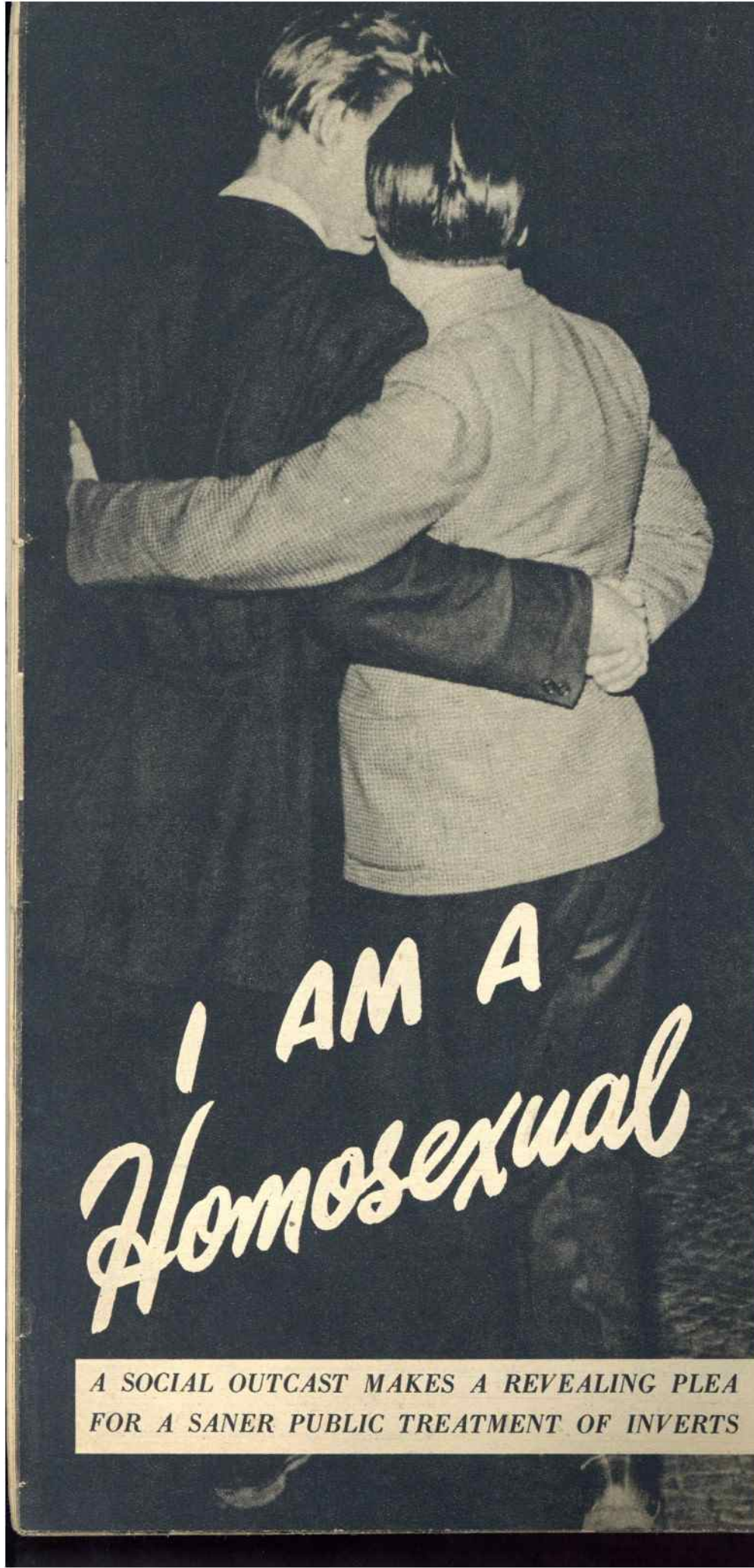




By **LEO ENGLE**

JUST what goes on in a homosexual's mind? Does he feel ashamed, unnatural, that he's a pervert?

Since I am a homosexual or an invert—I have no doubt that you have heard us referred to by less scientific and more smutty names—I feel I can well say how we feel, what our blight is in this country and also, too, what danger we constitute to the heterosexual or “normal” group. Since this country has a few million homosexuals I think it is as important for people to know about us as it is to know about any minority group.

Hence it is about time for an article written from the invert's point of view—to correct the numerous weird and erroneous idea believed of him. I have read several magazine article which purport “to tell the truth” about us, but in actuality they merely contain few truths, some half-truths and a great many out and out misrepresentations.

