



Striking at Disease

Bowlers Millie Martorella and Lanny Frattare, WBBF, have been named area co-chairmen of the "Strike Out MD" week, an event in which bowlers aid the fight against muscular dystrophy by contributing a nickel or dime for each missed spare during games.

Balancing the Books

Surveys And A Diary

By Father John S. Kennedy

Robert Leckie's "American and Catholic" (Doubleday, \$7.95) is described on its jacket as "a narrative of their role in American history." This intention is pretty well fulfilled.

There is little that is original about Mr. Leckie's book. The same ground has been covered by others. But his presentation may be in a more popular style, and as a summary for the information of the ordinary reader, it has its merits.

He makes the point that whoever discovered America was certainly Catholic, and shows some of the Catholic beginnings in the new world. He quickly moves to colonial times, with the principal focus on Maryland, but with attention given to the presence and the lot of Catholics in other colonies.

The role of Catholics in the Revolution is touched on, with particular notice of the two Carrolls. Then comes the formal organization of the Church in the infant republic, with the appointment of John Carroll as the first American bishop.

The growth and travails of the Church in the nineteenth century take up much of the book, and these are clearly and succinctly, if conventionally, treated by the author. The picture which he draws is quite comprehensive and generally just.

Less space is devoted to the American Church in the twentieth century, now approaching its final quarter. Here, too, the survey takes in the main features and a considerable amount of detail, and the judgments made are, in the main, sound enough.

It is when Mr. Leckie comes to the developments after Vatican II that he loses his cool. Granted the scene is turbulent, that there is confusion, that divisions of opinion have arisen and sharpened; nevertheless the historian, even the popular historian, cannot wisely show himself to be a partisan as Mr. Leckie does.

Thus, he permits himself a diatribe against Catholic advocates of sex education which is not only unfair but also in atrocious taste. He does not simply express disapproval of the folk Mass, but styles it an indecency. And he makes astonishing blunders, such as labeling Father Andrew Greeley "a New Breed apostle."

Courier-Journal

Mr. Leckie is entitled to his views; they are shared by great numbers. But he should have controlled his feelings. It is regrettable that a useful and, for most of the way, well balanced book should have been compromised by the bias angrily voiced in its final pages.

Sir Anthony Glyn's "The British: Portrait of a People" (Putnam, \$7.95) is really about what the author calls "the Britishman," who, he says, "is different from—it would be presumptuous to say greater than—the Englishman, the Scotsman, the Welshman, the Irishman"—that last being strictly Ulster, of course.

Sir Anthony is perceptive and has a light touch. In wit, he does not approach Luigi Barzini, author of "The Italians" a brilliant book upon which the present work and others have been modeled. But he is more pleasant than Sanche de Gramont, who did a book about the French.

Does he really mean it when he contends that the British are anti-family? This idea gets plenty of attention and exemplification in his book. It goes beyond the notion of reserve and non-demonstrativeness which one associates with the British. Sir Anthony flatly says, "In the ideal British family, noncommunication among its various members should be as total as human ingenuity can make it."

Animals are not only cherished by the British, he maintains, but they are treated somewhat as gods. "There are, it is estimated, five times as many buderigars in Britain as there are babies." And as for dogs, "The British dog is supposed to be an instant and accurate judge of character, even with people whom it is meeting briefly for the first time. If, for some reason, a friend's dog takes a dislike to you, . . . your character, previously socially acceptable, is suddenly seen for what it really is, a thin veneer of politeness cloaking all sorts of unnamable and vile characteristics."

Sir Patrick does not pretend that his book is encyclopedic or scholarly. It is a once-overlightly affair, abounding in shrewd observation and, by and large, amusingly done.

