

### Vitamin-Lack Theory Falls; Pills Won't Help Alcoholics

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.  
SALIDA, (AP) — Take it from the man who invented the alcoholometer, alcoholism can't be cured just by taking pills. That bright day hasn't arrived and probably won't, because alcoholism is a complicated problem of behavior.

The latest theory—that alcoholism is caused by a vitamin deficiency—was exploded by Dr. Leon A. Greenberg, associate director of applied physiology at Yale University's clinic on alcohol studies. Conducting a seminar for Oregon State Hospital staff members, Dr. Greenberg, who probably knows more about how alcohol affects the body than any man in America, told how he disproved the new vitamin theory.

The theory was based on an experiment in which vitamin deficient rats preferred water containing 10 per cent alcohol, instead of plain water. When the rats were given vitamins, then they preferred the plain water.

So the persons conducting the experiment jumped to the erroneous conclusion that if you give an alcoholic some vitamin pills, he will leave alcohol alone. Dr. Greenberg then stepped into the picture, offering sugar to the starved rats. The theory blew up when the rats preferred sugar to alcohol.

Theories like that, Dr. Greenberg said, raise false hopes in relatives of alcoholics. Wives and mothers saw it in a current magazine article, and they are asking the state hospital to start feeding vitamins to cure their alcoholic husbands and sons.

The alcoholometer that Dr. Greenberg invented measures the alcoholic content of a person's breath, and then translates that figure into the alcoholic content of the blood. This makes it easy for police to tell when anybody's drunk, and it is rapidly becoming officially recognized in many states.

Dr. Greenberg, who is a doctor of philosophy rather than a medical doctor, told how he makes tests to find out how alcohol affects the body.

Every morning, he had his janitor take the station wagon to the skid road district of New Haven, Conn., and the janitor brought back four or five drunks. They were paid \$4 a day and all the whiskey they could drink.

They just kept on drinking quietly until they passed out. Then he got some lady school teachers who never drank before. They got hilariously drunk on just a few drinks. They had a good time, and were glad to get the \$4 a day, too.

Some of the teachers even showed signs of drunkenness before they took a drink. These tests show, Dr. Greenberg said, that the behavior of a drunk depends on the level from which he started.

He said a person who's dull when sober becomes brighter when under the influence of liquor. The average guy becomes the life of the party. The man who is the life of the party when sober becomes a nuisance when drunk. And the person who drinks habitually just passes out quietly with-

out bothering anybody. There's no quick and easy cure for alcoholism, which he said is hard to treat because it involves so many different phases of human behavior.

Drugs don't do much good, and psychiatric treatment or other counseling is the only known approach to the problem.

Scientists now are looking for a drug to oxidize, or eliminate, alcohol from the system quickly. This would be a great boon, as it would be a quick way to get rid of hangovers and the effects of drunkenness.

But until that drug is found, Dr. Greenberg has this advice: "If you're drunk, just relax and enjoy yourself, because it's going to take just so many hours to sober up, and nothing can get you over your hangover any quicker."

Here are some other statements of Dr. Greenberg: "There are no physical differences between alcoholics and non-alcoholics, although alcoholics would like to think so because that would give them an excuse for their plight."

There's no explanation for lapses of memory that some persons experience when they are off on prolonged drunks. Some drunks have them, and some don't. These lapses might be caused by depriving the brain of some oxygen.

Alcohol isn't a stimulant. It depresses that part of the brain which acts as a brake. It releases the brake, instead of stepping on the gas. That's why persons under the influence do things they never would think of doing when sober.



**LAST TRIP** — Engine No. 4, once the pride of Lackawanna, heads out of the Buffalo yards on its last ride. The railroad says the 53-year-old engine still can get up to 90 miles an hour. For many years it pulled the crack Buffalo-Elmira express. Now it is owned by the Railroad Locomotive Historical Society and will be displayed in the St. Louis Museum of Science. At right is a modern diesel streamliner, six times the weight of the 106,000-pound Engine 4.

### Beaver Winning Battle Against Dam's Spillway

POPULAR BLUFF, Mo. (AP)—This beaver just needs a course in engineering.

The young rodent keeps trying to fill up a hole in the dam at Lake Wappapello in Southeast Missouri. Only trouble is the hole is the dam's spillway.

Conservation Agent Jim Featherston, called in by Army engineers to help thwart the animal's plans, said the eager beaver entered the lake recently, began felling trees

and floating them into the spillway gates. And so far the beaver is winning the fight.

### Chicago Blonde, 37-25-35, New Miss United States

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — A beautifully proportioned blonde from Chicago, newly crowned Miss United States, faces the prettiest girls from 25 other lands tonight in the preliminaries of the Miss Universe contest.

Myrna Rae Hansen, 18, was a standout in the finals of the Miss United States competition, but the going promises to be keener tonight.

Miss Hansen, selected as Miss

Illinois after winning a Chicago press photographers' contest, took 59 out of 80 points on the judges' final ballot last night.

Warm brown eyes and an even, white smile proved telling assets for Miss Hansen, who is of Danish-German descent. No less impor-

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