

## Chapter 7 — Homosexuality—Homoeroticism

from the 1938 edition of *The Sex Life Before and After Marriage* (a.k.a. *Living a Sane Sex Life*)  
by  
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### Sources for Chapter 7, in the order in which they first appear

- (1) William S. Sadler, M.D., *Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* (St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1936)
- (2) Havelock Ellis, *Psychology of Sex: A Manual for Students* (New York: Emerson Books, Inc., 1933, 1938)

### Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author (other than Sadler) first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Magenta** indicates an earlier Sadler book.
- (c) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (d) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (e) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and Sadler pointedly differ from each other.
- (f) **Pink** indicates passages where the Sadlers specifically share their own experiences, opinions, advice, etc.
- (g) **Light blue** indicates passages which strongly resemble something in the Urantia Book, or which allude to the Urantia phenomenon.

- (h) **Red** indicates either an obvious error on the Sadlers' part, brought about, in some cases, by miscopying or misinterpreting their source, or an obvious inconsistency brought about by the Sadlers' use of an earlier Sadler text.
- (i) **Gold** highlights key words or themes which will be discussed in the analysis of the chapter.

Matthew Block  
19 April 2013

Work-in-progress Version 9 nov. 2011  
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 Revised 19 April 2013

## V I I — H O M O - SEXUALISM — H O M O - E R O T I C I S M

38: THE SEXUAL NEUROSES (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 611)

III. Homoeroticism—Homosexuality (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 625)

[Preamble] (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 625)

[contd] In discussing homosexuality, we should recall that the human embryo is bisexual until the fourth month, and then, as anatomically observed, it begins definitely to turn toward maleness or femaleness except in those rare cases where the outward appearance of hermaphroditism persists.

We are compelled to recognize that very few, if any, adolescents or adults are 100 per cent male or female, either physically or mentally.

Since each sex carries over in its adult development the rudimentary sex organs of the opposite one, is it strange that a certain percentage of the population show varying degrees of homosexual tendencies?

(I think it would be a good thing if we could secure the general adoption of the term **homoerotic** as a substitute for the older homosexual.) (*TPoP* 625-26)

[contd] As a child grows up, it appears that it is at first exclusively autoerotic.

7:0.1 The basis for the discussion of homosexuality is the fact that the human embryo is bisexual until the fourth month, when it begins to develop toward maleness or femaleness unless, as rarely happens, the outward appearance of hermaphroditism persists.

Few, if any, human beings are 100 per cent male or female, either physically or mentally.

Each sex carries over in adulthood the rudimentary sex organs of the opposite one, so that it is not strange that a limited percentage of the population show varying degrees of homosexual tendencies.

[See five rows down.]

7:0.2 The growing child is at first exclusively autoerotic.

## SOURCE

Then there is a period during pre-adolescence, and often extending over into adolescence, in which a homoeroticism tendency prevails; following this, in the vast majority of cases, the young man or young woman develops the normal attitude of heteroeroticism (*TPoP* 626).

## V: HOMOSEXUALITY (Ellis 218)

*Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 218)

[contd] When the sexual impulse is directed towards persons of the same sex we are in the presence of an aberration variously known as “sexual inversion,” “contrary sexual feeling,” “uranism,” or, more generally, “homosexuality,” as opposed to normal heterosexuality.

“Homosexuality” is the best general term for all forms of the anomaly, in distinction from normal heterosexuality, while “sexual inversion” is best reserved for apparently congenital and fixed forms (E 218).

[Homosexuality’s] importance is manifested in three ways: (1) its wide diffusion and the large place it has played in various epochs of culture; (2) its frequency in civilization today,

and (3) the large number of distinguished persons who have manifested the aberration (E 218).

It is common among various mammals, and, as we should expect, is especially found among the Primates most nearly below Man.

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

This is followed by a preadolescent period that frequently extends into adolescence, in which homoeroticism prevails; subsequently, in most cases, the young man or woman develops the normal attitude of heteroeroticism.

7:0.3 The practice of homosexuality is known by many names, chiefly “sexual perversion,” “contrary sexual feeling,” and “uranism,”

but in our opinion the best term is homoeroticism.

Homosexuality is widespread and appears among all peoples, primitive and civilized;

in many instances its victims are persons of high culture and distinguished attainment.

7:0.4 The condition is common among many mammals, more particularly the primates.

## SOURCE

G. V. Hamilton, studying monkeys and baboons, states that “the immature male monkey typically passes through a period during which he is overtly and almost exclusively homosexual, and that this period is terminated at sexual maturity by an abrupt turning to heterosexual ways (E 219).

Among many savage and barbarous peoples homosexuality has been conspicuous and sometimes treated with reverence... It was known to the Assyrians, and the Egyptians, nearly four thousand years ago, attributed paederasty to their gods Horus and Set.

It has been associated not only with religion but with military virtues, and was in this way cultivated among the ancient Carthaginians, Dorians, and Scythians, as it was later by the Normans.

Among the ancient Greeks, finally, it was idealized not merely in association with military virtues, but with intellectual, aesthetic, and even ethical qualities, and was by many regarded as more noble than normal heterosexual love.

After the coming of Christianity it still held its ground, but it fell into disrepute, while as a psychological anomaly consisting in an idealization of persons of the same sex even apart from homosexual acts it was forgotten or unknown.

It was only recognized after Justinian’s time as sodomy, that is to say as a vulgar vice, or rather as a crime, deserving of the most severe secular and ecclesiastical penalties, even burning at the stake (E 219).

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Members of the simian tribe seem to pass through a preadolescent homosexual stage

very analogous to that experienced by the human species.

Many ancient peoples, notably the Egyptians, treated homosexuals with peculiar reverence,

and homosexuality was cultivated as a military virtue by the Carthaginians, Scythians, and the later Normans.

