

A RECORD OF EMERITA ANALOGA FROM THE WASHINGTON COAST

DURING the spring and fall of 1941 and the summer of 1942 numerous sand crabs, *Emerita analoga* (Stimpson), were collected from the ocean beaches of Washington from the mouth of the Columbia River north to Kalalock. The localities include Long Beach, Grayland Beach, Copalis Beach and Kalalock Beach. They appeared to be especially common at Kalalock. Beaches north of the last locality have not been examined. The specimens ranged in size from postlarval stages with the carapace length of about 4 mm, to ovigerous females with a carapace length of 28 mm. Two male specimens collected were 11.5 and 13 mm long. The measurable characters of the specimens collected were well within the range of variation given by Schmitt.¹

This species has never before been recorded north of Oregon, where it was reported from unspecified localities by Holmes.² Schmitt (*loc. cit.*) reports specimens in the U. S. National Museum from Drake's Bay, California, to San Bartolomé Bay, Baja Cali-

fornia, in the northern hemisphere and from Peru to Chile in the southern.

A. H. BANNER

D. L. MCKERNAN

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
FISHERIES

THE MICROMETER BURETTE

ARGUMENTS about priority are perhaps stupid and always embarrassing, but I regard the micrometer syringe with particular jealousy. I feel that the authors of the article entitled "Micrometer Burette" in *SCIENCE*, 96: 247, 1942, should have given a reference to the paper in the *Biochemical Journal*, 19: 1111, 1925, in which I described for the first time the application of the principle of their apparatus to biochemical work. The usefulness of the principle is emphasized by the number of times it has been redescribed with minor modifications both in England and America since I wrote the paper referred to.

J. W. TREVAN

THE WELLCOME PHYSIOLOGICAL
RESEARCH LABORATORIES,
BECKENHAM, KENT, ENGLAND

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

ALCOHOL ADDICTION

Alcohol Addiction and Chronic Alcoholism. Vol. I. *Effects of Alcohol on the Individual*. Edited by E. M. JELLINEK. Pp. 336. Yale University Press. New Haven, 1942. \$4.00.

THIS first volume of a series of three to appear under the auspices of the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol presents by six authors, including the editor, a survey and analysis of the literature, with the declared purpose of clarifying the subject-matter as a basis for future research and for reference purposes.

The etiology and treatment of alcohol addiction are first received, the bulk of the book being then devoted to a description of some of the mental and bodily diseases of chronic alcoholism.

Some idea of the mass of material represented can be had from the statement of the editor that about 3,500 references among an estimated 100,000 bearing upon the topics of the projected three volumes were found to be worthy of consideration, because they were neither obsolete from the point of view of the medical sciences of 1941, nor primarily of propagandist character, nor were compilations producing no original opinions, nor duplicate presentations of already pub-

lished data, and because they did deal with the effects of alcohol on the individual.

While there can be no precise distinction between the effects of alcohol on the individual and those related to his behavior or condition in society, the editor assures us that the "sociological aspects of inebriety" are not excluded from present consideration but only "the effects of inebriety on society." In spite of the lack of any exact definitions of inebriety or of society as intended and used, it is fair to say that the spirit of the above distinction is followed in the half dozen chapters.

"Generally the scope of this work is the etiology of abnormal drinking; the effects of such drinking on the bodily and mental functions of the individual; and the immediate effects of alcohol in any quantity on the organs and their functions, and on psychological behavior." So far so good, but one searches in vain for the considered opinion of an author or the editor as to when drinking moves from normal to abnormal and what is the range of "normal" or "psychological" behavior in the user of alcoholic beverages. In both the Preface and in the introductory pages by the editor, there is a dearth of precise expressions but much language which leads to uncertainty of meaning. We are told that, in dealing with certain types of original articles, "the reviewers were justified in ignoring the verbalized conclusion of the investigator."

¹ *Univ. of Calif. Publ. Zool.*, XXIII, 1921, p. 173.

² *Calif. Acad. Sci. Occ. Papers*, VII, 1900, p. 103.

Physiologists, we are told, since they came to the problems of alcohol "from the theoretical frame of reference of physiology," have rarely made "longitudinal studies, which are prerequisite to the understanding of the process of addiction."

