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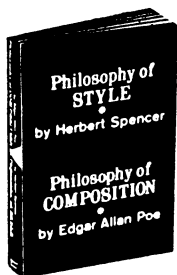
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MEDICINE

Disappointed Patients May React Against Drugs

► **SIDE REACTIONS** such as dizziness, drowsiness and headache may be caused by a patient's disappointment in a doctor's treatment instead of by the drugs believed to cause the effects.

Such side reactions often occur even when the patient has been given a placebo (inactive substance), Dr. Karl Rickels, University of Pennsylvania assistant professor of psychiatry, told the sixth Hahemann symposium on psychosomatic medicine in Philadelphia.

Dr. Rickels reported on the use of the tranquilizer meprobamate (Miltown or Equanil). He said a few anxious and tense patients whose insomnia was not relieved complained of daytime drowsiness attributed to the drug. By contrast, patients whose sleep was improved by meprobamate did not even mention drowsiness.

• Science News Letter, 81:14 January 6, 1962

EDUCATION

Blame Graduate Schools For Ph.D. Shortage

► **GRADUATE SCHOOLS** in the United States because of their inefficiency are not fulfilling their role in supplying the Ph.D. graduates needed in Government, industry and teaching.

The graduate school "is the most inefficient, and, in some ways, the most ineffec-

tive division of the university," Dr. Oliver C. Carmichael, former president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and now consultant to the Ford Foundation for the Advancement of Education, said in his recently published book "Graduate Education."

The most urgent need of American education is a thorough reform of the graduate education program, he said. In general, graduate schools have made no systematic effort to lure the ablest students to advance work. "Recruitment should begin in high school."

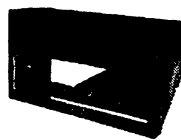
Only a minor fraction of Ph.D. graduates receive the advanced degree in the three-year time requirement announced in school catalogues. The average lag is from seven to 12 years. This could be cut back if procedures could be reorganized to assure the able student that he can, if he cooperates, be certain of a graduate degree in the three-year term. "Uncertainty drives away the ablest students," Dr. Carmichael said.

Based on a two-year study of 49 universities, Dr. Carmichael recommends a nine-point program which would include a full-time graduate faculty, presently lacking in most schools, responsible to the dean of the graduate school; revisions in the doctoral program to assure an able student the planning that would enable him to complete his requirements in a minimum of time; more rigid requirements for undergraduate students and an advanced undergraduate program, particularly in reading preparation; and establishment of a special faculty committee to give special attention to the undergraduate group.

• Science News Letter, 81:14 January 6, 1962

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MEDICINE

9.2 Hospital Beds For Every Thousand

► **THERE WERE 9.2 hospital beds** for every thousand people in the United States, the latest figures assembled by the Health Information Foundation show.

The 1960 total was 1,658,000 beds in 6,876 hospitals.

A half century ago, in 1909, the number of beds was only 4.7 per thousand population. Since 1940 the number has fluctuated between approximately 9.3 and 13.0 beds per thousand.

Nearly 40% of all the hospital beds in the country accounted for are in non-Federal psychiatric hospitals. If there are added to the Federal psychiatric hospitals the beds in general hospitals occupied by psychiatric patients, they account for half the hospital beds in the U.S. today. Beds in tuberculosis hospitals and used for long term hospitals declined in the last 15 years.

While hospital beds have increased in number since earlier in this century, in recent years the expansion has been no more rapid than the growth in U.S. population.

A larger investment in new hospitals is foreseen by George Bugbee, president of the Health Information Foundation, because of the expected increase in population, particularly in people of over 65 years of age.

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