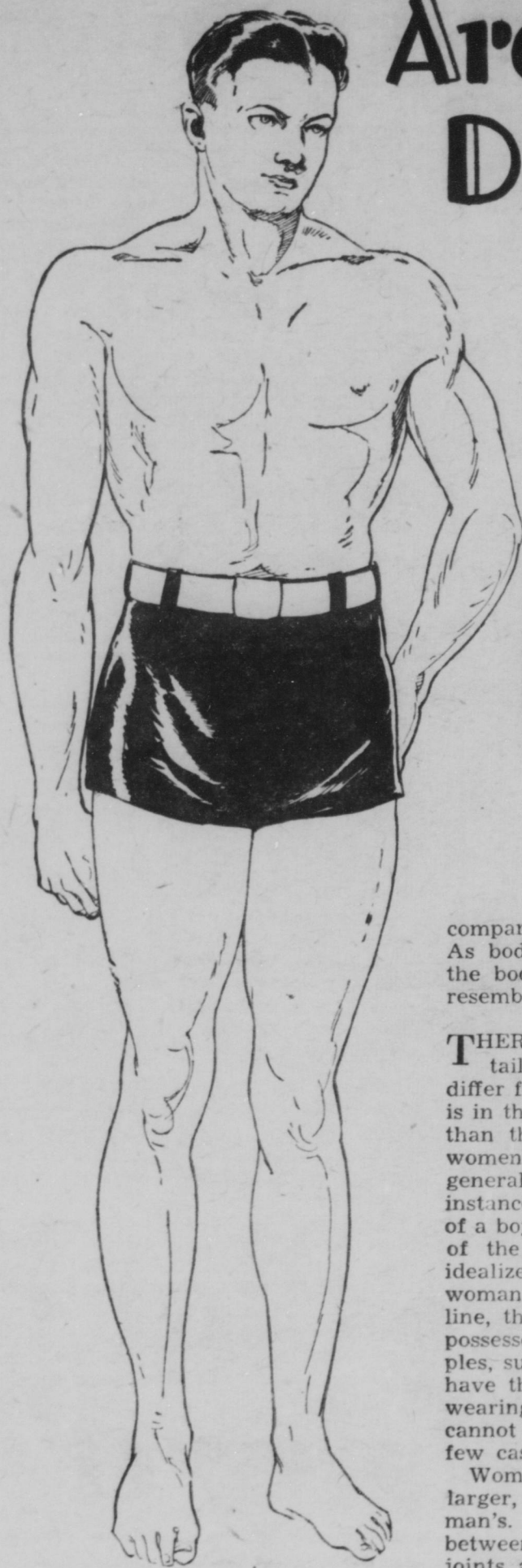


Are Men and Women Different Species?



The masculine body resembles that of the apes, broad shoulders, long arms and legs in proportion to length of trunk.



comparison to the length of their trunk. As body build of men resembles apes, the body build of women in this ratio resembles infants.

THERE is one important general detail, however, in which women differ from men, infants, and apes. This is in their hips being wider, often wider than their shoulders. Of course, some women are slight exceptions to such general statements. Joan of Arc, for instance, had the body proportions more of a boy or man than of a woman. Most of the statues of her in France are idealized and give her the figure of a woman rather than the slightly masculine, though frail, build that she really possessed. Among a few primitive peoples, such as the Tamils, all the women have the Joan of Arc build, and when wearing a loin cloth men and women cannot be told apart, except in a very few cases.

Woman's index finger is relatively larger, and her thumbs shorter than man's. Woman's legs slant inward more between hip and knee. Many of their joints are formed differently.

Their eyes are usually darker. Thyroid gland, stomach, kidneys, bladder, and possibly liver are larger.

The heart of a woman beats faster than man's by 8 to 10 pulsations per minute. Women's blood contains more water, and fewer red cells by a half million per cubic millimeter of blood, and this difference in red corpuscles varies from week to week during the month. In white blood cells, which combat germ invasions, however, there is no consistent difference between men and women. Poets have written about the heart of women without knowing these surprising details.

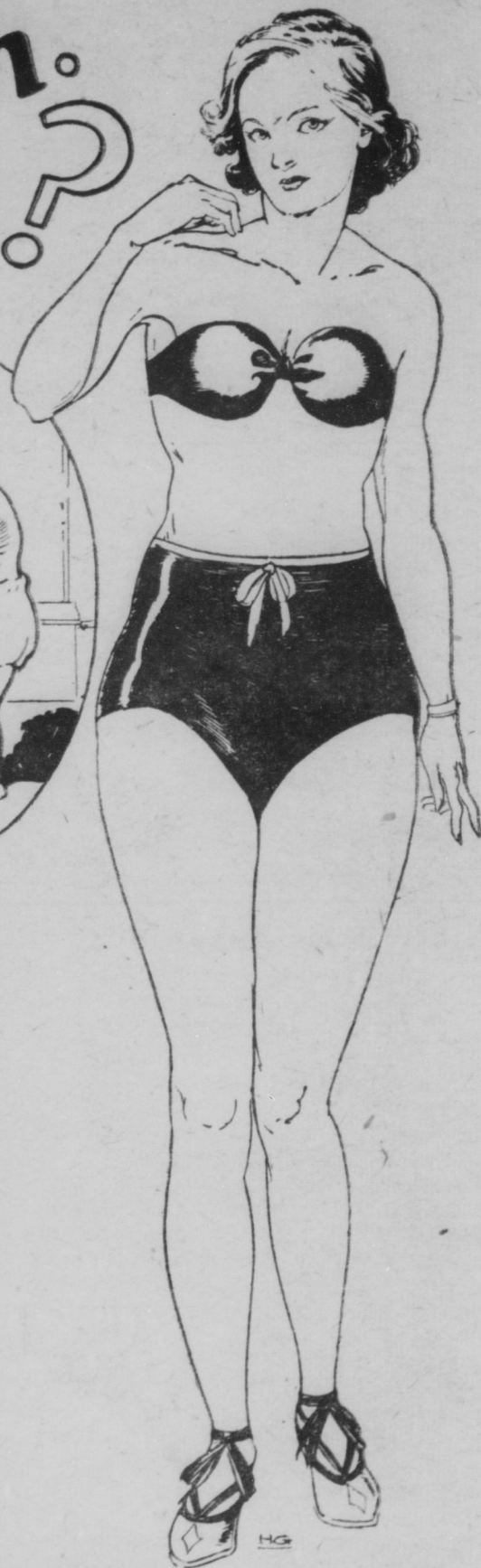
Men have long scornfully mentioned women as "the weaker sex," and not without considerable basis in fact, although it must be admitted that when men use this phrase they are usually ignorant of the facts.

