

December 1946

1,700 A.A.s and Friends Attend Annual Dinner

More than 1,700 members of Alcoholics Anonymous and their friends - representing A.A. Groups from all sections of the United States - attended the organization's 11th annual dinner on November 7, at the Hotel Commodore, New York. The dinner was sponsored by the New York Intergroup Association of A.A.

Bill W., one of the two co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, delivered the principal A.A. address at the dinner. He reviewed A.A.s tremendous growth in the past few years and predicted its future. "If we remember that our first duty is face-to-face help for the alcoholic who still suffers from his illness, we need not worry about our future," he said.

Drawing a contrast between A.A. of today and a similar organization, The Washingtonians, of 100 years ago, he pointed out how important it is to adhere to simple principles if A.A. is to survive. He compared the principles of the Franciscan order of 700 years ago to the principles of A.A. today, and concluded with a restatement of the Twelve Points of Tradition that have evolved through experience in A.A.

Dr. John J. Millet, well known psychiatrist, was the principle non-alcoholic speaker. Dr. Millet proposed more active cooperation between physicians and members of A.A. on the problem of alcoholism.

Other speakers were a woman of A.A. and two men members. All told their stories of recovery from alcoholism through A.A.

Rev. James P. Timmons of *The Catholic Transcript*, Hartford, Conn., delivered the invocation and the benediction.