

This task force would select three high-priority problems, define requirements and specifications for the hardware and systems needed to solve them and choose three to six states to test the solutions. If this first phase, which should be operational by mid-1973, works out, the project would be expanded. The CSG also proposes that panels of state and local government representatives be established in all Federal agencies concerned with domestic problems; that up to 15 percent of the R&D budgets of Federal agencies be reserved for joint projects with state and local governments; and that state laws and procurement policies be reviewed so that technological products could be standardized or purchased jointly. □

## A power theory for why people drink

Why will people willingly consume a substance that tends to deprive them of physical and mental coordination and can lead to extreme discomfort on the morning after? People use alcohol, many psychologists answer, because it is a central nervous system depressant that relieves tension and curbs anxiety. David C. McClelland of Harvard disagrees. He says most people are moderate drinkers (one or two drinks) and alcohol consumed in such small amounts has no effect on anxious thoughts. Moreover, he says, the physical, mental and social effects of large amounts of alcohol should actually increase anxiety.

The anxiety theory, McClelland believes, is a hangover from prohibition and the Puritan ethic. Researchers, he says, were unwilling to accept the fact that alcohol could actually produce good feelings. They limited it to the job of covering up bad feelings (anxiety).

Assuming that men do drink because they enjoy the experiences it produces, McClelland began 11 years ago to search for a pleasant experience common to all drinking people. Last week in Washington, at the second annual alcoholism conference of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, he concluded that "males drink primarily to feel strong."

The thematic apperception test (TAT) was used to examine fantasies produced while drinking. Before, during and after drinking the subjects were shown pictures and asked to write stories about them. At college fraternity parties and in working-class taverns McClelland found an elevated incidence of socialized power thoughts with small amounts of drinking, and, after larger amounts of alcohol, more personal power thoughts and fewer indications

of inhibition than in nondrinking controls.

To further examine why people drink, he conducted a cross-cultural study. Folk tales of 44 primitive societies were coded and examined for thematic content. More thoughts of power and fewer of inhibition were found in the heavy drinking cultures. Hunting cultures tend to drink more than others and the traditional explanation was that the hunters were anxious about finding their next meal. McClelland and his researchers found no evidence of increased anxiety in these cultures. "Accordingly," he says, "these new findings are interpreted as support for the hypothesis that males drink primarily to feel strong, and that men who drink excessively have excessive power concerns and low inhibitory tendencies to start with."

Sharon C. Wilsnack of Harvard worked with McClelland in development of his theory. But she accuses him of making generalizations about all drinkers on the basis of studies of male drinkers. She conducted experiments with women, using the TAT, and found that drinking does not increase feelings of power in women but can temporarily enhance feelings of womanliness.

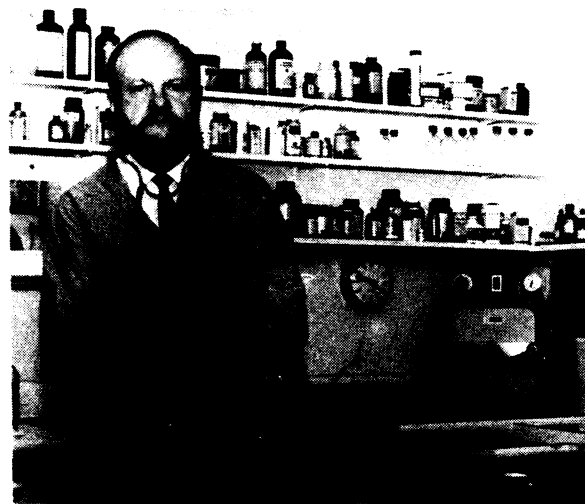
Ozzie G. Simmons of the Ford Foundation in New York also finds some fault with McClelland's hypothesis. The power theory, he says, may be only a reinterpretation of previous dependency and anxiety theories. Also, it does not explain religious drinking, total abstinence or occasional drinking sprees. The power theory, he says, is an interesting one but it needs more systematic testing.

In his new book *The Drinking Man* (see p. 383) McClelland admits to these limitations, but concludes "that the alcoholic experience has a common core for men everywhere and that they drink to get it . . . the experience centers everywhere in men on increased thoughts of power." □

## A distemper treatment for man's best friend

Because of distemper vaccines, hard-pad distemper in dogs is far less common than it used to be, but quite a few dogs still come down with it. The disease, believed to be caused by a virus, makes a dog feverish, hardens the pads on the bottom of its feet, stiffens its legs and eventually kills it. Many veterinarians will not even try to treat a dog with hard-pad distemper.

For the past five years, however, a veterinarian and marine zoologist in Pensacola, Fla.—Samuel R. Monroe Jr.—has been trying a novel treatment on more than a hundred dogs of all



Monroe administering ether to dog.

breeds and in various stages of hard-pad distemper. The technique has saved the lives of virtually all the animals. At the same time, Monroe has run control groups, giving dogs with hard-pad distemper traditional antibiotics treatment. Nearly all the control animals died. Monroe's treatment involves the use of ether. He puts an ether cone over a dog's nose and anesthetizes it for 15 to 20 minutes a day for five to ten days. "I tried ether out of desperation," he admits, "in an effort to get something into the dogs' bloodstreams that would be effective against the virus."

The virus for hard-pad distemper is believed to settle in epithelial and nerve tissue. Monroe says he has no idea how the ether acts on the virus, but he speculates that the drug might dissolve the phospholipid capsule of the virus, thereby destroying the integrity of the virus. Until recently, veterinarians in the Pensacola area were skeptical of Monroe's treatment, but now they are interested in it—especially as Monroe recently saved a dog with hard-pad distemper belonging to one of his colleagues.

In the past five years Monroe has also successfully treated cats and fish with hard-pad distemper and a kind of pneumonia. He has also obtained some good results by giving ether to dogs with inner-ear infections. Although the Florida veterinarian says he is a "doctor of all animals in the world but man," he hopes that his technique might hold value for treating various virus-caused diseases in people. He is particularly anxious to explore the effects of ether on rats with leukemia, and believes that ether might be used to treat cancer in patients. "To my knowledge," he says "virtually no gases have been tried on cancer patients."

A spokeswoman for the National Cancer Institute confirms this state of affairs. "About the only gas that has been tried on cancer patients," she says, "is oxygen, in its use in conjunction with X-ray therapy." □