

MOPSY By **GLADYS PARKER**

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GLADYS PARKER'S MOPSY. Reprinted by The Associated Newspapers.

The Human Mind
Chemical Poisons May Cause Mental Illness

By **ALTON L. BLAKESLEE**
AP Science Reporter
NEW YORK, March 20 (AP)—Chemical upsets or poisons in the brain could be the reason why human minds go seriously haywire.

And if chemical errors cause insanities, then chemicals could someday be made to order to cure or prevent them.

Startling recent discoveries raise "the tantalizing thought that mental illness could be caused by chemical poisoning of the brain, rather than being something we worry and fret ourselves into," says Dr. Howard Fabing, Cincinnati neuropsychiatrist.

More and more psychiatrists and scientists are excited about prospects of discovering biological causes of mental sickness, and methods of curbing this tragic modern plague.

A few reasons . . .

Add a few drops of a colorless, odorless chemical to a glass of water. When humans with entirely sane minds drink it, they soon develop many signs of schizophrenia, the most common form of mental illness. Their minds clear again when the drug wears off.

chemical, named taraxein, apparently an enzyme. It's been injected into at least 17 human volunteers.

Taraxein disorganized their thinking, impaired concentration. The volunteers couldn't express a complete thought, looked dazed, became apprehensive—some of the symptoms of schizophrenia. How and why do schizophrenics produce taraxein, what does it mean? research studies are continuing.

Tantalizing, too, is the discovery of other blood differences by a Swedish chemist, Dr. Stig Akerfeldt, by the Heath team, and others.

Using a simple six-minute blood test, Dr. Akerfeldt finds most schizophrenics, and some other mental patients, have an excess of a normal enzyme, ceruloplasmin. But it is not a specific blood test for schizophrenia—not yet at least—because the excess enzyme also occurs in some physical diseases and in pregnancy.

The findings create hopes that a blood test may be developed to detect insanities, and even measure the severity, and the rate of recovery.

BLOOD VARIATIONS

Blood tests are finding challenging variations between the blood of the mentally ill and the sane.

Tranquilizing drugs show amazing power to quiet and assist many sick minds, though they do not cure.

Does mental illness differ from all other diseases to which humans are prey? All others are caused by germs, viruses, injury, chemical imbalances such as lack of insulin in diabetes, hereditary defects. Is the brain completely different from the liver or stomach in the pathways of vulnerability to illnesses?

The new research attack may find organic causes of the puzzling mental diseases of yet-unknown origin, such as schizophrenia. These clues concern severe illness, not the minor emotional upsets.

At Tulane University, a brilliant research team headed by Dr. Robert Heath is finding several clues linking mental illness with physical changes.

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