

## Alcoholism Is Called Contributing Factor In Arteriosclerosis

*Hospital Tribune World Service*

JERUSALEM—Alcoholism is probably a contributing factor in arteriosclerosis, studies by an 11-member team of psychiatrists at the State Psychiatric Hospital in Rome have indicated.

Speaking for the team at the fourth International Congress of Social Psychiatry here, Prof. Giovanni Bonfiglio said that the hospital admits about 6,000 patients yearly, of whom about 20 per cent are "pure" alcoholics (i.e., they have not combined alcohol with drugs).

The attention of the investigators was aroused by the observation that nearly all of the alcoholics showed signs of dementia in various stages of development. The dementia could be reversed, but only partially.

### 150 Alcoholics Selected

For the research, 150 chronic alcoholics aged 24-45 were selected at random.

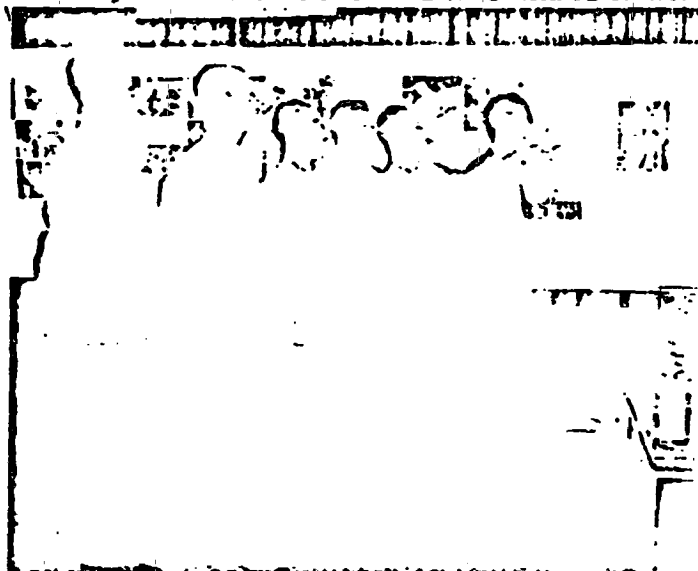
In tests, 81 per cent showed pathologic signs in rheoencephalography. Pathologic signs were also found in the vessels of the limbs, but these were not taken into account, since most of the patients were also heavy smokers.

Some 85 per cent showed pathologic signs when thromboelastograms were performed. The total lipids and cholesterol values were within the normal range but were close to the upper limits. Some 32.4 per cent showed pathologic triglyceride values, and 93 per cent showed pathologic beta-lipoprotein values.

In a series of psychologic tests, all 150 showed pathologic short-term memories. Moreover, as compared with a control group, their intermodal learning (from visual to tactile) was sharply reduced in all cases, and they also had lost much of their ability to adjust to new situations.

In another project, postmortems were performed on 50 chronic alcoholics. Eleven showed arteriosclerosis that was visible to the naked eye, and the other 39 showed microscopic arteriosclerosis.

## Physician Who Practiced in China Is Honored



The late Dr. Norman Bethune, a Canadian physician who practiced for 15 years in China and has been enshrined there as a national hero, was the subject of a display at the Canadian Medical Association in Montreal. Above, represents the People's Republic of China at the display. The sponsors, the Bethune Committee, with honorary chairman Dr. Wilder Penfield and including Selye and others as members, are seeking to establish exchange scholarships.

## Chronic Crisis Centers Termed L To Be Developed Over Next 10

*Hospital Tribune World Service*

STOCKHOLM—Suicide prevention centers and "crisis clinics" have appeared in considerable numbers in the United States and in other countries within the past 15 years. The next decade might well see the development of the "chronic crisis center" or the "center for prevention of chronic suicidal behavior."

This forecast was made at the Skandia International Symposium on Suicide here by Norman L. Fetherow, Ph.D., of the Suicide Prevention Center, University of Southern California School of Medicine in Los Angeles.

"Primary prevention programs to meet needs before crises can occur are likely in the future," he said.

He explained that precisely some extent blurs the distinct crisis and noncrisis intervention as some of the procedures developed be present in potential rather than actuality and in the long range rather than the short range. However, it is anticipated that the intervention will save lives and improve mental health. Basic concepts of suicide centers are accessibility and (24 hours, seven days a week) of responsibility (until transferred—not referred—to treatment resource), integrated network of community help and crisis intervention program and relieving the immediate emotional distress.