

## Alcoholic Insanity—Continued

to bring about human betterment. More drastic laws have recently been promulgated in order to punish more effectively violators of the national enactments. Whether they will prove successful remains to be seen, but it is highly probable that those individuals who have been accustomed to drink and have the price to purchase it, will, for the most part, continue to do so. When the profit is sufficiently attractive the illegal seller of illicit liquor will take a chance, and the purchaser will save his conscience, if he has any scruples, by various methods of rationalization familiar to all."

Dr. Garvin mentioned that the patients first entering the State Hospitals with alcoholic psychoses come principally from the city, and there

**Lose Idealism—Continued**  
along" with other people is telling on the children of these families, Dr. Plant also pointed out. Adults often feel the strain of having to adjust themselves to others if they are persistently in a group for a period of time, and in present city living conditions there are children who have never known any other situation.

*Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929*

## Brain Disorders Probed

*Psychiatry*

Fundamental progress in understanding certain abnormal brain conditions, the first step toward their prevention, was reported at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Atlanta, by Dr. Temple Fay and Dr. N. W. Winkleman, of Philadelphia, as a result of investigations at the new institution known as the D. J. McCarthy Foundation for Study and Prevention of Nervous Diseases. This foundation has been working for two years on problems of epilepsy and mental deficiency. It has been found that in certain mental cases there is pressure on the brain due to excessive accumulation of the cerebro-spinal fluid. The pressure causes the brain to atrophy. Tracing back the vicious chain of consequences, the investigators have found evidence that the root of the trouble may lie in the impairment of obscure structures in the brain, known as Pacchionian bodies. Further researches are in progress, it was stated.

*Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929*

The government of Australia has bought ten grams of radium, at \$500,000.

are a greater number of foreign born than native whites. The rate is relatively higher among Negroes than native whites.

The two races in which alcoholic psychoses are most prevalent are the Irish and the Slavonic, Dr. Garvin said. Of a total of 4,544 alcoholic patients admitted during the last ten years, 1,692 were Irish and 491 Slavonic. On the other hand, the number of Hebrews suffering from alcoholic psychoses is surprisingly small, totalling only 44 for the ten years.

Alcoholic insanity, as a rule, occurs principally in middle age following years of intemperate use of alcohol, but the acute phase generally develops in connection with recent excesses. *Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929*

## Unhappy Marriages

*Psychiatry*

The greatest single cause of unhappy marriage today is emotional immaturity, Dr. George Pratt, of New York, declared in a paper read before the American Psychiatric Association in Atlanta. This same emotional immaturity causes friction in the homes of taxi drivers and judges, shop girls and society matrons. It has such well-known symptoms as selfishness, intolerance, and uncontrolled impulsiveness.

"Psychiatrists are not yet ready to say that before a marriage license is granted a couple should take an examination to show whether they are mentally and nervously fit," Dr. Pratt said. "That may come a century from now. But we are ready to point out that marital friction has symptoms that the psychiatrist can often nip in the bud."

The psychiatrist can often show a husband and wife how to reconcile clashing wills or how to direct a desire for power into safer and more useful channels, he continued. Intelligence has comparatively little to do with these emotional adjustments. They are the result of home and school training, and one of the great needs of today is more parents and teachers who are emotionally mature.

*Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929*

Forest Service records show that some trees have been struck by lightning as many as seven or eight times.

A new electric machine that re-knits runs in silk stockings can repair a run the entire length of a stocking in about two minutes.

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