Let it be clearly understood that I am not trying to “whitewash” the homosexual. I have a wide acquaintance among inverts here and abroad and I find that there is the same percentage of good and bad among us as among heterosexuals. Undesirables exist in every group and the homosexual world is no exception. However, it seems that we are all tarred with the same brush and condemned without the chance to speak in our own defense.

FIRST, the suggestion that homosexuality is a virulent “sickness” is completely opposed to authorities such as Krafft-Ebbing—who says that homosexuality per se, did not constitute a symptom of disease or a functional sign of degeneration—Havelock Ellis, Moll, Hirschfeld, Freud, and Landau, etc. Despite this, the facts are completely ignored in favor of something perhaps more sensational. To avoid further misunderstanding, here is the consensus of opinion of the leading specialists in the field of abnormal psychology.

(1) There are two types of homosexuality—congenital or in-born and pseudo or acquired.

(2) Those whose inversion is acquired stand a fair chance of returning to normal life provided that they have a sincere desire to do so and seek proper medical treatment. However, where the inversion is of long standing and has become fixed, treatment is general-

I AM A
Homosexual

A SOCIAL OUTCAST MAKES A REVEALING PLEA
FOR A SANER PUBLIC TREATMENT OF INVERTS



Men dancing together has always been a common sight in Europe, particularly in Berlin. Many friendship clubs for men still exist.

ly proven useless. Even in these cases of pseudo-homosexuality, there is recognized a certain congenital tendency to inversion and such inversion is not therefore entirely acquired but is to a large extent the development of a latent aptitude.

(3) The genuine or "normal" invert (about whom this article is chiefly concerned) is unable with the best will in the world to change the direction of his sexual urge. Any type of known treatment is quite useless. His inversion rests on a natural germinal basis and is part and parcel of his psychological make-up. He was born and will die an invert.

(4) Genuine homosexuality is manifested by a deviation of the sexual impulse caused by a disbalance of the hormones. However, this does not mean that homoerotic habits may not be acquired and super-imposed on heterosexual habits. One can acquire almost any habit if he so desires.

TO the homosexual, his way of life is completely normal and natural. Very few have any desire to change, even if this were pos-

sible. The same force that makes him a homosexual also makes it impossible for him to think in any other way. It is the same little desire that the average normal man has of becoming a homosexual. Here it might be mentioned that since the genuine homosexual has never known any other form of sexual expression, the use of the word "pervert" when referring to him is quite inaccurate. A pervert is one who deliberately turns from a normal mode of expression which he once followed and could do so again if desired, to an unnatural or abnormal mode of such action.

One often hears such advice as "What you need, my boy, is a good, healthy wife. She would soon cure you of being 'queer.' " Marriage for the invert is always a tragedy. Some have tried it, but I have never heard of a single successful outcome. To begin with, even the thought of sexual intercourse with a woman is repugnant to the genuine invert. In the majority of cases, it is quite impossible. The invert's feelings are identical with those that a normal man would experience were he to attempt homosexual relations.

Then there is the popular fallacy that all homosexuals are weak, effeminate caricatures of men. It is true that many homosexuals exhibit feminine traits and excel at those occupations usually thought of as being the prerogative of women. However, many of my personal friends show no signs of effeminacy and are completely normal and masculine in outward appearance. And as well as knowing many male hair-stylists, milliners, dress designers, cooks and window dressers, I therefore am acquainted with brick-layers, farmers, factory workers and others who are engaged in every-day jobs which require more muscle than brain, all of whom are 100 per cent homosexuals. Such men as Caesar, Alexander the Great and Achilles were, I am sure anything but effeminate, yet they were homosexual.

DURING many conversations about homosexuality, I have found that the principal objections fall, more or less, into the following categories:

1. The danger of seducing minors and "perverting" them.

(Continued on page 68)

I AM A HOMOSEXUAL

(Continued from page 43)

2. Homosexuality is condemned in the Bible and is therefore an offense in the eyes of God.

3. Where are the future generations to come from if homosexuality is permitted to flourish?

I admit that something can be said for all these objections. Minors have been seduced; homosexuality may be considered a sin by some; every homosexual means one less potential father. But when carefully considered, they fail to show any serious justification for existence and prove vastly over-rated.