The Greeks sometimes considered it more noble than the normal heterosexual love.

It finally fell into serious disrepute with the coming of the Christian teachers,

by whom it was looked upon as a vice, sometimes being regarded as a crime punishable by burning at the stake

The distinguished French humanist Muret was from this cause in danger of death throughout his life; Michelangelo, the greatest sculptor of the Renaissance, cherished homosexual ideals and passions, although there is no reason to suppose that he had physical relations with the men he was attracted to; Marlowe, one of the chief poets of the Renaissance in England, was clearly of the same way of feeling, as also, there is ground for believing, was Bacon (E 220).

In Germany Hirschfeld, whose knowledge of homosexuality is unrivaled, has shown that a large number of separate estimates among different classes of the population reveal a proportion of inverted and bisexual persons varying between one and five per cent. In England my own independent observations, though of a much less thorough and extensive character, indicate a similar prevalence among the educated middle class ... (E 220).

Among women, though less easy to detect, homosexuality appears to be scarcely less common than among men, in this respect unlike nearly all other aberrations; the pronounced cases are, indeed, perhaps less frequently met with than among men, but less marked and less deeply rooted cases are probably more frequent than among men.

Some professions show a higher proportion of inverts than others. Inversion is not specially prevalent among scientific and medical men; it is more frequent among literary and artistic people, and in the dramatic profession it is often found (E 220-21).

despite the fact that such distinguished individuals as Michelangelo and even Bacon were probably homosexual.

7:0.5 The proportion of homosexual persons in the population has been estimated at anywhere from 1 to 5 per cent.

In our opinion it is about equally distributed between the two sexes.

As concerns the professions, it seems to be a little more prevalent among the literary and artistic groups.

Katharine Davis found that 31.7 per cent women admitted “intense emotional relations with other women,” and 27.5 per cent unmarried women admitted homosexual play in childhood, 48.2 per cent of them dropping it after adolescence (E 221).

When statistics seem to indicate homosexual tendencies to be as high as found by Katharine Davis, who reported that almost 32 per cent of the women interrogated admitted “intense emotional relations with other women,”

it should be very definitely understood that but a small proportion of those making such admissions are really homosexual; they rather belong to the *ambisexual* or bisexual group, the members of which can readily obtain sexual gratification with either sex.

## 1. WHAT IS HOMOSEXUALITY?

7:1.1 Homosexual practices are far from uncommon,

[contd] The importance of homosexuality is, again, shown by the prevalence of homosexual prostitution (E 221).

as is indicated by the prevalence, especially in our larger cities, of homosexual prostitution,

which is carried out extensively in the so-called “peg” houses. It must be that most male prostitutes are, after all, not homosexual themselves.

Hirschfeld considers the number of male prostitutes in Berlin to be about twenty thousand; more recently and more cautiously Werner Picton estimates it as six thousand.

Hirschfeld once estimated the number of male prostitutes in Berlin to be about 20,000, but a more recent and conservative computation puts it at 6,000.

More than one third are judged to be psychopathic, less than a quarter of them to be homosexual themselves (E 222).

In all probability from one-quarter to one-half of these men are in reality psychopaths.

SOURCE

7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

[See E 222.]

7:1.2 It is certainly not scientific to designate as either a vice or a perversion an inherited tendency such as homosexuality is believed to be.

Male prostitution is a vicious practice when homosexual, just as much as is female prostitution among heterosexuals. Both are wholly reprehensible and should be sternly repressed by law.

*The Diagnosis of Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 234)

In other cases, however, the homosexual tendency may not appear until late in life. It was formerly taken for granted that in these cases the condition is acquired and not congenital;

this is, however, today disputed by many who regard these cases as due to the late development of a really inborn tendency, retarded congenital inversion (E 237).

7:1.3 Those who contend that homosexuality may sometimes be “acquired” point to its occasional appearance in late adult life,

but in our opinion this is not an acquired type of homosexuality, merely a latent or retarded homosexual manifestation.

Dementia praecox also sometimes definitely appears in the fifth decade of life.

*Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 218)

On this matter [*i.e.*, whether sexual inversion, even if congenital, should be considered a morbid or “degenerate” state] Krafft-Ebing at first ranged himself with the ancient view and regarded inversion as the manifestation of a neuropathic or psychopathic state, but in his latest writings he judiciously modified this position and was content to look on inversion as an anomaly

and not a disease or a “degeneration.” This is the direction in which modern opinion has steadily moved.

7:1.4 At the present time psychiatrists and students of sexology look upon homosexuality, or inversion, as an anomaly.

They do not regard it as either a disease or a degeneration.



## SOURCE

Inverts may be healthy, and normal in all respects outside their special aberration (E 224).

*The Diagnosis of Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 234)

Thus Heape concludes that the evidence shows that “There is no such thing as a pure male or female animal; . . . all animals contain the elements of both sexes in some degree.” Some of the reasons for this conclusion are fairly obvious and it has long been recognized as the most reasonable explanation of inversion (E 234).

*Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 218)

Here [*i.e.*, in the intersexed offspring brought about by the interbreeding of moths of different races] we see already, in a low zoölogical form, the condition of *inter-sexuality* which when we proceed to Man and enter the psychological field has sometimes been considered (though incorrectly) to constitute an “intermediate” sex. It is, more strictly, the result of a quantitative disharmony between the male and female sex-determining factors (E 225-26).

[Compare E 226-28.]

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

Many of these inverts are in every way thoroughly normal-minded and healthy individuals except as regards this specific tendency.

7:1.5 Perfect maleness and femaleness do not exist. All individuals of the male sex have female tendencies to a greater or lesser degree, and vice versa.

