

Sex to Order

"Is it a boy or girl?" Anguished fathers of the future may not have to ask this question.

Biologist Thomas Durfee, director of New Jersey's Applied Research Laboratories, recently found that by douching female rats with a weak solution of bicarbonate of soda, then mating them as soon as possible, the sex of their offspring could be determined with 100 per cent success. All were males.

Lactic acid in place of alkaline bicarbonate of soda ensured the production of all females.

Nothing new is the attempt to determine sex. A Russian woman scientist found out how to separate boy-producing cells from the girl-producing cells by the use of electrical current.

Noted biologists claim they can fix the sex of an oyster's offspring by feeding it special diets; others insist that the parent with the stronger personality gives his or her sex to the child.—*News Review*.