Why Women Would Rather Be Arrested By Men

"The women who become rulers or conquerors are noted in history for their ruthlessness and irrational cruelty. Such was Tamyris, Queen of the Massagetes, who kept the head of her defeated enemy, King Cyrus, in a bag by her pillow." This picture of Queen Tamyris is by A. Zick.

Science Explains the Failure of Chicago's Policewomen Alongthe Very Line Where They Were Supposed to Be Most Useful

By Professor David Edgar Rice, Ph. D. (Columbia)
the Famous Psychologist.

THE failure of the Chicago policewomen to handle the recent strikes of women there calls attention to some of the most fundamental principles of the psychology of sex. We should pay heed to the remarkable discoveries then made before more serious mistakes occur.

The ten policewomen were appointed because it was believed that they would be more gentle and tactful in handling women in the streets and other places. It was believed that a woman could lock up a rioting woman just as a mother would take a daughter home. As a matter of fact, the policewomen used more violence with their sex than an ordinary policeman would have done.

It was believed that law-breaking women would yield more peaceably to officers of their own sex than to men. As a matter of fact they resisted the policewomen more fiercely than if they had been policemen.

The policewomen were chosen on account of their weight and muscle. One of them, Mrs. Anna M. Morrison, was an accomplished heavy-weight lifter. Two of the policewomen, Mrs. Anna M. Louches and Mrs. Mary A. Boyd, made themselves particularly unpopular by their roughness.

The two policewomen charged into a crowd of striking waitresses outside Henrici's restaurant, on Randolph street, and, after a hot fight, arrested six of them. The policewomen had practised the well-known "policeman's grip" on the arm, and they used it with excessive force and temper on their prisoners. The waitresses complained that "they treated us a lot worse than the men cops." There was a general demand among workingwomen for the abolition of the policewomen.

As a result of this disturbance the Chief of Police said that the two women "cops" would be transferred, and let it be understood that the system of female policemen was a failure.

From the Chicago case and others which I have observed I have come to the conclusion that two psychological rules are in operation. In the first place the woman is instinctively accustomed to seeing a man in the place of public power and authority and resents seeing a woman in such a place. It is an instinct as old as the race, and arguments cannot remove it. I know that many enthusiastic suffragists even would never tolerate the idea of a woman President.

In the second place, a woman put in the place of public power and authority lacks the physical superiority that belongs to a strong man and that carries with it sentiments of self-restraint and fair play that have grown up through ages in the physically stronger and fighting sex. Nevertheless, knowing that she is appointed to exercise physical force, she does it hastily and irrationally. In such acts her greater emotional excitability also plays an important part.

The most advanced supporters of the emancipation movement maintain that there is no good reason why women may not engage in every line of activity now open to men, and it must be admitted that in many instances they have established their claim. Perhaps the most conspicuous of their achievements has been the excellent service they have performed in connection with juvenile and female offenders. Certainly the rigors of the criminal law in its application to these offenders have been wisely and justly tempered by the sympathetic interest that only a motherly woman knows how to give.

Theoretically the idea of policewomen for women offenders seems a good one. Certainly a woman is in better position than a man to understand another woman, and in conflicts between disorderly groups and the law mutual understanding and sympathy are helpful. What was the element of the situation that was overlooked, so that the theory broke down when an attempt was made to put it into practical application?

The police authorities are inclined to believe that the explanation lies in the fact that the women lacked the physical strength to back up their authority when the necessity arose for their making a show of force. To remedy the defect they are planning to give their policewomen a stiff course in physical training, including instruction in jiu-jitsu. Undoubtedly this is a partial explanation. Where a fight is imminent there is no restraining force quite so potent as the consciousness in both parties to the encounter that a decided advantage lies with one side or the other.

To the stronger party this assurance of superior strength brings with it a certain degree of poise and restraint. Upon the weaker side it has a sobering influence that tends to bring passion under the sway of reason. This is the argument on which the nations of the world justify the increase of their armaments in the interests of peace, and it has its application to the situation we are discussing.

