

The Medical Roundup

By

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Alcoholic Must Wish To Be Cured

I get scores of letters from unhappy women who say that their home is a Hell because of the husband's drinking. When he comes home drunk he yells at his wife and the children. Often, hardly knowing what he is doing, he strikes the wife and beats the children. Often the children have to run and hide somewhere until their father has sobered up.

So many of these women ask me if there isn't some drug that they can put in their husband's food or drink that will keep him from drinking, but I don't know of any which is likely to work. There is a drug called antabuse which can make a man sick if he drinks, but I think the man would soon get onto the fact that his wife was putting it into his food, and then his only reaction would be to give her a good beating.

Can Win Out

All my life I have been reading articles and books on alcoholism; I have in my library most of the autobiographies ever written by alcoholics, and after reading them my impression is strong that few alcoholics can get rid of their curse until some time — perhaps years after they have hit bottom. Then, if they decide they very much want to get well, they can win out. But so long as they say, "I am no alcoholic and I can handle this; I do not need any meddling in my affairs" nothing can be done. It is impossible to cure a man against his will. That is why I never waste time exhorting a man to quit alcohol, or cigarettes, or an excessive amount of food. Like the very wise people in that great organization, Alcoholics Anonymous, I wait until the man comes in begging for help. Then I will be glad to do everything I can do to help him.

Similarly, I feel that it is utterly useless for a wife to exhort the man to quit. He will swear on his dead mother's Bible that he will quit, and next day he will go on a bender. An alcoholic is a weak man—often an almost insane man. He must be psychotic to give up everything worth while in life for a bottle that makes him sick, and often kills him. There is something wrong with his brain. I do not blame him any more than I blame a crazy man when he misbehaves. He is mentally ill.

Should Leave
 As I have said several times in this column, I think that whenever a man's alcoholism makes life unbearable for his wife, and especially for his children, they had better leave him. But that has to be their decision; I never urge them to do anything. What I know is that often, after the wife does leave, the children say, "Mother, you should have taken us away long before you did."

When, as often happens, an alcoholic man repeatedly threatens to kill his wife if she leaves him, I think the only way of handling the situation is for her and the children to disappear and to drop out of sight. They should go somewhere where the man cannot find them; they must not correspond with relatives and friends at home, because someone there is likely to tell the man where to go to find his family—and then there will be serious trouble.

Examination of Breast
 Back in 1930 Dr. Stafford L. Warren showed that many a little cancer can be found by X-raying the breast of a woman. Recently, in the last year or two, a few roentgenologists have been emphasizing the importance of this technic. Dr. Robert L. Egan had a good article on the subject in "The New Physician." As he and others have pointed out, an X-ray study of the breast will commonly reveal either the smooth outlines of a benign (harmless and non-cancerous) type of lesion, or it may show a shadow with the rough edges typical of a cancer. An important point is that X-ray examination of a woman's breast may show cancer long before there are any symptoms or signs of trouble. In some 94 per cent of cases studied, the X-ray man's diagnosis agreed with that of the pathologist who examined the nodule after it was removed from the breast by a surgeon.

Some other X-ray men are not so enthusiastic; in their experience the technic is not ideal for the finding of cancers in the breasts of hundreds of women who are "screened" for the finding of unsuspected cancers.

Many people who go to a doctor thinking they are sick are simply suffering from nervousness. Dr. Alvarez has written helpfully about this subject in his 25-cent booklet, "Triumph Over Nervousness." You may order it by sending 25 cents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request for it to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 957, Des Moines, Iowa 50304.

Quick-Knit Hits



7321
 by Alice Brooks

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Nikita Believed Anxious To Personally Assess Johnson

By STEWART HENSLEY WASHINGTON (UPI) — If, as rumor has it, Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev is anxious for an early "get acquainted" meeting with President Johnson, he undoubtedly plans to avoid the errors he made in assessing

the late John F. Kennedy after their initial confrontation. Khrushchev, at Vienna in June 1961, mistook politeness for timidity, good breeding for weakness. He told his aides he could not understand why Kennedy, head of the most powerful nation in the world, rose to his feet when Khrushchev entered the room.

The Soviet leader obviously got the impression the young President could be pushed around. The chilling nature of his demands on Berlin and other issues, and the insulting manner in which he presented them was obscured by American officials for the time. However, the conclusion Khrushchev had drawn soon became evident.

He whipped up the Berlin issue to new crisis proportion and tightened the diplomatic squeeze around the world. But his misreading of Kennedy's character became quickly apparent.

The young President took rapid steps to increase U.S. military might in Europe. He made it clear he was ready to fight for Berlin if necessary. And, possibly most important, he let Khrushchev know that the United States, despite any public confusion on the subject, knew that it had vast superiority in nuclear weapons over Russia.

