

Simple 'Work Cure' Applied in Treating Cases of Schizophrenia

BY A. ROBERT SMITH
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Washington—As the perfection of machinery takes America rapidly into the age of automation, some preliminary conclusions for a government experiment in human nature have sounded a warning about how to bring up your kids.

This experiment, conducted at the National Institute of Health here, reveals that possibly a corollary should be added to the old adage, "He wasn't loved enough as a child." The corollary might be, "You don't love your child wisely if you don't give him enough work and responsibility."

In an era when machines are taking over more and more of man's work and when juvenile delinquency is roaring upward, this experiment conducted by Dr. Jordan M. Scher may take on unusual significance.

Dr. Scher has applied a simple "work cure" in treating 11 mental patients, all schizophrenics, over the past 18 months. Regarded as novel, his treatment includes none of the customary psychiatric methods — psychoanalysis, drugs, seclusion and restraint. His method is to try to restore the patient's self-confidence and self-respect by making them work like normal persons.

'Chronically Underloaded'
This approach has been followed because Dr. Scher has concluded that the chief difficulty of his patients was neither rejection nor overindulgence by their parents in the usual sense, but that they had been "chronically underloaded" with work and responsibility. Parents had performed too many of the duties which should have been entrusted to the child. They didn't learn to stand on their own feet when confronted by a society that demands that they perform as "functional beings."

Dr. Scher says he first trained his patients to care for themselves and strongly encouraged personal grooming. Next they cleaned their rooms and later were given outside chores such

as clothes mending and furniture repair. There patients are now working in an outside shop part time under supervision.

All of these patients had been in private hospitals and institutions; all were depressed and withdrawn; some were violent. One young man had suffered a teen-age breakdown and had reached the stage of setting his clothing afire. Now he is meticulous in his grooming. A young mother, who became ill while her officer husband was in Korea, was violent and suicidal. Now she goes home week ends and is beginning to assume responsibility for her children again.

Dr. Scher attributes the progress of his patients to the fact that "they were introduced, perhaps for the first time, into an organized world which respected them enough to expect something of them." He added that they were able to assess their own worth "since a value had been placed upon them as functional beings in a real world."

Ray of Hope
Observers here believe this

experiment would have to run two to three more years before conclusive findings could be reached. But its preliminary results offer a ray of hope to 350,000 schizophrenics now hospitalized in the country.

Perhaps more significant is the implication of Dr. Scher's apparently correct evaluation of the need for work and responsibility which every person has. Many of the growing statistics in juvenile delinquency reports are an outgrowth of mentally or emotionally disturbed youngsters, many coming from privileged homes as well as underprivileged families.

Congress, troubled by these mounting statistics on juvenile crime, is working on legislation to strengthen state and local delinquency control and treatment programs. Maybe what is also needed is for parents who wish to really love their children to be sure that automation, prosperity and their own indulgence don't rob their kids of a critically needed experience, learning how to work.



WINS SCHOLARSHIP—Bob Elden, left, senior at Crater High school, receives congratulations from Lee Hockworth, center, president of the Jackson County Young Farmers organization, on winning the Young Farmers full-tuition scholarship. Elden was named winner of the award at a meeting Monday night. Alternate winner is Charles Elmore, right, of Applegate, a senior at Grants Pass High school.

The best known goose is the gray lag-goose, the bird from which our domesticated form has sprung; while the mallard is considered to be the most popular of the ducks.

HEARTS
Waterbury, Conn.—(U.P.)—Joseph W. Valentine was appointed executive director of the Waterbury Area Heart Association.

Alcorn Sees Massive GOP Swing in South

Louisville, Ky.—(U.P.)—Republican National Committee Chairman Meade Alcorn today predicted a massive swing to the GOP in the South which he said is no longer solidly Democratic.

In a speech prepared for delivery here this morning to a regional conference of Republicans from 12 southern states, Alcorn said, "Democrats used to brag that the 'Solid South' would never be cracked. The Republican Party is here and here to stay and to grow."

