

Perfumed Opiate Used by Addicts in London

The narcotic squad of the London police department is reported to be excited over the recent discovery of a perfumed opiate which officials believe is being used by the drug trafficker to lure the unwitting into the drug habit. While investigating conditions in the night clubs—particularly those of a lower category which are associated with the cocaine traffic—the police discovered the perfume.

The officials believe that the importers of the odorous drug—it is distinctly foreign to England—reserve it especially for the novice in drug using. It is generally known that the first taste of drugs sometimes produces anything but the desired effect, and it is just this effect, one of nausea and vertigo, which the police believe the perfumed alkaloid is intended to offset, remarks the New York Times.

Experiments with the recovered perfume show that it need not be administered at all to produce a craving for it. All that is needed is to allow the vapors to float across the nostrils of the intended victim. One of the morbidly curious, who was not a veteran drug addict, explained the procedure of the drug vendor in popularizing his exotic product. She said that she had entered a drug rendezvous to look on. A woman presently approached her after she had experienced the pleasant odors of the strange essence and remarked about the perfume. The visitor said she liked it, whereupon the woman told her where it could be bought. Thinking she had purchased a rare essence, the visitor lifted the stopper of a vial once, twice and then succumbed to a coma. This ended, but she craved again for the vial and thus her addiction began.

While analysis has not yet revealed the composition of the alkaloid, its symptoms are very similar to those of heroin. It is described as a rich and languorous transparent fluid of heavy but not sticky odor.

How Can the Infant Cry So Loud and Long?

In meditating the other day on one of the most familiar lines of Tennyson, "An infant crying in the night," I decided that insufficient attention had been given to it by physiologists, phonologists, music teachers, elocutionists, singers and public speakers. Even these men and women who are fortunate enough to possess, like Marion Crawford's Roman singer, a throat of iron, do not dare to shout and shriek continuously for the space of two hours, whilst the average adult, if he roared for 15 minutes, would probably be hoarse for two days, and might seriously, perhaps permanently, injure his vocal chords.

Yet a tender infant, with a throat as soft as water, can yell all night fortissimo, and not only do himself no injury, but in the morning be fresh as a fox hound, and not only be able, but quite willing, even eager, to continue.

What is the secret of the baby's voice production? It seems to be a matter worth serious investigation. In emission of tone the infant unconsciously has a system that makes the Italian appear crude. If singing masters could discover what it is, and teach it, all present methods of vocal study would be revolutionized.—William Lyon Phelps in Scribner's Magazine.

Too Trusting

After affecting an entrance into the bank the burglar found his way to the strong room. When the light from his lantern fell on the door he saw the sign:

"Save your dynamite. The safe is not locked. Turn the knob and open." For a moment he was ruminated. "Anyhow, there's no harm in trying it, if it really is open." He grasped the knob and turned it.

Instantly the office was flooded with light, an alarm bell rang loudly, an electric shock rendered him helpless, while a panel in the wall opened and out rushed a bulldog which seized him.

An hour later, when the cell door closed on him, he sighed: "I know what's wrong with me. I'm too trusting. I have too much faith in human nature."

The Thinness of Terence

Two Irishmen met after a year's separation and were exchanging news.

"And how is Terence O'Toole these days?" asked Tim.

"Mike shook his head dolefully.

"Ah, Tim, it's a dyin' man Terence is."

"Dyin'? And pawnt makes ye think that, Mike?"

"Why, he's gettin' so thin! Now, you're thin, Tim, and I'm awfully thin, but sure poor Terence is thinner than both of us put together."—Everybody's Magazine.

It Happened in 79

A party of tourists was about to be steered through the ruins of Pompeii. The guide began his lecture by saying:

"Pompeii was destroyed by eruption in 79."

"Oh!" exclaimed the lady from the Middle West. "Just eight years after the Chicago fire!"—Everybody's Magazine.

Call the Police

"John!" screamed Mrs. Peckmoore in the stillness of the night, as somebody stumbled on the stairs, "Is that you?"

