

DRUG ADDICTS FEWER FEDERAL REPRT SAYS

Drug addiction is on the decline. There are now probably not more than 150,000 addicts in the United States and their number is decreasing, says a report just published by the U. S. Public Health Service. This report is the result of a study of the extent and trend of drug addiction in the United States made by Dr. Lawrence Kolb and A. G. Du Mez, pharmacologist of the Public Health Service. It finds the peak of drug addiction was reached about 1900 when there may have been more than 250,000 addicts, and that the number is now steadily on the decline.

The estimate is based on the findings of numerous investigators and the report of physicians and of addiction clinics during the past 25 years. The highest estimate, made in 1915 gave a total of 269,000 victims. The lowest, based on the experience of the army draft figures, gives a total of 99,500. The former was made in the state of Tennessee and is believed to have been too high, since investigators found that there were proportionately more addicts in the South than in the North.

The reasons for the conviction of the investigators that drug addiction is decreasing are given as the increasing efficacy of measures for the control of the drug trade, the prohibition of imports of smoking opium and the increasing caution exercised by physicians in prescribing habit-forming drugs.

Estimates of the maximum total number of addicts are also derived from the known amount of drugs imported, and the report states:

"To supply with their daily dose the large number of addicts asserted by some to be residing in this country would require enormous quantities of narcotics - quantities far in excess fo those imported at the present time or during any period in the past!"

The period of the greatest importation of opium per capita was the decade ending with 1900. Assuming that all of it was used to supply addicts with either opium or morphin, the total number of victims could not have been more than 246,000. The report adds that the substitution of heroin for morphin would only increase this total by 12 per cent., and the imports of opium at present are less than one-fourth that of 25 years ago. The importation of smoking opium is forbidden.

As to cocaine, the report states:

"The amount of cocaine produced in the world as well as that imported into the United States has always been small in comparieon with opium. The number of addicts in the United States using cocaine alone, based on legitimate importation and assuming that all of the coca leaves and cocaine imported annually was used for the satisfaction of addiction, could never have been more than 18,300."

There are more addicts in prison at present as compared with former years but this the investigators believe to be due to rigid enforcement of recent laws and not to any increase in addiction, since they hold that the present known importations are hardly more than the legitimate needs of medicine. Prison addicts are also thought to be due to the increase in the delinquent type of addict as compared with the normal individual who bacame an addict from medical use. Few cases of recent addiction, the ivestigators say, can be attributed to the prescribing of the drugs by physicians. Summing up, the report concludes:

"From the trend which narcotic addiciton in this country has taken in recent

years as a result of the attention given the problem by the medical profession and law enforcement officers, it is believed that we may confidently look forward to the time, not many years distant, when the few remaining addicts will be persons taking opium because of an incurable disease, and addicts of the psychopathic, delinquent type who spend a good part of their lives in prison."

TIDAL MOTOR MADE BY BULGARIAN

A motor for the utilization of the power of the waves and tides has been designed and put to the test by a Bulgarian engineer, M. Vodenitcharoff, who has been experimenting for 10 years and has now produced a device sufficiently successful to enlist the support of the Bulgarian government, according to reports received at Vienna from Sofia.

The principle of the machine, the fifth which the inventor, has tried, is as follows: A stage, resting on piles is run from the shore into the sea. From this a "receiver" or float, weighing about 20 tons, is hung by a system of chains run over reels of special construction which put into motion a series of cog wheel. The receiver is fastened to the stage in such a way as to move easily in every direction according to the movement of the waves. Every movement of the surface of the water produces a corresponding movement of the receiver.

These irregular and chopping movements are transmitted by the chains and wheels into a regular movement in one and the same direction. Trials of the machine have, so reports say, been remarkably successful and have secured the support not only of the government of Bulgaria but the Chamber of Industry of the city of Burgas. Further experiments on a larger scale are to be made.

SIMPLE SCIENCE

By WOW

BREAD

The nicer our food the weaker our stomachs. The first bread was made out of acorns and beech-nuts, so the Ancients had to have strong stomachs to digest it

The early Egyptians went in for better flour with stronger flavor, so they used barley, wheat, etc., and kneaded the dough with their feet. Today all people need dough. That's because we can't get bread without it.

Wheat flour contains about seventy per cent. of starch, ten per cent of gluten, twenty per cent. of other things including water. The gluten contains nitrogen and is what makes the dough sticky and elastic. To make a high, well-piled loaf of bread the gluten must be plentiful and of good quality. That's why different flour produce different grades of bread, because the gluten varies in amount and especially in quality. European wheat is usually weak in gluten and American hard wheat strong in gluten.

In order to make the dough rise we usually use yeast. At hotels when