To begin with, that minors have been seduced by both homosexuals and heterosexuals is undeniable. However, to suggest that a minor who is seduced by a homosexual will himself become an invert is absurd. Kinsey tells us that about 60 per cent of pre-adolescent boys engage in homosexual activities and 50 per cent of the males who remain single until age 35 have had homosexual experiences. But the incidence of genuine homosexuality is only 4 per cent. If a single homosexual experience either voluntarily or by seduction would pervert a normal boy, then the incidence of homosexuality would be many times what it actually is.

Adult homosexuals are usually but little attracted toward the very

young. The majority prefer a partner much more their equal, both physically and mentally. Of course where homosexuality leads to crime such as the seduction of a minor, then the criminal should be punished with all severity. But because a crime has been committed, it is not necessarily because it's a homosexual nature. Certainly inverts deserve no special dispensation from the law simply because they are such.

The contention that because homosexuality is condemned in the Bible, it is therefore an offense in the eyes of God, is frequently heard. Well, every day thousands of actions are performed which are offenses in the eyes of God. Every time one is intolerant, loses one's temper or is envious, he commits such an offense. And yet Society, and quite rightly so, does not ostracize an individual for these sins, nor is he persecuted by the law as a criminal.

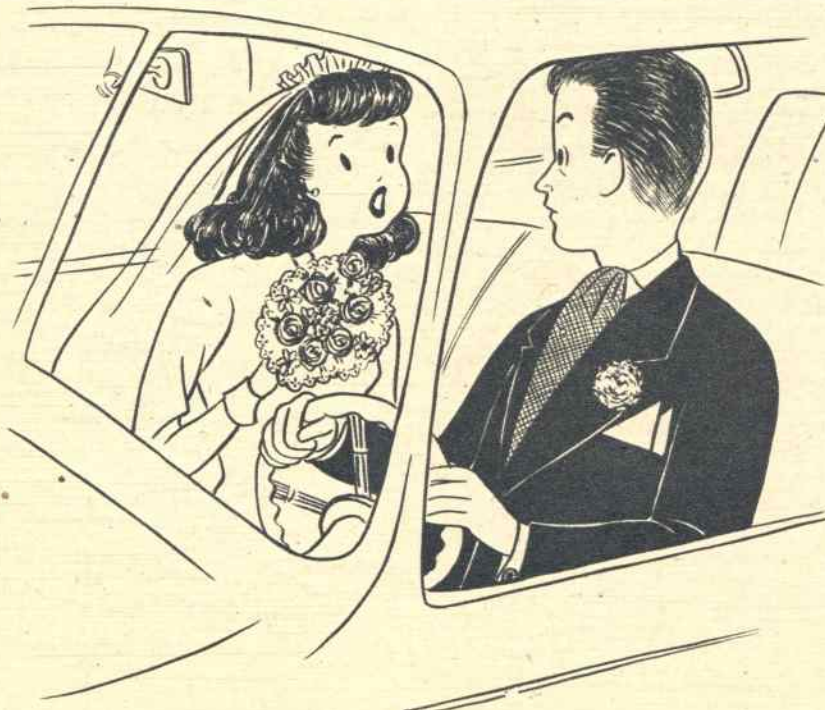
As well as condemning homosexuality, the Bible also contains the following question in Romans IX: 20—"Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"

THE oft-expressed fear for the future generations has no

foundation in reality. Apart from homosexuals, there are thousands of normal men who are voluntarily celibate all their lives. Priests, nuns and all non-marrying clergy must be condemned along with the invert. This is obviously quite out of the question. Homosexuality, which has existed since the earliest days of mankind has yet to offer any serious threat to the normal way of life. The love of man for woman, and the natural desire to procreate is far too powerful a force for homosexuality or anything else to overcome. Despite the various statements that homosexuality is on the increase, Kinsey states quite plainly that there is no basis for this opinion.

I think it should not be reasonably clear that these common objections to homosexuality are basically unsound and unjustifiable. Strangely enough, it is not only the average man who misunderstands the homosexual. For instance, in another recent article there appears this statement by Alfred A. Gross who is the executive secretary of the Henry Foundation. This institution "attempts to aid sex offenders and steer them to a better way of life." Mr. Gross says "I have yet to meet a happy homosexual. They have a way of describing themselves as gay, but the term is a misnomer. Those who are habitués of the bars frequented by others of their kind are about the saddest people I have ever seen."

