

PSYCHOLOGY

Skid Row Bum Worries

► THE BUM on Skid Row is not the care-free individual that people sometimes think. As a matter of fact he has many more worries than does the typical business man.

This was revealed when a team of scientists of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago interviewed derelicts, criminals and psychotics found in a mission. Results were compared with those obtained from business men contacted in their offices, hotel lobbies and restaurants of the Loop district, and from a group of psychologist colleagues.

The different groups worry about different things.

The Skid Row "bum" is worried about his personal appearance to a much greater extent than is the business man or the scientist. And the peak of his worry on this score comes later in life than for the others.

The psychologist worries more about politics, religion and philosophy than either the business man or the bum. Nine out of ten psychologists are concerned about re-

ligion as compared with only four out of ten business men. The business man is ten years older before he is concerned about politics than either psychologist or derelict.

The Skid Row man is more likely to be worried about sexual morality and marital difficulties than either of the other groups, and his sex worries come later in life. The Skid Row denizen worries more about the neighbors and relatives.

All the men interviewed had their economic worries, but for the Skid Row men this kind of worry covered a much greater part of their lives.

The business man has much fewer worries about confidence in meeting people and giving up important hopes and ambitions.

Details of the study are reported by Drs. R. A. Dykman, E. K. Heimann and W. A. Kerr. Dr. William Seath of the Chicago Christian Industrial League obtained the data on the men from Skid Row.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1952

BIOPHYSICS

Radioactive Adrenals

► TWO ADRENAL gland hormones, one of them a close relative of cortisone, are going to be "manufactured" in radioactive form for research. The work will be done at the Worcester, Mass., Foundation for Experimental Biology under a \$19,800 grant from the U. S. National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, Bethesda, Md.

Hydrocortisone, or Compound F, and corticosterone, or Compound B, are the two which will be made in radioactive form. Radio-hydrocortisone will be made by the perfusion method in which a radioactive sex hormone, progesterone, will be passed through numerous beef adrenal glands.

In some cases of arthritis, hydrocortisone is more effective than cortisone when injected directly into inflamed joints. Cortisone's action may, some scientists think, be

due to its similarity to hydrocortisone which is more commonly found in the body.

Corticosterone has proved useful in research on Addison's disease. But the ways in which these two gland chemicals produce their effects in the body are still a "mystery." Tracer studies with the radioactive forms are expected to give knowledge which eventually should help the millions of arthritics as well as Addison's disease sufferers.

The material is expected to be ready within a year. Dr. Gregory Pincus of the Worcester Foundation is in charge of the work. Scientists wanting some of the material for research must submit formal research proposals to the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1952

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Better Health For Sick Pets

► DOGS, CATS, parrots and other pets are being helped to recovery from illness and accidents, often by the same methods used to help their owners when they get sick. At the meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the following advances were reported:

X-ray treatment is now saving or prolonging the lives of many sick pets which formerly would have had to be destroyed or would have died early deaths.

Dr. Mack A. Emmerson, head of the department of obstetrics, and radiologist at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, said that

it "is now a definitely established part of veterinary science in this country and should develop rapidly in the future."

Some diseases which Dr. Emmerson reported treating with X-rays include: sore feet of a great Dane, swelling of the lymph glands in a dog (life of dog prolonged three years), beak tumor in love bird (pet's life prolonged 18 months), ear growth in Boston terrier female, nasal tumor in a Boston terrier (cured), body tumor and swelling in a seeing-eye dog (cured).

As is the case with human beings, a dog's spinal column sometimes goes out of whack, too, and when this happens, Rover may be in for all sorts of trouble. Dr. B. F. Hoerlein of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, described one type of canine spinal problem, the condition known as protrusion of the intervertebral disk.

When this happens, the dog may develop symptoms of pain and muscle spasms, partial paralysis of the body or an acute form of progressive paralysis and death. Sometimes the dog will get better by itself, but generally treatment is required, Dr. Hoerlein said.

Treatment of two kinds may be used, he said—medication and symptomatic care, or a surgical operation. Both methods have been used with good success, but he emphasized that when symptoms of this trouble develop, treatment should be started early to avoid needless pain and distress to the dog.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1952

Questions

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