"No, dear," called back Mr. Peckmoore, a trifle unsteadily. "I'm a burglar. Call the police."

GOVERNMENT TAKES UP STUDY OF MOLE

Demand for Animal's Fur Inspires U. S. Officials.

Washington.—There has grown up a demand for mole skins and as the market for them develops, interest in them and how best to raise them without suffering too greatly by their depredations has become so great that the fur experts at Washington have made a special study of the subject and have published a booklet in which is apparent a marked pessimistic note. Until recently the sole supply of mole skins has come from abroad, but as the demand for them increases attention has been called to the fact that in certain parts of the United States there are moles that are bigger than those of alien birth and with fur of a better texture.

Steady efforts have always been made to protect and to propagate fur animals but no such attempt has ever been made in regard to the mole. The experts say that the only effect the growing demand for the fur will have will be to stimulate the trapping of them.

Mole Is Not a Rodent.

Contrary to general belief, the mole is not a rodent, and it can be easily distinguished from the shrew and the pocket gopher by its short, stout front legs. If not totally blind, the common mole can at best merely distinguish between light and darkness. What remains of its organs of sight lie wholly beneath the skin. The mole lives below the surface of the earth, as those know who have seen their lawns full of ridges. Whatever experiences of life the mole has come to him through his sensitive touch, acute hearing and highly developed powers of smell. Part of the information which the government has placed between the covers of the pamphlet reads:

"Certain galleries or passages leading from the deeper central system lead upward here and there to join the shallow sub-surface runs that stretch out over the mole's hunting grounds. Through these runs the little animal burrows along at irregular intervals in search of food and, when occasion demands, extends the limits of its operations by pushing out into untouched soil. As it extends the sub-surface runways, the movement of the mole is almost literally one of swimming. As to seasonal activity, it may be said that moles are probably never dormant, that they never hibernate. They may be trapped at any time of the year when the ground is not frozen too hard to permit the working of the trap."

Three to Four in Litter. The general belief that moles are rapid breeders is declared to be wrong because:

"Their life of seclusion shelters them from many of the dangers that constantly threaten the existence of the small mammals living above ground. To maintain their normal numbers from generation to generation is a rapid rate of increase, therefore, is not necessary. The young are brought forth early in spring in rudely constructed nests of half-green grass stubble and rootlets. The number in a litter is commonly three or four.

"Moles grow and develop with astonishing rapidity. In the Puget Sound country most of the young are born in the latter half of March and spend the month of April in the nests. By the last of May they are so well grown that the ordinary observer would not be likely to distinguish them from the parent moles.

"A mole's appetite seems to be almost insatiable. When held in captivity and given food to its liking it will sometimes eat more than its own weight in a day.

"The character of the food has been the subject of much discussion, but the multiplied evidence of digestive tract, dentition, stomach content and choice of food when in captivity leaves no doubt that the mole is a carnivorous animal, though vegetable matter is found in its stomach.

Little Subject to Attacks.

"On account of its secluded life the mole is little subject to attacks by the many foes of other small mammals. Its burrow is so small that no formidable enemy, except, perhaps, the weasel, can follow it into its underground, and as it seldom leaves its passageways there is little chance of its being seen by predatory animals. However, the movement of the soil when a mole is working near the surface may readily be detected by a watchful foe, and it is probable that hungry denizens of the wild secure a morsel of food now and then by springing suddenly upon a disturbed spot of earth and hurriedly digging out the furry little miner.

"Among birds of prey the hawk and owl take only a small toll from the mole tribe.

"The solution of the problem of getting rid of the mole as a pest has been found in the value of the pelts to the fur trade. Until recently the little animal had been captured more with the aim of exterminating a nuisance than of utilizing its skin.

"It is significant of our lack of attention to small business matters that American mole skins were not sooner quoted or offered on the markets. Mole skin garments have been fashionable in this country, particularly in the large eastern cities, for many years, and fur dealers consider it probable that undressed mole pelts will continue indefinitely to have a marketable value, this value fluctuating, of course, with the demands of fashion and the visible supply.