Homosexuality is due to inborn disharmony between the male and female sex-determining factors.

The xx or x-y chromosomes initiating the sex tendency and later on the ovaries in the female and the testicles in the male, are supposed to direct sexual development along predominant male or female lines, but with these inverts, while the physical sex organs are fully developed, there is a breakdown of the hormone dominance as it affects the mental attitude and the sexual impulses.

## SOURCE

Thus the female, it is held, represents the neutral form which the soma assumes in the absence of the male sex hormone (E 227).

To the adrenal cortex is especially attributed the formation of a hormone which exerts a masculinizing influence in the same direction as that of the testes (E 227).

[See 2:1.5.]

*The Diagnosis of Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 234)

In this way it comes about that we have to distinguish between true congenital sexual inversion (early or retarded), bisexual attraction in which the individual's sexual impulse goes out towards individuals of both sexes (most though not all of these cases being apparently inverts who have acquired normal habits),

and the large and vague class of the pseudo-homosexuals, whose perversity is due either to temporary circumstances (as among sailors), to senile impotency, or to a deliberate search for abnormal sensations. [Etc.] (E 237)

[See 7:4.2.]

*Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 218)

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

In this matter of sex differentiation the female seems to represent the neutral form—that is, the phenomena which appear in the absence of male sex hormones.

7:1.6 Many of the ductless glands are involved in sex, among them being the adrenal cortex,

and the pituitary.

7:1.7 One of the great mistakes in the past by students of homosexuality has been their failure to differentiate between the homosexual and the ambisexual.

The ability to secure satisfaction equally from either sex is well illustrated by sea-faring men, who will be definitely homosexual on shipboard,

but who will make their way to houses of prostitution as soon as they reach port.

There is this to be said about heredity and homosexuality:

## SOURCE

While a considerable proportion (in my experience over fifty per cent) belong to reasonably healthy families, in about forty per cent there is in the family some degree of morbidity or abnormality—eccentricity, alcoholism, neurasthenia or nervous disease—of slight or greater degree (E 230).

Masturbation has been practiced in a large proportion of cases, but masturbation is also common among the heterosexual and there is no reason to suppose that it is a factor in the causation of inversion (E 230).

In the great majority the inverted tendency appears in early life, often at puberty, but frequently there are indications of it before puberty (E 230).

The erotic dreams of inverts are usually inverted, but this is by no means invariably the case, and even inverts who appear to be such congenitally sometimes have normal dreams, just as normal persons occasionally have homosexual dreams (E 230-31).

[contd] The satisfaction of the inverted sexual impulse is effected in a variety of ways.

Among my cases nearly twenty per cent had never had any kind of sexual relationship.

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About one-third of these sexual inverts do show in the family history plenty of abnormal tendencies, such as neuroticism, alcoholism, eccentricity,

and a percentage of insanity slightly above that found in the general population.

7:1.8 In our opinion, masturbation has no relation whatever to homosexuality.

Inversion tendencies may appear at any time of life,

often before puberty, but more generally at about the beginning of adolescence.

The erotic dreams of the invert are usually likewise inverted.

7:1.9 *Sexually inverted* individuals gratify their sex impulses in a number of ways.

Probably 25 per cent of them never go so far as to indulge in actual sex play,

## SOURCE

In thirty to thirty-five per cent the sexual relationship rarely goes beyond close contact, or at most mutual masturbation.

In the others inter-crural connection or occasionally fellatio is the method practiced.... The proportion of male inverts who desire paedication (more often active than passive) is not large (E 231).

In woman gratification is obtained by kissing, close contact, mutual masturbation, and in some cases cunnilingus, which is usually active rather than passive (E 231).

[See 7:2.7, below.]

In both sexes a notable youthfulness of appearance is often preserved into adult age (E 232).

Male inverts are sometimes unable to whistle (E 232).

A certain degree of dramatic aptitude is not uncommon, as well as some tendency to vanity and personal adornment, and occasionally a feminine love of ornament and jewelry (E 232).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

and another quarter do not go beyond such close physical contact as affectionate kissing and mutual masturbation.

The other half practice a great variety of technics, including intercrural connection, but only occasionally do these homosexuals indulge in either fellatio or sodomy.

Women are undoubtedly more refined in these matters than are men,

limiting their love-making to kissing, close contact, and mutual masturbation, though in some cases they certainly do indulge in cunnilingus,

but we must keep clearly in mind the fact that homosexuals as a class do not practice so-called perversions any more than do heterosexuals.

7:1.10 Homosexuals of both sexes are often youthful in appearance. They seem much younger than their age.

Many male inverts are unable to whistle.

Both sexes are more or less dramatic and are given to vanity and personal adornment.

While all homosexuals fear social ostracism,

Morally, inverts usually apply to themselves the normal code, and seek to justify their position. Those who fight against their instincts, or permanently disapprove of their own attitude, or even feel doubtful about it, are a small minority, less than twenty per cent. This is why so few seek medical advice (E 232).

they do not often seek help through medical counsel, and they are usually quite content with their predicament.

## 2. SOCIETY'S ATTITUDE

38: THE SEXUAL NEUROSES (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 611)

**III. Homoeroticism—Homosexuality** (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 625)

4. Society's Attitude (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 628)

[contd] In most states in this country, homosexuality is regarded as a crime punishable by five years' imprisonment.

7:2.1 In most states in this country, homosexuality is regarded as a crime punishable by five years imprisonment.

It is not punished in France, Italy, Belgium or Germany (*TPoP* 628).

It is not punished in France, Italy, Belgium, or Germany.

[contd] Let it be made clear that homoerotics do not always show in their make-up the physical traits of the opposite sex—not by any means—and it therefore is impossible for the opposite sex to detect the fact that a chance companion may be homosexual in tendency.

