

December 1944

## THE NEW YORK PRESS REPORTS A.A. DINNER

*From the N. Y. World Telegram:*

Fifteen hundred people, most of them former drunks, assembled last night at the Hotel Commodore to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous, and it was as humbling and as wholesome as a walk in the open fields at twilight...

....One of the members speakers was an extraordinarily attractive young woman who spoke with the frankness of sunlight and whose wit and philosophy could only have been derived from a terrible mental experience.

....She told of her addiction to alcohol when she was 17 - "because I was shy and unsure of myself" - and one felt at first as she began her story like a violator of the confessional until realization came that here was the courage of truth, and the acceptance of realities, which is the first lesson of an alcoholic on the road to reform....

*From the N. Y. Daily News:*

....Chief address of the evening was by Fulton Oursler, senior editor of *Reader's*

*Digest* and radio commentator. He likened A.A. to "the mighty allied army which at this moment is ending the binge upon which Nazi Germany had set out"....

*From the N. Y. Herald Tribune:*

....The report which the founder delivered on Alcoholics Anonymous's ten-year history was impressive. In its first year, he said, only fifteen alcoholics "were released" from the drinking habit. After three years there were forty "conversions." At the end of four years the total was only 100. But after ten years there are more than 12,000 members in more than 370 groups throughout the United States and Canada, and a new unit is functioning successfully in Hawaii...

*From the N. Y. Sun:*

.... Perhaps the thing which impressed the non-alcoholics among the diners most was the happiness of every last one of the women and men who had achieved release from their liquid obsession.