

Transvestism is dressing oneself in the garments of the opposite sex, or exchange of clothing with one of the opposite sex. Many of these abnormal practices are treated by the law as misdemeanors; others are crimes. The terms defined apply to thought-desires or abnormal mental conditions as well as to actual conduct. They are made much of by writers in some morbid sex novels. All perversion tends to destroy normal love for the opposite sex and a happy mating.

A few individuals have organs of both sexes, and are termed hermaphrodites. Women may have strongly masculine characteristics, and men may have feminine characteristics, under such circumstances. Sometimes a surgical operation, developing one sex function by removing the other, corrects this condition. It is popularly known as changing sex.

It should be emphasized that most human beings are normal and while the abnormal may have great interest for the physician, scientist or psychologist, the average individual need not fear, or concern himself with, such subjects.

Gratification of the sex desires of another in exchange for money is prostitution, and many women make a sad living by the practice. It is one of the chief sources for the spread of venereal disease, and does much to destroy one's self-respect and happiness in marriage and the home. Many wink at it and regard it as a necessary evil. The Mann act, named for James Robert Mann (1856-1922), was enacted by Congress in 1910. It prohibits the transportation of women and girls from state to state for immoral purposes, and is designed to help stamp out prostitution.

## LATER YEARS

**T**HE sex cycle in humans may last through middle age and into old age, depending upon the state of health of the individual and other factors. Older people lose the fiery passion of youth and are less restless, and consequently happier for the loss. Few women bear children after forty, but sex life may continue even after the menopause.

Change of life or menopause comes with the cessation of menstruation in women, usually between

forty-five and fifty-two. It is accompanied in some cases by mental and nervous disturbances, and requires patience and consideration on the part of husband and friends. It occurs earlier in a woman who has had many children than in one who is childless. Childbearing stops at this time, though cases are on record where a woman has become pregnant as late as nine months afterward. It begins with irregularity in the monthly periods and may drag along for a number of years. Modern medical practice can do a great deal to ease this period, if it becomes especially difficult.

When men or women lose ability to cohabit, due to sexual excesses, disease, or other causes, the best remedy is rest from attempted sex activity. Some try to arouse desire by the use of drugs known as aphrodisiacs, especially cantharides or Spanish fly. Their use endangers health. The opposite effect, the quieting of passion, is attempted by use of anaphrodisiacs, such as saltpeter and the bromides of sodium and potassium. In advanced years excesses are especially injurious.

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