These swift responses by Kennedy to crude Soviet pressure convinced Khrushchev he was up against no weakling. They made it possible for Kennedy to force Khrushchev to back down on the Cuban missile issue by the skillful application of a graduated series of pressure steps and implied threats which the Soviet leader had good reason to respect.

Since that crisis there appeared to have been a sort of tacit understanding between Khrushchev and Kennedy about the point beyond which neither would go without risking nuclear war.

Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan, during his talks last week with Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, showed extreme anxiety for reassurance that Johnson would not react either more or less violently than Kennedy had.

It is doubtful that reassurances on the "continuity" of American policy satisfied Khrushchev. He knows that the nature of the individual inevitably alters the application of policy, even when policy remains the same.

For this reason, it may indeed be true that Khrushchev would like a chance to make a personal assessment of Johnson the man. Although U.S. officials op-

pose such a meeting in the foreseeable future, world opinion could force it.

Jury Selected In Harney County Land Fraud Trial

PENDLETON (UPI) — The mail fraud and conspiracy trial of seven Illinois and California men moved into its second day in Federal Court here today.

A jury of seven women and five men was selected as the trial got under way Monday. The prosecution and the defense then read their opening statements to the jury.

The men were associated with the Harney County Land Development Co., which promoted the sale of land in the Lake Valley area south of Burns.

The defendants are Abraham Koolish, 70, and his son, David, 32, both of Winnetka, Ill.; John Phillips, 38, Evanston, Ill.; Jack Chertob, 37, Chicago; Richard Dale Walker, 40, Los Angeles; George Isaacs, 30, Glendale, Calif.; and Maurice Hall, 39, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Said District Land Federal Judge John F. Kilkenny is presiding. The trial is expected to run two to three weeks.

Acting U.S. Atty. Sidney Lezak described the area as "vacant desert land" and charged the defendants were engaged in "an artifice to defraud" buyers.

Lezak told the jury a large part of the purchasers lived in Hawaii.

Defense attorneys described the 6,919 acres as "fertile land" and said it represented an honest effort to develop the area under the private enterprise system.

The land is located about 20 miles south of Burns.

Judge Kilkenny told the jurors "the indictment is no evidence of guilt" and each defendant "is presumed to be innocent" at the outset of the case.

Assistant Engineer At Eugene Resigns
 EUGENE (UPI) — William Newell, assistant city engineer for Eugene, has resigned. He will become the city engineer for Beaverton.

Quickie!



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 by Marian Martin

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Wife of Portland Businessman Dies

PORTLAND (UPI) — Funeral was held today for Mrs. Bernice Mort, the wife of a prominent businessman here.

Mrs. Mort, 68, died at a Portland hospital Friday. Ralph D. Mort is vice president of the Metropolitan Printing Co. and is a partner in the Binfords and Mort Publishing House.

Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor, and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors. (Copyright 1963—General Features Corp.)

Mrs. J. T. — Now that there's a legacy, she wants him back. Sidney T. — She'll bring stability into my child's life.

Mrs. J. T. — If my son takes Lily back, I wash my hands of him forever. They were just divorced after a year of marriage marked by endless bickering. But Sid's bachelor uncle died last month and Lily found out there's an inheritance coming to him. After a few fast dates, Sid foolishly plans to marry her again.

Sidney T. — My eyes are suddenly opened. My mother is the problem in my life, not Lily. My first marriage fell apart and looking back, I see where I listened to Mother more than I should have. I was left with a three-year-old daughter who craves a "mommy," so I married Lily. My mother never gave us a chance. Now I intend to try again with Lily.

The Council: Mothers might not grow into ogres if husbands and sons weren't jellyfish. What Mrs. T. needs, and is getting at last, is an adversary with a backbone. And if Sidney's has enough steel in it (a big if), Mama won't be an adversary a few years hence, but a proud partisan. For Sidney will have thrown off the shackles of momism, which bind a son through tears, threats, flattery, indoctrination, to a mother who can't bear to let go. Of course the son must be "blindable" — that is, naive and blind. Sidney was fair game through two marriages and parenthood. Now, perhaps infused with strength from his ex-wife, Lily, and love for his little girl, banded about by three mothers or mother-figures, Sidney seeks to salvage what he can from the past. Catching up the loose ends of his home with Lily and his daughter, he must not be distracted by his mother's impressions. If there's to be more money this time, Mrs. T., what of it? Lily probably deserves it to soothe some of the scars.

Salem Man Killed In Logging Accident
 SHERWOOD, Ore. (UPI) — John Brickley, 66, Salem, was killed in a logging accident here Monday.

Brickley was crushed while unloading logs from a truck at the Brickley Sawmill. He operated the mill with his brother.



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