7:2.2 Homoerotics by no means always exhibit the physical traits of the opposite sex, and it therefore is impossible for a woman to detect the fact that a chance companion may be a homosexual, and vice versa.

It would be all but laughable, if it were not so tragic, to observe a woman indulging her feminine wiles in the futile pursuit of a homoerotic male, who may be a vigorous specimen of manhood, even an athlete, as is sometimes the case (*TPoP* 628).

It would be amusing, if it were not so tragic, to watch a designing woman exercise her feminine wiles in the useless pursuit of a homoerotic male, who may be a vigorous specimen of manhood, even an athlete, as is sometimes the case.

## SOURCE

[contd] Many teachers in exclusive boys' schools are definitely homoerotic, and I know that many of them are actuated by the highest motives; that they give their lives to these boys in loving service and with an emotional devotion that no ordinarily sexed male could possibly mobilize for such service.

As is to be expected, every now and then these high-minded, self-sacrificing teachers slip. They yield to the urge to make sex advances to some youth who, to them, is peculiarly attractive; and then, oftentimes, the youth betrays this intimacy, and a scandal follows, society seeming even more willing to forgive a man for rape than to condone a lapse of a homosexual nature (*TPoP* 628).

[contd] Again the reader should be warned not to suspect that every man who is markedly effeminate or who sings tenor was necessarily born with homosexual tendencies. Such is not the case.

Neither are all women of masculine appearance and nonsoprano voices victims of homoeroticism (*TPoP* 628).

### 1. Social Status (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 626)

[contd] One point should be made clear: The congenital, full-fledged homoerotic is never really cured. Such a gloomy prognosis should not be made of many milder or partially homoerotic individuals, and in certain cases of acquired homoeroticism (if there is such a thing) there is certainly hope for rehabilitation (*TPoP* 626).

[contd] It is a pity that modern society takes such an unfortunate view of this abnormality. Why should these **unfortunate** men and women be so castigated by public opinion?

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

7:2.3 Many men engaged in work for boys are definitely homoerotic, though in the majority of cases they are actuated by the highest motives, freely giving their lives to these boys with a devotion that no ordinarily sexed male could possibly mobilize for such service.

Occasionally one of these high-minded, self-sacrificing men slips and yields to the urge to make sex advances to some youth who, to him, is peculiarly attractive; the young man often betrays this intimacy, and a scandal follows; society appears to be more willing to forgive a man for rape than for a lapse of a homosexual nature.

7:2.4 Never should we conclude that every man who is markedly effeminate or who sings tenor is necessarily homosexually inclined. This is not the case.

Neither are all women of masculine appearance and nonsoprano voices victims of homoeroticism.

7:2.5 It seems too bad that modern society regards homoeroticism as it does.

## SOURCE

The *full-fledged homoerotic is not responsible for being so born.*

What can a man do if he happens to come into the world with a male body and, as far as sex is concerned, has a female attitude of mind and emotions?

Many notable individuals in history have been homoerotic, among them Alexander the Great and Michelangelo, and among women could be mentioned George Eliot and George Sand.

Some day modern society must, and undoubtedly will, alter its attitude toward these sexually disinherited individuals.

Even now it seems, on the whole, to be much more tolerant of the female homoerotic than of the male (*TPoP* 626).

[contd] The Code of Justinian provided the death penalty for both witchcraft and homoeroticism, but the only sane, scientific, and humane attitude is merely to accept it (*TPoP* 626).

[contd] Another error of opinion that should be corrected is the general understanding as to what practices are embraced in the term *sodomy*.

It has been my observation that these so-called technics of sex perversion, such as the use of the rectum and the mouth for sexual gratification, are no more generally practiced by homoerotics than in the ordinary course of heteroerotic sex gratification.

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

The *full-fledged homoerotic is not responsible for his condition.*

The **unfortunate** individual who is born with a male body and, as far as sex is concerned, with a female attitude of mind and emotion, is powerless to overcome this handicap.

Many prominent persons have been homoerotic, among them Alexander the Great and Michelangelo, and among women George Eliot and George Sand.

Our modern society will eventually change its attitude toward these sexually disinherited individuals.

Even now it seems, on the whole, to be much more tolerant of the female homoerotic than of the male.

7:2.6 Under the Code of Justinian the death penalty was invoked for both witchcraft and homoeroticism, but the only sane, scientific, and humane attitude is merely to accept it.

7:2.7 Another erroneous opinion is the general understanding as to what practices are embraced in the term *sodomy*.

Our observation is that such so-called technics of sex perversion as the use of the rectum and the mouth for sexual gratification are no more general among homoerotics than in the ordinary course of heteroerotic sex gratification.

## SOURCE

Homoeroticism is largely limited to some variation of the technic of mutual masturbation. Of course there are exceptions in certain special cases, but in general that is the technic employed (*TPoP* 626).

4. Society's Attitude (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 628)

*The fear of these homosexual individuals of being discovered, especially that of the male "fairy," is sometimes pathetic.*

Every few months they come to consult us, wondering what can be done.

A prominent artist was in my office a few months ago, in abject terror, fearing that he had been observed coming out of the regular rendezvous where he periodically met his younger and equally homoerotic partner.

Some fifteen years ago this man married an apparently thoroughly frigid female who was also an artist. He explained to her frankly his homosexual tendencies.

They seem to be living together in a fairly normal manner, the wife fully understanding that he goes off once or twice a week to secure his sex relief in association with his "fairy" partner.

She came to see me and told me she would do everything in her power to prevent the public from ever finding out that her husband was a homoerotic. In the large cities blackmailing "racketeers" regularly prey upon these homoerotic males (*TPoP* 628-29).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

Homoeroticism is largely limited to some type of mutual masturbation, although there are exceptions to this in certain special cases.

