

PSYCHIATRY

Drug Quiets Mentally Ill

► MENTAL PATIENTS in the severely excited, or manic, phase of their illness can be quickly quieted and sometimes improved enough to leave the hospital by a new drug, Chlorpromazine, Drs. H. E. Lehmann and G. E. Hanrahan of Verdun Protestant Hospital, Montreal, Canada, report to the American Medical Association's *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry*.

The drug was first announced as effective for stopping nausea and vomiting. (See SNL, Sept. 26, 1953, p. 200.) At that time sedation, or a quieting action, was reported as a side effect. Other side effects were also noted then.

The drug was used for its quieting effect on 71 psychiatric patients aged 18 to 82 years over a period of four months. The Montreal doctors report that it arrested imminent psychotic attacks in four patients, effected recovery and sustained cessation of symptoms in 13 patients, reduced symptoms to the point where patients were able to leave the hospital in seven cases, lessened the symptoms of 27 patients, and failed to cause any improvement in 12 patients. Eight of the patients receiving the drug were still under treatment at the time the report was made.

"The drug is of unique value in the symptomatic control of almost any kind of severe excitement," the doctors pointed

out. "It has pronounced effect on the central nervous system.

"We are particularly impressed with the favorable results in our manic-depressive patients in a chronic manic state, all of whom had been continuously manic or hypomanic for more than a year and had previously failed to respond to standard therapeutic procedures or had had only brief remissions.

"Psychomotor excitement is usually reduced significantly within 24 hours, and sleep at night is often restored within the same period. Feeding problems disappear rapidly, and the patient soon becomes cooperative to nursing care. The psychiatrist is surprised to find his manic patient amenable to reason.

"In acute manic states, Chlorpromazine therapy usually leads to recovery in a shorter time than is required with other, established treatment procedures."

The drug should not, the doctors warned, be expected to act as a cure-all in mental sickness. If the factors in the environment and the conflicts that have caused the sickness cannot be removed or worked out, the drug can only be considered an aid to psychiatric treatment.

Chlorpromazine is made by Smith, Kline and French Laboratories, Philadelphia.

Science News Letter, April 3, 1954

of the Hopewell people that was apparently of Mexican manufacture.

This indicates, Dr. Spaulding explained, that it was the ideas that were imported, not Mexican wares or Mexican people.

The dates of these two great cultural developments have been derived from radiocarbon dates on some of the remains left by the peoples.

Science News Letter, April 3, 1954

GENERAL SCIENCE

Revise Tasks to Save Existing Manpower

► INDUSTRY HAS been advised to revise employees' jobs "downward" so that semi-professional and technically trained persons assume some of the load now carried by professional men and women who actually should be using their special skills exclusively.

This was one of six recommendations made by the National Manpower Council in the interest of better utilization of America's manpower. The recommendations are an outgrowth of a conference held last fall in which 66 national leaders in scientific, industrial and military fields participated. (See p. 220.)

The Council also recommended: a greater investment in physical and financial resources to permit the highest possible use of manpower skills; greater and more effective incentives to cut down employee turnover; development of new work patterns; a revision of personnel training to avoid wastes, and improved leadership and administration.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Two Great Migrations

► TWO GREAT migrations, one of men and their new ideas and the other of ideas alone, were responsible in large part for the cultural development of the native people of eastern and midwestern United States, Dr. Albert C. Spaulding of the University of Michigan told an Anthropological Society of Washington meeting.

The original inhabitants of America had pretty much the same customs and ways of life throughout the land. They lived by hunting and gathering the wild foods of the forest and had little social development. Remains of their bones show that they were a small people, slight and lithe.

However, around the year 1,000 B.C., a new people appeared. They were broad headed, taller and more rugged than the earlier people. They brought with them the revolutionary idea of growing food and introduced a new food, corn. With the leisure provided by agriculture they advanced technological development. They made pottery. And they developed a complex social structure as shown by their burial mounds and the elaborate ritual with which they cared for their dead.

This culture is known to scientists as the Adena culture and it spread over southern Ohio, northern Kentucky, Indiana, West

Virginia and Pennsylvania. Evidence points to the fact that this new people with their new cultural influences came from Mexico.

Another spectacular development occurred about 2,000 years later in the same area. However, this time it was the result of the importation of ideas, not men. The ideas, in this case, too, came from Mexico or through Mexico from farther south.

The people of this new culture, called the Hopewell culture, had a much more intensive agriculture than their predecessors. They built spectacular flat-topped pyramids very like those found in Mexico. They lived in what might almost be called cities, certainly large villages or ceremonial centers. They made a new style pottery of clam shells with a glazed finish that was sometimes ornamented by modeling.

Evidence left behind them showed that these people traveled great distances. They had obsidian from the Rocky Mountains, an alligator jaw from Florida and mica from the Appalachian Mountains. They may have found their way to Mexico and there may have become indoctrinated with new ideas and ways of life. In spite of the architectural styles, art elements and technological elements of Mexican origin, nothing has ever been unearthed in the region



HIGH VACUUM PUMP—Dr. Anatole M. Gurewitsch adjusts a powerful magnet around a vacuum system using the new "ionic pump" developed by him and Dr. W. F. Westendorp of the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, N. Y. (See SNL, March 27, p. 200.)