

## RATS THRIVE ON ALCOHOL RATION

The age old question as to whether use of alcohol affects growth is being investigated by experiments on rats, conducted by Dr. Curt P. Richter at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The animals tested took in an 8 to 16 per cent solution of alcohol as a steady ration, without becoming intoxicated or habituated to alcohol. They ate less food, but they grew just as fast as prohibitionist rats in the same laboratory that drank pure water.

The amounts of alcohol digested by the rats were much greater in proportion to body weight than a man could take aboard and still function normally. This is explained on the grounds that rats have a more active existence than men and so have greater energy requirements.

Dr. Richter found that when the doses were continued over long periods of time, the rats which took alcohol ate 17 to 36 per cent. less than the animals which drank water. In spite of the fact that they ate so much less, they grew just as rapidly and reached the same body weight at maturity as the water drinkers.

Other research has shown that humans, given one-fifth to one-seventh the dose Dr. Richter's rats received on the basis of body weight, also utilized the alcohol and took correspondingly less food. The smaller dose in the case of man allows for the lower demand for calory-producing food, due to a less active existence.

Dr. Richter's experiments are part of a larger series undertaken primarily for the purpose of investigating the factors involved in the production and modification of activity in animals and man. While they indicate that the alcohol replaces an equivalent quantity of food, the results on the intelligence may be different, it is pointed out.

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TO ENCIRCLE CITIES WITH NATIONAL FORESTS

Ten million acres of national forests in ten years encircling the great cities and industrial regions of the United States, is the ambitious program which received the endorsement of the second annual National Conference on Outdoor Recreation meeting in Washington recently.

The program calls for the acquisition of two and one-half million acres in the Great Lakes region, from three to four million acres in the region of the White Mountains and the Appalachians, and two and one-half million acres of the remaining pine forests in the South. It is expected that these great zones of wilderness will not only provide breathing-places for the dense population of the great commercial and industrial centers but will more than pay for themselves under a policy of scientific forest management. The toleration of destructive unregulated grazing of stock in national forests was opposed by the Conference.

The Conference also placed itself on record as favoring the proposed extension of the Yellowstone National Park to include the headwaters of the Yellowstone River and the Teton mountain range, and boundary adjustments of Rocky Mountain,