7:2.8 The victims of homosexuality, especially the male "fairy," live in almost mortal fear of being discovered.

They are frequent visitors at psychiatrists' offices, seeking some way out of their dilemma.

A prominent artist called on us not so long ago in abject terror, fearing that some one had seen him coming out of the rendezvous where he periodically met his younger and equally homoerotic partner.

This man is married to an apparently thoroughly frigid female who is also an artist to whom he frankly explained his homosexual tendencies.

They appear to be living fairly normal lives; the wife understands that he secures his sex relief in association with his "fairy" partner.

She told us that she would do everything she could to prevent the public from finding out that her husband was a homoerotic.



### 3. ATTITUDES OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

5. Attitude of Parents and Teachers (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 629)

[contd] The attitude of parents and teachers in becoming alarmed over the attention of a homoerotic to some young man

should largely depend on what appears to be the discoverable motive of the homosexual man.

Is he really interested in the boy and trying to do him some good, to secure some vicarious or sublimated emotional satisfaction in a ministry of idealism, or is he “courting” the boy?

Does he give him costly presents? Is he trying to make him a homoerotic “prostitute”?

If the latter, parents and teachers are fully justified in intervening, but if not, they should be patient, human, recognizing that such an individual may do this boy a great deal of good, may compensate for some of the things that his own father has failed to do because he has been so busy making money.

Remember this: If the boy is thoroughly normal and this homoerotic goes so far as to attempt sex relations, the lad will probably forsake him cold; and even if he should, because of affection for this man, yield a few times, he will not go on with such a procedure unless he is himself definitely homoerotic (*TPoP* 629).

7:3.1 What should be the attitude of parents and teachers toward the attention of a homoerotic to some young man?

It should largely depend on the discoverable motive of the homosexual man.

Is he really trying to do the boy some good and at the same time to secure some emotional satisfaction in a ministry of idealism, or is he “courting” the boy?

Does he shower him with costly presents? Is he trying to make him a homoerotic “prostitute”?

If this last question is answered in the affirmative, parents and teachers should intervene, but otherwise they should be patient, bearing in mind that such an individual may do this boy a great deal of good, perhaps even compensating for some of the things his own father has failed to do because he has been so busy making money.

If the boy is thoroughly normal, and if the homoerotic goes so far as to attempt sex relations, the lad will probably forsake him cold; and even if he should yield a few times because of affection for this man, he will not continue such a procedure unless he is himself definitely homoerotic.

## SOURCE

[contd] While he can hardly be classed as a homoerotic, we must not overlook, in our study of these forms of irregular sex indulgence, the existence of the male “prostitute” who parades as “secretary” to some rich woman who happens to be highly sexed and at the same time unmarried or widowed (*TPoP* 629).

[contd] A teacher recently came to the office, worried to death lest his associates find out that he is homosexual and he lose his position in disgrace. He could neither sleep nor eat, worrying over this.

He was greatly relieved to learn how a psychiatrist viewed his predicament and decided to go back, to be more careful, and to do less worrying about his unfortunate hereditary endowment.

This man looked like a perfectly normal masculine type of humanity. He is wholly homoerotic, always has been, and always will be.

He was definitely advised against marriage and told to avoid promiscuity in his male contacts, to limit his attentions to a single individual who seems to be as definitely homoerotic as himself and as fully satisfied with their relations as he is; we set before him the ideal of keeping his hands off all his male pupils.

There was no necessity to admonish him about the female pupils; he will leave them entirely alone (*TPoP* 629).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

7:3.2 Another type of irregularity is that of the male “prostitute” who poses as “secretary” to some highly sexed rich woman who is unmarried or widowed.

Of course, these men are not homoerotic.

7:3.3 We were recently consulted by a teacher, a homoerotic, who was so worried for fear his associates would discover his predicament that he could neither sleep nor eat.

He was much relieved to learn how the psychiatrist regarded his handicap and decided to go back to his school, be more careful, and spend less time worrying about the unfortunate deal heredity had given him.

Notwithstanding his perfectly normal masculine type, he is wholly homoerotic, always has been, and always will be.

He was advised not to marry and to avoid promiscuous relations with men, limiting his attentions to a single individual who is apparently as definitely homoerotic as himself; we set before him the ideal of keeping his hands off all his male pupils.

It was not necessary to admonish him about females; he will leave them entirely alone.

#### 4. POPULAR MISAPPREHENSION

##### 3. Popular Misapprehensions (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 627)

[contd] The time has come to relieve parents of their unjustified fears about the danger of their normal sons' and daughters' contacting with these homoerotics and thus being misled by unnatural sex relations.

I have yet to find a normal young man or woman who has been thus inducted into homoeroticism.

In all cases where boys and girls have apparently been initiated into a homosexual life in this way, careful investigation disclosed that they were definitely homosexual in their tendencies when they first met the one who was supposed to have performed the rôle of homoerotic seducer.

*Normal youths are not going to be made permanently homoerotic by any such casual contact with homosexual men and women, which statement is borne out by the well-known tendency toward a certain degree of homoeroticism in the Army and Navy and under other conditions where men are compelled to be by themselves for long periods of time.*

Under such circumstances, as well as among the prison population, autoeroticism and homoeroticism are the generally practiced technics for obtaining sex relief.

7:4.1 Parents are unjustified in fearing that their normal sons and daughters will be led into unnatural sex relations by coming in contact with homoerotics.

In our thirty years of practice we have never found a normal young man or woman who has been inducted into homoeroticism by such association.

Wherever this has seemed to occur, careful investigation has disclosed that the young people involved tended definitely toward homosexuality before they met their seducers.

