

Doctor's Say 'Some Women Seek Unbalanced Mates'

Doctors have determined that a number of marriages have their basis in the shyness and withdrawal from the world that is characteristic of latent schizophrenia.

MANY WOMEN are attracted to and eventually marry men precisely because of these traits, generally considered symptomatic of the torn personality. The doctors said the women's desires exhibited peculiarities in their own personalities.

In a study of 90 women who married men later admitted to psychiatric care due to schizophrenia, con-

ducted by staff psychologists at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Canandaigua, N.Y., the researchers found that the women liked personality qualities in their spouses usually characteristic of the schizoid.

Schizophrenia is a mental illness marked by withdrawal from reality, unpredictable disturbances in the stream of thought, inappropriate mood, easy anger, and delusions.

WIVES OF THE patients listed shyness, sensitivity,

and introversion as attractive attributes in men. These were contrasted by others who preferred popular, masculine, decisive men who seemed capable of common sense.

In most instances, said Drs. Karel Planansky and Roy Johnston, "the wives' decisions to marry a man about to become schizophrenic reflect certain temperaments or personality peculiarities or unusual, perhaps neurotic, expectations."

A good deal of these women were well aware that their intended husbands were mentally ill long before they married them, the doctors pointed out.

"They are women actively seeking a husband who isolates himself from his personal and social milieu and shies away from other women," the researchers stated.

These women would feel emotionally uncomfortable with a typically masculine, firm, active companion, they concluded.

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