Forging a Signature Successfully Not Easy

The news published recently that a claim of \$125,000 (nominal \$500,000) has been made against a great London bank in connection with alleged forgeries has caused a sensation in financial circles. The amount involved is so large that, should the allegations prove correct, the crime will easily rank as one of the greatest of its kind of recent years.

The crime of forgery is comparatively rare. This is probably due to the fact that it is one fraught with great difficulty and serious danger.

Bankers have the greatest confidence in their ability to recognize their customer's signatures, and their commercial and legal brethren, who do not act on a signature unless it is verified by that of a witness, must be moved to admiration when they see a bank cashier paying out hundreds of pounds to a perfect stranger on the strength of a single signature on a check, written by a banker in the London Mail.

That their confidence is not misplaced is seen from the fact that a successful forgery practically never takes place, although on a busy day more than a million checks pass through the London clearing house alone, while the check turnover of the British Isles is some £80,000,000,000 a year.

It is, indeed, almost impossible to imitate successfully another man's signature. The handwriting may be most skillfully copied, but the criminal cannot get that personality and character into the signature which alone are the keynote of its genuineness.

Whooping Cough Cured by X-Ray Treatments

Will the X-Ray prove itself the long-looked-for remedy for whooping cough? A new departure in the treatment of this disease has been inaugurated at the Boston floating hospital, where for the last year patients have been experimented upon with great success, says a Boston dispatch to the Kansas City Star.

Dr. Henry L. Bowditch, physician in charge of the hospital, has renewed the treatment of whooping cough with the X-Ray, which treatment was discovered in 1911 by a Russian physician, and abandoned by him as impractical. Doctor Bowditch is the pioneer in this method of treatment in the New England states, and while cures in all cases are not effected completely through the agency of the X-Ray, great things are expected of it in the near future.

"Seventy-five per cent of the cases respond to treatment," Doctor Bowditch said. "In a period of two months last year we treated 338 cases with gratifying results."

"This treatment shortens the duration of the disease, lessens the cough and enables the patient to get much needed sleep."

Farmers Using Geysers

Geysers are proving useful adjuncts to farming in Iceland. A well-known dye works in that country linked up its factory with water pipes direct from the hot springs, and after using the hot water in the color processes and for heating the factory and the workmen's homes, conducted it through underground pipes laid in fields, which as a result yielded three times as much produce as neighboring fields not so equipped. Although from time immemorial the Icelanders have been familiar with geysers, only recently have their industrial uses been seriously considered, and a project is on foot to supply Reykjavik with hot water for heating, bathing and washing purposes from one of the neighboring hot springs.

Inviting Crime

"Look here what I bought for that dog of Juniors." Mr. Burton announced, throwing a package on the table.

Mrs. Burton unwrapped it. "Why, George!" she exclaimed. "A dog collar of all things!"

"Yes, and I gave \$3.50 for it," Mr. Burton related.

"Three dollars and a half!" echoed Mrs. Burton. "What on earth! I don't understand! You've always said you had no use on earth for Juniors' dog and you wish somebody would steal it!"

"Yes, that's just it," Mr. Burton agreed. "With that collar on it some one will be sure to steal it now!"

Right, Anyhow

There was a worthy public official who had a goodly fund of common sense, but no great amount of book learning. He had never had a chance to acquire the same. Being called upon to address a class gathering, he spoke repeatedly of the university alumnus.

"What does he mean?" whispered one of the audience.

"He means the alumnus."

"Well, he knows they are good metal, anyhow."

His Phantom Fight

"What made you think this gentleman was drunk?" asked the judge.

"Well, yer honor, 'e was 'avin' a bit of a fight with his bootlegger."

"But that doesn't prove he was drunk, officer."

"No, but there wasn't any bootlegger there, yer honor."—Everybody's Magazine.

A Visitor's View

New York city spends a million dollars a day for municipal government, most of it, we should judge, for traffic officers.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

FINDS OLD RECORDS OF JEWS IN CHINA

Librarian of College Brings Back Hebrew Papers.

