

## Chapter 17 — Principal Sources of Marital Trouble

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 17, in the order in which they first appear

- (1) G. V. **Hamilton** and Kenneth **Macgowan**, *What Is Wrong with Marriage* (New York: Albert & Charles Boni, Inc., 1929)
- (2) G. V. **Hamilton**, M.D., *A Research in Marriage* (New York: Albert & Charles Boni, Inc., 1929)
- (3) Robert Latou **Dickinson** and Lura Beam, *A Thousand Marriages: A Medical Study of Sex Adjustment* (Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1931)
- (4) George Sherwood **Eddy**, “The Problems of Marriage,” in *Twenty-Four Views of Marriage: From the Presbyterian General Assembly’s Commission on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage*, Edited by Clarence A. Spaulding (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1930)
- (5) Millard S. **Everett**, Ph.D., *The Hygiene of Marriage: A Detailed Consideration of Sex and Marriage* (New York: The Vanguard Press, 1932)
- (6) William J. **Fielding**, *Sex and the Love-life* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1927)
- (7) A. Herbert **Gray**, “Introduction to the English Edition,” in Helena **Wright**, M.B., B.S., *The Sex Factor in Marriage: A Book for Those Who Are or Are About to Be Married* (New York: The Vanguard Press, 1937)

### Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author (or a previous Sadler book) first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.

- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and Sadler pointedly differ from each other.
- (e) **Pink** indicates passages where the Sadlers specifically share their own experiences, opinions, advice, etc.
- (f) **Light blue** indicates passages which strongly resemble something in the Urantia Book, or which allude to the Urantia phenomenon.
- (g) **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.
- (h) **Gold** highlights key words or themes which will be discussed in the analysis of the chapter.

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## XVII — PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF MARITAL TROUBLE

### VI: THE SEXUAL SIDE (Hamilton & Macgowan 88)

[contd] There is plenty of friction in married life quite apart from troubles over the purely sexual side (H&M 88).

Yet it would take a very prejudiced and a very reckless psychiatrist to say that most married friction doesn't find its source in sexual adjustment (H&M 88).

### VI: MARITAL ECONOMICS (Hamilton 84)

[contd] During the early days of my career as a psychiatrist an elderly bachelor who told me many things about life assured me that the matrimonial barque is usually wrecked on the rock of finance (H 84).

On the other hand, Freud has taught us to suspect that the individual's attitude toward money may largely be determined by the operation of reactive tendencies which are closely related to, if not identical with, the so-called sex instinct (H 84).

17:0.1 Hamilton's investigations,

while disclosing many sources of marital difficulties,

revealed that sex trouble of some sort was the chief factor.

While disagreement over finances is a great cause of marital incompatibility,

it should be noted that

Freud believes these money troubles have an indirect sexual origin,

but we doubt that this true.

XVI: SUBJECTIVE **INFERIORITIES**  
(Hamilton 400)

However, Adler's contention of *organ inferiority* gained considerable support from the Hamilton investigation

**Table 340** (Hamilton 401)

**Card 29: Question 1:** (*For Men*)  
*"Do you fear, or have you ever feared, that your sex organ might be considered smaller than that of the average man if it were exposed to persons who might take notice of such things?"* (*For Women*)  
*"Do you fear, or have you ever feared, that the sex part of you might be unlike that of other women?"*

... "No" to the question as a whole (*Men 59; Women 66*) (H 401-02).

since 40 per cent of the men and 35 per cent of the women had entertained more or less fear that their sexual organs were somewhat inferior or in some other way abnormal.

V: MOTHERS, **MOTHERS-IN-LAW**,  
AND OTHERS (Hamilton 103)

The extent to which **visiting** relatives can be a source of irritation to spouses is suggested by the figures in the tables, which show, among other things, that the visiting mothers of 10 husbands and of 18 wives stand thus accused. [Etc.] (H 116)

17:02 **Mother-in-law** trouble, in fact, that caused by in-laws of any degree,

whether due to prolonged **visits**,

need for financial assistance, or unwarranted meddling, tends seriously to complicate married life.

