

PSYCHIATRY

Patients Drug Will Help

► THE PSYCHIATRIST who probably has had the longest experience with one of the new tranquilizing drugs in mental sickness now predicts how many with different kinds of illnesses will be helped by it.

The drug is chlorpromazine. The psychiatrist who made the predictions at the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Chicago is Dr. N. William Winkelman Jr., of the Sidney Hillman Medical Center, Philadelphia. Based on 1,090 patients followed for three years, he predicts that:

1. Of 20 psychoneurotic patients with anxiety, 17 will be benefited.
2. Of 20 with conversion reactions, 15 will be helped.

3. Ten of 20 with phobias, 10 of 20 with secondary depressive phenomena and eight of 20 with obsessions will be helped.

Of 130 schizophrenic patients treated, 61% were improved moderately or better, while an additional 19% were freed from all symptoms, Dr. Winkelman reported.

Of 115 senile patients, 86% treated responded well or better.

Of the patients who would formerly have been hospitalized, 40% were treated as outpatients.

Encouraging results with two newer tranquilizing drugs were reported at the meeting. One of these, promazine, is derived from chlorpromazine and shows promise especially in immediately controlling acute agitation in mental patients, in alcoholics with delirium tremens and in patients on narcotic drug withdrawal, Dr. John D. Schultz of Georgetown University and District of Columbia General Hospital, Washington, reported.

The other relatively new drug, Frenquel, helps about half the schizophrenic patients, Dr. John T. Ferguson, Traverse City, Mich., State Hospital, reported.

A tranquilizing drug with a broader range of application and fewer side effects than chlorpromazine is still needed, Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for New York State at Albany, N. Y., said. He credited tranquilizing drugs with being a major factor in the increased rate

at which patients in New York mental hospitals have recovered enough to go home.

One of the "most powerful" of the tranquilizing drugs is Miltown, in the opinion of Dr. Veronica M. Pennington of Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield, Miss.

It has brought "considerable improvement" to four out of five patients with great improvement in one-third, she reported.

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GEOPHYSICS

Outer Space Radio Noise Tuned in From Satellite

► RADIO NOISE from outer space now shut out by the earth's atmosphere may be listened to from earth satellites to be launched during the International Geophysical Year.

Dr. Homer E. Newell Jr. of the Naval Research Laboratory said this was one experiment being considered for the satellites.

He told a joint meeting of the International Scientific Radio Union and Institute of Radio Engineers in Washington the radio observations would be made by putting a radio receiver on the man-made satellite, tuning it in on a frequency now cut off by the earth's atmosphere. When this antenna picked up signals from outer space, another radio would flash the message back to earth at a different frequency that would penetrate the ionosphere.

Dr. Newell also reported that the U. S. technical panel on the earth satellite program, of which he is a member, is considering measuring the amount of hydrogen in interplanetary and interstellar space.

Other experiments suggested for the satellite include measurements of dust and micrometeors in space and their erosive effects upon the satellite's surface; observation and measurement of the sun's radiation in the ultraviolet and X-ray wavelengths, and measurement of the earth's albedo, a quantity important to weathermen.

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Questions

ANTHROPOLOGY—What legendary people have been found in Thailand? p. 295.

BIOCHEMISTRY—What kinds of molecules may cause mental diseases? p. 290.

ENTOMOLOGY—What fruit pest has invaded Florida? p. 297.

MEDICINE—Why do doctors become drug addicts? p. 293.

PHYSICS—What is one possible method of trapping large amounts of energy for later release? p. 290.

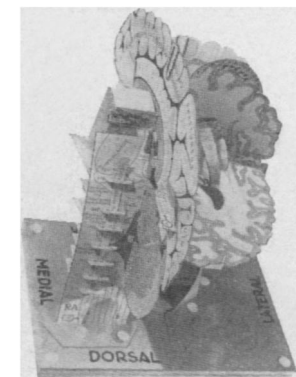
PSYCHIATRY—How do nightmares prevent psychologic death? p. 294.

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SEISMOLOGY—How will a proposed new highway affect delicate instruments at Lamont Geological Observatory? p. 293.

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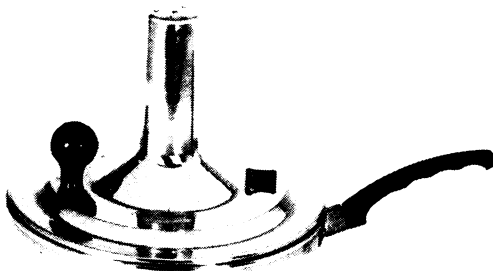


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