

PSYCHIATRY

Brandy "Shot" Brings Mental Patients Out of Stupor

ALCOHOL can bring men out of a stupor as well as drive them into one. Brandy can do the trick if given in real "shots"—by hypodermic injection.

Men lying in the death-like stupor of the mental disease schizophrenia have broken a silence of months as a result of getting mildly intoxicated on brandy, it is revealed by Drs. N. V. Kantorovich and S. K. Constantinovich, of the Medical Institute and Psychiatric Hospital, Leningrad, in making a preliminary report of their experiments to the American Psychiatric Association.

The brandy was given by hypodermic because patients in this condition could not be made to swallow the liquid. The results promise a new method of treatment for these inaccessible sufferers walled in by a barrier of silence.

"M," a young musician only 21 years old, had been ill for a month. He could not answer a single question put to him by the physicians or hospital attendants. He just grimaced, shrieked, or muttered unintelligibly.

A few minutes after receiving the brandy, this patient quieted down and answered the physician's questions readily. Later he was able to write a co-

herent letter to his mother. In a couple of weeks he appeared to be entirely recovered.

Another young man had not spoken a word for over six months and had been ill for two years. He lay rigid with a mask-like expression on his face.

A few minutes after he received the brandy, he smiled and asked for a cigarette. Five minutes later he began to talk, and told the physicians the whole story of what lay behind his illness. He said that he had lain silent for months because he was afraid that if he attracted any attention his enemies would kill him.

After his "jag" wore off, he returned to his mute condition, but he has been noticeably improved, even able to do some work in the shop.

The physicians tried this method on 15 patients. Four were markedly improved. In seven other cases, the improvement seemed to last only while they were under the influence of the alcohol, but was considered worthwhile since it gave physicians some contact with them and clues about their mental state. In four cases, the alcohol seemed to produce no considerable change.

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ilization should not be left to the philosopher, the sage, or the moralist; such determinations are amenable to scientific methods, Dr. Thorndike said.

All men should not be considered equal when these values are determined scientifically, he indicated. The wants of the men of 1950 should be given more importance than the same wants in the men of 2050.

The wants of intelligent men should be given more weight than the same wants of dull men; the wants of good men more than those of bad men.

An analysis by psychologists of the spending of Americans was quoted by Dr. Thorndike as revealing the real wants of human beings today.

Budget of Wants

"When the entire annual budget is transformed item by item into a budget for the satisfaction of human wants, payments for sensory pleasures, security, approval of others, and the pleasures of companionship and sociability, including romance and courtship, are in each case close in magnitude to the amount paid for freedom from hunger," he said. "In fact, we pay more to maintain self-respect and the good opinion of others and avoid scorn, derision and shame than to keep our bodies fed and free from the distress of hunger.

"We pay more for entertainment, including the intellectual pleasures and the sensory pleasures of sight, sound, taste and smell, than for protection against cold, heat, wet, animals, disease, criminals and other bad people, and pain.

"Less than one-third of what we spent went for wants which must be satisfied to keep the human species alive and self-perpetuating. The rest went chiefly to keep us amused and comfortable physically, intellectually, normally, and especially socially.

"Relatively little is paid for the satisfactions of the intellectual life. The psychologists consider that the payments for private schools, books, and magazines are often for prestige, power and other practical satisfaction, and do not credit the theatres and movies of 1929 with much intellectual appeal."

Can Improve Desires

Man can be made to improve his desires, Dr. Thorndike holds.

"The desires and aversions of men can be changed as truly as their ideas and habits, though not as much or as easily. The same forces of repetition

PSYCHOLOGY

Scientific Study of Human Wants and Values Is Urged

HUNGER and thirst and the need for protection against cold and storm may be primary needs in man, but they are only of minor importance in the American's budget, scientists gathered at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science learned from the address of their retiring president, Dr. Edward L. Thorndike, psychologist of Teachers College, Columbia University.

In a good year, Americans spend 17 billions of dollars on food, but only a little more than half that amount to satisfy hunger. Another 8 billions goes

for clothing, but only 41 per cent. of that for actual protection against cold, heat and wet.

Of the 700 millions spent on cosmetics and beauty parlors, one-seventh is for the pleasures of sight and smell, one-fourth for the pleasures of sex and courtship, one-third to gain general approval from others, one-eighth to have inner self-approval, and about one-tenth to secure mastery or domination. Dr. Thorndike urged his fellow scientists to include in their research an appraisal of human wants and satisfactions.

Determining what is of value to civ-