Alcoholics Die Younger

FIRST OF 2-PART SERIES

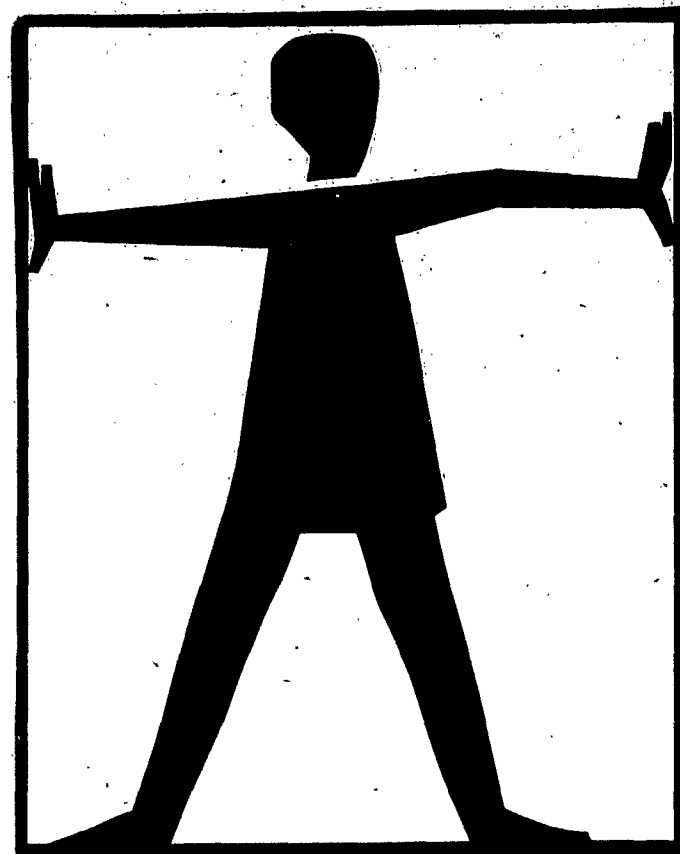
New York — What is alcoholism? According to the American Medical Association, it is a disease, like cancer or diabetes. Alcohol (ethanol) is a mind-altering drug, which has the qualities of inducing tolerance and withdrawal syndrome — two qualities which are associated with psychological dependence or addiction. This happens after a varying, but usually long preliminary period of heavy social drinking. We don't yet know why one out of every 15 adult U.S. drinkers ends up as an alcoholic. Why don't the other 14?

Nobody knows the answer and surprisingly little is being done to find out, considering the disease's prevalence. There are now 6½ million Americans suffering from alcoholism, according to Dr. Roger O. Egeberg, assistant secretary for Health, Education and Welfare. Dr. Egeberg has described alcoholism as the nation's most neglected health problem.

Statistics show that the average untreated alcoholic's life-span is shortened by 12 years, yet most cases of alcoholism in the U.S. fail to get adequate medical attention. Early symptoms often go unrecognized because U.S. physicians are not adequately trained to detect them. Alcoholism still suffers from the effects of social and moral prejudices which retard its recognition as an illness and therefore discourages urgently needed professional treatment.

If your answer is "yes" to any of the following key questions, prepared by the National Council on Alcoholism (NCA), you have some of the symptoms that MAY indicate incipient alcoholism:

- Difficult to get along with — when drinking;



- Drinks "because he is depressed";
- Drinks "to calm his nerves";
- Drinks until he is "dead drunk" at times;
- Can't remember parts of some drinking episodes;
- Hides liquor;
- Lies about his drinking;
- Neglects his family or job when he is drinking;

If you even suspect that you are slowly drifting into alcoholism (along with millions of other Americans), you should seek expert advice right away, such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

If you wish, you may contact the National Council on Alcoholism at 2 Park Ave., New York City.

The precise role of the physical pre-disposition and psychological factors and the combination of psychology, pre-disposition and cultural availability of alcohol in the genesis of alcoholism are not known. It is not impossible that a lab test for susceptibility to alcoholism could be found. Research on these many variables in alcoholism is much needed and is a goal of NCA.

(NEXT WEEK — WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE ALCOHOLICS)

Help Us Close

The Season With A Celebration. Be On Hand This Saturday Nite, Jan. 2 And Help Us Close Another Delightful Season At The

Crescent Beach HOTEL

Be On Hand To Sing Auld Lang Syne. Serving Dinner From Five O'Clock 'Til Midnight. Big Super Deluxe Buffet Served With Our Compliments After Mid-Nite. Enjoy Lunch, Dinner and the Holiday Decor Kept Intact for the Remainder of the Season

BOB LOWE TRIO
Entertaining In Our Vineyard Lounge

See ya.

Your Hosts "THE BARRYS" Joe, Gloria
663-5775