

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

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A Personal Experience With A Quack

Someone writes me of a personal experience he had with a quack. A member of his family, after coughing hard for some time, finally got x-rayed. The doctors found a cancer of the lung, which they thought could be operated on and removed. The patient did not like this idea, and so, when he heard of a displaced doctor from Europe who claimed he could cure cancer with a diet, he went to him. He went after he heard that no diet has ever cured cancer. He went; he paid the \$2,000 cash, and started living on carrot juice, salad and vegetables. Because such a diet will not maintain life, the man rapidly went down hill; and went to skin and bones. During this time the doctor brain-washed him, assuring him he would soon be well.

Now, his relatives are much distressed because they realize that the treatment hastened his death. They know, also, that if he had had the operation and surgeons had removed the tumor, he might be well today. My correspondent asks the question which so many ask, "Why do we physicians permit such quacks to practice?" The reason is that when the United States government or a State government turns down a quack and tries to put him out of the business of swindling people, he can always send for a few dozen persons who, once went to him with a bunch of nerves or an ulcer somewhere on their skin, and they will gladly testify that the quack saved their life after doctors gave them up. Actually, there is no proof that

they ever had cancer. Commonly, the quack wins his case because of these testimonials. If he loses, he often can thumb his nose at the authorities because more than half of our people love quackery and believe in it. I imagine that many of us human beings will always insist on having quacks in our community because, when the doctors tell us there is no cure for our disease, we will always want to have someone around to whom we can go and get consolation and the promise of a sure cure.

Work For Epileptics
James McKeever, of Glendale, Calif., tells me that a group of Los Angeles neurologists, headed by Dr. Augustus Rose, were able to convince the government that most epileptics can work and earn a living. As a result, for the past year there has been in operation a factory doing subcontract work for airplane companies. It employs some 50 workers.

This is known as Epi-Hab, and is located at 8962 Ellis st., Los Angeles. Not only does this factory give work to epileptics who cannot get work elsewhere, but it gives them a good work record which enables them later to step into some other job. Employers of labor should know that most epileptics whose attacks are under control can and will work steadily, without absences and without accidents. A number of employers now know that epileptics at work do not have an abnormal number of serious accidents.

As I said here once before, it is very unfortunate that a court in Kentucky once awarded an epileptic damages against his employer for injuries due to a falling spell. At that time every epileptic in the country should have contributed to a fund to help lawyers to get this decision reversed in a higher court. The worst thing that epileptics

THEY CLAMMED UP

Tokyo — (UPI) — Yokkawame Beach fishermen have asked the government to compensate them for \$19,500 worth of clams they claimed to have lost as the result of the U. S. Army's artillery practice. The fishermen claimed that when the clam hears the guns boom it snaps its shell closed and chops off part of its body.

could do would be to give employers the idea that they would demand damages for falls due to their disease. Compensation boards will do all epileptics a great disservice if they soak those kindly employers who try to help these people by giving them a job.

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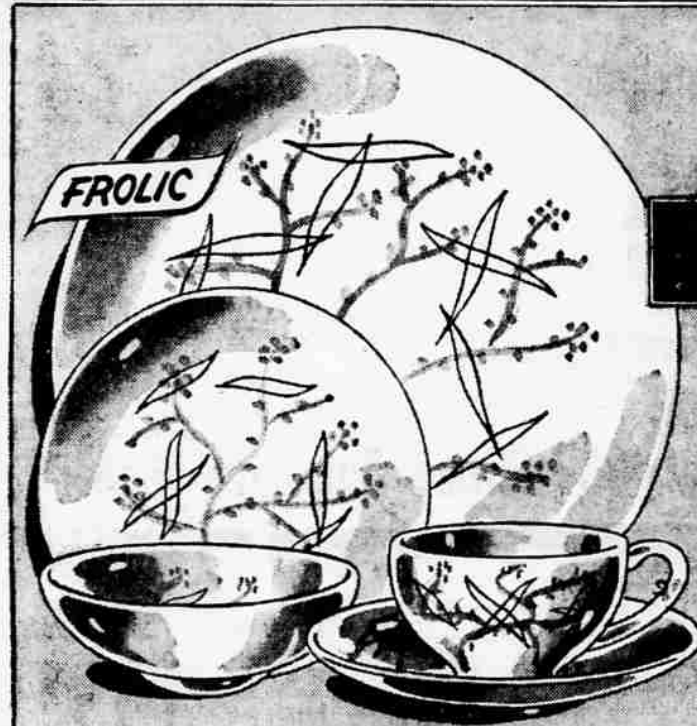
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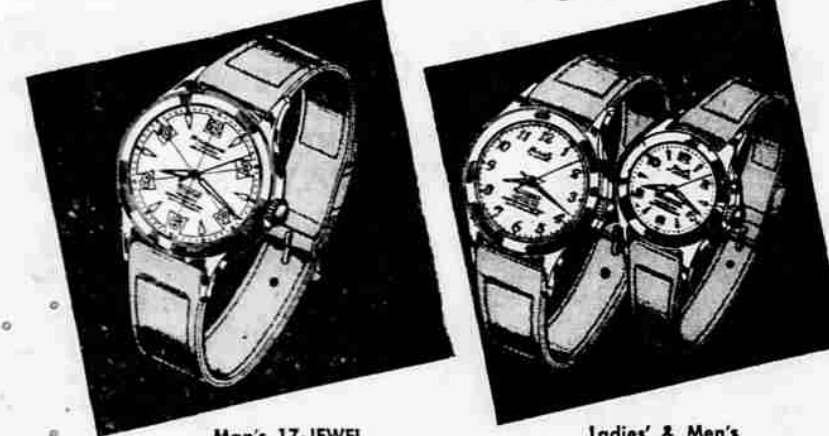
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