7:4.2 *Normal youths cannot be made permanently homoerotic by such casual contact with homosexual persons; this statement is borne out by the well-known tendency toward a certain degree of homoeroticism in the Army and Navy and under other conditions where men are compelled to be by themselves for long periods of time.*

Among men so situated, as well as among the prison population, autoeroticism is the generally practiced technic for obtaining sex relief;

on returning to more normal conditions, these men promptly revert to heterosexual practices.

## SOURCE

I repeat, only those who are born homoerotic will persist in homosexual practices as the result of casual association with definitely homosexual individuals (*TPoP* 627-28).

[contd] There is a peculiar type of homosexual man who is only attracted to those of his own sex or to very young girls, even little children; the presence of such individuals in the community often accounts for the brutal assaults on children, but more frequently these men carry out their designs by luring the little girls to their apartments with candy and toys (*TPoP* 628).

### 2. Female Homoerotics (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 626)

[contd] Among female homoerotics a custom has grown up of calling the female partner to the companionship, “Margery”; the masculine type, the “collar and tie”; and it should be emphasized that many of these homoerotic female couples lead lives of very close attachment but do not always go so far as to indulge in sex relations (*TPoP* 628).

[contd] One thing is certain: We should not advise these definite homoerotics, either men or women, to marry.

Let me relate a case in my own practice:

A woman thirty-two years of age came to the office to consult me about her nervous system.

On getting into the case, I found that she was homoerotic—homosexual; had been all her life.

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

We repeat, only born homoerotics will persist in these practices because of casual association with definitely homosexual individuals.

7:4.3 A certain peculiar **homosexual** man is only attracted to those of his own sex or to very young girls, even little children; such persons are often responsible for the brutal assaults on children, but more frequently they lure the little girls to their apartments with candy and toys and there mistreat them.

## 5. FEMALE HOMOEROTICS

7:5.1 It is customary among female homoerotics to call the more feminine partner to the companionship, “Margery”; the masculine type, the “collar and tie”; many of these homoerotic female couples are very closely attached to each other but do not always go so far as to indulge in sex relations.

7:5.2 Of this there is no doubt: These definite homoerotics, either men or women, should not be advised to marry.

A case in our own practice illustrates the importance of this:

A thirty-two year old woman consulted us about her nervous condition.

In our study of the case she was found to be homoerotic—homosexual; had been all her life.

## SOURCE

She was a stunning specimen of womanhood, somewhat athletic in her build, sang alto, had considerable hair on the upper lip—almost the proportions of a mustache.

She had a keen mind, and held a chair in a select girls' school.

She consulted me at this time because she wondered if she could be cured.

She was inordinately jealous of her "Margery." Having come home unexpectedly one night not long before to find her homoerotic mate in bed with one of the students, she flew into a rage and, as she said, "almost committed double murder."

This woman was just as outraged as any married man would be to come home unexpectedly and find his wife in bed with another man. This is all very real to these people—it constitutes her sex life.

This woman was advised to make the best of her situation, and when she asked if it would help if she were to marry a man (she thought she might endure sex relations with a male), I strongly advised against such a course.

The case passed out of my observation for a few years, and then imagine my surprise on reading in a morning paper of the suicide of this woman by plunging out of a twelfth-story window of an apartment hotel.

The newspaper carried the information that she had been married to a well-known professional man just three days previously.

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

She was a magnificent specimen of womanhood; she was somewhat athletic, sang alto, and had considerable hair on the upper lip—almost the proportions of a mustache.

She had a brilliant mind and taught in a select girls' school.

She consulted us in the hope that she could be cured.

7:5.3 She told a story of having come home one night before her consultation with us to find her "Margery" in bed with one of the students; her anger was so extreme that, as she said, she "almost committed double murder."

She was just as outraged as any married man would be to come home unexpectedly and find his wife consorting with another man.

She wondered if it would help if she were to marry a man (she thought she might endure sex relations with a male), but we strongly advised against such a course.

7:5.4 Nothing more was heard of the case until, some years later, the morning paper contained an account of the suicide of this woman by plunging out of a twelfth-story window of an apartment hotel.

The story went on to say that she had been married to a well-known man just three days previously.

## SOURCE

Inquiry disclosed that she consulted this man on a professional matter, and he became interested in her and pursued her assiduously; apparently thinking marriage might be an avenue of escape from her homoerotic life and all its accompaniment of fear and anxiety—fear of being discovered—she married him.

It is evident that two or three nights of married life were sufficient to show her the wisdom of the advice I had previously given her. She saw no way out.

She probably felt just as any man would if, after marrying a woman, he found he was supposed to live his life out and have sexual relations with a man—that he had been duped. It was too much for the poor woman; she had suffered greatly already; she decided to end it all (*TPoP* 629).

[contd] These people really regard themselves as married and often become very domineering, the one with the other.

The “collar and tie” of a homosexually married “Margery,” as someone has said, often proves to be “worse than a mother-in-law,” whereas the male “fairy” (male homoerotics are known as “fairies”) is equally domineering over his more passive partner (*TPoP* 629).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

Inquiry disclosed that she had consulted this man on a professional matter; he became interested in her and pressed his suit earnestly; probably thinking marriage would afford a means of escape from her homoerotic life and its fear of being discovered, she married him.

Apparently two or three days of married life were all she could stand, and the twelfth-story window was chosen as the way out.

She probably felt as any man would if, after marrying a woman, he found he was expected to live with a man—that he had been duped.

7:5.5 These homoerotic couples really regard themselves as married and are often very domineering.

**Someone** has said the “collar and tie” of a homosexually married “Margery” is often “worse than a mother-in-law”; on the other hand, the male “fairy” (male homoerotics are known as “aunties” and “fairies”) is equally domineering over his more passive partner.

