

PSYCHIATRY—PHYSIOLOGY

# New Reducing Drugs Promise Aid in Fighting Mental Ills

## Medicines, Which Cause Patient to Use Oxygen Faster, Improve Condition of Schizophrenics

**T**WO new and potent reducing medicines may prove to be the means of bringing certain mental disease patients back from their dream world to the real world of sanity. This possibility is indicated by a report by Drs. J. M. Looney and Roy G. Hoskins of Boston, presented before the American Psychiatric Association.

The medicines have the long chemical names of dinitro-phenol and dinitro-ortho-cresol. They cause patients to lose weight by making their body fires burn faster, using excess body fat as fuel and burning it off.

The process requires the patients to use up more oxygen, and it is this feature that suggested the use of the drugs for the treatment of the mental disease known as schizophrenia.

### Unwaking Sleep-Walkers

This mental ailment has been compared to a dream state, the patients resembling sleep-walkers who do not awaken. Not only are their minds in a dream state but the physiological processes of their bodies are slowed up, somewhat as they are slowed up in normal persons during sleep.

Dr. Hoskins had found previously, among other things, that such patients use less oxygen during their waking hours than do normal persons. Whether this decreased consumption of oxygen is a cause of the disease is not known; but it is significant that when normal persons are deprived of oxygen, they develop certain symptoms seen in schizophrenia. These symptoms include defective judgment, slowness of perception, inattentiveness, silly laughter, anger without adequate cause, destructiveness, mental confusion and even hallucinations and delusions. All these symptoms, characteristic of schizophrenia, have appeared in normal persons whose oxygen consumption was reduced.

Following this lead, Drs. Looney and Hoskins gave the new reducing medicines to ten schizophrenic patients. Two of them improved during the treatment,

but not enough time has elapsed to show whether the improvement will be lasting and actually due to the influence of the drugs.

However, since no significant harmful effects have been observed, the Boston investigators feel justified in continuing the treatment long enough to determine its worth.

The fact that no harmful results followed the treatment with these medicines is important, because they are so powerful that if they are not given in proper doses they may produce serious results. Deaths have followed their use by persons who took them without a physician's guidance.

One of the medicines, dinitro-ortho-cresol, turned the patients' skins yellow after a time, but there was no evidence of damage to the liver, and the yellow color disappeared two days after the medicine was stopped. This skin discoloration may prove a practical danger signal in the use of this drug, Drs. Hoskins and Looney pointed out.

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PSYCHOLOGY

## Queer Oriental Art Due To Their Perception

**"WHAT** queer perspective!" This criticism of a Japanese or Chinese print arises out of the fact that the world looks different to Oriental and Occidental eyes.

Dr. Robert H. Thouless of Glasgow University discovered differences in racial perception, by giving psychological tests to 20 East Indian students and 49 British students at Glasgow University.

When an Oriental artist paints the background people in a picture by putting them at the top, and making them just as large as the foreground people at the bottom, he is painting the world as he sees it. If he leaves out shadows, that too is because shadows play less of a part in his perception of the world around him.

"The Orientals," said Dr. Thouless in a report to the *Journal of Social Psychology*, "see objects in a manner much further from the principles of perspective than do the majority of Europeans, and also they tend not to see shadows."

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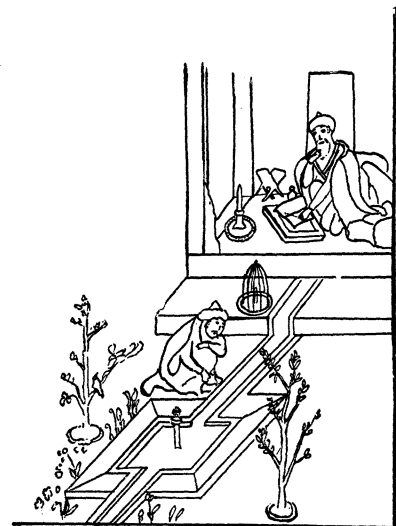
PHYSIOLOGY

## High Altitude Effects To Be Studied on Himalayas

**H**OW MEN and other animals adapt themselves to very high altitudes and what result such adaptation has on their bodies will be studied in the high mountain country north of Kashmir, British India, by an expedition under the leadership of Dr. Ancel Keys of the Harvard University Fatigue Laboratory. The field work will be carried on in the spring and summer of 1935.

Detailed observations will be made at the highest altitude of any scientific ground expedition in history, according to the present plans. As much as possible of the investigation will be carried out at altitudes greater than 20,000 feet. Continuous observations will be made, but especially detailed studies will be made at sea level, at 5,000 feet, 11,000 feet, 14,500 feet, 17,500 feet and 19,500 feet and at the same stations coming down.

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### FOR ORIENTAL EYES

The perspective in this illustration from an Indian book published about 1585 is not queer to Oriental eyes, because of racial differences in the way Orientals see things. The circular mat on which the candle rests in this drawing is much nearer to a circle than we would make it. The sides of the fountain, which appear divergent to Western eyes because they do not converge, are truly parallel to the Oriental.