

Mentality—Male Versus Female

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THE MENTAL capability of one sex over the other is a subject that prompts even the meekest person to voice a definite opinion. Interest in this subject is something that almost everyone shares with an equal amount of enthusiasm because everyone is unconsciously concerned as to the intelligence of his own sex.

Although the male does not possess a higher intelligence quotient than the female, he does enjoy a valuable quality that has nothing to do with the ability to learn, but at the same time greatly assists his acquisition of knowledge. His mind operates on two basic tracks, namely, work and women, or school and women in the instance of the younger man. He is not hindered with unrelated thoughts that seem to creep into a woman's cranium. He is not terribly concerned about what trousers to wear with a new shirt, nor is his mind cluttered with speculation about what his neighbor thinks of his hat. The business of the moment absorbs his entire attention. He is not likely to be shaken from serious concentration in mathematics at the sound of a familiar tune full of remembrance. This would be sufficient distraction to cause a woman to forget mathematics while a man would whistle it impersonally without a hint of nostalgia. It is his ability to shut out the emotional patterns of his life that makes the male mind superior to the female mind. It is true that women like Madame Curie, Clara Barton, and Harriet Beecher Stowe were outstanding, but such women are exceptions to the rule; the female is not emotionally suited to the constant competition of the world of science, commerce and government.

When a man's mind inevitably demands relaxation, he then switches to the other track and pursues a woman instead of knowledge or his chosen profession. Here, too, we find differences between the two sexes, but that involves a complete discussion in itself.

Let us return to man's ability to shut out emotional patterns of his life. How else could he leave the fireside of comfortable living to march off to war? His emotions would interfere with the clear thinking that is needed to decide strategic moves and bring about ultimate victory. In peace as well as in war, the military man must constantly face the fact that duty to his country always comes first. One has only to read a few war stories to realize that some men, unable to overcome the emotional barrier, have some very serious psychological problems; but this type of man is in the minority as is the woman who divorces herself from the usual feminine tendencies and thus makes a thrilling place for herself in the so-called man's world. She too has psychological problems to cope with in spite of her success and cleverness.

Nature endowed the male and female with separate tendencies for a purpose. Man, in general, must take his place as the head of

the family with all the responsibilities of providing the necessities of life. The woman must fulfill the tremendous career that is hers in leading her family along the various stages of development to maturity. Here again, a rule is being cited rather than exceptions to the rule.

An example of man's constant attention to the business at hand is best illustrated in the Texas drawl of General Lee. His tour of duty in the Philippines had been extended to four years, and the General and Mrs. Lee had not seen their only son for that length of time. They were extremely proud of his graduation from medical school, his selection of a wife, and the announcement of the arrival of a grandson, even though they had missed all these major milestones in his life. Mrs. Lee commented frequently that she was hardly able to control her desire to see her son and grandson, but her duties as the general's wife kept her busy enough to prevent serious upsets. A luncheon to entertain a group of important visitors had kept her particularly busy one week. The day of the luncheon was full of the splendor of the beautiful South Pacific. General and Mrs. Lee were receiving the guests when the aid whispered that another place was needed at the table. The addition was being made when General and Mrs. Lee caught sight of their son walking into the room. Both were stunned momentarily, but it was the General who saved embarrassment for all concerned by drawling, "Wal, I thought you-all looked very familiar, but you better git over there to Grandma quick or she'll be crawling over the table to git you." He was a General first, and a loving father second.

Since the female mind is not being fully utilized in our present society, one can contemplate what an abrupt change would befall our accepted order of living if the male began displaying the emotional weakness of the female and the woman concentrated solely on business, science, and politics. One cannot truthfully say this would be a change for the better. It seems only fitting that the sex least likely to turn away from matters of importance in government or elsewhere should continue in his capacity as the one with the superior mental ability.

But in order to prevent being hanged in effigy by the female sex, I quote a recent newspaper article that will conveniently shatter my theory:

Yellow Springs, Ohio—Associated Press—Science has proven what many women have long maintained—men are fatheads. Dr. Stanley M. Garn, associate professor at Antioch College here, says a recent study of fat and its distribution over the human body shows that, although women are 41% fatter than men, the 'superior male' has more fat on his head than do women.