## V: HOMOSEXUALITY (Ellis 218)

*Eonism (Transvestism or Sexo-Æsthetic Inversion)*  
(Ellis 242)

[contd] This is a condition, not to be identified with homosexuality though it sometimes tends to be associated with it, in which the subject more or less identifies himself or herself with the opposite sex, not merely in dress, but in general tastes, in ways of acting, and in emotional disposition.

The identification usually falls short of the opposite sex's sexual attitude; the normal heterosexual attitude is frequently pronounced, yet it may be convenient to introduce the consideration of it here (E 242).

[See 7:5.7, below.]

Meanwhile Hirschfeld in Germany, who was already a leading authority on homosexuality, became interested in this condition, which he recognized as distinct from inversion and called "transvestism." In my own first study of the condition (1913) I called it "sexo-æsthetic inversion," a sort of sexual inversion of tastes (E 242).

7:5.6 There are individuals who dress like the opposite sex,

but who are not homosexual.

Many times people live their lives as one sex but upon death are discovered to be fully developed members of the opposite one.

These folks even cultivate the tastes of their supposed sex so as to deceive the social circles in which they move.

7:5.7 This procedure might be called a "sexual inversion of taste."

It has been called by many names,

## SOURCE

[contd] “Eonism” is the name I finally devised (1920) for this condition. It has been accepted by many and still seems the most convenient term, and adequately descriptive.

Like “sadism” and “masochism,” it is derived from a well-known person who exhibited the anomaly in a typical form, the Chevalier d’Eon de Beaumont (1728-1810), a Burgundian of good family, employed as a French diplomatic agent under Louis XV and finally dying in London where he was generally regarded as a woman, though the autopsy revealed him as a normal male (E 242-43).

Eonism is a remarkably common anomaly; in my own experience it comes next in frequency to homosexuality among sexual deviations (E 243).

Though they do not often desire inverted sexual relationships, male Eonists sometimes feel an almost passionate longing for a woman’s experiences, of pregnancy and motherhood (E 244).

But it is not easy to explain its precise origin.... We may thus probably invoke some defective endocrine balance, and thereby see an opening, with better knowledge, for readjustment of the normal balance (E 244).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

but that suggested by Havelock Ellis is probably the best—*eonism*.

This term, like sadism and masochism, is derived from a well-known historical character who frankly pleaded guilty to this hereditary anomaly.

In our opinion, eonism is almost as prevalent as inversion;

men so afflicted even go so far as to experience passionate longings for pregnancy and motherhood.

The whole difficulty is probably rooted in some powerful disturbance of the endocrine system.



## 6. DIAGNOSIS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

*The Diagnosis of Sexual Inversion* (Ellis 234)

[contd] It has already been remarked that the sexual impulse tends to be more diffused in children than it subsequently becomes in adults.... Max Dessoir went so far as to say that up to the age of fourteen or fifteen in both boys and girls the sexual instinct is normally undifferentiated (E 234).

[Compare E 234-35.]

It remains true that a certain liability to more or less romantic homosexual affection is found among boys, while girls, much more frequently, cherish enthusiastic devotions for other girls somewhat older than themselves, and very often for their teachers.

Even, however, when these emotions are reciprocated, and even when they lead to definite sexual manifestations and gratification, they must not too hastily be taken to indicate either a vice calling for severe punishment or a disease demanding treatment.

In the great majority of these cases we are simply concerned with an inevitable youthful phase (E 235).

7:6.1 In average young people sex is more or less undifferentiated prior to the age of fourteen or fifteen.

Just before, or about, this time they pass through a homosexual zone, but when adolescence is thoroughly established, about 95 per cent gradually become heterosexual.

7:6.2 Among boys the homosexual attraction is for those about the same age, whereas girls seem to develop a very definite interest in females older than themselves, more especially their teachers.

It is high time that such wide-spread and common-place attractions should no longer be regarded as vices requiring punishment or diseases calling for treatment.

The great majority of these adolescent manifestations are wholly normal, natural, and but passing phases of human experience;

only a small percentage are truly homosexual, though many may be definite exhibitions of ambisexuality.

## SOURCE

Much injury may be done to a boy's nervous and mental character, to say nothing of his **future reputation**, by the over-hasty **assumption** that such manifestations are diseased or **vicious** (E 235-36).

In girls these manifestations usually escape serious treatment, partly because they are so common, and partly because women, more often than men, are disposed to view them indulgently, if not indeed sometimes to share them (E 236).

A diagnosis of congenital inversion cannot, however, always be made with certainty **until the period of adolescence is entirely completed** (E 236).

It is not, indeed, until the age of **twenty-five has been reached or even later**, that we can be fairly sure that homosexual impulses are not a phase of normal development (E 236).

Inverts are sometimes referred to, even by physicians, as an "**effeminate**" class. That is scarcely the case.

A certain group of them may indeed be so styled, they are **physically and mentally flabby**, self-conscious, **vain**, fond of jewelry and adornment; these men have the inclinations of the prostitute and in some cases actually become male prostitutes (E 239-40).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

7:6.3 How many personalities have been stunted and warped and how many **future reputations** blasted by the unwise **assumption** that these commonplace youthful proclivities represent **vicious** or perverted sexual tendencies!

It is a fact that women get by with less castigation in these matters than do men.

It is never safe to make a positive diagnosis of homosexuality until adolescence is past, **until the patient has passed out of the teens**.

In fact, in some cases we are not able to settle this matter until the individual is between **twenty-five and thirty**.

7:6.4 While many male inverts are **effeminate** in appearance, sing tenor, and show preference for feminine pursuits, it would be a great mistake to undertake to diagnose inversion by such symptoms.

A large number of male sexual inverts are thoroughly masculine in appearance and possess most of the secondary masculine sexual characteristics.

