



MAY 1957

48th Issue

SAN FRANCISCO AREA COUNCIL

**mattachine
newsletter**



SAN FRANCISCO AREA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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COMING IN THE JUNE REVIEW

Two outstanding articles of interest to everyone will appear in the June issue of Mattachine Review, due off the press on May 25th.

A woman who has learned to understand her son's homosexual problem delivers a penetrating summons for understanding in a special article, "Just Between Us Mothers." Yes, it was really written by the mother of a homosexual.

Rev. Davis Stein, whose article "No Need to Despair," in the February issue, created a great deal of comment, returns to the pages of the Review under a similar banner in June. The article is an open letter to a homosexual, written by the man who is a Catholic priest in the Eastern part of the U. S.

The two series, "Values and Responsibilities," by Luther Allen, and "The Tender Trap," by Peter Jackson, will be concluded. In addition there will be other articles and comment of note. If you're not a subscriber--then get your copy but definitely by sending us \$4 per year--and do it now! If your friends don't subscribe, urge them to do so...they'll profit by reading and so will the Review.

Send orders to:

MATTACHINE REVIEW
693 Mission St.
San Francisco 5, Calif.

THE MARCH LECTURE

The public lecture for March was delivered by Mr. Gavin Arthur, the sexologist and writer. Mr. Arthur's view is that sexual differentiations does not proceed in a straight line, with individuals finding themselves somewhere between the opposite poles of extreme masculinity and extreme feminity. He rather believes it to be more like a circle, with many gradations between the different basic types and with each type of man having its complementary type of woman and vice versa.

One way of representing this system, he said, was to visualize it as a clock, with most individuals coming nearer to one "hour" than another. In the early years when he and his wife were working out the system one of their procedures was to observe the people around them while out at restaurants and other places, trying to determine which type they were and then one saying to the other, "I'd say two-thirty," "About a quarter of three," etc. Usually they tended to come to the same conclusions about the same people. They were careful, of course, not to let the people around them know what they meant.

Among the types listed by him was the "Paterfamilias" male, the husband who is wholly devoted to his wife, home and children, of whom the late King of England, George the IV, was an excellent example. His polar opposite was Queen Victoria, who was the epitome of the "Materfamilias" type. Curiously enough, Mr. Arthur pointed out, there is a highly masculine homophile type who has more of the qualities termed "virile" and "masculine" by the average

person than the paterfamilias male. A good example of this hypermasculine type whose sexual inclination is primarily towards young males was Lord Kitchner, the English military hero. He fell under the category of what Mr. Arthur termed "two O'clock" and his polar opposite on the other side of the circle was the hypermasculine lesbian. One of the well-known individuals of this type he cited was the late Gertrude Stein of whom he gave a vivid description.

To give a full outline of Mr. Arthur's description of the various "times" of the clock would be unfair, since his lecture is shortly due to be published. Furthermore, his gift for describing extremely vivid, and sometimes startling incidents concerning the individuals he cited as types is impossible to equal. Readers of the S.F. Area Newsletter will be informed when it is made available and will be well-advised to read it. They will find his theories provocative and his gift for telling colorful anecdotes not generally known to the public phenomenal. It is probable too that, like so many of the persons at the lecture, they will for days afterwards be asking all their friends what time they think they are.

A RECAPITULATION OF PRINCIPLES

Many persons who are interested in becoming members of the Mattachine Society as well as those who are already members and the many friends of the Society, have often inquired as to just what the Mattachine Society stands for. It is believed that this is best presented in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Mattachine Society, Inc., which reads as follows:

"That all mankind may live without fear and prejudice regardless of their sexual orienta-

tion; that all may respect the integrity of the individual; that all may become cognizant of themselves, their place as an integral part of their community, and be provided with the means of social adjustment; that all may live, act and work together in the spirit of brotherhood, equality, mutual understanding and self-respect."

All new members are asked to pledge themselves to:

1. To uphold the Constitution, By-laws, Aims and Principles, and Resolutions of the Mattachine Society, Inc.
2. Always to keep the interests of the Mattachine Society uppermost in my mind and to conduct myself in a way that will reflect credit upon myself and the organization.
3. In every possible way to respect the integrity and civil rights of all racial, religious and national minorities.
4. To strive in every possible way to interest other responsible people in the Mattachine Society and to recruit members for the organization without regard to their race, color or creed; but with regard to their ability and willingness to understand this same membership and accept this same membership pledge.
5. To participate actively and seriously in the work, responsibilities and functions of the Society.
6. Unconditionally, to respect the anonymity of all members of the Mattachine Society or sponsoring organizations and affiliates.

It is a fact that all persons who are interested in our organization, members and non-members alike, should make it their responsibility to adopt a code of behavior which will be highly acceptable to himself and to society as a whole. Through true self-acceptance a great new vista opens for all individuals. Not only will you as an individual like yourself better, but you will find that you will fit into the patterns of society with greater ease and be recognized as a fellow human being and not as someone set apart. It is believed that through subscrib-

ing to the above Preamble and Pledge each and everyone will find a fuller and better life, the true meaning of fellowship, and a better understanding of man.

LIBRARY NOTES

In response to the request for books a subscriber in Utah was kind enough to donate a large part of his private collection. Among the books contributed was the best-selling Hadrian's Memoirs by Marguerite Yourcenar. An interesting fact concerning it, showing the well-nigh hypnotic effect of cultural conditioning is that at the time of its publication in this country the thorough depiction of the Emperor Hadrian's homophilic tendencies was almost completely ignored by the American critics who praised the book so highly. Persons reading the reviews would never have dreamed that there was anything of the sort in the book.

