

In general paralysis a patient may previously have been an abstainer, then he takes alcohol in excess, which may lead to maniac depressive conditions.

Alcohol is responsible for only a small proportion of certifiable cases; it is therefore more commonly a symptom than a cause.

Other chemicals are lead, mercury, ether, carbon monoxide, opium (and its derivatives), cocaine, etc.

Drug addiction does not lead to mental disorder to the extent that alcohol does; it is more commonly a symptom than a primary cause of mental illness.

Opium and cocaine are the most commonly used, other drugs being chloral, sulphonal, chloroform, ether, paraldehyde and hyoscine.

In 1920 the Dangerous Drugs Act was passed, in section 7 of which power was given to make regulations for controlling the manufacture, possession, sale and distribution of opium, morphine and heroin.

The Defence of the Realm Act of May, 1916, included also barbitone, chloral hydrate, codeine, cannabis indica and sulphonal. It was amended in 1925 and its general provisions included those substances to which the Dangerous Drugs Act applies, such as raw opium, and is collectively referred to as dangerous drugs.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, revised the law relating to the sale, supply and storage of poisons. It was confirmed by the Home Office, and special restrictions on the sale of barbiturates, etc., were made; no sale could be made except on and in accordance with a prescription given by a practitioner.

Arsenic may also produce mental symptoms, usually of confusion.

Lead poisoning acts chiefly by producing arterio-sclerosis with consequent cerebral degeneration.

(To be concluded)

Smoke—The Nation's Enemy.

THE GREAT "SMOG" of last December, with its death roll of thousands, pointed the lesson that this country can no longer afford to pour into the air, in the harmful form of smoke, a large proportion of its valuable fuel. Smoke endangers health and robs us of precious sunlight, it stunts the crops and reduces our stores of home grown food, it disfigures and damages our buildings, slows down communications regularly every winter, and considerably increases the labour and cost of keeping our homes clean and bright.

An exhibition on SMOKE AND SMOG—CAUSES, EFFECTS, PREVENTION, opens on November 9th, for four weeks, at the Museum of Hygiene of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1, a body devoted to promoting the health of the people.

This exhibition will demonstrate how needless smoke is produced; what smoke does, especially when meteorological conditions favour the formation of "smog"; and how smoke can be reduced and the pollution of the atmosphere prevented. In staging this important exhibition, the Royal Sanitary Institute has the active collaboration of Government Departments, such as the Fuel Research Station, the Meteorological Office, the Building Research Station, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; as well as the London County Council, the British Iron and Steel Research Association, the National Smoke Abatement Society, the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation, etc.

Admission to the exhibition is free and all interested in the fight against smoke are welcome. The Institute's premises are close to Victoria Station, and the exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays.

Nursing Echoes.

INTENSIVE SHORT COURSES on the modern treatment of Poliomyelitis with respirator drill are being given at the Western Hospital, Seagrave Road, S.W.6. So far 28 State Registered Nurses (Sister-Tutors and Ward Sisters) have completed the course from general hospitals in London and from hospitals in the Western Region of the S.W. Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and from Scotland. The course is of two week's duration. Candidates work in the Polio Unit, study case papers; receive instruction on the management of patients in respirators and lectures on Poliomyelitis generally. The object of the course is to prepare as many Senior Registered Nurses as possible to deal with any serious outbreak of Polio that may occur in this country.

MISS O. W. CRAM, the L.C.C.'s Principal Organiser of Children's Care, is leaving this country on Saturday, October 3rd, for a lecture tour of Finland. She is going under the auspices of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration who have been asked by the Mannerheim League—the oldest and greatest child welfare organisation in Finland, with 600 local associations—for the services of an expert in child care problems.

Miss Cram, who has not previously been to Finland, is staying there until Thursday, October 15th. Child Welfare Week—an annual event—is being held in Finland while she is there and the emphasis this year is on the importance of home and parents in the child's healthy growth, both physical and mental. Miss Cram is giving lectures to parents, teachers, children's nurses and social workers and is taking part in various seminars. Her first public lecture is to be at Helsinki University on October 5th and she is visiting four or five other towns in addition to the capital. Miss Cram, in turn, is interested to learn something of Finland's progress in child guidance clinics and in the education of handicapped children, especially deaf and mentally defective.

As Principal Organiser of the L.C.C.'s Children's Care Service concerned with the welfare of schoolchildren Miss Cram is responsible for the work of 65 paid organisers and more than 2,000 voluntary workers.

SISTER HELEN HARVEY celebrated thirty years' service as sister at Standish House Sanatorium, Gloucestershire, on September 1st.

In the morning she received a cheque and flowers from patients, and a similar presentation took place during the afternoon when Dr. F. H. Woolley performed the ceremony on behalf of the sanatorium staff.

Miss P. M. Thomas, the Matron, thanked Sister Harvey for her services.

As part of the new recruiting campaign for the National Hospital Service Reserve, launched by the Minister of Health this month, a new booklet, "In Good Company", has been written for the Ministry of Health by Marian Cutler, the well-known journalist and broadcaster.

The booklet describes how, in the event of war, the country would depend upon the N.H.S.R. for manning the expanded hospital service and the first-aid and casualty services which would be run by the hospitals. To meet these demands should the need arise the strength of the Reserve has to be raised from its present 33,000 to 100,000.

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