Delegates to the conference also were scheduled to hear an address by President Eisenhower by telephone from Washington.

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AN OLD VIOLIN

Norwell, Mass.—(U.P.)—Theodore Hewitt, music supervisor for Norwell schools, owns what he believes is the oldest violin in America. It is a Mariano, made in 1590. Hewitt played it recently for the first time in 50 years.

COMMUTING TEACHER

Alton, N.H.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Doris Barnes of Alton, who teaches school in Portland, Me., and drives back and forth each day, estimates she has covered about 65,000 miles in the past two years.

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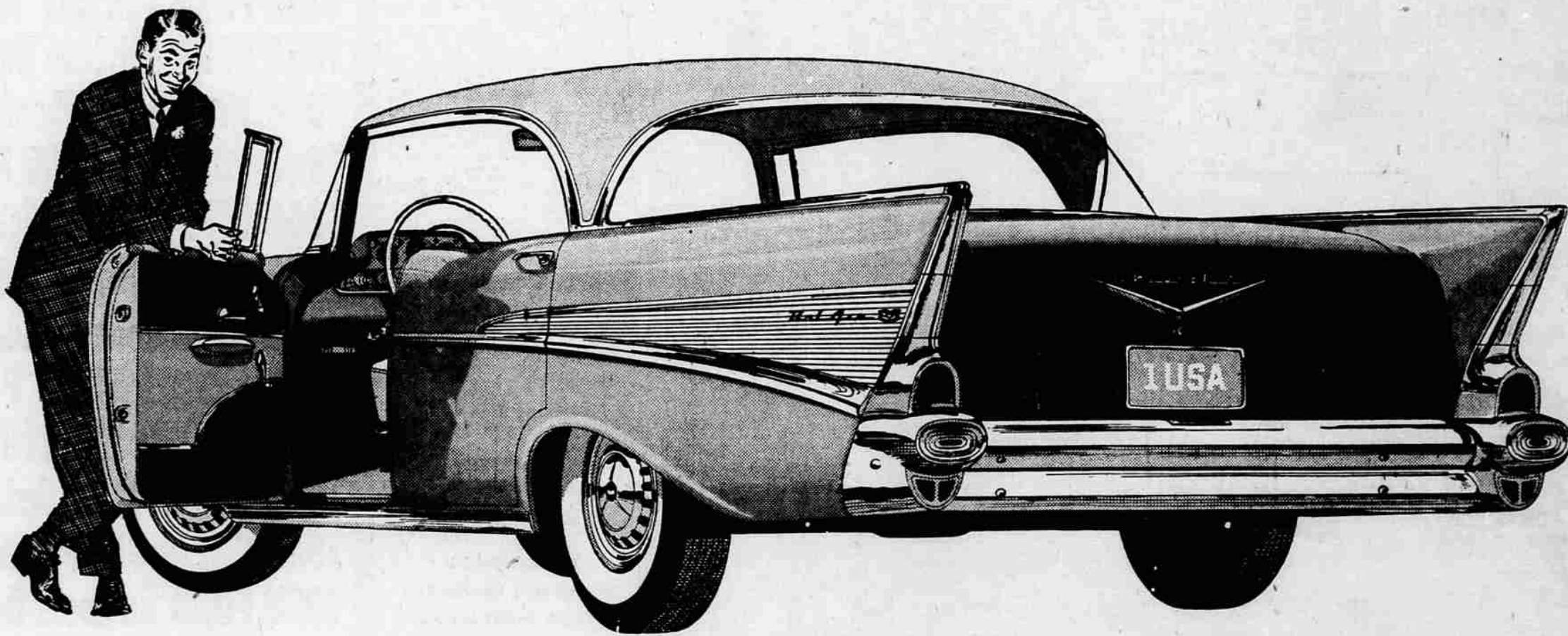
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