XX: SUMMARY (Dickinson 433)

V. CORROBORATION OF THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE BY THE NEUTRAL (Dickinson 444)

The bride who seems typical is in a state of erotic confusion.

In the redirection of romantic desire into the channels in which it may now be expressed, all the difficulties of pioneering and of re-organization are inherent (D 444).

In spite of what good intention can do, there is a period of vacillation and uncertainty (D 444).

VI. AMBIVALENCE OF SEXUAL POWER (Dickinson 445)

[contd] In this series of records of woman's sexual experience, accounts of passion and frigidity move together as a dual force.

17:0.3 It appears that the earliest marital difficulties are sexual in nature and grow out of the fact that

the newly married woman finds herself, in the majority of cases, in a state of "erotic confusion."

She is face to face with the necessity of bringing about

redirection of her romantic impulses,

of bringing down her idealizations of Prince Charming to the lower levels of physical intimacy and sexual gratification.

Indecision, vacillation, and uncertainty are very common during these early weeks and months of married life.

17:0.4 A certain degree of ambivalence characterizes many recently married women.

They are torn between impulses bordering first on frigidity and then on passionate urge,

The highly developed organism which can build up a romantic tower of passion may build up also a romantic wall of inhibition (D 445).

a situation which it is entirely possible for a human being to get into.

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH MARRIAGE?

III: "WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY MARRIAGE"—*the Verdict of 100 Men* (Hamilton & Macgowan 33)

Out of the hundred men

17:1.1 Of one hundred men interrogated as to how satisfactory their married life had proved to be,

only thirty-nine had **no serious complaint to make** with their married state.

little more than one-third **had serious complaint to make** about their spouses,

Even of the fifty-one who, in the end, met and passed the test of successful marriage, thirteen harbored an important dissatisfaction of some sort. All told, sixty-one husbands were "especially dissatisfied" over something or other (H&M 35).

while two-thirds expressed more or less **satisfaction** with their marital experience.

17:1.2 It would seem that *emotional immaturity* of the wife was the cause lurking in the background of considerable dissatisfaction.

Let us take a hasty glance at all the eleven kinds of things that these hundred men found wrong with their marriages. Arranged in the order of their numerical importance they run as follows:

The order of precedence of these complaints, that is, **the eight leading ones**, was:

Temperamental dissatisfactions [49]  
Physical dissatisfactions [39]

1. Temperament.
2. Physical—sex.

Lack of personal freedom [10]

SOURCE

Ill-health [10]  
Jealousy [8]  
Troubles over children [8]  
Economic troubles [8]  
Friction over relatives [7]

Social life spoiled by wife [5]  
Vocational interference with marriage [2]

Religious conflicts [1]

and—"Everything wrong" [2] (H&M 36-37)

The next question explored a neighboring field—dissatisfaction, not with a particular mate, but with marriage as an institution. It read: "Knowing what you now know, would you wish to marry if you were unmarried?" **Seventy-seven** men said "Yes." Five more gave a qualified affirmative. Only eleven answered "No" or "No" with qualifications (H&M 44).

IV: "WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY MARRIAGE"—*the Verdict of 100 Women* (Hamilton & Macgowan 47)

[contd] The first question—that bold, bald challenge: "What is there in your marriage that is especially unsatisfactory to you?"—marked the women off sharply from the men. Where thirty-nine husbands had no complaint at all, **only twenty-five** women came through with a reply of "Nothing" (H&M 47).

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3. **Sickness.**  
4. **Jealousy.**  
5. **Children.**  
6. **Money.**  
7. **Relatives.**

8. **Religion.**

17:1.3 It is interesting to note that in spite of the major and minor complaints about married life,

**80 per cent** of these one hundred men frankly stated that, if they were widowed or divorced, they would marry again.

17:1.4 Of one hundred married women who were questioned,

**one-fourth** had no complaint to make about marriage;

SOURCE

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the other three-quarters listed minor or major grievances which, in the order of precedence, were:

Temperamental dissatisfactions [37]  
Sexual dissatisfactions [30]  
Domestic slavery or lack of personal freedom [18]  
Economic troubles [16]

