

# behavioral sciences

## ALCOHOLISM

### A drug for withdrawal

Chlordiazepoxide has been found to be an effective drug in the prevention of delirium with tremors and convulsions during the acute alcoholic withdrawal state.

In a large-scale cooperative study of Veterans Administration hospitals, four drugs commonly used for the treatment of alcoholic withdrawal symptoms were evaluated: chlordiazepoxide, chlorpromazine, hydroxyzine and thiamine.

Improvement occurred essentially during the first two days of treatment; success or failure rates were keyed to the occurrence of convulsions and delirium.

Chlordiazepoxide gave the best results in both these disturbances; only one percent of the patients developed convulsions and delirium tremens. Chlorpromazine had the worst score; convulsions developed in 12 percent of the group and delirium tremens in seven percent, report Drs. S. C. Kaim, C. J. Klett and Benjamin Rothstein in the June *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY*.

## MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

### Research in abandoned graveyard

An abandoned graveyard in Florida will, hopefully, enable a group of researchers to gather physical and medical data on Americans who died over 100 years ago.

The city of St. Joseph, Fla., was erected in 1835; by the summer of 1842, due to a severe yellow fever epidemic, the town was abandoned. The only thing remaining was the well-filled cemetery.

This summer, scientists from Florida State University plan to dig up the abandoned graves. They hope to find as many as 300 skeletons and information on infections, dental history, arthritis and other diseases, as well as stature, age and sex, and compare the data to those of present-day Americans.

The scientists believe that the dampness and acidity of the soil six feet underground probably preserved the skeletons intact.

## INFANT BEHAVIOR

### Bi-cultural study

The behavior of babies is greatly influenced by the care-taking pattern of the mother and the type of baby the mother wants.

The initial findings of a study of children in Japan and America during their first six years of life suggest that there are different care-taking styles of the mothers in the two countries.

Babies in these two different cultures express their biological needs in much the same way and care of these needs by the mothers are the same. But beyond that the styles of the mothers' care differ.

The Japanese baby seems passive and the mother tries to sooth and communicate with the child physically rather than verbally.

The American infant is more active, vocal and exploring and the mother does more chatting with him. She seems to stimulate him to activity and vocal response.

Dr. William Caudill and Mrs. Helen Weinstein of the

Laboratory of Socio-Environmental Studies of the National Institute of Mental Health report that the babies in this study had learned by three or four months of age to be either Japanese or American, in relation to the expectations of their mothers.

## PUBLIC POLICY

### New subcommittee for social problems

A new Senate Special Subcommittee on Social Program Planning and Evaluation to deal with the nation's social problems will be headed by Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.).

Hearings are scheduled to begin mid-summer on the general need in the society for better social planning and evaluation. The subcommittee hopes to take an active role in filling the gap in information on manpower programs and equal opportunity programs.

Sen. Mondale's bill to set up a Council of Social Advisers similar to the Council of Economic Advisers will also receive consideration.

The subcommittee, says Sen. Mondale, will "provide a public forum for continuing critical study of the Government's attempts to meet the nation's social goals."

## INTEGRATION

### Less than substantial

Since the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation in public education 15 years ago, there has been little more than token integration in predominantly white universities and colleges.

A recent survey co-sponsored by the Southern Education Reporting Service and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges reports that less than two percent of the students in the nation's state universities and land-grant colleges are Negro.

Eighty predominantly white institutions surveyed enroll about 30 percent of all the nation's college students. Seventeen originally all-Negro institutions were also included in the survey. They enroll twice as many black students as the 80 predominately white schools.

## PSYCHOTHERAPY

### Effective new drug

After a one-year trial, the drug thiothixene has been shown to produce desired results when used to reduce psychotic symptoms of schizophrenia.

Thiothixene, a derivative of thioxanthene, aided in reducing feelings of persecution and grandeur, hyperexcitement and apathy in psychotic patients, report Drs. M. P. Bishop, D. M. Gallant and C. A. Steele of the Tulane University School of Medicine in a study supported by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Although some side effects did occur—tremors, rigidity, mask-like facial expressions and motor-restlessness—tests indicate that the new compound does not have significant toxic effects.

Thirty-one percent of the 135 patients maintained improvement by the end of the year-long study. At no time were more than 10 percent found to be worse.

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