

PSYCHIATRY

Pills Clear Delusions

Patients with schizophrenia, old age brain changes, and alcoholic hallucinations showed "dramatic" improvement when treated with new drug.

► PILLS THAT bring "dramatic" improvement in some mentally sick patients, clearing hallucinations, delusions and split personality symptoms, were announced by Dr. Howard D. Fabing, neuro-psychiatrist of Cincinnati, in *Science* (Feb. 11).

The pills are a pipradal chemical trade-named Frenquel by the manufacturer, The Wm. S. Merrell Co., also of Cincinnati.

Whether they will become a cure for certain forms of mental sickness was not stated in Dr. Fabing's report.

Patients with hallucinations from alcohol and from the serious mental disease, schizophrenia, and from old age brain changes were among those he treated. Results were inconsistent in the dosages he used, but good enough to encourage him in further study of the new drug.

Some of the patients had acute schizophrenia, others were in the chronic stage of this disease. Some had hallucinations because of hardening of the arteries.

The drug also blocks the "model" mental diseases produced by two other chemicals, lysergic acid diethylamide, known as LSD-25, and mescaline.

LSD has been used by psychiatrists recently to bring on a mental disease state in healthy persons in the hope of learning more about how to treat or prevent real mental sickness. The effects of LSD, of course, are not lasting. Dr. Fabing gave it to two healthy male graduate students in psychology. One of them described his feelings while under the influence of LSD as follows:

"The prevailing feeling was that there was a gulf between me and the rest of the environment. It seemed that it would be impossible for me to communicate with those across this gulf because I could not establish any common points of reference. Within my own realm on my side of the abyss it was impossible to achieve any order. Attention was continually waning and there were no fixed reference points for thought to focus upon. Within this state on my side of the abyss I felt perfectly calm and entirely indifferent. Also within this state there were hallucinations and a sense of timelessness, all unusual, none of which had any real emotional tone to them."

Then Frenquel was given daily for one week followed by a second dose of LSD. After that dose, the student reported "the effects were markedly different. The one objective feeling which stood out was that of great calm and inner peace. There was some slight defect of attention and I didn't feel sharp mentally but I have experienced this same sort of feeling when a hard day's

work has tired me out. I felt that I had the situation under control and that I was not dissociated at any time. There were no hallucinations. I felt that I could have gone through my normal routine that Saturday morning although I would have preferred that my work that morning be of a passive sort."

Further tests with Frenquel on six other healthy persons, three male and three female, also showed its ability, in large enough doses, to block the LSD effects.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1955

GENERAL SCIENCE

Group Seeks to Lift Language Barriers

► A GROUP of leading business men and bankers of Georgia has formed a corporation for the purpose of helping to remove the language barriers which hamper international communication and understanding. It is called the League to Lift Language Barriers, Inc.

It will operate chiefly by encouraging the study and teaching of Interlingua, the new

scientific international language, and the practical application of Interlingua to the solution of problems of international communication.

In slightly different words: "Su funciones principal essera incoragiar le studio e le inseniamento de Interlingua, le nove scientific lingua international, e le application practic de Interlingua al solution de problemas de communication international."

The petition of incorporation was presented by Abit Nix, Sidney O. Smith, M. Monroe Kimbrel, Darrell M. Johnson, and John T. McNeill, a group which includes several former governors of Rotary International in the Georgia district. The petition was granted by Judge C. J. Perryman of Thomson, McDuffie County, Georgia. Although the present leaders of the group are all Rotarians, its field of activity will not be limited to the Rotary movement.

The new organization grew out of the efforts of Ralph C. Lee of Thomson who had previously helped to form several local Committees to Reduce Language Barriers within the Georgia Rotary organization. Several school superintendents of Georgia have indicated to Mr. Lee their interest in introducing the study of Interlingua into the public schools.

The new corporation will carry on its work with the cooperation of the Interlingua Division of Science Service, 80 East 11th St., New York 3, N. Y., which now regularly supplies 11 medical journals and three other scientific publications with Interlingua translations.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1955

ANTHROPOLOGY

Science, Art Flourished In Mayan Agriculture

► FAVORABLE AGRICULTURAL conditions freed the ancient Maya from problems of subsistence and permitted scientific and artistic accomplishments.

Ancient Mayan agriculture could have supported a population density greater than that of modern Mexico, Dr. Joseph Hester Jr., and Dr. George W. Brainerd of the department of anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles have concluded.

Mayan civilization was centered in the hot, tropical lowlands of the Yucatan peninsula. A shifting, "bush-fallowing" type of agriculture apparently produced enough corn, the chief staple food of the Maya, to support indefinitely a population of from 30 to 50 persons per square mile. This is greater than the population density of modern Mexico.

The soil and annual precipitation of the region are well suited to this crop. Even with primitive techniques, including dooryard gardening, the region could have supported a population of more than 4,500,000, in their findings. Although archaeological evidence indicates there were many large Mayan "cities" in the area, there is no evidence that population ever reached this figure.

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GLASS CLOUDS—A fibrous glass filter is being prepared to filter radioactive particles from the exhaust gases at the Hanford Atomic Products Operation. This bed of the fibers, seven feet deep and 56 feet long, is said to be more efficient and cheaper to operate than sand filters used in earlier designs.