

nual bulletin for 1942, show these figures:

Percentage of increase from 1941 to 1942 of girls under 21 arrested for drunkenness and driving while intoxicated 36.0
Percentage of increase from 1941 to 1942 of boys under 21 arrested for drunkenness and driving while intoxicated 25.3
Percentage of increase from 1941 to 1942 of girls under 21 arrested for disorderly conduct and vagrancy 102.1
Percentage of increase from 1941 to 1942 of girls under 21 arrested for prostitution and other sex offenses 80.1

"Arrests of girls under 21 for prostitution and commercialized vice," the report goes on to state, "showed a 64.8 percent increase last year; those arrested for other sex offenses increased 104.7 percent; vagrancy arrests increased 124.3 percent; and girls under 21 arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct showed increases during 1942 of 39.9 percent and 69.6 percent respectively."

Says Director J. Edgar Hoover in this connection: "The alarming upswing in crime among women and girls points to the need for renewed efforts to keep the home front clean, wholesome, and strong. Boom conditions and 'easy money' in the hands of youthful persons, together with a possible let-down in the influence of the home, are factors that must be offset in designing programs to combat the general upswinging crime curve."

"To what extent," I want to ask all American educators, "is the school obligated toward 'designing programs to combat the general upswinging crime curve,' especially as this applies to drinking by students?"

These same reports show that 10,384 young men and young women between the ages of 15 and 21 were arrested last year for drunkenness alone. An additional 2,140 were arrested for driving while intoxicated, while still another 1,014 were arrested for violation of liquor laws.

With what weapons are we to combat these soaring increases, and the multitude of human problems that they indicate?

The Navy, speaking through the man who has been placed in charge of its physical fitness program, believes that research and education are the long-term measures that will prove effective in reducing drinking among young people.

Youth needs to know the true nature of alcohol as a beverage, as only scientific research and sound education can give it convincingly.

Youth must rely upon today's educational leadership. The burden falls squarely upon the shoulders of those who teach and upon those who are responsible for what is taught.

Let's Learn

about the alcoholic

by

Nathan Adler

Social Worker, San Quentin Prison

Welfare Worker, Hebrew Association

WHAT WOULD you think of a medical program suggesting that people suffering from cancer and tuberculosis be shackled and thrown into barred cells? It is not an extravagant idea. Only 150 years ago we treated the mentally ill that way, chaining and confining them in prisons. Democratic France in 1789 first struck the chains from the insane and began a modern, scientific, hospital program.

We are too humane and enlightened to jail sick people today and we would view with horror the imprisonment of the tubercular or cancerous patient. Still, in most cities and counties of our country, we throw the chronic alcoholic addict into jail.

Quite properly we have been upset in viewing the victim of chronic alcoholism. We have rejected his irresponsibility, his failure to his family, his job, and his country. The alcoholic is a parasite in the community and so we wanted to get rid of him as, formerly, we rid ourselves of the insane. In our zeal to protect the rest of the community from the alcoholic our approach emphasized the isolation and punishment of the chronic drinker instead of his cure.

Who is the alcoholic? What is his illness? Can he be cured?

It is not enough to say that the alcoholic has little character or will power. We have to ask why he is an addict and cannot control his drinking. Modern psychology, after many studies, suggests that the alcoholic is suffering certain psychopathic disabilities which it calls neurotic. *The addiction of the alcoholic is likely to be a compromise to keep him from developing even worse mental diseases.* The alcoholic is a person who, though he may have grown up physically, has never grown up emotionally. He has failed to make the adjustments and establish the relationships expected of an adult. Although he is grown up he is still infantile in his attitudes and in his dependency on the people with whom he forms emotional attachments. He has never developed resourcefulness so that he can find recreation that is satisfying, work that is meaningful, and the kind of relationship with his parents, his brothers and sisters, and his wife that can give him security and happiness.

An emotional and mental cripple, who has never developed the security and tran-

quillity that come from a normal and healthy childhood, the alcoholic uses liquor as a social crutch.

Our mental hospitals are full of people whose illness began with frustration, a feeling of insecurity, and an anxiety they could not control. People suffering from the same difficulties, but to a lesser degree, need not become insane. They are handicapped, however, and require treatment from properly trained physicians. The alcoholic is in a similar predicament, and, furthermore, faces additional complications.

The alcoholic addict as a result of his excessive drinking is frequently slowly starving himself to death. Alcohol, taken in sufficient quantity, has enough calories to keep him from feeling hungry. But alcohol has no proteins, no minerals, no vitamins—all of which are required to maintain, replace and build body tissue and supply the necessary nourishment for his normal physical functions. As a result of the lack of vitamins and of his under nourishment the alcoholic is liable to develop diseases of the skin, like pellagra, nerve diseases of his arms and legs, called neuritis, and certain types of insanity.

Is this the type of man we want to throw into an overcrowded jail cell, frequently with no medical care or supervision? Shall we place this man, already seriously undernourished, on the poor diets our prisons and jails offer?

It is unchristian to reject even the least and the worst of men. While we proceed to prevent the disease by intelligent alcohol education: by bringing up healthy, happy youth with the resources within themselves to find wholesome recreation, satisfying work, and meaningful associations and relationships with other men and women, it is necessary to engage in an energetic treatment program for the existing alcoholic.

As in other fields, the study of the abnormal teaches us about the normal, so in treating the alcoholic we can learn more about preventive work. Furthermore, in curing the addict, we will be removing one source of infection in the community. We will isolate those who are incurable and treat effectively those who can respond to treatment. The thousands of dollars now spent in each city and county with little effect, merely in turning the drunkards in and out of jail on a perpetual merrygo-round, can be spent fruitfully, so that it gets results.

No disease has ever been successfully combated while people have been ashamed of it and whispered about it. It is time to smoke alcoholism out into the light of day. Instead of helping families hide the shame of the alcoholic, we have the responsibility

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