

Alcoholism

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of treatment and if it failed it was the patient's fault.

"But now multiple and combination treatments are offered to the patient so he can choose what is good for him. Here in 2-West we focus on performing proper withdrawal, then look at each patient as an individual with specific strengths and weaknesses.

"We do this from a multi-disciplinary aspect; sociologists, specialists in internal medicine and psychiatrists collectively put together a plan for each patient.

"For example, one man did well in AA and wants to continue in that, we support his choice. Another may have trouble with his wife, so we get him in therapy and get his wife attending a spouse group at Strong Memorial and State Hospital.

"Anyone with a medical problem is sent to a general hospital and a homeless, skid row type is set up here, in the continued care unit which deals only with homeless male alcoholics."

When asked about half-way houses, places where patients can go after hospital stay, Dr. Hanson quickly replied: "To build more taking-care-of-places, instead of developing the manpower, is not the answer. The same few will be doing the work. Instead she emphasized education — in medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, established medical professions, and the general public.

"I was taught nothing of alcoholism, only the extreme medical damage that can be the result, but nothing of what to do if someone is nearing the grey areas from social drinker to alcoholic, or how to withdraw someone.

"There has been less study of alcohol than any drug addiction. Alcohol is a drug, but it seems everything comes before alcohol. Perhaps that is because all adults use alcohol so there is a moralistic view taken, whereas most people don't shoot up heroin.

"But that is just part of it. We must get the drinking patient into regular hospital care. General hospitals must take on some of the service. Often where we start with a patient is withdrawal. When he is still working he doesn't see himself as a problem, it is not until he has exacerbation of his illness that he is open to advice, suggestions and help. He is a patient at this point.

"So although withdrawal is only part of the treatment it is often the first contact and the first step," she continued. "That is why it is important that everyone get into the game. If other hospitals picked up this first step we would be doing a better job."

She concluded that 98% of the people with drinking problems who go to 2-West go of their own accord. "It is a myth that people won't go to be treated."

Gerald Sullivan, director of the continued care unit, was formerly deputy superintendent of rehabilitation at the county penitentiary.

Prior to September 1967 public intoxication was a misdemeanor, and 70% of the prisoners at the penitentiary were

DOCTRINE COURSE

Canandaigua — A ten-week course in Catholic doctrine is being presented by Father Kevin Murphy at St. Mary's School, on Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m. A \$10 fee is charged.

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there for public intoxication. Now it is a violation which shortens the alcoholic's stay in prison from 90 days to 15 days. The need for a break in their drinking cycle is still there, but not taken care of.

"My concern from a penitentiary standpoint was to get doctors who knew the seriousness of withdrawal to help with a treatment plan," Sullivan said. "Our objective at continued care is to manage these people in a non-punitive setup. The judge began to give conditional discharges, that is instead of 15 days he could remove the charges if a man would stay in a medical situation for one year.

"We wanted our problem to be an open one, where people could come and go as they please. But we do have two restrictions: the man must stay for at least two months, and he must use antabuse, a drug which stays in the system for five days and causes sickness if alcohol is taken in that time.

"We found that as soon as we showed we wanted to help people stayed in excess of 90 days willingly. Not only do men often stay for more than 90 days, but often they do change their life style. About 20 have been here a year or more. They pay \$70 a month for a single room, and we attend to their medical needs.

"As of last March 15 we began a pick-up van program modeled after the Manhattan Bowery Project. The objective is to go out every morning until we see someone who looks pretty sick. We have two crews of one civilian and one policeman in each van. They ask the man if he wants to go to the hospital and then they take him to 2-West for a five day and maybe he will get into a treatment program.

"But the difficult part of the program is that for the man to begin being treated he must be medically screened at an emergency ward in a general hospital. We are trying to change this procedure. We are hoping to organize so a nurse right here can quickly examine a man and let the man rest here a few days."

