

Some People Found Susceptible To Well Known 'Happy Pills'

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor
New York—UPI—The trouble-some medical question concerning the habit-forming power (if any) of the commonly used "happy pill" has popped up again. The poppers this time were two medical men with a patient who had the habit in a bad way, and no mistake. But he was a special person as regards habit-forming. He had been addicted twice to drink. The first time he

broke it with the aid of Alcoholics Anonymous and the second time with the help of the "happy pill," and once to the narcotic drug in prescription sleeping medicine. This caused his medical men to feel a person who had ever been addicted to anything, ran a considerable risk of becoming addicted to the "happy pill." They granted that for all other persons it probably was non-addictive. The commonly used "happy pill" is made of meprobamate. Doctors prescribe it in enormous and growing quantities under the trade-names, "Miltown" and "Equanil." These prescriptions are written for tense, non-relaxing

persons who often are addicted (in one degree or another) to alcoholic drink and to knock-out medication at bedtime. **An Old Question**
This habit-forming question has been bedeviling doctors since the drug came into use about four years ago. Too many persons have taken too much of it for it to be obviously and clearly addictive. Some authorities have denied flatly that it is. Just as doctors began feeling positive about its harmlessness, up popped the question again. Now the medical staff of the Veterans Hospital at Salt Lake City, which is affiliated with the University of Utah Medical School has confessed to "growing uneasiness and dissatisfaction" with meprobamate in drinking patients. It delegated Drs. Beverley T. Mead and Robert C. Mohr to detail this in a report to the New England Journal of Medicine. Their addicted patient had all the classical symptoms of any drug addict. In order to get the same effect, he had to constantly increase the dosages. When he tried to give up the drug, he had extremely unpleasant physical reactions, including the "grand mal" convulsive seizure which is among the most unpleasant. He had to be hospitalized and doctors broke his habit by cutting his daily doses gradually. **Addiction Rarely Reported**
"Addiction to meprobamate, though infrequently reported, is a very real possibility and deserves increased concern," Mead and Mohr reported. "Meprobamate should be prescribed with extra caution to any patient with a history of alcoholism or other addiction." They thought it a good drug, as a muscle relaxant and mild sedative. Toxic effects such as skin eruptions have been remarkably few. But it is a potent drug and the idea that it is harmless, which is held by many doctors and most laymen, is not justified. This idea has led to a suggestion that it could be sold without prescription, like aspirin. "Indeed, it is quite evident that many supplies of the medication are being obtained without prescriptions," they added. And this permits some people to trade one addiction (to alcohol) for another addiction (to meprobamate).

Formosa Strait Aerial Truce Effectuated 'Quietly'

Taipei, Formosa—UPI—Informed sources said Saturday the United States and Nationalist China have quietly put into effect a ceasefire in the skies over the Formosa strait. The sources said Nationalist pilots have been ordered to employ all possible evasive tactics to avoid combat with Communist planes within 30 miles of the Red-held mainland. Red planes seldom penetrate deeper than that distance over the strait. **Flaming Air War**
According to the informants, the United States does not want Nationalist Sabrejets and the Red Soviet-built Migs to revive the flaming air war that raged over the strait from mid-August to mid-October. The Nationalists claimed their pilots destroyed 31 Mig fighters with the loss of only one Sabrejet in the aerial dog-fights. **Particularly Concerned**
It was reported that the United States became particularly concerned when Sabrejets equipped with U.S. air-to-air sidewinder missiles shot down 11 Migs in one day. The sources speculated that the United States feared the Reds might force down a Sabrejet on the mainland where vital parts of the secret sidewinder might fall into Red hands. The Nationalists said that Red planes appeared to be trying to herd a sidewinder-equipped Sabrejet toward the mainland in the last big dogfight. **Reds Appear To Accept**
The sources noted that the Reds themselves have appeared to accept the ceasefire. They said that several hundred Migs were sighted almost daily along the China coast until a few weeks ago when they virtually vanished from the sky. Official U.S. and Nationalist military sources declined to comment on the reports of the aerial ceasefire.

Tribute To Ed Sullivan By Friars Club Judged Mixture of Plus, Minus

By WILLIAM EWALD
UPI Correspondent
New York—UPI—Ed Sullivan took the evening off Sunday night and let a group of other performers do the pointing. In place of his regular CBS-TV show, Sullivan presented a one-hour tribute to himself by the Friars Club, a fraternal organization. The show was video-taped last September as a test run for a proposed TV series which failed to make it. Sunday night's hour was a mixture of plus and minus. Insult can be very funny, but too often the Lindy's comic is merely rude. He leans on formula insult. He is like Pavlov's dog responding to certain stimuli with pattern replies. **Feeble Insults**
Thus Sunday night there were interminable rounds of feeble insults about Sullivan's somber mien and his lack of performing ability. "You're looking fit, Ed—what do you hear from the autopsy?" is a typical example of this sort of thing, the sort of obviousness that passes for humor among schoolboys. Another fault of the show—and this is my principal minus—was its static quality. It all seemed a little primitive, flat and without movement. Too, the performers played to the Friars' audience instead of the audience at home. As a result, the TV viewer had a feeling of being outside the proceedings, a looker-inner, an uninvited guest.