1. Temperament.
2. Sexual incompatibilities.
3. Domestic slavery.
4. Money.

Lack of affection [13]

Jealousy [11]

5. Jealousy.

Everything wrong [10]

Troubles over children [7]  
Ill-health [5]

6. Children.
7. Sickness.

Vocational interferences with marriages [5]

Friction over relatives [4]

8. Relatives.

Social life spoiled by marriage [2]

Mate's alcoholism [3]

9. Alcohol.

Evasive answers [2] (H&M 57)

[IV: MARITAL ECONOMICS (Hamilton 84)]

**MARITAL ECONOMICS**

[See 17:3.6, below.]

17:2.1 There is but one sound financial method for married life, and that is the *budget system*. Team work is necessary. Marriage is an economic as well as a social and sexual partnership.

[See H 90-93.]

17:2.2 With many married couples it develops that the husband spends too much for luxuries, and while there are many cases of extravagant wives' causing marital trouble, it most often appears that the wife has no spending money of her own.



Every married woman should have a monthly allowance which she can spend without feeling obligated to make an accounting to her husband. Likewise, the husband should have his own pin money; both of these sums should be provided for in the family budget.

17:2.3 *Debt is always a trouble-maker* in family life; one of the best ways to avoid it is to live on a budget and within that budget. Only by doing this can a family learn to distinguish between needs and wants, between necessities and unnecessary luxuries, but it is a great mistake, in case the wife continues to be gainfully employed after marriage, to budget her earnings. They should be put in a savings account or otherwise invested as such earnings are liable to stop at any time. All young married couples will do well to recognize the danger of forming the installment habit. Buying on the *installment plan* is a godsend sometimes, but it is dangerous to form the habit.

V: MARRIAGE AND MONEY  
(Hamilton & Macgowan 66)

It was rather surprising to learn that

almost a third of the men and women had saved nothing during married life (H&M 84).

The cause of economic friction isn't easy to spot—which ought to bear out the idea that money matters are merely a convenient peg for the complaints of the unhappy (H&M 74).

17:2.4 In one statistical inquiry it developed that

one-third of the couples interviewed had saved nothing throughout their married lives,

and it also developed that

misunderstandings and disputes over money matters are pegs on which certain married folks hang many of their major marital infelicities;

[W]omen are far more sensitive than men to all these matters of money. They are more conscious of friction over finances. They are unhappier over small incomes and the threat of poverty.... They are unhappier over the failure to save money and they are readier to blame themselves for it (H&M 86).

in all cases where there is budget trouble in the family, the wife suffers the most therefrom.

## THE PROBLEMS OF MARRIAGE

### THE PROBLEMS OF MARRIAGE (Eddy 147)

#### CONDITIONS OF HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE

##### 1. *Mutual Adjustment in Physical Experience.* (Eddy 148)

We begin at the point where, if they fail, most marriages go wrong. Probably ignorance, selfishness and failure in physical functioning are the rocks and reefs on which most disastrous marriages founder (Ed 148).

We cannot in the matter of marriage just “trust to instinct” (Ed 148).

Not only does our present system fail to prepare and instruct young people before marriage;

17:3.1 A large number of marriages are wrecked on the twin shoals of sex ignorance and temperamental selfishness.

Animals may be able to carry on their mating functions by instinctive guidance,

but the human species cannot rely upon instinct as a guide to the marital sex life.

Man needs to supplement his instinctive impulses by biologic knowledge and psychologic wisdom.

17:3.2 Not only are young couples not properly prepared for marriage,

## SOURCE

it often definitely inhibits and unfits them and actually prepares them for failure (Ed 149).

2. *Conjugal Love* has grown out of the association of man and wife. (Eddy 155)

If [the sex impulse] is not completed in comradeship and parenthood it may become selfish and tyrannous (Ed 155).

Sex as a single impulse is unsteady, intermittent and untrustworthy (Ed 155).

Only love, deep, lasting and growing, affords an adequate basis for a happy marriage (Ed 155).

Love must grow or decline (Ed 157).

We grow by expression; what is not expressed dies.

Love, most of all, because it is the full sharing of life, must express itself. It does not thrive in silence.

