



"Pin-Up" Girl Psychology (by Salamander)

The practice of decorating one's habitation with unconventional pictures of undraped females is peculiar to soldiers, voodoo priests, and other savages.

Surprisingly enough, the Kiwi is not so violently addicted to the habit as some other members of the Allied forces. Whether this is because his imaginative powers are at a somewhat low ebb, or whether he just doesn't care for that sort of thing is a matter for conjecture.

Admittedly, a soldier's living quarters are usually so drab that any sort of pictorial display helps to relieve the general monotony. There is the story—a true one—of the Kiwi who half-jokingly asked his Padre if he had a pin-up girl to give away. With commendable promptitude the Padre said that he had such a picture and handed over a brown paper package. The soldier gleefully returned to his quarters, unwrapped his prize and found therein a picture of the Virgin Mary.

Accepting the challenge, he pinned up the engraving. Net result was a remarkable diminution of profanity and the all-too-common smutty talk in that particular neck of the woods. This aspect of the psychological effect of such a decoration is unusual, but it does prove that the soldier mind can be influenced for good or bad according to the nature of the embellishment.

Coming down to the other end of the scale we have the more common style of picture, culled as a rule from the elaborately produced American magazines. Often they are definitely works of art and the colour and draughtsmanship make them worthy

efforts. Occasionally there are found photos of woman film stars of the kind widely distributed by their publicity agents. Those are almost invariably posed in such a way as to focus the attention upon one or the other of the better-known feminine charms, and in that particularly uninhibited American way, make no bones about the object of the picture.

In passing, do WAACs pin up pictures of toothy, male film stars? It would be interesting to get an angle on this, so perhaps one of them would care to enlighten the editors and satisfy their curiosity.

Psychiatrists maintain that the collection and display of pictures of female beauty in varying degrees of undress constitute a form of substitution. Particularly is this understandable in the case of the soldier. Denied as he is



for the most part of feminine company, sometimes for years, it is small wonder he seeks some sort of outlet by an innocuous habit of clipping snappy lingerie advertisements.

Seldom does any harm come from the practice. Occasionally there is to be found the crank who places so much importance on the substitute that the genuine article is pushed into the background. If he allows this obsession to run away with him, he then stands in danger of becoming unpleasantly neurotic. If he is wise, he should take immediate steps to consult a properly qualified psychiatrist,