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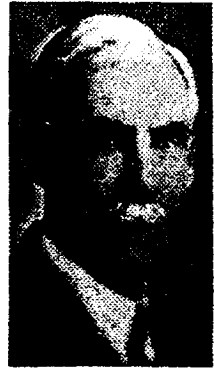
"Come on, fellows, it's better ahead than it is here!"

—Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan, 1918

3,000,000 Sick Americans

The death this week of Andrew Volstead has been noted, but not widely mourned. He is chiefly remembered as author of the Volstead Act that implemented Prohibition. Other than that, he was a country lawyer in Minnesota, a life-long dry, and a Congressman. He believed in regulating morality through law, and his liquor-thinking lives after him among people who still would make John Barleycorn an outlaw.

The Volstead school of thought has been succeeded by more modern and intelligent battlers against the obvious evils wrought by the Demon Rum. These people are not attacking drink itself nor the average American's right to his grog, but they demand that the disease of alcoholism be recognized as such, and that alcoholics be treated as sick human beings rather than as wayward citizens, rummies, stew bums, clink-fodder. Pressure is brought on government, municipal hospitals, and on the medical profession itself to make them face the problem of the alcoholic more realistically for the benefit of both alcoholics and society in general.



Volstead

The U.S. has some 3,000,000 cases of alcoholism. Here on Long Island we have our share. Five states have state commissions on alcoholism. The so-called Empire state is not one of them. More than half the medical profession does not treat alcoholics. Few hospitals attempt even minor treatments for them. In Nassau and Suffolk, only Meadowbrook Hospital handles such cases, and there you must be booked as a police case to be admitted. You can't enter voluntarily for defogging, vitamin-feeding, rebuilding to health.

It is understandable why doctors shy away from alcoholics. They are unreliable patients, take time, usually don't show much will for cure, and probably can't be "cured" with present inadequate medical knowledge of what makes them hic-tick. They are a nuisance to doctors, same as they are to society, their families, their friends and themselves. Until recently, alcoholism has been denounced as a moral issue as Volstead denounced it, rather than fought as a disease. Three million sick Americans suffer and cause suffering, yet municipal, state and federal governments do little to help them.

The solution will be found in providing hospitalization and rehabilitation of a kind that takes time as well as money. Meanwhile medical research goes on, notably at Yale University where a clinical study of alcoholism is in progress. Yale also backs a National Committee for Education on Alcoholism to interest non-alcoholics among leading citizens and organize them for action. Alcoholics are learning to help themselves through Alcoholics Anonymous, a nationwide organization that claims to have at least arrested the development of 30,000 cases among members.

AA's first chapter east of Forest Hills was started in Hempstead in 1943. They now have 14 groups out here, 10 in Nassau and four in Suffolk. Unable to hospitalize patients on L. I., they have an arrangement and a ward at Knickerbocker Hospital in the city, where patients can get five days of care for \$75. Their membership in the two counties is over a thousand. This may be more cases of alcoholism than you ever suspected on the loose locally. Yet by no means all alcoholics join AA.

The police encounter alcoholics when they become public nuisances. AA people report they are properly considerate here and have learned to cooperate with the efforts of AA. Cops know it won't cure an alcoholic to throw him in jail to sober up. In some cases, however, there is no alternative.

A small handful of social-minded citizens and leading churchmen are working now to persuade Long Island hospitals to admit patients whose only ailment is alcoholism. They have found it slow going. Apparently an alcoholic is expected to break a leg or smash up a bar to be eligible for medical help. Yet if only two per cent of the nation's hospital beds were available to these cases, alcoholism could be controlled on a national scale. It would be far more sane and less costly than another noble experiment of the type brought on by the disciples of Volstead. As an American social accomplishment, it would be far more noble.

Perhaps She Never Had To Grade Papers

Bay Shore—I am writing to you because you have seen the unbiased side of things in the past and have the courage to say so. Every working person should receive his worth; but to me, this idea of a raise for the teachers is certainly out of line, considering the hours they put in compared with that of say, telephone operators, secretaries, nurses, clerks and all the other lines of work done chiefly by women. Do the others have nice long holidays at Thanksgiving, Easter and perhaps legal holidays—to say nothing of the time off Christmas until after New Year's—then a couple of months in the Summer. A news commentator this morning said that some teachers will be compelled to obtain other jobs with the teaching. Wouldn't the rest of us also if we just worked the days and hours they do?

—June Evans.

Good Neighbors

Floral Park—My husband has been confined to Meadowbrook Hospital for a month. I would like to thank many friends in Floral Park for gifts and cards, and also the blood donors for transfusions. (Two of them are fellow workers at Doubleday's in Garden City.) We have been residents here 25 years.

