Finger’s “Phantom Penis: Historical Dimensions”

“Phantom Penis: Historical Dimensions,” Nicholas J. Wade and Stanley Finger, Journal of the History of the Neurosciences: Basic and Clinical Perspectives, vol. 19, no. 4, 2010. (Thanks to investigator Neil Martin for bringing this to our attention.) The authors, at the University of Dundee, Scotland and Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, explain:

We here present several early reports on phantom penile sensations, with the intent of showing what had been described and why more than 200 years ago.

Expectations and Experiences at In-Home Sex Toy Parties

“The Sexual Consumer: Characteristics, Expectations, and Experiences of Women Attending In-Home Sex Toy Parties,” Vanessa Schick, Debby Herbenick, Kristen N. Jozkowski, Sofia Jawed-Wessel, and Michael Reece, Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy, vol. 39, no. 2, March 2013, pages 160–75. The authors, at Indiana University, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Nebraska, explain:

In-home sex toy parties may enrich women’s sexual experiences by providing attendees with an opportunity to learn in a nontraditional setting. In the present study, more than 2,500 party attendees were surveyed regarding their party experience and sexual history. Participants reported high scores on the Female Sexual Function Index with repeat attendees scoring significantly higher than their counterparts.

Swiss Sexual Emergencies

“Sexual Activity–Related Emergency Department Admissions: Eleven Years of Experience at a Swiss University Hospital,” Carmen Andrea Pfortmueller, Jana Nimia Koetter, Heinz Zimmermann, and Aristomenis Konstantinos Exadaktylos, Emergency Medicine Journal, epub October 25, 2012. (Thanks to Keith Wrenn for bringing this to our attention.) The authors, at University Hospital Bern, report:

Two men had cardiovascular emergencies. 46 (10.3%) of our patients suffered from trauma. Neurological emergencies occurred in 55 (12.4%) patients: the most frequent were headaches in 27 (49.0%), followed by subarachnoid haemorrhage (12, 22.0%) and transient global amnesia (11, 20.0%). 154 (97.0%) of the patients presenting with presumed infection actually had infections of the urogenital tract. The most common infection was urethritis (64, 41.0%), followed by cystitis (21, 13.0%) and epididymitis (19, 12.0%). A sexually
transmitted disease (STD) was diagnosed in 43 (16.0%) of all patients presenting with a presumed infection.

Our study showed trauma from sexual intercourse to be more common in men, a finding confirmed by a study by Eke on urologic complications of coitus. In contrast to our study, however, the most frequent injury was penile fracture, which we did not see. We have no explanation for this, other than penile fractures appear to occur more frequently in the Middle East.

Conclusions: Sexual activity is mechanically dangerous, potentially infectious, and stressful for the cardiovascular system.

Measurement of Temporal and Spatial Factors of a Flushing Toilet Noise


In a three-floored apartment, located in a quiet living area of Kobe, one resident was very annoyed by the flushing noise of an upstairs toilet that could be heard in the downstairs bedroom. The purpose of this study is to clarify the characteristics of a flushing toilet noise in a bedroom on the downstairs floor in terms of the temporal and spatial factors extracted from the autocorrelation function and cross-correlation function based on the model of the human auditory-brain system. The results of the measurement showed that the temporal and spatial factors for the flushing toilet noise changed dramatically as a function of time.

Detail from the study “Measurement of Temporal and Spatial Factors of a Flushing Toilet Noise in a Downstairs Bedroom.”