

Alcoholism: Still A Major Problem

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advance warning of its hazards. The very fact that alcohol use has high social acceptance merely complicates the problem.

Almost all young people have some direct family experience with the problem of alcoholism (the problem of persons who have lost their control over the use of alcohol).

It might be the problem of "old uncle Charlie"—the likeable but unreasonable member of the family who wrecks family Christmas dinners. At a more tragic level, it might be the problem of a father or mother whose

drinking has scarred an entire family.

More young people than can be counted have had their early life marred by a father or mother whose drinking has become a way of life. Often these young people have been helpless in the face of it all.

Even in such instances where the calamity of alcoholism has been so well defined and many of these youngsters have said with meaning and conviction, that "this will never happen to me," it has happened to them.

No one sets out to be a drunk—or a drug addict. Tragically, however, few are able to cope with the problem

once it does happen to them. Somehow our society seems bent on creating alternate means to "death at an early age."

Just as there are no definite answers to the problems of drug use, there are no certain solutions for alcoholism.

Of an estimated five million alcoholics in the United States, not more than half a million have been able to find ways to stop drinking on anything like a permanent basis and, to be sure, the only answer for the alcoholic is permanent and complete abstinence from alcohol.

On the other hand, more thorough study and greater

experience have indicated additional programs to help the alcoholic. For example, Alcoholics Anonymous, a voluntary and unstructured organization of former "drunks" has had remarkable success in helping people in trouble with alcohol.

Indeed, much of the knowhow developed by these people seems to have high promise for help with drug users, but there remains much to be done in the field of alcohol use and misuse. One thing is certain—reliance on "will power" or exhortation to "sin no more" is not an answer in either case.

The State Legislature has enabled the University to make

a start in cooperative research in the field of alcoholism by providing for a new Center for the Study of Alcohol. Its basic purpose will be to provide an opportunity for cooperative research, cutting across school and departmental lines.

Furthermore, it is felt that much of the research in the area of alcoholism will bear a direct relation to future studies in the field of drug addiction.

Such small undertakings on problems so tragic and complicated may seem of little worth, but perhaps a combination of effects such as these at the University Center and similar projects across the country can help to piece together an age-old puzzle of man.

It is a worthy undertaking for a University as it struggles to make its existence more relevant in the troubled society that created it.

Pharmacy School Plans Drug Seminars

The students and faculty of the School of Pharmacy will assist the State Department of Public Instruction in a war against drug abuse.

Financed through an \$80,000 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation grant, the program includes three week-long seminars for teachers, counselors and administrators to be held this summer.

The first of these discussions will begin Monday.

The program is aimed at three facts of the drug use problem: the "host" (the drug user); the "agent" (the drugs and their sources); and the "environment".

Methods of detection, as well as the psychological, social, medical and legal

aspects of drug abuse will be discussed.

Program director Dr. David R. Work will speak Monday on "The Agent Factor of the Drug Abuse Problem," Dr. Work is the assistant dean of the School of Pharmacy.

Other speakers include

Claude U. Paoloni, Dr. William E. Hall, Dr. Martin H. Keeler of the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. George P. Hager, Dr. George P. Cocolas and Dr. Paul B. Fiddleman.

This fall, Pharmacy students will visit schools throughout the state to speak on drug abuse, while student leaders and counselors will be invited here for one day seminars. Pharmacy student Jesse Pike will head this phase of the program.

Gulick Gets \$36,100 Grant

UNC anthropologist John Gulick has been awarded a \$36,100 grant for directing research in Iran that will lead to the establishment of a family planning and research center in the city of Isfahan.

The project, funded by the National Science Foundation, is a joint effort by UNC's Carolina Population Center and the University of Isfahan. Its ultimate purpose is to increase effectiveness of the Iranian government's family planning program.

Prof. and Mrs. Gulick will be in Iran for one year and Mrs. Gulick will be associated with her husband in the project. They spent one month in Iran last summer doing preliminary work for this project.

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