

RATS THRIVE ON ALCOHOL RATION

The age old question as to whether use of alcohol affects growth is being investigated by experiments on rats, conducted by Dr. Curt P. Richter at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The animals tested took in an 8 to 16 per cent solution of alcohol as a steady ration, without becoming intoxicated or habituated to alcohol. They ate less food, but they grew just as fast as prohibitionist rats in the same laboratory that drank pure water.

The amounts of alcohol digested by the rats were much greater in proportion to body weight than a man could take aboard and still function normally. This is explained on the grounds that rats have a more active existence than men and so have greater energy requirements.

Dr. Richter found that when the doses were continued over long periods of time, the rats which took alcohol ate 17 to 36 per cent. less than the animals which drank water. In spite of the fact that they ate so much less, they grew just as rapidly and reached the same body weight at maturity as the water drinkers.

Other research has shown that humans, given one-fifth to one-seventh the dose Dr. Richter's rats received on the basis of body weight, also utilized the alcohol and took correspondingly less food. The smaller dose in the case of man allows for the lower demand for calory-producing food, due to a less active existence.

Dr. Richter's experiments are part of a larger series undertaken primarily for the purpose of investigating the factors involved in the production and modification of activity in animals and man. While they indicate that the alcohol replaces an equivalent quantity of food, the results on the intelligence may be different, it is pointed out.

TO ENCIRCLE CITIES WITH NATIONAL FORESTS

Ten million acres of national forests in ten years encircling the great cities and industrial regions of the United States, is the ambitious program which received the endorsement of the second annual National Conference on Outdoor Recreation meeting in Washington recently.

The program calls for the acquisition of two and one-half million acres in the Great Lakes region, from three to four million acres in the region of the White Mountains and the Appalachians, and two and one-half million acres of the remaining pine forests in the South. It is expected that these great zones of wilderness will not only provide breathing-places for the dense population of the great commercial and industrial centers but will more than pay for themselves under a policy of scientific forest management. The toleration of destructive unregulated grazing of stock in national forests was opposed by the Conference.

The Conference also placed itself on record as favoring the proposed extension of the Yellowstone National Park to include the headwaters of the Yellowstone River and the Teton mountain range, and boundary adjustments of Rocky Mountain,

Grand Canyon, Sequoia and Mount Rainier national parks. It also backed the Game Refuge Bill, and endorsed the policy of federal aid for highways.

The National Conference on Outdoor Recreation was called into being by President Coolidge in 1924, as a means of coordinating the activities of the numerous organizations interested in various aspects of outdoor life in America. In addition to official delegates of the Federal and State governments about one hundred independent organizations were represented at the meeting.

INDIAN TRIBES SEEK INDEPENDENCE

The "Six Nations" of Indian tribes, famous in history as the allies of the French in the French and Indian War which preceded the American Revolution, is one of the latest of small nationalities to claim recognition as an independent nation. They base this claim on a treaty signed many years ago by King George III of England which guaranteed them this right, and their council, held recently at Sour Springs, near Brantford, Ontario, was in the nature of a test case of Indian autonomy, according to Prof. F. G. Speck, professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, who attended the meeting.

According to Prof. Speck, the purpose of the council was to inaugurate the successors of two governing sachems of the confederation who recently died, and to perform the ceremony of condolence on the death of the two chiefs. One was Deskaheh, a prominent figure in the renaissance of Iroquois independence, and who represented the council at the League of Nations, so that the choice of his successor was an important one to the Indian nationalists.

"The council gathered in the old 'Long House' at Sour Springs," said Prof. Speck, "and packed it to capacity. Always with strict regard for the formal procedure of their ancestors, the dignity of this occasion was rendered still more pronounced because it was a crucial one in their history."

"The condolence ceremony opened," Prof. Speck continued, "when representatives of the three brother tribes, the Mohawks, Onandagas and Senecas, met to sing the ceremony of the approach to the bonfire, after which a song of condolence was sung and words of consolation were delivered by the Mohawk chief Dah-ek-kah and a string of wampum passed around. After further rites, including six more condolence songs, chief Abram Charles, of the Cayugas, offered the final acceptance address, and requested the privilege of presenting the successors of the dead chiefs.

"Mrs. Louise Miller, the chief matron of the Cayugas, then led forth Alexander General as the successor of Deskaheh; and the second successor, James Johnson, was led forth by another Cayuga matron as the one to assume the title of Deh-yoh-doh-weh-kon. Representatives of the bereaved tribes were then formally asked if the successors were acceptable to them and after deliberation Ho-noh-we-yeh-don voiced their approval and acceptance, concluding the formal rites of the inauguration.

"After this, the parties, arranged on either side of the fire, were asked if any had any interesting dreams to recite, to which invitation several responded. Lest the psychoanalyst be startled by this statement, I might say that reference to dreams among the Six Nation Indians means 'important news'!"
