

SOUTH AMERICAN DRINK CAUSES DESIRE TO DANCE

Marathon dancers or those who want to be fresh at three o'clock in the morning after having danced the whole night through, should investigate the properties of a new drink reported to be popular in the backwoods section of the Republic of Colombia and described by Dr. H. H. Rusby of the New York College of Pharmacy. It makes the natives of Colombia want to fight but its effect on more sophisticated white man is to make them want to dance.

At least that was the effect on Mr. Gordon MacCreagh, who personally investigated the matter. The drink is an infusion of parts of a woody plant called Caapi and is taken by the natives when they want to make themselves indifferent to fatigue or danger. The first effect is a driving of the blood toward the heart and internal organs. The drinker becomes pale and anxious, stands up restlessly and may be seized with convulsive tremors. This effect is only transitory and then the subject becomes flushed and excited. Fear or even ordinary caution are forgotten and impelled by a desire for muscular activity he rushed about looking for trouble of any sort. This condition lasts for hours and is followed by a period of weariness and sleepy relaxation.

Analysis of the drug is difficult and indicates its active principles to be a number of alkaloids similar to those found in *nux vomica* and which cause somewhat similar physiological effects.

VACUUM CLEANERS DRAW SECRETS FROM CRIMINALS

Microscopic examination of the dirt and dust upon the clothing of suspects is a new application of science whereby the French police are catching criminals.

After cross-examination, the suspects are stripped of their clothing whose superficial dust is first examined under a strong microscope. A vacuum cleaner is next applied to draw out other dirt into a pan. In some instances a more thorough process in which heating figures is used to separate all particles of foreign matter.

From the dirt thus secured the detectives determine whether the suspect has been telling the truth. One murderer tried to prove an alibi by saying that he had slept in an open field the night of the crime. Microscopic examination of his clothing showed he had slept in a quarry.

An unsuspected carpenter was connected with a murder by means of saw dust found on a piece of overall which the victim had torn from his assailant and which was found at the scene of the crime.

The chief value of the new plan has been in breaking down the bravado of criminals. They frequently confess when shown that their first stories were lies.

Forty thousand rats, capable of doing \$80,000 damage in a year, were recently killed in Monmouth County, N. J. at a cost of seven-tenths of a cent for each rat.