Also given by the same contributor was Speranza, a biography of Oscar Wilde's mother by Horace Wyndham. While much, in fact, all too much, attention has been paid to Oscar, till recently little has been given to either of his parents.

Lady Wilde turns out to have been one of the major literary figures of the Irish world during her lifetime. She did much to help the cause of Irish liberty, wrote profusely and at times redundantly, in prose and verse, could be brilliantly witty and was the first female columnist ever engaged by an English newspaper. She also had upon occasion a habit of devastatingly "speaking her mind," and upon one occasion stunned a bashful young man by telling him before her entire salon, "When you are as old as I am, young man, you will know that there is only thing in the world worth living for and that is sin."

Received from a kindly contributor in Florida was Sex in Christianity and Psychoanalysis by William Graham Cole. In this very important study Dr. Cole tries to trace the history of sexual attitudes in Christianity, and summarizes present-day Protestant and Roman Catholic ones. He then describes those of the major psychoanalytic schools and concludes with a description of his own views on the matter.

As a whole the book is written with remarkable objectivity, as well as great clarity, when it is considered that Dr. Cole has been a minister and is now a theological instructor. An important point made by him is that, contrary to the popular view, the development of Western sexual attitudes was not the simple matter of the Greek Greeks leading happy, uninhibited lives and then the combination of Judaism and paganism into Christianity making everyone sexually repressed that popular legend has it.

Actually, the Old Testament Hebrews followed what he terms the "naturalistic" view and saw nothing praiseworthy in either celibacy or virginity. The general trend among the Greeks was to recommend sophrosyne - "moderation" - in all activities, including sexual ones.

There was, however, a school of thought among them that was dualistic in regards to religious-philosophical views, and regarded the body as "the tomb of the soul," and a thing to be transcended as quickly as possible. This school came to assume an ever-increasing importance in Greek thought, and at the time of Christianity's appearance was a dominating force in the classical world. According to Dr. Cole both of these two tendencies became woven into the texture of Christianity, and since then its adherents have oscillated back and forth between the sexually repressive dualistic trend and the uninhibited naturalistic one.

The whole subject is a complicated one, and Dr. Cole's book discusses heterophilic attitudes rather than homophilic ones. However, the reader who goes through his book and then Derrick Sherwin Bailey's homosexuality and the Western Church Tradition with a fairly good picture of the origins of the present situation. They will probably find Dr. Cole easier to read than Dr. Bailey to too.

From the local Area came a copy of the Poems from the Greek Anthology, translated by Dudley Fitts, and available at the City Lights Bookshop for one dollar. As was stated then the remarkable thing about the book, apart from the quality of the translations, is that the writer has made no effort to disguise homophilic statements by the poets as has sometimes been the policy of other translators.

Reactions vary, with some finding the love poems attributed to Plato of the greatest interest and others commenting on the directness with which the homophilic poets express their feelings, unlike present-day ones. However, the two best-liked epigrams seem to be:

At sixty I, Dionysios of Tarsos, lie here
Never having married:
and I wish my father had not.

and:

Praise, of course, is best: plain speech breeds hate.
But ah the Attic honey
Of telling a man exactly what you think of him!

GROWING...GROWING...GROWING

Members and friends of Mattachine in the San Francisco Bay area as well as readers of this letter everywhere may be pleased that the Mattachine Library in San Francisco has now grown to where it contains more than 300 hard and soft cover volumes. Recent contributions of books from Oregon, Utah and Florida are acknowledged with thanks.

The library is now housed in room 309 of the Williams building, where members and friends are invited to spend free weekday evenings making use of its facilities.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 2 -- Public Discussion Meeting, Friend's Center, 1830 Sutter St., 8 p.m., Speaker: Dr. Carlo Lastrucci, cultural anthropologist, "The Sexual Impulse," open to public.
- 10 -- "KOFFEE KLATCH" -- Moderated Discussion Group, 1480 Washington Street, 7:30 p.m.
- MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP DINNER, to be announced later.
- 28 -- DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS public lecture, Discussion of Ann Aldrich's "We Walk Alone," 465 Geary, 8:15 p.m.
- 30 -- MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING (members only) 693 Mission Street, Room 309, 8 p.m.

JUNE

- 6 -- Public Discussion Meeting (as above)
Speakers: William A. Baker, M.S.W., and
Julia W. Coleman, M.S.W.

On May 4 "The Reluctant Dragon," a puppet play based on the Kenneth Grahame story, will be presented by the Mattachine Players at the Friend's Center at 8 p.m. Tickets are going fast, and the audience is limited to 100, so that it is wisest that you reserve your tickets now, instead of on Saturday evening, the night of the show.

WORK SESSIONS FOR THE MATTACHINE REVIEW will be held on May 25-26 and on certain weekday evenings. Members and friends are invited to aid in the active production of the Society's magazine.

KENNETH
GRAHAME'S

The Mattachine
Players Present

PUPPET

SHOW

IN

TWO ACTS....

"The
RELUCTANT
DRAGON"

AMERICAN FRIENDS SER. COMM
AUDITORIUM- 1830 SUTTER STREET
8 P. M

SATURDAY EVENING-MAY 4

DONATION- \$100

This performance is a Benefit for the
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