CHAPTER 10

EVALUATING THE ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN IN SCIENCE

Some easily broken rules of interpersonal relationships within the laboratory or department; some less easily broken rules for supervisors; problems with intragroup affairs; the changing role of women in science; typecasting women in science—three types; the true gameswoman—how to recognize her; a multidimensional view of women in science; typecasting men in science, from the "rigid asexual" to the "dirty young man"; the evolving male and his problems; witchcraft and pheromones.

Thus far in this book we have considered scientific games as though they were part of a totally asexual universe. While science itself is asexual, its practitioners are usually not. This simple fact introduces an added and fascinating dimension to the games scientists play, one deserving of extremely careful examination by the prospective player. For ease of description, I have elected to present this material on female-male interactions in three sections. The first, "Sex in the Laboratory," deals with the crudities of direct physical contact;
the second and third sections, "Women in Science" and "Men in Science," explore some of the more delicate, less physical, but still sexually oriented interactions.

SEX IN THE LABORATORY

It is a clearly observable fact that many laboratories are peopled by significant numbers of young attractive females—sometimes by design of the director or principal investigators. Scientists are usually well immersed in their work, but most of them surface often enough to observe such persons in their immediate environment. All this might be singularly stimulating to research and to the joys of a scientific career, except that too often the male (and female) populations of scientific laboratories have outside responsibilities—such as wives or husbands and children.

The close and usually informal working arrangements in most laboratories seem to promote extensive, but episodic extracurricular interplay, often with negative long-term effects on preexisting marriages. The sequence of events is almost predictable. Proximity day after day leads first to awareness of the physical existence of a member of the opposite sex. If there are indications of any degree of receptivity from that person, then discussions ensue—first professional but then increasingly personal; shared lunch hours are early and simple steps in the relationship. Casual physical contact becomes less and less casual and sooner (usually) or later the opportunity for consummation—for complete sexual relations—presents itself. One of the participants may have access to a private room or apartment, or a trip out of town on scientific affairs provides opportunity and a hotel room for the start of a real affair. Liaisons of this garden-variety type are extremely common; most run their courses rapidly, al-