual behavior of homosexuals needs to be investigated further. The old taboos against sex must give way so that publically funded scientific research can be expanded into all areas of normal and abnormal sexual behavior.
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