

# CASE RECORDS OF A PSYCHOLOGIST

by Dr. George W. Crane

What do you readers think about this problem? Do you agree with the chairman of the School Board or with the parents of the children?

## CASE K-182

Franz A., aged 38, is chairman of the school board.

"A number of parents have raised an objection to their children's exchanging gifts or greeting cards on holidays, especially between boys and girls," he announced.

"For example, they seem to think this practice will promote love affairs between the 4th and 8th graders, thus detracting from their classroom studies.

"These children range in age from 12 to 14 years, and seem to be quite normal in all respects. I do not personally believe it is harmful for the boys and girls to exchange gifts and greetings, but I should like

to present some sound arguments before a formal meeting of the school board.

"Dr. Crane, what do you think of this practice?"

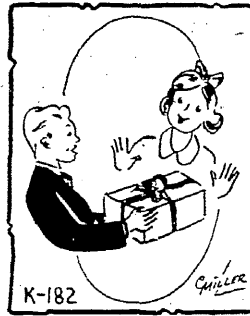
## SYNOPSIS

Children ranging from 12 to 14 years in age seldom become so smitten by Cupid's darts that they cannot concentrate on their lessons.

I am in agreement with Franz regarding the innocence of this practice. As a matter of fact, it is psychologically wise to teach children that they should look to the opposite sex for their emotional attachments later in life.

The big psychological danger today is that boys will become too attached to their own sex, and that girls will develop dangerous school-girl crushes on other girls.

Homosexuality is all too common nowadays, and it arises



partly because in childhood these unfortunate persons haven't been taught to think in terms of the opposite sex regarding their romantic dreams and source of love.

Let me cite a typical case to show how homosexual at-

tachments develop. Phyllis was 4 years old when her mother divorced her father.

The mother and daughter went home to the grandparents, where Phyllis grew up with her mother's three young sisters. The grandfather died before Phyllis was 10 years old.

The entire home environment, therefore, was feminine. And to make matters worse, Phyllis was sent to a girl's boarding school. There she roomed with another girl with somewhat masculine attitudes.

When the puppy love stage arrived, Phyllis not only had no boys around her on whom to make an attachment, but she had never been educated to think of boys as the source of her love satisfaction.

You can guess the result. She is now 32 years of age. She teaches school. Her "girl friend" is the gym teacher in

the same large school. Neither girl has ever had an interest in men. They are homosexuals.

Fondness for the opposite sex is called heterosexual love, and is the sort which should be tactfully encouraged.

In the normal home where both parents are living, the little girl soon learns that when she grows up and marries, she'll pick a man. The little boy also has girl friends before he enters kindergarten or first grade. And he knows he'll marry a woman.

These attitudes are wholesome and commendable. If parents will just refrain from injecting prudery or precocious sex attitudes into this normal emotional growth, they need not worry about the problem of homosexuality.

Exchange of valentines and gifts by boys and girls is seldom harmful. Encourage it.