Physical strength is instinctively associated with the male sex, just as physical weakness is naturally regarded as an attribute of women. When pitted against the bluecoats the striking girls have an intuitive sense of their inferiority in the matter of physical force, and, notwithstanding their resistance, they really expect to be controlled. After the first strong outburst of fury has spent itself they are likely to yield with comparative complacency. With the policewomen, on the other hand, they feel that they are contending with their equals in the matter of strength. Their chances of successful resistance are therefore good, and they keep up the fight. Resentment at the thought that they are being coerced by women who are apparently their equals and who should naturally be their allies lends an additional impetus to their fury.

But there is yet another and more fundamental reason why women are not likely to prove successful in this particular field of activity. This is to be found in the well-established fact that women are physiologically more irritable or excitable than men. That is to say, they respond more readily and directly to stimuli, whether physical or psychical.

The question need not be raised here whether this is a mark of inferiority or superiority. If any one is disposed to raise the question, the answer is that it is neither. It is unfortunate that the matter of relative superiority is implied in almost every discussion of differences of the sexes, for it is just this implication that prompts so many feminists to maintain that sex differences do not exist at all. The fact is that differences do exist, fundamental and immutable differences, and the only wise course is to recognize their existence.

This point is so vital in the present day discussion of the woman movement and so much overlooked that we feel justified in going just a little out of our way to quote from a recent article by Miss Ida Tarbell, a woman who certainly cannot be accused of being an "old fogy" on the question of woman's place in modern life:

"Doing a man's work in a man's way almost invariably means for a woman self-consciousness, friction, self-suppression. It is costly to society and to the individual, for it means at least the partial atrophy of powers and qualities peculiar to women and essential to the harmony, the charm, and the vigor of society. Her differences are her strength. Their full growth completes the human cycle. To suppress these differences is to rob not merely her individual life, but the life of the world of its full ripeness.

"There is a grave need, in this country particularly, of lifting the suffrage debate from the narrow lines it has followed, stripping it of false assumptions and of impossible claims, and centering it about a woman more nearly typical than the melancholy figure which so far has served it. * * * Woman is not asked to prove her equality to man by doing in his way the things he does. She proves it by doing the things for which she is fitted and which the world needs from her."

This greater excitability or affectability of women, which is perhaps the characteristic by which she differs most from man, is the source of her greatest weakness as well as her greatest strength. Women as a class are noted for their tact, for their ability to sense a situation immediately and to adjust themselves promptly to varying conditions. Their intuitions with respect to important problems that are incapable of logical analysis are more likely to be accurate than those of a man. These are a few of the advantages accruing from this heightened susceptibility.

On the other hand, this same quality tends to a certain degree of instability in life and conduct.

When woman occupies the place of physical force she is naturally apt to be more violent and cruel than man. History contains innumerable instances of this, from Jael in the Bible, down to the female furies of the French Revolution and the Commune. Cleopatra and Catherine the Great were examples of it. Legend tells us of Tamyris, Queen of the Massagetes, who treacherously slew her chivalrous opponent, Cyrus, King of Persia, and kept his head in a bag by her pillow as a memento of her triumph.

Women are more likely than men to act hastily, to form snap judgments, to confuse means and ends, and to resort to tears when logic fails. Physically, it shows itself in a greater tendency to spasmodic effort and more rapid exhaustion. Experiments with the dynamometer show that women tend to reach their maximum power at the first effort, while men more often only attain their maximum power at the second or third effort.

Now it is just these characteristics that disqualify women from coping successfully with situations that policemen are so often called upon to face. The police officer need not be a man of exceptional intelligence, but qualities essential to his success are those of patience, poise and deliberation, as well as promptness and certainty of action. And it is just these qualities, on the other hand, that nature apparently has denied to women.

Policewoman Anna M. Morrison at Her Morning Exercises.