It must be told and ever retold again (Ed 157).

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but often such instruction as they have received and such things as they have learned by example contribute directly to unfitting them for marriage, to insuring failure of the marriage relationship.

The sex impulse is a sufficient incentive for inaugurating courtship and beginning married life, but in a successful home

this physical attraction must be developed into a higher form of comradeship

which draws out the psychic and spiritual qualities of both partners.

The sex impulse is altogether too transient and whimsical to serve as a real foundation for a satisfactory married life.

Genuine love, that deep and lasting affection of comradeship, must eventually appear if the marriage relation is to culminate in a happy home for both parents and children.

17:3.3 *Love is not a stationary experience.*

It either grows or diminishes.

If it is not exercised, allowed to enjoy expression, it withers, but when allowed to express itself in unselfish activity, it grows apace.

Silence is fatal to human affection. Love is always expressionful;

it must be told over and over if it is to be kept alive and allowed to grow.

## SOURCE

3. *Common Interests*. (Eddy 159)

Whatever may be said of the past, *if modern marriage is to be fully successful*

*it must be democratically founded on the four corner stones of liberty, equality, coöperation*

*and growth* (Ed 159).

Does the husband really want a mere permanent housekeeper, a faithful drudge, an unpaid servant, or does he desire a real life companion and a friend who will help him to rise to his best? (Ed 159-60)

The young wife, also, while glorying in the joy of sacrifice, must be on her guard against spoiling both husband and children.

She should with quiet dignity take her place of full equality in the home from the start and not herself be responsible for unconsciously helping to make her husband an autocrat or her children selfish (Ed 160).

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17:3.4 The highest concept of marital life

is that founded on mutuality of regard and equality of opportunity for personality development,

embracing intellectual, social, and even spiritual progress.

No home will prosper and become the shrine of marital happiness if the wife occupies a no more dignified position in the husband's esteem than that of

a faithful housekeeping drudge or an unpaid servant.

Home-making has been lauded as woman's greatest career, but domestic happiness is not promoted by

the self-sacrificing wife who toils and labors only to spoil her husband and coddle her children.

There is but one philosophy on which to build a permanent and happy home, and that is

*complete equality.*

SOURCE

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17:3.5 Happy homes are not created by

If the man has all the **privilege**—his work, his broadening touch with the world, his life in public and private, the stimulus of his profession or business;

allowing the man to enjoy all the **privileges** of expansion,

to grow and develop personality,

and if the woman has all the handicaps, all the drudgery, all the housework, all the monotony, all the bearing and rearing of the children, **for years shut in to the narrow world of a single home**, then the two may unconsciously and unwittingly begin to grow apart.

while the wife is **confined at home year in and year out**,

becoming more and more circumscribed and cramped in all her efforts at personality development.

They **drift apart**

Altogether too many husbands and wives **drift apart**

**because** their interests are different and also because their characters become different (Ed 160).

**because** the husband continues to grow and progress after marriage while the wife settles down into a humdrum circularity of existence, endeavoring to comfort herself with the thought that she is devoting herself unselfishly to the care of her family.

Does the **husband regard all the income as his own**, and his wife's work as **financially valueless**,

17:3.6 Why should the **husband regard his earnings as his own** and place **no financial value** upon the self-sacrificing labors of his wife in the home?

**We are great believers in**

or shall they together **work out a family budget** and make this a further occasion for sharing? (Ed 160-61)

having both partners to a marriage **work out their budget** together,

and unless one or the other is a spend-thrift, they ought to be able to handle acceptably a joint checking account.

## SOURCE

Among the causes of the failure in marriage we might enumerate: the incapacity to see another's point of view,

and the tendency to magnify every fault and limitation;

humiliation through the constant harping of disapproval and criticism; harsh, unsympathetic, puritanical judgment of superimposed, external, legal standards; and the misery of attempting to mix incompatible temperaments (Ed 163).

Intimacy can be overdone. A cheapened familiarity may breed contempt.

A husband and wife may easily get upon one another's nerves. They may occasionally need vacations from, as well as with, one another.

