

MEDICINE

Test Tells Alcoholic

Answers to 20 questions will reveal your dependence on drink. "Yes" to three or more of these shows that you are definitely an alcoholic.

► A 20-QUESTION test you can give yourself will tell you whether or not you are an alcoholic, Dr. Robert V. Seliger, director of the National Committee on Alcohol Hygiene, Baltimore says.

Here are the questions:

1. Do you lose time from work due to drinking?
2. Is drinking making your home life unhappy?
3. Do you drink because you are shy with other people?
4. Is drinking affecting your reputation?
5. Have you ever felt remorse after drinking?
6. Have you gotten into financial difficulties as a result of drinking?
7. Do you turn to lower companions and an inferior environment when drinking?
8. Does your drinking make you careless of your family's welfare?
9. Has your ambition decreased since drinking?
10. Do you crave a drink at a definite time daily?
11. Do you want a drink the next morning?

12. Does drinking cause you to have difficulty in sleeping?

13. Has your efficiency decreased since drinking?

14. Is drinking jeopardizing your job or business?

15. Do you drink to escape from worries or troubles?

16. Do you drink alone?

17. Have you ever had a complete loss of memory as a result of drinking?

18. Has your physician ever treated you for drinking?

19. Do you drink to build up your self-confidence?

20. Have you ever been to a hospital or institution on account of drinking?

If you have answered yes to any one of the questions there is a definite warning that you may be an alcoholic. If you have answered yes to any two, the chances are that you are an alcoholic. If you have answered yes to three or more, you are definitely an alcoholic.

Alcoholics must really want treatment or it will not be effective.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

MARINE BIOLOGY

Eat Oysters Year 'Round

► OYSTERS ARE just as good in the four "R-less" months of May, June, July and August as during the rest of the year. In fact they are at their best in May.

This is the opinion of Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson, professor of zoology at Rutgers University, who appeared with Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, on the CBS Radio Network's "Adventures in Science" program.

Dr. Nelson, as his father before him, directs the oyster research project of the university. He praised the oyster as being one of the richest foods in vitamins and salts. They are produced at the rate of 90,000,000 pounds a year, he told Mr. Davis.

In these modern days, he pointed out, oysters are produced by methods quite similar to commercial farming. The "farms" extend along the Atlantic coast.

The legend about "R-less" months grew up with European colonists who brought to America their unpleasant experience in eating European oysters during May, June, July and August. European oysters are miserable at this time of year, Dr. Nelson

told Mr. Davis, because the tiny baby oysters in Europe live in the shells and make the oysters gritty.

An oyster feeds himself by pumping as many as 48 quarts of water through his body each day, straining out the algae, tiny plants which make up most of his food. The oyster's pumping apparatus also casts eggs and sperm into the surrounding water, at the proper time of the year, thus insuring future generations for American tables and fish-houses.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

MEDICINE

Resistance of Cells Clue to Cancer Relapses

► GETTING RID of cancer sometimes presents some of the same problems found in getting rid of disease-carrying mosquitoes or flies.

Drugs which kill most cells in a cancerous growth or in leukemia sometimes are resisted by a small minority of the cells. In

fact, it has been discovered, they thrive on the ordinarily lethal doses of the drugs. In somewhat the same way, strains of flies or mosquitoes which are resistant to DDT or other insecticides are developed.

Scientists at the Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, Ala., believe this may be one of the clues as to why relapses occur in cancer. Some drugs, the scientists found, may kill 9,999 out of every 10,000 cancer cells in patients, but the few survivors multiply rapidly and within weeks develop tremendous colonies which are impervious to the effects of the drugs. In two strains of these cells, when the drug is withdrawn, the resistant cancer cells do not multiply so rapidly.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

GERONTOLOGY

Would Ban Pessimism In Treatment of Aged

► PESSIMISM HAS no place in the treatment and care of aged persons, Dr. Malford W. Thewlis, director of the Thewlis Clinic at Wakefield, R. I., declared at the meeting of the American Geriatrics Society in Chicago.

Overworked nurses and physicians all too often treat the aged in institutions too casually and may use cruel words, Dr. Thewlis said.

Arteriosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, is one word which "may spell despair" and should not be used.

"Even physicians," Dr. Thewlis said, "tell their elderly patients that their dizziness, cramps and sleepiness are due to hardened arteries."

"This is cruel and not even based on scientific facts."

Many persons found at post mortem examination to have severely hardened arteries, Dr. Thewlis pointed out, have never during their lives given a history of any symptoms attributable to arteriosclerosis.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

TECHNOLOGY

Gold Film on Windshield De-Ices Electrically

► AIRCRAFT WINDSHIELDS and windows can be de-iced without difficulty or electrical risk using an electrically heated glass coated with a thin film of gold.

Developed at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Eng., the glass is more transparent and has less electrical resistance than previous experimental products using a current-carrying layer of gold on the glass.

The gold is deposited on the glass to a thickness of about one quarter of a millionth of an inch by a special, easy-to-handle process. Current flowing through the gold film generates enough heat to melt ice that forms on the glass.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952