

CASE RECORDS OF A PSYCHOLOGIST

by Dr. George W. Crane

Measure yourself by the rating scale described today and see if you are emotionally immature. Probably the greatest cause of divorce and unhappiness is emotional immaturity in grown men and women.

CASE K-146

George is my 8-year-old son. The other day he brought home an invitation for us to attend the Parent-Teacher association.

"The teacher wrote it on the blackboard and we copied it," he proudly exclaimed as his mother opened his note.

"What's this?" Mrs. Crane asked when she reached the bottom of the missive. George grinned.

I looked at the slip of paper. He had signed his invitation with "Your dopey son, George." Shades of the seven dwarfs, you see!

"Did your teacher tell you to do that?" his mother inquired.

"Oh, no," he quickly replied. "Her note on the blackboard said 'Your loving son,' but all the boys blushed at that. They couldn't think of anything else, though. But I did," and he was proud as a peacock.

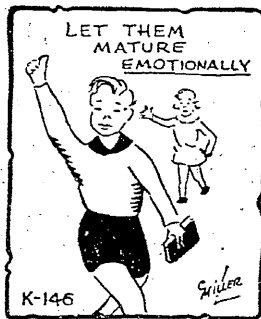
Why did all the boys blush at the thought of signing themselves "Your loving son," when addressing their mothers?

DIAGNOSIS

These youngsters are at the "gang" stage in their emotional development, so they abhor anything that pertains to the opposite sex. They feel that an affectionate conclusion to their note brands them as sissy.

Already, therefore, a very definite sex distinction is made between girls and boys. This is the stage where we find them ridiculing tears as evidence of sissiness.

They also scoff at curly hair on their own sex and delight in



tweaking similar adornments on the heads of their girl classmates.

Many fond parents seem oblivious to these interesting psychological changes in their youngsters. You can enjoy your children much more, however, if you intelligently observe them pass into these definite phases

of their development.

A few weeks ago I outlined the various levels in our emotional growth, starting with the infant's egocentric stage, the parental, the gang or homosexual, the heterosexual, and finally the level of altruism, which is the top.

Many grown men and women, brilliant and possibly successful in their business or professional careers, are still occupying a more childish emotional plane.

Some are fixated on aged parents so they never can get up nerve and resolution to marry, or, if they do, they soon run home to mamma or papa.

Others are adult homosexuals, never evolving beyond the "gang" stage in their emotional growth. A great majority, however, reach the heterosexual level where we look to the opposite sex for affection and our mates.

In America today we see little

evidence of food starved youngsters. But even in the best of homes we can find children who are being stunted in their emotional development by overly fond parents who monopolize their youngsters, and refuse to let them lead normal lives.

Widows and divorced parents are especially prone to mollycoddle their children. So are those who have an only child, for they teach him to expect an undue amount of love throughout life. In our home we have five youngsters. Each receives approximately 20 per cent of our parental attention.

Suppose we had only one child and lavished the full 100 per cent of adult attention and care upon him. Wouldn't he be a more difficult man for his wife to live with happily, than the child who has received much less attention? Most certainly, so equip your youngster for happy adulthood by letting him mature emotionally.