

New Model "Alcometer" Registers Accurately "Sober" Or "Plastered"

By WAYNE OLIVER
 NEW YORK.—(AP)—Science is working both sides of the street. Not only does it develop drinks that are more tempting, but it also comes up with better devices to blast your alibi if you have too many.

Among the displays at the chemical industries exposition here is a streamlined 1950 model "alcometer," which might more aptly be called a "drunkometer."

It's about the size of a small console radio and the manufacturers say it's as easy to operate. It has a sloping panel with about half a dozen controls, a large dial with a pointer and a tube sticking out the right hand side.

You blow your breath into the tube. The operator of the machine, a refinement of earlier models, manipulates the controls. Eight minutes later the hand on the dial moves over the telltale evidence—cold sober, mildly intoxicated, or stinko.

The machine, made by Alfred Bicknell Associates of Cambridge, Mass., was developed by Dr. Leon A. Greenberg and associates in the department of applied physiology at Yale university.

Dr. Greenberg explained that the dial is calibrated to show the percentage of alcohol in the

blood. This has been accepted in a number of states as legal evidence of degree of intoxication. The machine actually measures the amount of alcohol on the breath, but translates this to percentage in the blood because the two are related by a fixed ratio.

Degrees Registered
 Dr. Greenberg said the universally accepted measurements are these: up to .05 per cent alcohol in your blood, sober; .05 to .15 per cent, your command of your faculties probably is impaired but that alone is not proof you're drunk; from .15 up, no question about it—you're plastered.

That .05 to .15 range, he explained, is the range covering the differences in individuals

Clue Found To Hearing Defects At Childbirth

PHILADELPHIA.—(AP)—A clue as to why some children are born deaf or with hearing defects that later lead to total deafness has been uncovered by the university of Pennsylvania hospital.

The hospital said the RH negative blood factor "can be directly responsible for impaired hearing in the children of parents who have what is known as RH incompatibility."

RH gets its name from the fact it first was discovered in Rhesus monkeys. It is the factor in the blood which refers to a substance found in the red blood cells. About 87 percent of normal persons have this RH substance in their bloodstreams and they are called "RH positives."

The remaining 13 percent don't and are "RH negatives."

When an RH negative woman marries a man with RH positive blood, the hospital explained, she often is unable to bear a healthy child.

Her unborn baby's blood can cause her own blood to produce anti-bodies that may spell death, serious illness or defects for her child.

Such a condition, the hospital explains, is known as RH incompatibility between parents.

The discovery was made through observation of 50 children afflicted with cerebral palsy. Many of the children also had hearing defects and speech disorders.

After testing the RH blood of children and also parents, Dr. Joseph Sateloff—director of research in the hospital's audiology section—reported that without exception the RH blood factor was involved in each of the cerebral palsy-hearing defect cases.

There is promise for relief of children born with such congenital defects, university medical authorities said.

Among methods known by medical science for coping with RH incompatibility is blood transfusion, where the child is given a brand new supply of blood after a birth. Another is the use of a butyry substance known as RH hapten which is said to neutralize the antibodies formed when RH positive and RH negative blood types war on each other.

which cause one person to be cutting capers on two martinis and another to be steady as a rock even after four or five. But he said that beyond .15, it can be safely concluded a person is drunk no matter how well he can hold his likker.

One advantage of the machine, he declared, is that it is much faster and simpler than taking a blood sample and making an analysis. The gadget also is portable, so it can be taken to practically any location and plugged into the nearest light socket.

Dr. Greenberg and the manufacturers both emphasize that the machine not only gets the goods on the guilty, but protects the innocent. If you really did have "only a couple of beers," the machine will back you up. And it also protects persons suffering from shock, diabetic coma or other conditions which might cause them to be erroneously charged with being intoxicated.

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