

# Science May Deal Staggering Blow To American Kissing Custom

By DELOS SMITH  
 United Press Science Editor  
 New York—UP—During the coming year, science may deal a staggering blow to one of the most pleasant aspects of the American way of life, the custom of men to kiss women on the lips and vice versa.

This custom is responsible for the spread of disease with a very impressive name, infectious mononucleosis. It is commonly called "glandular fever."

The laboratories saw trouble for the American way of life if and when the proof is forthcoming. "It is awesome to speculate," said a laboratory advisory address to the medical profession, "on the increased amount of explaining which

might occur if one married partner contracted the disease while the other remained well."

Frequently Youthful

The evidence so far explains certain epidemiological oddities of the disease which, hitherto, have defied a scientific explanation. Why does infectious mononucleosis become epidemic among the younger nurses and the interns and young resident doctors in hospitals, but not

among veteran nurses and older doctors. And why will it be epidemic among boys and girls in co-educational colleges, but not among their teachers.

Dr. R. J. Hoagland, who is responsible for much of the growing scientific indictment of kissing as a spreader of the disease, has pointed out that he was a medical officer at West Point for six years. The cadets commonly caught infectious

mononucleosis, but clearly when away from the reservation. Room-mates never got it from one another, although they got all sorts of other infections, particularly the common cold.

Kissed Only His Wife

The writer discussed the evidence in its relation to these epidemiological oddities with an elderly professor of epidemiology. For years, as a matter of scientific hygiene, he has kissed

no one except his wife and he has taken to kissing her only on the cheek. This he told himself, to show that he certainly was no partisan of kissing.

He saw the possibility that young nurses and young doctors may kiss. He was willing to accept without proof that college boys and girls frequently kiss one another. He was certain that West Point room-mates never kiss one another. But he was

not convinced that kissing and the spread of infectious mononucleosis were connected.

Researchers Hard At Work

Why is it that all scientific efforts to transmit the virus by taking nose and throat washings of patients and having uninfected persons gargle with those washes, have failed, he demands. Dr. Hoagland has suggested that the virus can live only in the warm wetness of the mouth, through a kiss, it moves from one warm, wet mouth into an-

other without ever being subjected to the warming and drying of free air.

"It is quite plausible," said the professor. "But plausibility is not scientific proof." But a number of experiments are underway and the final proof may not be far away. However, Abbott Laboratories suggested that even the proof may not prevent epidemics or decrease the amount of viruses going around among and between people, "human nature being what it is."

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- Three Sisters Sliced Beets ..... No. 303 can 10¢
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  - Paul Masson Sparkling Burgundy ..... fifth \$4.25
  - La Croix Champagne ..... fifth \$2.75
  - Ceremony Sparkling Burgundy ..... fifth \$4.25
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### PARTY SNACK Suggestions FOR New Year's Eve



- Cheezits Crackers
- Hi-Ho Crackers
- Salty Twist Butter Pretzels
- Very Thin Pretzel Sticks
- Smoked Oysters
- Stuffed Olives
- Smoked Baby Clams
- Anchovy Filets
- Anchovy Paste
- Imported Capers
- Sweet Onions
- Pickled Onions
- Watermelon Circles
- Society Hot Mix Pickles
- Palace Hot Wax Peppers
- Vita Cherry Peppers
- Imported Italian Peperoncini
- Fannings Bread & Butter Pickles
- Chopped Olives
- Welsh Rarebit
- Mexitreat Pumpkin Seeds
- Preserved Kom Quats