Now if reference is made to those inverts who have sought treatment at the Foundation, this statement is undoubtedly true. If they were not unhappy, they certainly would not seek assistance. But to suggest (and the quote does just this) that there are no happy homosexuals is absolutely absurd and proves that Mr. Gross' acquaintance with homosexuals has been sadly limited. Naturally, when any group are looked upon as diseased criminals by the rest of Society and condemned on all sides as perverts and Heaven only knows what else, it stands to reason that some of them will be anything but happy or contented with their lot in life. Despite this, however, I could introduce Mr. Gross to many quite happily adjusted individuals who are on the best of terms with life. Incidentally, the term "gay" is not indicative of constant bliss, but is simply a synonym of homosexual.



"Tell me, do you still feel that you're not the marrying kind?"

Thus gay books, gay bars, a gay boy, etc. Before passing judgment on such a large segment of the population, I think one should have a knowledge of the fundamental facts pertaining to them,

IN the same article, the following question appears "What psychological force drives these young men . . . to the lewd bars, the parks, subway stations . . . in search of companionship?"

I think the answer is very obvious, in fact, it is contained in the question itself. It is simply "in search of companionship." Almost without exception, homosexuals frequent the bars and parks, etc., because the ignorance and intolerance of Society at large forces them to do so. Possibly no other group possesses the sense of "belonging" to the degree as does the homosexual. It is only in the bars and other common meeting places that he can relax and be himself. Here there is no need for the constant mask, or fear of scorn which threatens elsewhere. The present attitude of Society is not likely to change as long as it is aided and abetted by articles such as the one under discussion, containing absolutely inexcusable errors which can only blacken the invert's reputation still further in the public eye.

For instance, mention is made that psychiatrists believe homosexuality to be on the increase. The author has obviously read the Kinsey report because this work is quoted in the very next sentence. Yet Kinsey plainly states that there is no basis for such a belief. A typical example of ignoring facts for something more sensational.

Next, the author tells that homosexuality is not legalized anywhere except on the Island of Lesbos. Now this is absolutely untrue. In France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and all those European countries which are influenced by the Code Napoleon, any act of simple homosexuality, performed in private by mutually consenting adults, is not considered to be a crime at all, and cannot be punished by law.

Also the statement that "the successful adjustment of many homosexuals to the heterosexual existence stand as a testimony that such recoveries have taken place" is flatly contradicted by Havelock Ellis (whose work is referred to at the end of this same article) On page 247 of *Psychology of Sex*, he says in perfectly plain language "I do not know of any cases in which a complete and permanent trans-

formation of homosexuality into heterosexuality was achieved."

The article closes with the suggestion that a more tolerant attitude on the part of Society would enable the invert to forsake the bars and mingle among those in the higher cultural circles. This naturally implies that there are no inverts in such circles. I think that there are, and am sure that if all the homosexuals were removed from the poets, painters, writers, musicians, statesmen and scientists, then cultural circles would be noticeably diminished.

ACTUALLY, popular articles on homosexuality could do much to help the invert gain his proper place in Society; but it is of prime importance that the authors be sure of their facts. One Editor wrote to me recently "at least people are beginning to talk about homosexuality which is something that they never did before." This may be quite true, but unless such talk is founded on facts and truth, it can do far more harm than good. While the un-truths are the chief trouble makers, of almost equal danger are the half-truths and misrepresentations which are especially prevalent in the newspapers. A revolting crime against some little boy by a sex-pervert is often referred to as a homosexual crime. Or some mincing, painted exhibitionist appears in court on a charge of impersonating a woman, and the impression is created that this is a typical homosexual. About as fair, I think, as to judge all the normal men in a particular city by the actions of one who has been charged with adultery or rape. During the recent Senate investigation into homosexuality in the State Department, one of Canada's largest newspapers alternated "sex-pervert" and "homosexual" throughout a news item which was headed "Pervert Probe."

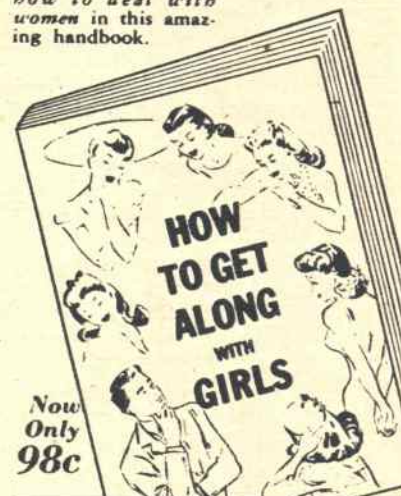
THE homosexual is a citizen of the country, his sexual life notwithstanding. As a citizen he is entitled to the same democratic treatment, the same rights and privileges and the same protection of those rights as is his normal brother. The primary duty of any civilized State is to ensure all of its citizens those essential and fundamental freedoms of thought and action which all require for a happy and complete life. Provided of course, that the rights which any citizen may demand will in no way interfere with the well-being of his neighbor in any way.