Yet they will need to learn to play together as well as to work together (Ed 163).

The third corner-stone of the successful home is *coöperation* (Ed 163).

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17:3.7 Many homes fail because one partner develops *intolerance* for the other's viewpoint.

There is too much of a tendency to find fault, criticize, and nag,

thus bringing about a chronic state of humiliation—ego deflation.

There is a lamentable lack of common courtesy in many homes,

and while the intimacies of married life, if properly controlled, may lead to increased affection, it should always be borne in mind that

too great *familiarity breeds contempt*.

Husbands and wives need to get away from each other on occasions,

and they should learn how to do this gracefully

as well as learn how to play and take vacations together.

17:3.8 Probably the most important thing, after all, in the building of a happy home is to learn the meaning of that important word *co-operation*,

and of course this means co-operation all along the line, from the physical to the spiritual.

Together they will share in the common responsibility the problems of the husband's business

and those of the wife in the home (Ed 163-64).

[4. **Parental Responsibility.**—Fathers must cease to shirk their responsibilities in training their preadolescent children; far too many show little interest in their offspring until adolescence. Someone has suggested that there are two kinds of fathers as there are of physicians—the “consulting” and the “practicing” father (*Theory and Practice of Psychiatry* 385).]

Together they may discover that happiness is not solitary but social,

it is found not in getting but in giving, not in withholding but in sharing; it is not selfish but sacrificial; it is not outward but inward, not in things but in persons, not in strife but in concord, not in lovelessness but in love (Ed 165).

We do not see how happy homes can be built when the wife knows nothing about

the husband's business or professional life,

and when the husband takes practically no interest in

the home or the rearing of the children.

Fathers, like physicians, are of two great types—those who are practicing fathers and those who are merely consultants.

The latter do not function at home unless there is grave trouble and they are formally called into consultation.

17:3.9 Probably the *ideal concept* of married life is that in which the wife contributes to the inspiration and goal striving of the husband, and in which the husband provides a sense of security to the wife, along with the opportunity satisfactorily to expand her personality.

Happiness is a stranger to those personalities who refuse to grow, who become self-centered,

and who fail to perceive the truth that

it is more blessed to give than to receive.

**SEXUAL HINDRANCES**

VIII: MARITAL HYGIENE (Everett 117)

SATISFACTORY PHYSICAL UNION (Everett 122)

Even though a couple may be ideally mated in other respects, if they do not learn to make their sex relations fully and mutually satisfying,

their marriage is likely to prove a failure, sooner or later (Ev 122).

17:4.1 The failure of the wife to experience orgasm

many times leads to such a degree of sexual incompatibility as to jeopardize the whole marriage relationship;

while much of the responsibility of the failure of the wife to respond to the sexual embrace lies with the husband, nevertheless, too many wives fail to prepare themselves psychologically for the sex relationship, and this wrong attitude toward coitus grows out of the failure of the woman to understand, before marriage, not only the importance of the shy and winsome courtship attitude, but also the importance after marriage of *active participation* in sexual relationships.

The average woman does not understand that in order to secure the pleasurable satisfactions of marital sexual relations she must in a certain sense

(2) Before marriage, as suggested above, an engaged couple should re-educate themselves in the morals of sex. A woman, particularly, should seek, if necessary, to eliminate ... the notion that it is a sign of shamelessness or vulgarity for a woman to abandon herself in the sexual act or to participate *actively* in it (Ev 124).

utterly *abandon herself* to the sexual embrace.



With the female, the *psychologic attitude* is many times a far more important factor in the attainment of orgasm than are all the physical elements combined.

17:4.2 Sometimes this relative frigidity of the wife is merely an indication of the lack of

[contd] (3) An over-powering love is an important prerequisite to satisfactory physical adjustment. A woman who does not really love her husband ... cannot give herself to him with the abandon of a true lover and therefore should not be surprised to find herself "holding back" physically just as she holds back mentally (Ev 124).

a whole-hearted love for her spouse.

17:4.3 Every married couple should fully understand

[contd] (4) Even true lovers, however, may not attain satisfactory relations unless an important difference between man and woman is understood. This is the much slower reaction in the female than in the male (Ev 124).

the differential orgasmal reaction time.