The plus goes for the brisk pace of the show and for some of the individual gags, notably the presentation of a portrait of Steve Allen to Sullivan. Also in the show's favor was the general atmosphere of respect for the guest of honor. Raillery, unfortunately, is in too short a supply nowadays. **Substitute for Wit**
But curiously enough, the minus side of the show stemmed from the credit side. It seems to be an assumption among what has come to be called the Lindy's comic that boorishness is a substitute for wit. Jack E. Leonard, Jack Carter and Morey Amsterdam were three of the offenders in this respect Sunday night, particularly Leonard.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Oregon, Monday, November 10, 1958 5
Roman locksmiths designed padlock keys to be worn as fancy bronze finger ring ornaments.
Bach, composer of "Passacaglia" and other musical classics, began as a Lutheran Church organist.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF
GEORGE OPPENHEIMER, writer and drama critic, was conned into playing the part of Dr. Bradley in the Kaufman-Hart classic, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," for a week's run of the play in a rustic theater in Michigan. The lead role of Whiteside, a lampoon of the late Alexander Woollcott, was portrayed to the hilt by Marc Connelly, who also furnished this illuminating program note on his colleague Oppenheimer: "George O. went on the stage when little more than a tot. In those days the stage ran between Carson City and Phoenix. To young 'Doc,' as they called him on the local police blotter, climbing up on the seats, saying 'hello' to the other stage folk, and yelling 'Get a horse' to the chagrin of strangers in motor cars gave our youthful thespian a firm determination to continue on the stage until it reached Boston." Nobel Prize novelist William Faulkner's first weeks amidst the fleshpots of Hollywood produced numerous legends, many apocryphal. A stretch of 85-degree heat in mid-July baffled him. "What kind of country is this?" he marveled. "A leaf falls in one of those canyons—and they tell you it's winter!"
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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
What shall we talk about today?
Let's turn to England. Guy Fawkes Day was celebrated in the tight little isle last week.
Here are some of the things that went on:
IN London's Trafalgar Square, more than 90 youths and girls were arrested in a violent firecracker riot that took more than 100 bobbies two hours to quell. . . . In suburban Hampstead police fought 2,000 people who were setting off fireworks and chanting rock 'n' roll. . . . A mob of 2,000 youths rampaged through a street in the south coast resort of Worthing, smashing shop windows with bricks and milk bottles, attacking police and overturning cars. . . . Boys, many of them with "Teddy boy" ducktail haircuts, dragged barricades across streets to stop cars and buses. . . . Thousands thronged the streets in the university towns of Oxford and Cambridge. More cars were overturned, more people hurt.
And so on, to the extent of about a half a column of newspaper type.

OUR youngsters are doing in these modern days—such as driving cars across beautiful front lawns down in Marin county the other day. These Guy Fawkes Day incidents in supposedly staid England are startlingly similar. They seem to indicate that what is happening here is happening to a greater or less extent elsewhere.

Public Speaking Contest Told
The 14th annual high school public speaking contest sponsored by the Knights of Pythias started in this area last week, Don Lacy, chancellor commander of Talisman lodge here, announced.
Lacy, speech instructor at Crater high school, Central Point, is contest chairman. All high schools in Jackson county have been invited to participate. Last year, each school was limited to one entry, but there is no limitation this year, Lacy said.
Subject of the contest this year is "My Favorite Character in History." Prizes for first, second and third places have been donated by the local lodge, and \$3,500 in international scholarships are available to winners of the six national finals.
Winners from each of the six sections will have an expense paid trip to the finals at the national convention in Denver, Colo., in August, 1959. State finals are held in Portland, and section 5 finals in Spokane, Wash.
Entry blanks are available from high school speech departments.
Winner of the Jackson county contest last year was Miss Carolyn Mencke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Mencke, 2141 East Jackson st., a student of Devere Taylor, speech instructor at Medford High school.

London—UPI—Kenneth Evans, 18, a piggery worker, looked around to see why the pigs were being so quiet as he cleaned their pen. Evans found they were eating his pay. He salvaged just \$1 of the \$15 that had fallen from his pocket.

KINGFISH ILL
Los Angeles—UPI—Tim Moore, the wheeling-and-dealing "Kingfish" of the "Amos 'n Andy" television series, was reported today still on the critical list but improving at General Hospital. The 70-year-old actor has been suffering with a respiratory ailment since Oct. 10 and has been in and out of the hospital. He was last admitted Thursday.

CONCERT VIOLINIST DIES
Valhalla, N.Y.—UPI—Julia R. Guenzel, 72, a concert violinist of German birth, died Sunday of a cerebral hemorrhage.

CHOICE MORSELS
Bristol, England—UPI—An outdoor bulletin board offered two pounds reward today for: "Lost: Large bulldog, black spots on back. Eat anything. Particularly fond of children."



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