There is still another reason why female offenders are likely to fare better at the hands of the regular bluecoats than at the hands of the policewomen. This is to be found in the instinctive respect that men, on the whole, have for members of the opposite sex. There are those who assert that this characteristic of men is rapidly disappearing, and this may to some extent be true.

However, there still are to be found many men who will yield ready compliance with the rule of "women first" in case of shipwreck, and there is even an occasional man who will give up his seat to a woman in a crowded car. We can not so readily eradicate a feeling that is as old as the race itself, and policemen do not differ widely from average men. Even when called upon to use force in the suppression of disorder caused by women, the average policeman will use no more violence than is necessary to accomplish his purpose. The female officer, on the other hand, is not subject to compunctions. The female offender is to her merely a violator of law whose authority she represents and whose majesty she must vindicate.

For these reasons, then, this experiment seems destined to result in failure.

One of the Ten Chicago Policewomen on Duty in Her Regulation Uniform.

The Alarming Possibility of a Wireless Wave Zone Where Ships Explode Like Bombs

EXTRAORDINARY dangers to life and health are said to have arisen as a result of the powerful wireless telegraphic waves that are now flowing unceasingly around the world.

Franck Duroquier, a French electrician and wireless expert, has called attention to some of these dangers. He shows that the wireless or Hertzian waves produce large sparks between pieces of metal placed close together. These phenomena may occur at many places within the influence of a wireless station. The sparks are capable of setting fire to gases and other inflammable material.

The disturbances are greatest at points midway between two important wireless stations. Thus he found that the spot where the steamship Volturno mysteriously burned was midway between the stations of Clifden, Ireland, and Glace Bay, Newfoundland; that Cardiff, Wales, where a disastrous explosion of coal gas recently occurred, was midway between Paris and Clifden, and that Toulon, France, where three French battleships have blown up, is midway between the Eiffel Tower, Paris, and Bizerta, the great wireless station on the Mediterranean.

William Marconi, the principal inventor of wireless telegraphy, has announced a new device that appears to have an important relation to these experiments. He has invented an electric lamp that can be lighted at a distance of six miles by the wireless current.

Mr. Marconi says that this experiment may be the forerunner of the application of the wireless waves to power, lighting and heating currents. The mere fact that the wireless can light lamps at a distance appears to prove the possibility of igniting inflammable substances at the same distance.

M. Duroquier, the French expert referred to, has gone deeply into the reasons why the wireless waves cause fires and explosions. Electricians, he says, know that the sudden discharge of an electric spark is the source of a radiating energy capable of producing at a great distance upon devices called "resonators" powerful vibratory movements, which in turn will produce other sparks. This phenomenon was observed for the first time by the famous German physicist Hertz by means of a thin metallic disc placed in an isolated conducting field.

In the first place M. Duroquier points out, they have made use of this curious property of the electric spark in England to blow up from a distance the hull of an old warship. The details of the operation have been kept secret by the engineers because it may have great importance in war operations, but a similar experiment can be carried out by any one with very simple apparatus.

Fill a glass globe with a mixture of two parts of hydrogen and one of oxygen and close it with a paraffin plug. Through the plug pass two long steel needles with sharp and polished points, which almost touch one another in the interior of the globe. Then connect each of the needles to two long wires, which you pass to the earth or suspend on posts in diametrically opposite directions.

If you make this experiment on the day of a thunderstorm or if you operate in the neighborhood of a wireless telegraph station you will not have to wait long before an inductive wave will produce a spark from the ends of the needles, ignite the gases and cause the glass to blow up with a loud explosion. It is easy to understand that if a large quantity of gas were gathered in an enclosed space an explosion of tremendous violence and destructiveness might be produced in this way.

The experiment of the British Admiralty is perhaps the first one in which the Hertzian waves have been used intentionally for purposes of destruction. M. Duroquier, however, believes that this ship was not the first one destroyed by electric resonance, and he believes that more than one great disaster may be attributed to this cause.