Ninety per cent of men are timed to reach the climax considerably ahead of their wives, which means that

(5) Complementary to abandon on the part of the wife is self-control on the part of the husband. That is to say, in case there is difficulty in a woman's attaining orgasm, the man should not be too unrestrained in the act but should prolong it as much as possible (Ev 125).

the man must in every way possible retard the approach of his orgasm,

while the woman must see to it that everything possible is done to prevent undue delay of her climax; and this necessitates proper preparation before beginning of coitus, in which the husband assumes the role of an active and affectionate lover, and she mobilizes a wholehearted psychologic attitude coupled with active physical participation in the sexual act.

17:4.4 But no matter how artful the preliminary preparation for the sexual embrace, no matter how

[contd] (6) It is better, however, to develop the art of attaining orgasm simultaneously in a single copulation. This can be achieved through an effort on the part of the wife to throw herself more completely into the act,

earnest and wholehearted the psychologic attitude of the female,

and no matter how

and through the exercise of self-control on the part of the husband, so that his movements are kept slowed down to a moderate pace until the time for orgasm arrives.

expertly the male exercises self-control—

and regardless of

Success also requires intelligent cooperation in experimenting with various postures until the best-suited method of intercourse is discovered (Ev 125).

an otherwise faultless technic of coitus—

the whole procedure will end in failure if these painstaking maneuvers fail to

(7) It is important that the position taking during intercourse should permit the stimulation of the clitoris, especially in the earlier stages of sex adjustment.

*engage the clitoris in the friction field.*

## SOURCE

It is usual that at the beginning of marriage only the clitoral orgasm is experienced, and that it requires time to develop the more devastating orgasm of the vaginal type (Ev 127).

[When the foreskin is too tight, however, it becomes a source of irritation, instead of a protection. The clitoris is then said to be hooded,

and it is desirable to cut this fold of skin—a very slight and painless procedure in the hands of a surgeon or gynecologist. The operation has a similar purpose to circumcision in the male (Fielding 80-81).]

## VIII: BIRTH CONTROL IN RELATION TO THE LOVE-LIFE (Fielding 149)

There is nothing that is more apt to create disharmony in marriage and repugnance on the part of the wife to the physical expression of love, than

fear of pregnancy (F 160).

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17:4.5 Only a very few women, especially during the earlier months and years of their sex life, are able to develop very much of a labial or vaginal sexual response.

In most cases the breasts and other anatomical parts constitute a much more lively reflex than do the sexual organs themselves, aside from the clitoris.

In all cases of frigidity or where sexual relations have proved unsatisfactory during the first few months of married life, the wife should consult a physician to see whether

the clitoris is bound down by adhesions, or whether it is of the hooded variety,

in which case the sexual response would be greatly improved by

submitting to so-called *female circumcision*.

17:4.6 But of all the hindrances to normal and enjoyable sex relations, perhaps none is greater than

the persistent fear of pregnancy.

The absence of a contraceptive technic which the wife fully trusts will leave the average woman in such a state of anxiety and fear as all but to inhibit a normal sexual response.

SOURCE

17: LIVING A SANE SEX LIFE

INTRODUCTION (Wright 17, by A. Herbert Gray)

When no trouble is taken to learn how to make sexual intercourse harmonious and happy, a variety of complications arise. Very often wives remain sexually unawakened, and therefore inclined to dislike sexual intercourse.

When that happens husbands do not experience what they long for, and are apt to be sexually starved. Being strained, repressed, and strung-up, they find that little things irritate them to an absurd degree (W 18).

The two who ought so to affect each other as to soothe, comfort, and stimulate one another, instead of that get on each other's nerves (W 18-19).

[contd] They wonder why love has not brought them happiness. With acute pain they realize that their common life is becoming a positive trial.

17:4.7 It is a fact that many women experience little arousal of their sexual natures during courtship, and we discover that

many of them, even after years of married life and coitus, remain sexually unawakened.

17:4.8 The difficulty of living a marital life with the absence of sexual gratification is almost certain to bring about

an unhappy, strained, and irritable state of nerves and temper.