WOMEN do not have the muscular strength of men; but this may be a biological weakness, and it may not, as we shall see shortly. Women are, on the average, about 4 inches shorter and 20 pounds lighter than men. Yet the ratio of weight to strength in the case of women is 1 to 0.54, while in men it is 1 to 0.87.

This means that if a woman weighing 100 pounds could lift at most a weight of 54 pounds, a man of the same weight could lift 87 pounds. This of course does not alter the fact that a 100-pound woman with a 2-pound rolling pin in her hands may be more dangerous than a 200-pound truck driver with a bag of cement under his arms. As we shall see shortly, this strength difference applies even to the women of the American Indians.

This proportionate greater power of

The feminine body is like that of an infant, arms and legs short, trunk long.



Women have a larger per cent of body fat than men. That helps account for both the beauty and swimming prowess of Eleanor Holm Jarrett. But strenuous competition has also developed Mrs. Jarrett's shoulders so that they are as wide as those of a man.

men, even when allowance is made for weight, is not due to environment but to another detail of physical constitution. Women normally have a larger percentage of body fat, and proportionately less muscular tissue. That, of course, gives a roundness and softness to woman's body that is one of her attractions, even though it does make her in fact weaker muscularly.

It also accounts for the aquatic feats of such swimmers as Katherine Rawls, Lenore Kight Wingard, Eleanor Holm Jarrett and others.

Women excel in water sports on account of their relatively larger amount of fatty tissues. This tissue has a lower specific gravity and consequently is more buoyant.

Some feminists would like to minimize such observations as these and claim that men are stronger than women because this is unfortunately a "man's world," and that if women worked in the open or at manual labor as men do, then woman's strength would be as great as man's.

DR. ALES HRDLICKA of the Smithsonian Institution has probed this question in a special study of strength among American Indians where the women did all the hard work. Here, surely, where women have every opportunity to develop maximum muscular strength, is a test of whether these significant sex differences are due to environment and custom, or to a basic and inherent difference.

The Indian women, Dr. Hrdlicka found, in spite of their full opportunity for muscular development, had only about 66 per cent of the strength of their indolent men. And, further, Indian men are taller than Indian women to about the same degree that white men exceed white women. And, although the Indian heart beats slower than the paleface's heart, nevertheless the heart of Indian women beats as much faster as the white woman's heart beats faster!

Brain size and weight furnish more interesting contrasts between men and women. The average man's brain weighs from 1350 to 1400 grams, while the average woman's brain ranges from 1200 to 1250 grams. Woman's brain thus is about 10 per cent lighter or smaller than man's.

Scientists are still uncertain, however, about the importance of mere brain weight; some think that the ratio of brain weight to body weight is the important indicator, others—and more recently—that it is really the size of the blood vessels supplying the brain that counts.

The 10 per cent difference in weight between man's and woman's brain favors the woman, for woman's body weight is 15 to 18 per cent less than man's, giving her relatively more brain ratio.

The sex differences outlined in this article are essential facts.

But what do all these differences add up to? Do they mean that man or that woman is the superior creature?

The reader will have to decide these and other similar and fascinating questions for himself.

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EVERYONE is acquainted with the superficial differences between men and women. Differences in complexion and fairness of skin, voice differences, rough differences in height and weight, in body contour, and even size of feet. But more important and less obvious physical differences between men and women ordinarily pass unnoticed. And many of these seldom observed sex differences are of considerable racial and individual importance in social relations, life work, and happiness, of such importance that scientists have devoted much study to them.

As Dr. Knight Dunlap, famous psychologist, observes, "not only are the psychological differences closely related to the physiological and anatomical differences, but in the present state of our knowledge it is impossible to evaluate properly in the field of psychological differences without a consideration of these others."

These ordinarily invisible sex differences are, in fact, so marked that the late Jacques Loeb, distinguished biologist of the University of Chicago, considered men and women different species. As distinct as ducks are from turkeys, horses from zebras, a fox terrier from a St. Bernard!

What, then, are some of these physical differences that make many men of science take this view? For one thing, men are built more like apes. Men, comparatively speaking, have long arms and legs and a short trunk; this is the general body or morphologic build of the apes. Women, in contrast, almost uniformly have short arms and legs in