

the point where the parents saw it as abnormal.

Our children, she suggested, may have developed a certain immunity to horror stories as a result of their constant exposure to them by way of radio, comics and movies.

Her opinions were based on studies of children referred to the Chicago Institute for Juvenile Research in the wake of a highly-publicized kidnaping of a six-year-old girl, later found murdered and dismembered, which occurred in the heart of a middle class residential section of Chicago.

Six children, from seven to 11 years,

were brought to the Institute because they could not sleep or had bad dreams due to fear of kidnaping after reading newspaper accounts of the crime.

Without exception, Dr. Schroeder-Sloman said, all six children were insecure, had poor relationships with their parents, and could not trust them for protection. This easily explained their nervous condition.

Harder to understand, she said, was the lack of concern on the part of the majority of children in view of the tremendous amount of sensational publicity which had produced general anxiety in grown-ups.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1948

PSYCHIATRY

CO₂ As Mental Treatment

Patients inhale soda water gas and sleep, awaking relaxed and able to face their problems. Doctors took treatment themselves.

➤ CARBON DIOXIDE, the soda-water gas, is helping the mentally sick back to health, the American Psychiatric Association was told at its meeting in Washington.

The patients inhale the gas, mixed with oxygen. After 15 or 20 inhalations, they fall quietly into a deep slumber. Sometimes they dream. Sometimes not. When they wake up they are more relaxed and comfortable. And best of all, they can face their problems, talk them over with the psychiatrist, and win their way back to mental health.

Success with this treatment in 18 out of 37 patients was reported by Dr. J. A. Kindwall and five associates of the Milwaukee Sanatorium, Wauwatosa, Wis. There was no noticeable change in 11 and eight had their symptoms aggravated.

One patient who had been in a psychoneurotic depression for three years, with physical as well as mental symptoms, had 75 treatments and in five months was well. Another patient, with schizophrenic depression, became more tense under the treatments. They distressed her so that she was given only 15. She got well after electro-shock treatments given during insulin coma. But looking back she herself attributed much of her improvement and recovery to the carbon dioxide treatments. Whether she was right or wrong about this, her physicians do not know.

The patients who had pleasant or

neutral feelings with the treatment were helped, while those who were distressed or frightened by the carbon dioxide experiences were not.

Signs of addiction to the treatment appeared, even in patients who were distressed by it. Because they felt relaxed and more comfortable after each treatment, they often asked for more.

Several of the doctors took the treatments themselves. One took 97, averaging four a week with 30 to 40 inhalations of the gas each time. In about half the sessions he could recall no dreams but was aware that thoughts, mostly of daily events, were going through his mind. For the rest of the treatments he could recall dreams of a pleasant nature, often with romantic coloring. During one treatment he dreamed of an atomic bomb explosion but with no fear or unpleasantness.

"It was like a total dissolution, a pattern completed," he reported. He felt relaxed and comfortable during the dream. This dream occurred not long after one of his patients had a terrifying atom bomb dream while under the gas.

This doctor's personality did not change under the treatments, so far as he and his associates could tell.

Associated with Dr. Kindwall in the study of this new treatment were: Drs. Lewis Danziger, Ray Headlee, Carroll W. Osgood, H. Gladys Spear and Benjamin A. Ruskin.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1948



FOUR-SECOND CAMERA—The physician can read the record of a patient's heart almost as the beats are recorded. Shown at the camera is the inventor, Charles J. Glasser.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera Develops Film In Only Four Seconds

➤ A CAMERA which develops moving photographic paper or film four seconds after the picture is snapped has been developed for medical use.

Claimed to have the fastest complete developing process yet achieved, the new camera was built for medical work but may have applications in other fields of photography. The camera was successfully demonstrated by the Beck-Lee Corporation, Chicago.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1948

METALLURGY

Iron Powder Can Be Made More Cheaply

➤ HIGH-PURITY iron powder for chemical and metallurgical uses is made more cheaply than formerly in the process on which William J. Kroll of Niagara Falls, N. Y., has taken out patent 2,441,770. By this method, anhydrous ferrous chloride is reacted with anhydrous ammonia at a temperature between 500 and 675 degrees Centigrade, and the nitrated iron thus produced is then reduced, yielding pure iron, finely powdered.

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