

PSYCHIATRY

Inhalation Treatment Aids

► **INHALING CARBON** dioxide, the soda water gas, offers new hope for mentally sick persons suffering depressions and other of the diseases doctors label neuroses.

"Marked improvement in the vast majority of cases" given this relatively new treatment was reported by Drs. Abraham I. Jackman and C. A. Shorr of the Veterans Administration Regional office, Chicago, at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Cincinnati.

Their report covered a critical evaluation of the treatment from the viewpoint of effectiveness, safety, long-term results and dynamics of action on the brain.

There is no choking or lack of oxygen with this treatment, they emphasized. They found it one of the safest ever given as a chemical treatment for a mental disease.

The patients inhale the gas mixed with oxygen. After 15 or 20 inhalations they fall

quietly into a deep sleep. When they awake they feel more relaxed and comfortable and are able to face their problems, talk them over with the psychiatrist and thus win their way back to mental health.

The results last for several years at least. There is no damage to the intellect or to the basic "normal" emotional makeup of the patient.

The treatment is primarily an office treatment and is extremely practical, the Chicago psychiatrists find.

"With the large number of people now besieging psychiatric centers and psychiatrists," they stated, "it appears to be the answer to the load problem as well as to what to do for a tremendous number of psychiatric patients that other forms of therapy have not been able to help, in spite of prolonged efforts."

Science News Letter, May 19, 1951

PHYSICS

A-Bombs May Fog Films

► **FUTURE A-BOMB** tests such as those last winter in Nevada may interfere with the packing of photographic films and with scientific experiments with radioactive elements. Film companies took precautions at the time of the Nevada explosions to make sure their film did not become fogged up from radioactive materials blown by the winds from Nevada and carried from the sky by snow storms.

Radioactive snow fell all over the East during the period of and immediately after the western A-bomb tests. W. Wayne Meinke of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, made chemical analyses of the snow which fell there and found radioactive isotopes. These, he said, "undoubtedly originated in the Las Vegas atomic test explosions."

Mr. Meinke stated in the journal, *SCIENCE* (May 11), that, "although activities reported in Ann Arbor in no way approach dangerous levels from a health standpoint, they could possibly become the source of contamination problems in such work as film packaging or low background radioactivity experiments."

Mr. Meinke established the presence in the snow of radioactive rare earth isotopes, barium and/or strontium isotopes and showed the possible presence of iodine isotopes. These isotopes were manufactured when the A-bombs exploded and were the result of the breaking up, or fission, of the uranium or plutonium atoms from which the bombs were made.

The tiny particles, flung into the air by the explosions, were carried, perhaps, half-way around the world to Russia, by the

prevailing west to east wind currents. Russian scientists undoubtedly made experiments similar to Mr. Meinke's in order to find out as much as possible about the A-bomb tests.

The Atomic Energy Commission offices in Washington and New York said they had received no complaints from either scientists conducting the radioactivity experiments or film companies about trouble during the test explosions. However, they did know that major film companies had taken precautions against film fogging.

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ASTRONOMY

Comet Twice Lost Now Found Again

► **THE RECENTLY** discovered comet heading toward the "Big Bear" in the sky is probably identical with a comet that has been spotted twice before, then twice lost. It has returned five years ahead of its scheduled reappearance, and the villain causing its unexpectedly early bow is the planet Jupiter.

Astronomers Joseph Brady and Nevin Sherman of the University of California at Berkeley have figured out the path, or orbit, of the comet, Harvard College Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., announced. As clearing house for astronomical news for the Western Hemisphere, the Observatory reported discovery of the comet by Dr. L. Kresak at the Skalnaté Pleso Observatory in eastern Czechoslovakia on April 24.

The magnitude 10 object, too faint to

be seen with the unaided eye, will probably, therefore, have three names, one for each of its discoverers: Giacobini 1907 III, Tuttle 1858 III, and Kresak 1951 F.

Giacobini's comet was believed to have an orbit that would bring it back into view every 49 years, making the next scheduled reappearance in 1956. If its path took it near enough to Jupiter, that planet's mass could cause the change in its appearance time.

The comet is now heading towards the constellation of Leo Minor, the Smaller Lion. It will hit the edge of Ursa Major, the Great Bear, of which the Big Dipper forms a part, then go on to Coma Berenices, Berenice's Hair.

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DENTISTRY

Fluoridate Your Water, Fluoridize Your Teeth

► **YOUR TOWN** may fluoridate the drinking water, but your dentist will fluoridize your children's teeth. Object of both procedures is to help prevent tooth decay.

To be up-to-date and correct, you, the dentist and the town fathers will use the terms that way: fluoridation for the water supply, fluoridization for the treatment procedure when the dentist puts a fluoride on the children's teeth.

These usages of the words are now official for the American Dental Association. They were chosen in accordance with an opinion by the association's research consultant, Dr. George B. Denton.

Fluoridize and fluoridization are new words coined by dentists using this decay-preventing treatment. To help remember this one, Dr. Denton points out that it is in line with such familiar words as sterilize and simonize.

Fluoridate and fluoridation are in line with words like ammoniate, meaning the addition of ammonia to something.

Fluorinate and fluorination, formerly used, are ruled incorrect by Dr. Denton and the dental association because they would mean that fluorine is used. Actually what is used is a salt of fluorine, called a fluoride.

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INVENTION

Method for Seamless Floor Carpeting Patented

► **APPARENTLY SEAMLESS** pile floor carpeting is made from parallel strips of ordinary widths by the use of an adhesive tape placed under the unsewn edges of the strips. In accordance with the invention, strips of pile fabric suitably treated to prevent raveling of the backing are joined together along matched edges by the adhesive tape. A latex adhesive is used. Patent 2,552,114 was awarded to Walter J. Reinhard, New York City, for this so-called carpet joining device and method.

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