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It therefore follows, that if two homosexuals harm neither themselves or each other, or outrage public decency, then surely no State has the right to treat them as criminals, nor has Society the right to scorn or ostracize them.

Homosexuals ask nothing from Society except a little tolerance and understanding. When the homosexual loves, he is subject to all the fears, hopes, jealousies and kindred emotions that the normal man feels. His love is no less real and precious to him, no less a perfectly natural expression of his inmost nature. Homosexual love has been known to be as self-sacrificing, inspiring and unselfish as that love which is called normal.

But the invert must forever guard this part of his life and keep it hidden as he would some horrible or shameful secret. Those nearest and dearest to him would be the first to condemn him and express horror at his love. He is forced to look upon the relationship as something disgusting and criminal. Despite the fact that it may well be the deepest and most sincere emotion he may ever experience.

It is only behind locked doors that the homosexual is free to display even those most harmless little manifestations of affection and tenderness. Under such handicaps, it is truly amazing that any inverts are able to adjust themselves

to their destiny. However, what is often difficult for one, sometimes is easier for two. I count among my closest friends, many couples who have been together for years, faithful to each other; sharing money, home, joys and sorrows. I am convinced that in such a life lies the answer to the homosexual's problem. My own case is typical of many, and illustrates another little known "truth about homosexuals."

MY friend and I live in a small town wherein I have a fairly responsible position and he owns and operates his own small business. Our home is completely and comfortably furnished, and we plan to buy a car in the near future. Our friends are, for the most part, other couples like ourselves; some of whom have been together for as long as ten years. On week-ends, we visit them in the City, and through the week, those with cars drive out for a quiet evening, talking or listening to records. We have a large garden in which we spend a lot of time growing vegetables and flowers, many of which find their way to our parents, both of whom are aware of the relationship which exists between us.

We are the type of homosexuals of whom the general public rarely hears. My friend and I are well liked by all our neighbors to whom we are "those two young bachelors." We take a lot of good-na-

tured kidding as to "when are we going to get married," etc., but are respected and accepted by the community as useful, decent citizens. Should the truth ever get out, the result would be tragic for us. And yet, I think it is very strange, that because we differ from our neighbors only in our sexual life, they would treat us with contempt. Because of our inversion, which we did not ask for, and which we are powerless to change, those who are now our friends would quickly condemn us as unmanly and unnatural.

I have heard many of our neighbors and local merchants bitterly condemn discrimination against the Jews and Negroes. Yet it is quite evident that the prejudice that is directed against the homosexual is both identical with, and as unjust and cruel as that intolerance and discrimination levelled against those other minority groups who differ from the rest of society by reason of their race, color or creed.

The great scientist Gregorio Maranon sums up the problem of homosexuality which the world sometimes looks upon as an infirmity, by saying "it is an infirmity of the species, not of the individual"; and Nature who created the species must therefore accept the responsibility for homosexuality and everything in it, be it good or bad.

THE END



"Thanks, Ed—your blue one is very becoming, too."

SIR!

A MAGAZINE
FOR MALES

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VOL. 6

NO. 3

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SIR! is published monthly by Volitant Publishing Corporation at 105 East 35th Street, New York City. Editorial, art and advertising offices at 105 East 35th Street, New York 16, N. Y. Entered as second class matter August 13, 1948 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Single copy price 25 cents; yearly subscription \$3.00. The publishers will handle all submitted manuscripts with care, but such material must be accompanied by sufficient return postage and is submitted at the author's risk. Printed in the U.S.A. Copyright, 1950, by Volitant Publishing Corp. Dec., 1950. Vol. 6, No. 3.

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WOMEN ATHLETES AND SEX
SIR!
A MAGAZINE FOR MALES

DECEMBER 25[¢]
1950



**CONEY ISLAND'S
WINE BATHER**

SEE PAGE 16

**YOU MAY BE
GOING BLIND**

SEE PAGE 26

**GORILLAS THAT
KIDNAP WOMEN**

SEE PAGE 32

Clare Kallio