He has found that the accidental repetition of Hertz's experiment has become quite common on account of the great number of resonators which are now scattered about along the paths covered by the electric wave. It is only necessary that this accident should occur in an inflammable medium to produce a great disaster.

An Atlantic liner may be burnt up under a thunder cloud or within the influence of a wireless telegraph station if merely a few steel chains or a box of nails happen to be left in the overheated air of a coal bunker. A warship may be blown up if some of the shells are placed close together in a badly ventilated ammunition magazine. To blow up a dirigible balloon it needs merely an imperfect contact or a narro w slit in the metallic armature of its covering. A disastrous explosion of gas in a coal mine may occur if a little coal dust separates the steel car from its rails in the mine.

When the Hertzian waves meet the conductive bodies of these chains, shells, metallic frame work, rails and cars, they produce by induction alternating currents which give rise to the dangerous spark at places where the bodies make an imperfect contact.

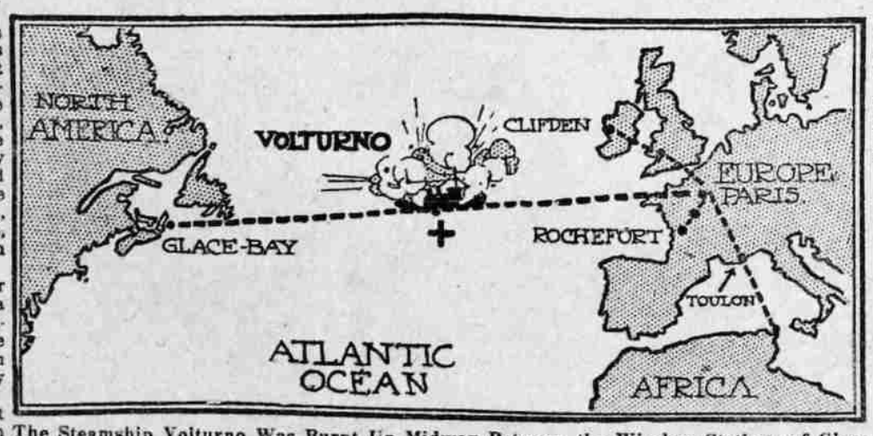
While making experiments at an experimental station in Touraine, France, he often observed that the most delicate instruments on his receiving table were put out of order when the station at Rochefort and that at the Eiffel Tower, in Paris, were transmitting simultaneously. He found that he could obtain an explosion of a bomb filled with gases, as previously described at such times. After noting these facts he studied the position of his laboratory on the map with regard to the two other wireless stations. He found that it was at exactly an equal distance from Rochefort and Paris.

He then looked for other places on the map where interference of waves from powerful wireless stations might cause dangerous zones of resonance. He was astonished to find that the middle point of a straight line connecting the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and Bizerta, the largest French wireless station on the North African coast, marked exactly the site of the naval port of Toulon, where three French battleships have been blown up with great loss of life under very mysterious circumstances.

He then found that the middle point of a line connecting the Eiffel Tower and Clifden, the important station on the Irish coast that sends wireless messages across the Atlantic Ocean, was exactly over the coal mines of Cardiff, in Wales, which were recently the scene of a disastrous and fatal explosion of coal gas.

He next observed that the middle point of a line connecting the Eiffel Tower and Glace Bay, the principal American wireless station, marked the exact spot where the steamship Volturno recently caught fire under mysterious circumstances.

He recommends that persons working in or carrying on business in the vicinity of wireless telegraph stations should avoid keeping inflammable or explosive materials or allowing inflammable gases to accumulate in cellars and other inclosed places.



The Steamship Volturno Was Burnt Up Midway Between the Wireless Stations of Glace Bay and Paris and a Distinguished French Electrician Argues That the Wireless Was the Cause.

The Little Bomb That Will Explode Spontaneously Near a Wireless Station. A—Steel Needles Leading Down to the Gas. C—Wireless Waves Coming from Directly Opposite Stations at an Equal Distance Apart.