—Mrs. G. Horner.

Dig

Port Washington — To whoever makes a habit of leaving dogs dead or dying in some woods in a box, because you haven't the backbone to pick up a shovel and bury them: I found the black cocker on the field opposite the banks on Beacon Hill Road. I buried it. I hope you don't get your hands on another dog.

—Dog Pitier.

Incident on a Bus

Hempstead—Today you should irritate the whole county with vigor. On Sunday afternoon an elderly man dropped dead on the Freeport-Mineola bus. Even before the bus came to a halt at the Fulton St. stop, most of the passengers on it stampeded all over the prostrate body to the exit. If Tex, the driver of the bus, had not pushed them back and held them off with sheer force, they would have mutilated the corpse beyond recognition. I say the corpse, but neither I nor the owners of the flat and the spike-heels knew if the man was dead at the time when they stepped upon him. Was this a display of mercilessness, or of cowardice? In either case, we need a lot of improvement before we can measure up to the stature we so pleasingly paint of ourselves. We need better teachers than those we have now, we need less nightclubs and more churches and church-going families! We need to learn about pity and courage, and the ability to estimate values properly.

A. J. A.

The Hub Is Full of Wolves

Mineola—Something ought to be done about the big wolves at Hempstead. What a bunch! Big talk, that's all, and boy do they toss the line! Mineola, that's where the good fellows come from. A word to wise girls: Beware of those HEMPSTEAD FELLOWS. You can hear them howl a mile away. And that's enough, sister, that's enough!

—Three Wise Fools.



Let PROF. DO-IT

Professor Do-It will handle your problems for you. He will answer questions and act as a go-between for you and public officials and public utilities. Send your questions to him. If your letter is not published, you will get a private reply by enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope. All letters must contain full name and address. Those which do not may go unanswered if Prof. Do-It feels that publication is not of general interest. Name and address will be withheld on request. Address him as Professor Do-It, Newsday.

Social Security

Q—I have been in Social Security since it began. At that time I was about 35 years old. On and off, I figure I have paid into it about seven full years. This is what I would like to know: If I did not pay any more Social Security from now until I reach the age of 65, would I still be entitled to old-age benefits when I reach 65 years of age? Or must I pay for a certain number of years in order to obtain it?—M.G., Massapequa.

A—Roughly, the situation is this: If you paid Social Security since it started, and at that time you were 35 years of age, you have not accumulated sufficient quarters to discontinue payments yet.

You will need 40 quarters of any calendar year, which is approximately 10 years of covered employment with at least \$50 earned in each quarter, to be insured.

It is wiser to continue Social Security payment until 1950 or 1951, which is again a rough guess, as your survivors will then be protected in case of your death.

We would suggest you write to the Social Security Board, Baltimore, Md., requesting a statement of wages which will give you the information you desire.

Q—I would like to ask about my sister-in-law's Social Security problem. Her husband died in November. They sent her a check for \$140 for burial expenses. She was advised by a friend to return the check as she could not receive old-age pension if she accepted the check. She wants to get the pension as she needs it for support. Is she entitled to a death benefit insurance also? She has returned the check to Social Security.—G.R., North Bellmore.

A—Old-age pension, applied for from local welfare departments, has no effect on Social Security

lump-sum death benefit or vice-versa. Your sister-in-law should have kept the check she received when her husband died.

If the deceased was fully insured, the widow receives the lump-sum payment now and, when she reaches the age of 65, she will receive monthly Social Security benefits, providing she has not remarried.

Movies of Movies

Q—Is it possible to go to a motion picture theater and take a picture of the screen with an ordinary camera?

If it is possible, will you explain the proper method? If it isn't possible with an ordinary camera, how is it possible to take a picture of the screen?—G.H., Wantagh.

A—There are several methods of taking pictures of a motion picture screen, but it is impossible to do so with an ordinary box or folding camera.

A motion picture of the screen could be taken with an ordinary movie camera which has a normal action of about one-fortieth of a second. With the use of an extra fast film, results would be good. That is, if the manager of the theater will let you take a movie of the movie.

Note to S.S., Nassau Blvd.

Consult the Constitution of the United States, Article I, for desired information on Congressmen and Senators. It is too lengthy for reprint here.

Note to S. Q., Mineola

Consult the Newsday classified advertisements and the classified telephone book for a listing of animal hospitals and kennels.

Note to A.C.W., Farmingdale

Sorry, we don't answer motion picture queries. Contact the Manhattan office of the producer for the information.