

Paper fabrics by the yard or bolt will eventually be available for home use as well as mass production of ready-made garments, according to scientists who are working on the development.

Perhaps the most immediate use for paper clothes is in the field of atomic energy. Even in today's "safest" atomic research centers, garments of conventional fabrics often become quickly contaminated in certain work areas. Laundry at research centers is an expensive, as well as potentially risky, business.

Even after repeated launderings, dangerous radioactive particles linger in cloth garments—and worse yet, cling to equipment like washers and dryers, contaminating them and other laundry equipment. K-2000 may solve that problem, scientists hope, by providing multilayer construction in garment fabrics to "filter" radioactive dust.

Low cost and ease of disposal mean that paper clothes in danger areas may one day save lives, as well as dollars. Scientists are inviting military experts to look into the possibilities.

Debutantes may not bow in paper ball gowns that grow on trees for some time yet, and stores may not feature paper suits with two pairs of paper trousers for quite a while, but paper has definitely established a beachhead in the garment world, and its future looks bright.

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PSYCHIATRY

Drug Addicts' Reasons

► THE THEORY that drug addicts and alcoholics take drugs and alcohol just to escape from their problems and to gain pleasure was questioned in a report to the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Chicago.

Some addicts, at least, take drugs in part because unconsciously the drug or alcohol represents something which they fear and which has power over them. They deliberately seek this feared and powerful object, as represented by the drug, hoping to achieve mastery over it.

Then they could gain the pleasure of achievement and victory. They do not succeed in this and soon the addiction itself becomes a major problem.

This theory was presented by Comdr. Thomas S. Szasz, now at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Md., on leave from the Institute for Psychoanalysis, Chicago.

He based it on psychoanalytic study of a man addicted to alcohol and barbiturate sleeping pills, and on similar studies of two patients who used tobacco in a socially approved manner.

The two smokers came for treatment of other problems, but their smoking, which seldom reached the two-pack-a-day level, also turned out to be a problem. They

worried about whether they were smoking too much and about the possible effects on their health. They could not stop, however, because of the unconscious need to master a fear. If they gave up smoking, they felt inadequate and weak.

The alcohol-barbiturate addict showed his use of the drugs as a counter-phobic, or fear-fighting mechanism, by the way he used the drugs. He took them, he said, to get a good night's sleep. Then he stayed up, fully dressed, walked around, did everything he could to keep from falling asleep. To overcome the drug effects by staying awake meant, to his unconscious mind, that he had conquered the thing he feared.

The unconscious fears revolve around two main themes, Comdr. Szasz found:

1. Fears of instincts, or drives, that give rise to inner excitations the person might not be able to control.

2. Fantasies and fears of pregnancy, even in men. This unconscious fear arises from uncertainties about what goes on inside the body such as children are likely to have. Grown-up knowledge of such matters, however, does not influence the deeply unconscious fear.

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