The following statement of attitude may be accepted as the editor's rather than that of the clinician authors. "On the whole, physiology, experimental psychology and clinical medicine have produced basic data, and psychiatry has furnished the necessary insight and working hypotheses, sufficient to warrant application of the existing knowledge to the investigation of the essential and complex problems of the origins of inebriety and addiction, their prevention and treatment." And this is the last the reader hears of prevention of alcohol addiction, of alcoholism or of abnormal drinking.

Part One, with two chapters by Karl Bowman and the editor on "Alcohol Addiction and its Treatment," and "Alcoholic Mental Disorders," and the related twenty pages of bibliography, is less effective or convincing as a source of facts and opinions of the past than are the four chapters of Part Two, perhaps because of the nature of the topics, but apparently more for the reason that the authors of chapters three to six express convictions based largely on direct personal knowledge of the current facts.

It is perhaps a merit in a reviewer to suppress his own views in giving the lessons of his predecessors, but something of definiteness could certainly have been said in regard to the etiology of alcohol addiction, even if its treatment remains the happy hunting ground of striking personalities and hopeful endeavorers. One gathers the impression that the etiology of alcohol addiction is clouded in a deepening obscurity.

Surely the clinical and time factors or criteria for "cure" of the alcohol addict are no more difficult to establish than are those for cancer or toxic hyperthyroidism, and yet we are left to flounder among tables of obviously non-comparable data in our efforts to discover any objective evidence of the results of various plans of treatment. One could wish the authors of Chapter I had expressed a bit of their own thoughts in the matter and spared us some of the confusion they reveal. We are told in substance only that more and better studies are needed and that effective psychotherapy must be made available to much larger numbers of addicts.

Chapter II is good, the topic lending itself to reasonably precise and accepted points of differential diagnosis and description. The field of alcoholic mental disorders has been tilled by men of acumen, imagination and wide experience and the gist of their facts and opinions is well presented.

Nowhere else than in Chapters III to IV of Part II

can one find in medical literature in such convenient form, or so authoritatively expressed, the background, the present status and the immediate direction of further study of the topics dealt with.

Evidence, observation, critical discussion and conclusions are all admirably presented by Dr. Norman Jolliffe and his colleagues, the late Dr. Herman Wortis and Dr. Martin H. Stein, and by Dr. Giorgio Lolli. (III. Vitamin Deficiencies in Chronic Alcoholism, IV. Alcoholic Encephalopathies and Nutrition, V. Marchiafava's Disease, VI. Cirrhosis of the Liver.)

Here at least we are on a sound foundation, the meeting ground of clinician, pathologist and biochemist. Only in part of the last chapter on "Cirrhosis of the Liver" do we meet a rather inadequate and crude use of the statistics of morbidity and mortality. The usual techniques of correlation have not been used and there have been ignored some factors of tabulation, registration practice and incompleteness of reporting of deaths attributed to any form of alcoholism which certainly affect the validity of original data and the comparability of international death rates.

The undertaking of the three volumes is one of great difficulty, complex, little short of encyclopedic and beset by pitfalls in both fact and opinion. This first product of the Council's efforts shows courage and imagination. Volume II will deal largely with experimental material and the highly controversial matter of "germ damage." Volume III will deal with "the magnitude of the problem in terms of incidence, and will analyze the statistics presented in the literature."

Might the devotee of administrative medicine and public health enter a plea for a Volume IV to be devoted to evidence of changes in incidence of and mortality from acute and chronic alcoholism and in consumption of alcohol per capita, related directly or by inference to administrative measures of civil or military governments affecting the production and drinking of beverage alcohol, and some consideration of the actual cost to society of the burden of the alcoholic.

HAVEN EMERSON

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

OCEANOGRAPHY

Oceanography for Meteorologists. By H. U. SVERDRUP. xv + 246 pp. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1942. \$3.50.

In the solution of certain scientific problems and in carrying on of essential practical work, meteorologists connected with the present war have had an important share, as is evident from the repeated call of the United States Government for qualified persons in this field. A number of excellent meteorological texts have recently appeared to satisfy the needs of professionals and students alike. The book before us,