

Black Coffee, Dexedrine Found Of Little Use in Sobering Drunks

BY DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—A scientific experiment has proved what people who drink or deal with drunks have long suspected—black coffee isn't much good for sobering drunks. Neither is dexedrine.

Dr. Henry W. Newman and Edith J. Newman of Stanford University School of Medicine were seeking a practical way of counteracting the effect of alcohol on the nervous system.

They experimented with six medical teachers and students. Each got to name his poison—scotch, bourbon or grain alcohol. Each swallowed a stiff jolt of his choice and the jolt was repeated at 20-minute intervals.

This went on for two hours. The scientists dryly remarked: "Because of the fairly high doses of alcohol employed, subjects were kept under close observation until their behavior had

returned to normal." During those two hours, they were required to (1) stand on one foot with eyes closed for 15 seconds—if they could; (2) hold a metal stylus 1/8 inch in diameter inside a metal hole 3/16 inch in diameter at arm's length without touching the edges of the hole.

All this time, they had electrodes attached to their heads and their brain waves were measured at intervals by electroencephalogram. All subjects had empty stomachs.

First they were tested for the effect of alcohol on their nervous systems. As the blood alcohol level increased, nervous system functioning became more and more "depressed," which surprised no one.

Returning the next day, the subjects were given a dose of caffeine equivalent to the caffeine in two cups of strong black coffee. Forty-five minutes later,

they began a new round of drinks and testings. The rounds were repeated once more, with dexedrine substituted for caffeine.

Some Results

Comparing the results of these tests, the scientists found that drinkers fortified with caffeine could withstand a higher blood alcohol level before they failed the tests of nervous functioning than drinkers who had had no caffeine.

But in no case was the improvement more than about 10 per cent, which the experimenters felt was too little to mean anything. As for dexedrine, it improved the functioning of three of the scientifically inebriated but worsened the functioning of three others.

In their technical report to Yale University's quarterly journal of studies on alcohol, they emphasized that they were seeking "a practical antagonist to alcohol" because "it is conceivable that situations may arise in which it would be advantageous to consume considerable quantities of alcohol without suffering the depression of nervous function usually produced thereby."

Science still must produce "the practical antagonist," since neither caffeine nor dexedrine is it.

Friends Body Kept In Room 18 Months

Washington—(U.P.)—Zita Louise Baker prayed and cared for the mummified body of her elderly roommate for 18 months trying to raise her from the dead.

Complaints from neighbors ended her long vigil Wednesday.

The 59-year-old splinter and her 71-year-old roommate Lisle Thomas, had been friends for a quarter century. They had lived together with more than a dozen cats in the same apartment since 1947.

Then one cold February night last year Miss Thomas, who had a medical record of a heart ail-

ment, died.

"I came into the room one night," Miss Baker told police. "I leaned over and kissed her on the forehead. She was cold."

She said ever since then she had been "trying to raise her from the dead by spiritual healing."

Miss Baker said she kept her roommate in the bedroom and slept in a lounge chair in the living room.

She said she had power of attorney for Miss Thomas and cashed her Agriculture Department pension checks to help support herself.

Neighbors told police they began smelling an unusual odor in the apartment house, but they attributed it to the cats. No one investigated.

Finally neighbors demanded that something be done about the odor in the apartment house.

When apartment manager Catherine Doyle informed Miss Baker she had an eviction order, Miss Baker said: "You'll find Lisle under a blanket." Police were called.

The brown mummified body was found fully-clothed under a blanket on a bed.

Deputy Coroner Richard M. Rosenberger said the body apparently became mummified because the apartment was kept hot and dry.

Miss Baker said she kept the windows closed because of Miss Thomas' health.

Examinations Slated For Civil Service

The civil service commission has announced examinations for medical entomologists, public health biologists, chemists and medical microbiologists at Communicable Disease Center offices of the Public Health Service throughout the country.

Examinations are scheduled for filling certain skilled occupations with the Navy on Guam.

An examination for office machine operators in various Federal agencies in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington is also being held by the civil service. Additional information and application forms can be obtained at the Medford postoffice.

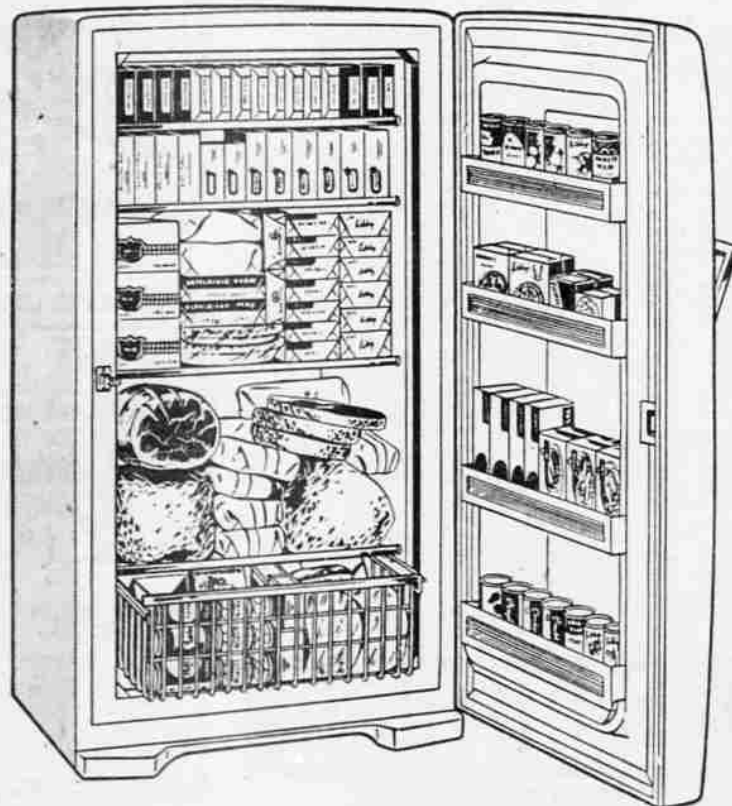


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