

PSYCHIATRY

War a Mass Drunkenness For Escape From Life

WAR is a mass, world-wide epidemic of drunkenness, Prof. A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago physiologist, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

It is worse than alcoholic drunkenness, because alcohol is most injurious to the individual—inebriety of war impairs us all.

Both are means of escape from the thorns of living, to meet which Prof. Carlson recommended addition of a little Spartan iron to the present educational milk diet. Not grandmother's slipper or grandfather's rod, but early conditioning by doing and personal experience in individual responsibility.

Determination of what types of personality are prone to alcohol addiction and development of methods of prevention are the real core of the alcohol problem and research should be concentrated on this core, Prof. Carlson said.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1941

Iron in *molasses* varies considerably according to the grade.

**HOW COMET LOOKS**

This photograph of the 10,000,000-mile tail of the Cunningham Comet was taken with the 12-inch refractor telescope of the Harvard Observatory at Oak Ridge, on Christmas Eve.

PUBLIC HEALTH-PSYCHIATRY

Alcoholism Called Greatest Public Health Problem**Is Considered Country's Most Serious Menace Not Being Systematically Attacked; 100,000 Sufferers**

ALCOHOLISM is the greatest public health problem at the present time which is not being systematically attacked, declared Dr. Winfred Overholser, superintendent of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Government institution for the mentally ill, in opening a Symposium on Alcoholism. The meeting was arranged by the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol, of which Dr. Overholser is chairman of the board of directors, in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia.

Over 100,000 persons are suffering from alcoholism in the United States today, he said. Yet in all but the largest cities, practically the only institution in which an acutely intoxicated person may be cared for is the local jail.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1941

Cause of Mental Disease

ALCOHOL ranks comparatively high as a cause of mental disorder or a precipitating agent of some mental disease, scientists at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science learned from a report by Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute, before a special session on alcoholism.

In addition to delirium tremens, the "pink-elephant" ill that most people think of in connection with alcoholic excesses, Dr. Lewis told of many other mental diseases brought on by alcohol. A "drunken furor" is one of these. It is a drunkenness more violent than ordinary intoxication and may be produced by one very large amount of alcohol, or by a small amount in some one who is intolerant to it. Acute and chronic hallucinosis are medical names for mental ills in which the patient hears voices or sees faces. In the chronic type, the patient may live for years with these imaginary voices to which, Dr. Lewis said, "they become accustomed in about the same way that some people become adjusted to external parasites—a bit unpleasant at times, but tolerated."

In the Korsakoff psychosis, also

brought on by alcohol, the patient's whole past may become a complete blank, so that he wakes each morning in a blank mental state.

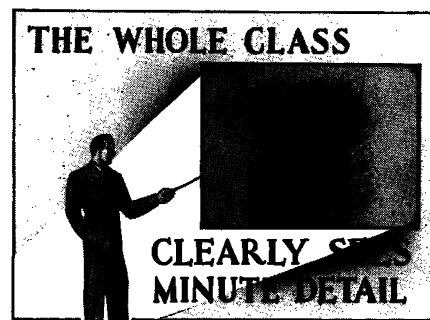
In chronic alcoholic deterioration, there is loss of memory, loss of efficiency and emotional stability and disintegration of the whole personality—the familiar picture of the "old drunk."

Finally there is alcoholic paranoia, a disease characterized by extreme suspicion and jealousy. This may not be a true alcoholic psychosis, but paranoia complicated by alcoholism usually brings about an earlier deterioration than ordinary paranoia does.

Science News Letter, January 4, 1941

Blitzkrieg strategy was used nine years ago by Japan in conquering Manchuria.

The tail of the *Great Comet* of 1843 was more than 500,000,000 miles long—a record.



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