

behavioral sciences

ARCHAEOLOGY

Croesus' gold factory found

King Croesus' gold workshop has been discovered at Sardis, Turkey. A Harvard-Cornell expedition is excavating the workshop where gold was extracted and refined in the sixth century B.C.

Croesus, the last king of the Lydian Empire, introduced the system of coinage into the world's marketplace, and with his gold, made Sardis synonymous with wealth.

In excavating the area, archaeologists have found tiny bits of refined gold in the form of droplets, foil and gold leaf. They have also uncovered pieces of the goldworking apparatus, including crucibles and blowpipe nozzles. Lydians apparently refined some gold from lead ore placed in small clay basins and heated with an intense blowpipe flame. Sedimentation, among other processes, was also used.

The workshop is located near the banks of the Pactolus, which, according to Herodotus, was famous for its gold-bearing sands.

The work is being directed by George M. A. Hanfmann of Harvard and A. Henry Detweiler of Cornell. This is the 11th season for the Harvard-Cornell team.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Tranquilized women

Despite stories of business executives who swallow tranquilizers all day, use of these drugs is about twice as high among women as men. It is particularly high among women with a family income exceeding \$10,000, and with three or four children.

Jews also use more tranquilizers and sedatives than do Catholics or Protestants.

But these two groups of people with the highest prevalence of psychotropic drug use have low rates of escape drinking.

The breakdown of psychotropic drug use by U.S. adults comes from Dr. Hugh J. Parry of George Washington University, who is directing a four-year study of the problem.

He declares in **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS** for October that one in four adults uses one or more of the psychotropic drugs and that the use of tranquilizers has shown nearly a fourfold increase over the past decade—from 7 percent in 1957 to 27 percent in 1967. Sedatives are second in popularity to the tranquilizers and stimulants are used by the smallest proportion of people.

White men and Negroes of both sexes have about the same low pattern of psychotropic drug use—about half that for white women.

CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY

Aborigines lack neurosis

A new survey of psychiatric disorders among Australian aborigines lends support to the view that neurosis is mainly a product of Western society, but that the serious mental illnesses cut across cultural lines.

The aborigines showed no evidence of classical Western neurosis—anxieties, phobias and compulsions—or

of psychosomatic disease. Suicide and homosexuality were not detected. However, schizophrenia, depressive illness, organic disorders, and personality disorders resembling those of Western society were present.

The frequency of psychiatric disorder runs about six percent among two groups of aborigines living in western and central Australia, report Malcolm A. Kidson and Ivor H. Jones of the University of Melbourne. This rate is considerably lower than findings for Western societies, which by some estimates exceeds 25 percent.

The authors, however, strongly challenge the idea that primitive peoples lack the stress of Western life and therefore have less disturbance. The stresses are there, they say, but are more often projected in ritualized or actual hostility.

This projection may explain the lack of suicide. Pressures of marriage and kinship probably forbid the expression of homosexuality, the authors report in the October issue of **ARCHIVES OF GENERAL PSYCHIATRY**.

APHASIA

Standard test in the making

Authorities on aphasia in the United States, France and Italy are cooperating in the development of cross-cultural test for victims of this speech disorder.

Begun in 1967, the test should be ready for clinical use in about three years. Its originators hope the test will serve as the first standardized, widely applicable and relatively simple measure for judging impairment in aphasics whose condition—loss of language—takes many confusing forms.

A cross-cultural language test has not been devised before. A primary difficulty lies in finding items that will be equivalent across three languages. Dr. Arthur L. Benton of the University of Iowa is heading the project in the United States.

PSYCHIATRY

Electrosleep helps insomniacs

A group of Israeli doctors reports encouraging results in treating insomnia and asthma with electrosleep therapy.

After 10 to 20 electrosleep treatments—in which a mild, subliminal current is passed through the brain—15 of 20 insomniacs regained normal sleep habits and have not relapsed in a year following treatment.

Six scientists at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center are doing the work, and believe their results are promising, though the number of patients was small.

All 20 patients—6 men and 14 women, ranging in age from 28 to 71—were suffering from long-term insomnia. All were resistant to conventional therapy and most were addicted to sleeping pills. Such symptoms as anxiety, depression and agitation diminished with restoration of sleep, according to the Israeli report.

It also states that electrical therapy stopped asthmatic attacks in three of nine children and improved two.

Electrosleep therapy has not so far won much scientific attention in the United States (SN: 11/11/67, p. 466), but it is popular in the Soviet Union.