

Observatory Demonstrations On August 12

CRANBROOK—James A. Fowler, curator of education at Cranbrook Institute of Science, has announced a series of observatory demonstrations for Wednesday evening, August 12, when the skies may be viewed through a six-inch refractor telescope.

Demonstrations are offered to Institute members, as well as to the public, and will be scheduled at half-hour intervals from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., with an extra half hour added if enough people make reservations.

Bookings are made by appointment only and are limited to 15 people per half-hour period. Non-

members will be charged \$1 each. To make appointments call the Institute, Monday through Friday, and indicate the half-hour preferred. Members may bring no more than five guests.

IF SKIES are overcast, demonstrations will be cancelled. Calls concerning cancellations will be received at the Institute until 5 p.m. on August 12. If overcast skies develop while the demonstrations are going on, cancellations will be at the discretion of the demonstrator.

These extra planetarium demonstrations for the public, are scheduled for July and August. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 3 p.m.; Wednesday at 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Group demonstrations by special appointment.

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Alcohol Becomes A Business Cost

Editor's Note: Carl H. Zwink, Birmingham high school instructor, has just returned from the Summer School of Alcohol studies at Yale University. Here he reports more of his findings on problems involving beverage alcohol.

By CARL H. ZWINK
BHS Science Instructor

Problem drinkers and their bosses often do not themselves recognize the symptoms of this "illness." When the symptoms are recognized, employees and employers usually try to cover up the problem.

The absenteeism rate is about three times that of other employees when problem drinkers are considered. The accident rate is also about three times greater. The half-man, or employee on the job in spite of the hangovers, costs industry more than lost time, accidents, sickness benefits, and other expenses created by problem drinkers.

EMPLOYERS and employees tend to hide drinking problems, and immediate supervisors usually hide these problems from top management. Many companies are unaware that problems exist.

About ten years ago four large companies publicly announced prevention and treatment programs aimed at problem drinkers. Now others are doing the same, with good results.

Of greatest importance is the education of the immediate supervisors. They must know what the signs are for various stages of alcoholism, and they must know what to do.

Formerly the problem drinker became a hidden man as he and his boss ignored or did not recognize the problem, or he lost his job. Neither of these courses of action helps the worker or his company. Treatment, especially when begun early, is usually effective.

PROFESSOR Milton A. Maxwell of Washington State college discussed results of his own research and that reported by others at the Yale Summer school of Alcohol Studies.

Headlines were made in most of the major American daily newspapers. Attention is now being given to problems associated with beverage alcohol which are present throughout business and industry, although most employers still are doing little to solve these problems. The first effects of alcohol upon the human body are the lowering of judgment, initiative, and decision-making abilities of the individual. These effects are important on any job.

DIRECT losses to American industry caused by alcoholism probably total more than one billion dollars each year. Indirect costs probably run as high as ten billion dollars each year.

These losses are not eliminated when the problem drinker is fired. This results in the loss of a skilled employee, one whom the firm had trained over a period of years and whose experience could not readily be replaced.

More than two million problem drinkers are employed in American industry, and most of them could not be replaced with people of equal experience and ability.

WE NOW KNOW that alcoholism is a disease. It can be controlled. Many leading companies now have alcoholic rehabilitation programs. These programs repay these firms many times over the cost of the rehabilitation, by saving the initial investments made in employees who later begin compulsive drinking.

Although the social drinker can use alcohol with good judgment and maturity, the alcoholic can control neither the amount he drinks nor his behavior under its influence. Proper treatment is not easy or pleasant, but it can be effective.

Extensive literature on alcoholism is now available from many sources. Immediate supervisors must be trained to know and observe early symptoms (these were published in the Birmingham Eccentric July 9).

THE SUPERVISOR should have a frank and firm talk with the problem drinker immediately. The hazards of alcoholism must be pointed out; the alcoholic must be convinced that he has a problem. The reasons for the problem must be identified; these are not the same for all problem drinkers. There are usually a number of causes.

The alcoholic has defenses or alibis. The supervisor should not be surprised when he hears alibis, but the problems should be openly discussed and explored. Rehabilitation can be accomplished with the help of A. A. doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, and others.

The team approach, integrating the services of many agencies and professional workers, is most effective. There is no one set pattern which will work for all alcoholics. In fact, no way has been found to help some types of alcoholism.

MOST ALCOHOLICS can recover, and industry is beginning to help make them more useful employees and better able to handle family and community problems.

Some people still think of "old fashioned" alcoholism. Down-and-outers wandering around in Detroit add other cities as alcoholics, but they are far from typical. Most alcoholics are steadily employed family men and in so many ways they are indistinguishable from non-alcoholics.

Alcoholism is not caused by alcohol and it is not caused by lack of will power or a lack of sense of responsibility. It is often a symptom of an underlying and often deep-seated problem, or group of problems which the drinker is trying to escape. In other cases, no escape motives are found.

THERE MAY be mental illness or nervous, physical illness, or emotional shock which facilitated slipping across the line separating the social drinker from the problem drinker.

Especially encouraging is the fact that alcoholism in industry is generally easier to rehabilitate

In addition to programs now operated by a number of southeastern Michigan companies, Pontiac, Flint and Detroit have Alcoholism Information centers and local committees. Treatment centers are located in Highland Park, Detroit, Brighton, and other nearby cities.

Alcoholics Anonymous groups are found almost everywhere. Most doctors, clergymen, and other professional workers are able to help and willing to do so.

Alcoholism is losing the stigma which has helped keep this illness among the four most serious health problems in the U.S.

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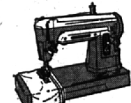


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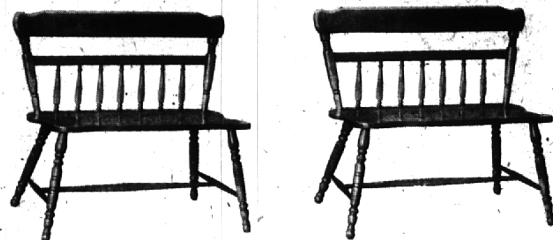
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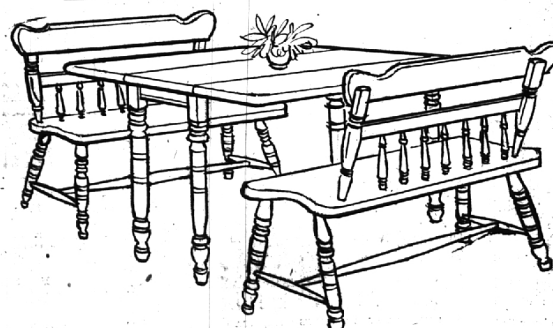
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