William Dugan, an alcoholic who is the alcoholism rehabilitation counselor for Action for a Better Community on North Union Street, also said that the physical that is required before admission into any hospital is nonsense. "You can't do anything with a sick alcoholic before he is dried out," he explained.

"At ABC we work only with innercity men and women. We meet the men through the courts. Every morning we interview those arrested the night before for public intoxication and give the presiding judge recommendations for final disposition of the case.

"We've had good cooperation with the probation officers and judges. A majority of city court judges realize the man is not a criminal but, what can you do with him, he needs detoxification. The only alternative to the hospital is to lock him up in order to break his drinking cycle. Detoxification is the only way to save their lives. We've gotten a lot of these men out of court and into treatment centers to the amazement of a great many people."

Besides referrals to hospitals the ABC also gives direct assistance. Dugan has organized group therapy sessions which meet once a week, and the public health nurses now have some place to refer the people they see but don't feel qualified to help since it's always been a moral issue and not a medical one. Before you can help a person you have to educate him to what alcoholism is. He doesn't know what is wrong with himself or what he can do about it.

Educators

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study its informal education system. "The English not only realize that each child is unique, coming from unique situations which he selectively perceives, but they act accordingly," she explained.

Prof. Weber contrasted the little English schools with our enormous city schools and explained that the principle in England is a teaching head, an educational leader, whereas "I look at ours and they are scheduling lunchroom supervision."

She stressed "Informal schools have abandoned achievement promotion because they learned that one sure way to prevent catching up is to create a hierarchy of failure."

The single teacher classroom of the past too often had a passive learning atmosphere, she said, despite the fact that the learning process was active.

"Isn't it fascinating that adults learn concretely while we expect children to learn verbally," she said. "We don't believe it 'til we see it." That demand for proof is the reason teachers can't wait for all their co-workers to agree with their ideas of change. "A good way to immobilize yourself forever is to wait for everyone to agree."

Team teaching clusters are one way to combat teacher isolation in a single classroom in large schools, she pointed out, to foster learning with others in an open environment.

Alcoholics Retreat

A three-day retreat for alcoholics will be held at Notre Dame Retreat House if enough interest is shown. Clarence Wiest, of 3 Ravenwood Ave., asks that interested people call him at 235-3939.

Grants

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al Health Planning Council, is president of the Journal corporation and was the fledgling paper's first editor. The regular staff consists of unpaid volunteers, all experienced in some phase of newspaper production, he said.

During the summer, they hired 15 teenagers from among 50 applicants, taught them news writing, photography and layout and paid them \$1.85 an hour out of Summer Youth Opportunity Program funds. When the money ran out many of the young employees stayed on, unpaid. Two will enter college in January, "a thing undreamed of at the start of the summer," DuBois said.

The trainees, 15 to 19 years old, included four unwed parents. Thirteen of the 15 were on welfare.

The purpose in hiring them was to provide "an injection of confidence" with the teaching of basic skills, for these were people "who really didn't have any sort of career on the horizon," DuBois said. Need and interest were the selection criteria.

The program submitted with the grant application proposed a continuation of the training policy, plus the hiring of an innercity advertising salesman and a distribution chief. The object would be to find out whether the newspaper could take in enough money to pay its own help. The cost estimate was much higher than the grant, "but we're overjoyed with what we got," DuBois exclaimed.

"I know they are hit by so many truly legitimate, worthy proposals, that we are very lucky. They haven't got all the money in the world."

Wednesday, October 6, 1971



Mercy Tea

The annual Mercy High tea for mothers of freshmen is scheduled for 1 p.m., Oct. 13 at the school gym. Making plans are, from left, Mrs. George Manning, Sister Mary Bryan, principal, and Mrs. Arnold Ciaccio. Mrs. Ciaccio, Mrs. Manning are co-chairmen for the tea.

Legion Sponsors Peace Mass

The Legion of Mary invites people of all denominations and creeds to join in prayers for peace this Sunday afternoon, Oct. 10.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will offer Mass at 3 p.m. in St. Joseph's Church, Franklin St.



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