Such married couples become peevish and snappy, very intolerant of each other, and gradually develop a serious querulous tendency.

In brief, they increasingly get on each other's nerves.

They are painfully disillusioned as regards their romantic ideals of married life.

They can not understand why such a beautiful love affair should turn into such a disastrous and unsatisfactory marriage.

SOURCE

And then perhaps they **despair**,

and settle down to the ugly thing called mutual **toleration**.

They often **become cynical about marriage**, and live through many years together without having those years lightened and brightened by a single ray of pure romance (W 19).

[contd] In such cases the woman, never having been awakened, does not know what a woman's life may be, and yet inwardly she feels dissatisfied and disappointed. On the other hand the man remains conscious of definite and **unsatisfied sex hunger**, and, unless restrained by very strong motives, he is apt to seek from some other woman what he now despairs of obtaining from his wife—even though his wife may remain the one woman he really loves (W 19).

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Some **despair** of making a success of the venture and seek divorce.

Others develop more or less of a **tolerant attitude** and settle down to a long state of siege, a sort of marital armed truce.

Many such husbands and wives **become cynical regarding marriage**

and live together only for the sake of their children.

17:4.9 A well-meaning married couple whose troubles are basically due to the unawakened sexual nature of the wife are a pathetic picture. Many times neither of the partners really knows what the difficulty is.

The husband is **unsatisfied in his sex life**,

and the wife is restless and nervous while experiencing an indefinite longing for sympathy and attention which she little realizes is in reality of a sex nature.

## SOURCE

It is also true, moreover, that if you do not consent to be awakened your husband will be **deeply disappointed**. He will know that he has missed the full experience of what marriage ought to mean. He will feel hurt in his very spirit by your **coldness**.

He will not call it **purity**,

he will call it **prudery**; and he will be right (W 24).

Of course husbands may be insistent and **demand intercourse**.

Probably they will not be refused.

But they will not have on those terms a beautiful or a happy experience. They may get a certain purely physical satisfaction, but they will not get that **communion of love in which body, mind, and heart** all co-operate.

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17:4.10 In the case of the **cold** and sexually unawakened wife, it is not merely she who suffers, but the husband also is **greatly depressed** by the attempt at living a married life under such circumstances.

He develops a type of *sexual inferiority*. He entertains the fear that it is because of something lacking in his sex nature that he cannot arouse his spouse.

Sometimes such frigid wives console themselves with the thought that their sexual aloofness is a symbol of **purity** and spiritual mindedness,

but the husband is more likely to regard it as either **prudery** or selfishness.

17:4.11 What a pathetic married life is sure to develop where the unsatisfied husband continues to **demand sex relations**,

and the wife, with the psychology of a martyr complex, continues to *submit* to what she inwardly regards as the brutal and animalistic tendencies of the male sex!

Such an experience is so far removed from that more ideal marital association in which there is a **companionable and affectionate union of mind, soul, and body**.

These unfortunate marriages are not only devoid of the physical gratification of the sex relations, but they are also wholly lacking in those high spiritual qualities which sexual relationship contributes to the experience of those truly married couples

They will not know what it is to feel that they are being passionately loved—and that is an even more wonderful experience than merely passionately loving (W 27).

I have also during a long ministry had considerable contact with couples who had got into difficulties.... And I have come to know that in a good many cases the real reason was simply that the couple in question had failed to attain sex harmony. The man had been clumsy,

or the woman timid or cold or selfish.

Or perhaps the man had been lethargic, and the woman quick and gay both in body and mind (W 29-30).

who know what it is to be passionately fond of each other.

17:4.12 We must frankly recognize that the cause of a lot of sexual incompatibility is the clumsy, stupid technic of the husband in his sexual approach to the wife,

and on the other hand, the woman fails in her sex life because she is timid, fearful, and the victim of an exaggerated false modesty.

But it is not always the woman who is cold and indifferent to the sex relationship.

We constantly meet with those sexually hungry wives who complain of the indifference and lethargy of their husbands.

Physicians are beginning to recognize that there may be partial frigidity in the male.