

cation of research on "How an Alcohol-ic gets that way."

Alcoholics Anonymous has rehabilitated some 120,000 Alcoholics, internationally, but the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made no provision to prevent Alcoholism, or to care for thousands of existing "Problem Drinkers."

The number of hospital beds, clinics and personnel, available for dealing with this vast public health problem today, is acknowledged to be ridiculously inadequate. In fact, hospitalization of alcoholics, both men and women, Pennsylvania, is almost an impossibility. Furthermore, in the great Commonwealth we have but one Clinic for Alcoholics.

A public health program for Alcoholism needs careful planning, trained personnel, knowledge of the local situation, cooperation of courts, social agencies, doctors and hospitals, and active financial and moral support from all sections of the community.

Rehabilitation, education, and community service are the greatest forces operating today for the control and prevention of Alcoholism in the home, the job, and the community.

Alcoholism is a very real problem—it is our desire to enlist public interest in rehabilitation, prevention and education in order that an adequate understanding of this problem may be fostered among civic minded community groups. There is much that we can do to make our attack on this problem effective, humane and economically sound then the mobilization of community resources. Where there is help, there is hope.

Director, Section on Alcoholism State Health Department.

Vitamins

Speaking of attendance records, the Health Department of Philadelphia will cooperate with State and Federal health officials in watching these records for signs of biological warfare attack. Reports from schools, offices and factories to rises in absentee rates enables public health officials to estimate the speed and extent of epidemic outbreak. Control measures may then be taken more rapidly.

It is believed that any disease used in biological warfare would strike many people suddenly. Therefore, this method of reporting would make the extent of an attack known in the quickest way possible.

A system for observing absentee records will also be of great usefulness in influenza control. Should a new strain of influenza be used in this country as part of a germ warfare campaign, vaccines could stop the epidemic very quickly.

According to the U. S. Public Health Service, a strain of "flu" virus flown from England last January was converted into 1,000 doses of vaccine in 22 days in one laboratory. Combining the production facilities of a number of commercial laboratories enough vaccine could be produced in a short time to meet the needs of this country.

The influenza that was widespread last winter was so mild that vaccination was not thought advisable and news of vaccine might have swamped pharmaceutical houses and doctors' offices for it. Therefore, the news was withheld at the time of the last outbreak.

While influenza might not be the particular agent used by the enemy this same organization might be turned to stopping other outbreaks in case of germ warfare.

should be exercised so that misunderstandings as to dosage and form of Vitamin A supplements do not arise, and so that over-enthusiasm for vitamin administration does not lead to detrimental results.

Reports of several cases of overdosage of Vitamin A in children between one and three years of age have recently been published. The clinical disease is characterized by the simultaneous appearance of hyperirritability, tender swellings over the long bones and limitation of motion.

The symptoms appear after a latent period of 3 to 15 months of excessive Vitamin A intake. After withdrawal of Vitamin A, symptoms improve, followed by a gradual return to normal. Failure to measure accurately each dose of Vitamin Concentrate is an important cause. The giving and taking of dosages larger than recommended have been reported. Some parents have been known to allow their children to drink fish liver oil concentrates from the bottle, a practice which definitely should be discouraged.

Teething Troubles

Lead poisoning among children is a fairly frequent occurrence during warm weather. The habit of children chewing painted objects occurs on a year-round basis, but the practice probably increases as children enjoy relatively more freedom during the summer months, and find paint covered objects on which to help cut their teeth.

Pains in the stomach, frequent nausea, or vomiting, persistent constipation, irritability, frequent headache or convulsions, coupled with tooth marks on a painted surface may mean lead poisoning. Call your physician at once.

Lecca
Philadelphia

Philadelphia Health Bulletin

July, 1957