

Psychological, Chemical Weapons Used To Get Fat Out of Patients

BY DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—In their determined drive to get some of the fat out of people, for health reasons, doctors have two new weapons, one psychological, the other chemical.

Dr. B. Wheeler Jenkins of Philadelphia has schemed out a way of putting his patients against one another in a weight-reducing derby, without saying to any of them, you must—or you ought to—reduce.

The new chemical is phenmetrazine hydrochloride (Preludin) which seems to blunt appetites pleasantly, without any jabs to the nervous system and without reaction upon pulse rate or blood pressure.

Like all doctors, Jenkins has office scales and asks every calling patient to get onto them. Also, he has a big wall board which has in big red letters at its top, **SHRINK**.

Below the word are posted graphs showing in mysterious-looking jagged lines how other patients are doing with their reducing.

Naturally, the man on the scale is going to say, "What's that, doc?"

And so he's roped in, because obviously anyone seeing how others are doing at anything thinks he can do better. Patients who are grossly overweight are told they are, of course, Jenkins' plan is for those who are moderately overweight, say 15 to 30 pounds.

"The physician is reluctant to mention it, perhaps he fears that the patient may get testy," he reported in the technical journal of the American Academy of General Practice. "The patient may be aware of his weight as a health handicap. But he does not openly seek help, for there is a fatalism about obesity. Besides the obese patient feels certain from past experience that reducing is a lonely business, something that he must do alone—or not at all."

The new chemical was tested by Dr. Adolph L. Nathanson of Milwaukee in 140 patients. It blunted the appetites of all and kept all faithful (more or less) to their diets. He found its effect "on the central nervous system is mild and salutary, and is clinically manifested as elevation of mood, and more cooperative attitude on the part of the patient."

Correct Dosage Essential
Like the appetite-suppressing

drug commonly in use now, amphetamine and compounds based upon it, phenmetrazine hydrochloride is a prescription drug—correct dosages and spacing of doses are essential for such potent substances.

The amphetamines work fine. But they also overstimulate both the cardiovascular system and the nervous system, and they're not given to people with high blood pressure and some other conditions which often go along with overweight.

Sometimes the amphetamines are habit-forming. In his report to the technical journal, American Practitioner and Digest of Treatment, Dr. Nathanson said he found "no indication that phenmetrazine hydrochloride was."

Neuberger Opposes Post Office Transfer

Portland — (U.P.) — Opposition to the proposed transfer of the Lake Grove post office to the Portland municipal postal system has been expressed by Sen. Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon.

In response to protests against the transfer from citizens of the Lake Grove area, Sen. Neuberger said that "in the light of all the evidence presented, I believe that these Lake Grove people have an extremely valid and convincing point."

Neuberger, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, suggested that the regional office of the Portland department "take a long second look at the proposal," and at least "delay any action in the final decision for a sufficient time so that the views and petition of Lake Grove residents may be heard."

Sen. Neuberger said "it is my hope that the Post Office Department will see fit to continue the Lake Grove post office as a separate entity."



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