It is true, however, that many of them are both **physically and mentally flabby** and **vainglorious**

## SOURCE

[Many of these physical and psychic characteristics may be said to indicate some degree of **infantilism**, and this is in agreement with the view of inversion which traces it to a fundamental bisexual basis, for the further back we go in the life-history of the individual the nearer we approach to the bisexual stage (E 232).]

A **large number of inverts**, indeed, are **unusually refined**, sensitive, or emotional, but the same may be said of many slightly neurotic people who are not homosexual.

Others, both men and women, are not obviously distinguished by any special character which could reasonably suggest an abnormal direction of the sexual impulse (E 240).

Congenital sexual inversion is an anomaly, an inborn variation of which we are beginning to understand the causes; it is, even when extreme, only pathological in the same sense as **color-blindness** or albinism or **transposition of the viscera** is pathological (E 241)

*The Question of Treatment* (Ellis 245)

It must be remembered that, when we are dealing with a really **fixed condition**, all normal methods of treatment become difficult.

**Hypnotic suggestion**, which was formerly found useful in many cases of the most various kinds of sexual anomalies, is of comparatively little service in well developed congenital deviations (E 246).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

and exhibit many nervous **infantile** characters.

On the other hand, we must admit that a very **large number of inverts**, both male and female, are **refined** and educated

and in every other way normal in their emotional and sensational experience;

since it is now commonly admitted that inversion is inherited, it cannot be looked upon as being pathologic any more than is **color blindness** or **transposition of the viscera**.

## 7. TREATMENT OF SEXUAL INVERSION

7:7.1 There is little or no therapeutic help for homosexuality.

*It is a **fixed inborn condition**.*

**Hypnotism** and every other psychiatric method utilized in its treatment have failed.

## SOURCE

Schrenck-Notzing, many years ago when sexual inversion was not commonly regarded as innate, expended great time and trouble in treating inverts by hypnotism, aided by visits to the brothel, and believed that he had been successful.

But an appearance of success when success is merely shown by the ability to effect intercourse with the opposite sex, is admitted to be possible, with much good will on the patient's part; it by no means follows that the ideals and impulses have been really and permanently turned into a new or even desirable channel; the result may merely be, as one such patient expressed it, that masturbation *per vaginam* has been achieved (E 246-47).

[contd] The psycho-analytic method of Freud has also been employed therapeutically in these cases, and for this method also some success has been claimed. There is now, however, a tendency among psycho-analysts to recognize that when the state of inversion is fixed (whether or not it is regarded as innate) it is useless to apply psycho-analysis in the expectation of a change of sexual direction.

I have known many homosexual persons who have subjected themselves to psycho-analysis.... I do not know of any cases in which a complete and permanent transformation of homosexuality into heterosexuality was achieved (E 247).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

Neither does it do any good to advise these people to visit brothels, to acquire mistresses, or hazard marriage.

One such patient in Europe, whom his doctor induced to practice prostitution until he developed ability to copulate, described the experience as merely acquiring the ability to "masturbate per vaginum."

7:7.2 Likewise psychoanalysis fails to deliver the homosexual from his predicament.

In more than thirty years of practice we have not seen a genuine homosexual who has been made over into even a passingly acceptable heterosexual.

## SOURCE

[Contrast E 248.]

As a method of treatment, whether the patient is a man or a woman, marriage must certainly be rejected, absolutely and unconditionally (E 250).

It is not unusual to find inverts marrying. But it is desirable that such marriages should not be made in the dark or with illusory hopes. The conjugal partner should not be too young, and should be accurately informed beforehand as to the precise condition of affairs and the probable prospects.

Unions so formed sometimes prove tolerable and even happy, should the couple be congenial to each other (E 250-51).

Platonic friendship with a refined and intelligent person of the opposite sex is more attractive and helpful, and if the Platonic friend is of a type which in the same sex would appeal to the invert there is more likelihood of the relationship serving as a method of associational therapeutics than when the question of sexual intercourse is directly approached (E 250).

## 7: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

All of the reputed cases of cure, upon careful investigation, have proved to be ambisexuals who have merely been diverted toward more satisfactory sex relations with the opposite sex, something they were always capable of enjoying to a degree.

7:7.3 Marriage is out of the question in genuine homosexuality.

That is, except in a few rare cases where both parties to the contract fully understand the situation,

and where one or both are homosexual and agree to live a married life for various social, professional, or economic reasons;

a few such cases under observation have turned out to be passingly satisfactory.

7:7.4 These individuals have to content themselves with Platonic friendship and intellectual companionship with the opposite sex,

and many do experience such helpful associations.

Just recently we discovered a young professional man, an invert, who was about to enter marriage with a normal young woman. He wanted the social status of a home and even children. What led the lady to suspect that something was wrong was the promise he exacted from her to stay away from the house for a day at least once every week so that he could entertain his male friends.

Whether offspring should be one of these interests is a serious question which it is not always easy to decide resolutely in the negative.

Certainly it may be laid down as a general rule that it is not desirable a person constitutionally predisposed to homosexuality should procreate.

When, however, the inverted partner is otherwise healthy, and belongs to a fairly sound family, and the other partner is entirely sound and normal, there is a reasonable hope that the children may turn out fairly well (E 251).

But a marriage of this kind is often unstable; there is a prospect of separation or of alienation of the partners, so that the risks of an unsatisfactory home life for the child are considerable (E 252).

7:7.5 Should homosexuals reproduce themselves? Not enough is known about the inheritance of this condition to enable us to say flatly that they should not,

but we have a general feeling at the present time that it would be just as well if the homosexual would not attempt to reproduce,

though in the few cases known, many of the children have turned out fairly well.

One of the greatest objections is that such children can hardly expect to be reared in a satisfactory home environment.