New York.—Adolph S. Oke, librarian of the Hebrew Union college, Cincinnati, has brought to New York complete records of a Hebrew community life and culture which existed in China during the Ming dynasty, 1593-1644, of which all trace had been lost to civilization.

Mr. Oke returned here recently from an extended book collecting expedition in Europe, in which he succeeded in finding 50 Chinese Hebrew manuscripts found in original Chinese silk, which, with the exception of four which were stolen several years ago from an exhibition in London, constitute all the manuscripts known to have been written by Jews living in China.

The manuscripts consist of hymnals and prayer books and were brought from China to London by the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews in China, an organization which sent missionaries to that country for the first time in 1840. They were purchased by the missionaries of that society in the village of Kiating-too.

The manuscripts are curious in that instead of being in the form of scrolls they are in the shape of books. The oblong pages are folded one upon the other, and the reader pulls the pages out fanwise. Several books, consisting of hymnals and prayer books, contain translations of hymns into the Jewish-Perisian dialect, thereby indicating a relationship between the Chinese and Perisian-Hebrew rituals.

Experience of Missionaries. "The money for the purchase of these books," said Mr. Oke recently, "was made available by a group of Jews in the west, headed by Ben Sallog of Portland, Ore. and Rabbi Joseph, son of Isaac M. Wise, the founder of the Hebrew Union college, also of that city. With the new acquisitions the Hebrew Union college library will now house 70,000 books, among which are the largest Spanish and Hebrew musical collections in the world."

Accompanying the manuscripts is a history of the experience of the missionaries of the village of Kiating-too. The introduction shows how in the middle of the Nineteenth century, once powerful Jewish groups had sunk into poverty and whole communities were in danger of disintegration. Persecution and starvation was the familiar lot of the remnants of the Ming dynasty Jews at that period. The writer of the history appends interesting notes on how the manuscripts were acquired.

The Introduction to the History

"Since the British treaty of Nanking in 1842 many Christians in Europe have directed their attention toward the Jews in China. It was at their request that the writer of these introductory remarks undertook to direct the general plan and management of the undertaking. A friendly feeling was generally evinced toward our visitors, which is in no small measure attributable to the Hebrew letter of introduction from Shanghai, of which although the Jews understood not the purport, they readily perceived its identity with their own sacred writings. Without such an introduction, they would probably have been received with suspicion and distrust as spies.

"Our visitors learned that during the year 1840, the whole of the little Jewish community at Kiating-too were thrown into great alarm and exposed to danger of persecution on account of suspected connection with foreigners, by a letter written in Chinese and dispatched some time before by the late Temple Layton, Esq., H. B. M. consul at Amoy, for the purpose of procuring some Hebrew MSS."

"Hinds Synagogue in Peking."

"Here, in the midst of a surrounding population, two-thirds of whom were professors of Mohammedanism, and close adjoining to a heathen temple dedicated to the 'god of fire,' a few Jewish families, sunk in the lowest poverty and degradation, their religion scarcely more than a name, and yet sufficient to separate them from the multitude around, exposed to trial, reached up the scale of long-cherished hope, remained the inconspicuous depositaries of the oracles of God and survived as the solitary witnesses of departed glory. Not a single individual could read the Hebrew books; they had been without a rabbi for 50 years.

The expectations of a Messiah seems to have been entirely lost. The rise of circumscription, which appears to have been observed at the period of their discovery by the Jesuits two centuries ago, had been totally discontinued. The synagogue itself was tottering in ruins; some of the ground had been sacrificed to pagan rites, and a portion of the fallen materials sold to the neighboring heathen. Some time previously they had petitioned the Chinese emperor to have pity on their poverty and to rebuild their temple. No reply had been received from Peking, but to this feeble hope they still clung. Out of 70 family names or clans only seven now remained, numbering about 200 individuals in all, dispersed over the neighborhood. According to present appearances, in the judgment of our native messengers, after a few years all traces of Judaism will probably have disappeared."

Ten Million Auto Campers Chicago—Approximately 10,000,000 automobile campers hit the trails of the country in 1923.

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