

Drinking Women Lovelorn

Alcoholic women who drink at home and live respectably often have emotionally sterile marriages

➤ A COLD dominant mother followed by a cold dominant husband emerged as the consistent pattern in the lives of 69 alcoholic women of upper and middle class status, two Philadelphia researchers have reported.

All 69 women had applied voluntarily for treatment at the Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia. According to Dr. Howard P. Wood and Edward L. Duffy of the Hospital's alcohol research clinic, they represented that group of "invisible" alcoholic women "who drink at home, live respectable lives and are a problem only to their families and themselves."

More than a third of the women had backgrounds of striking similarity, Dr. Wood and Mr. Duffy discovered in psychiatric interviews. The pattern included a "cold domineering mother, a warmer but alcoholic father, a 'miserable self-image,' a cold domineering husband, and a resort to alcohol patterned after the father's drinking."

More than three-fourths of the women said their mothers were dominant in the family, describing them as "rigid, perfectionistic, emotionally distant, and unable to give love in the way the daughter needed it." Half the patients had alcoholic fathers, reported the Philadelphia researchers.

The father, though warmer, was unable to protect his daughter from the dominant mother.

"Our patients grew up submissive and passively resentful, always lacking self-confidence," reported Dr. Wood and Mr. Duffy. "Every one developed feelings of worthlessness and inadequacy which utterly negated her generally superior beauty, talent and intelligence."

Sexual instruction had been "grossly inadequate" and as girls they sensed sex was only tolerated grimly by the mother, the scientists continued. Therefore, while the women developed a "powerful need for love," they were unable to accept it.

Marital troubles usually triggered the patient's quest for treatment, the researchers said, but such trouble did not take the form of promiscuity, infidelity or homosexuality. Instead, their outstanding problem was an "emotionally

unrewarding marriage," with a husband who would not or could not be "reached."

Significantly, those patients with domineering mothers had usually chosen husbands in that image. However, the few (12 patients) with dominant fathers had less often selected men who would control them.

Whether or not a woman from this background turns to alcohol may be determined by which parent she chooses to identify with, stated the researchers in the American Journal of Psychiatry, 123:341, 1966. The daughter who models herself after her "stronger, competent" parent will place a premium on "unimpaired ability to sense, think and act." In this case, alcohol would increase rather than decrease psychic discomfort.

MEDICINE

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➤ THE SEVERE postoperative hemorrhages often occurring during open-heart surgery can be stopped by the injection of an experimental drug called Trasylol.

Trasylol also is valuable when used in cases of blood-clotting defects occurring in pregnancy. It does not cross the placental barrier and does not affect the fibrinolytic enzyme system of the newborn.

Discussed in several reports at a New York Academy of Sciences meeting in New York on proteinase inhibitors, Trasylol also was reported to reduce the duration of coma in patients suffering brain hemorrhage.

Preliminary experiments in animals, reported by Dr. Federigo Sicuteri of the University of Florence, Italy, showed that Trasylol reduces the number of deaths significantly. These experiments were designed to duplicate cerebral hemorrhage as closely as possible. When rats were given doses of heparin that killed control animals, the Trasylol-treated animals survived.

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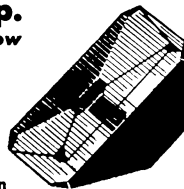
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Disaster Care Items Go To Community Hospitals

➤ MEDICAL supplies that will take care of the critical needs of disaster victims for 30 days are to be placed in the nation's hospitals by the U.S. Public Health Service.

Also, Packaged Disaster Hospitals, formerly assigned to the Office of Civil Defense, but the responsibility of the Public Health Service since 1962, will be transferred from 2,600 locations throughout the United States to community hospitals in high-risk locations. Each package contains 200 Army cots, a water tank and other emergency items.

Dr. Henry C. Huntley, chief of the PHS division of health mobilization, said that any massive disaster, whether brought about by a weather catastrophe or a nuclear attack, would create a strain on available medical resources. Close coordination between the local Civil Defense organization and the local medical community is therefore being encouraged. Cooperation with the American Red Cross will be continued.

Salvaging of items that cannot be kept on the shelf indefinitely will be a prime advantage of the new approach, inasmuch as hospitals can rotate such expendable material.

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