

November 1946

Moochers Down-Under AUSTRALIAN BRANCH NOTES

No. 2

(By One of the Originals)

From Sydney, Australia

The Australian Main Branch of Alcoholics Anonymous now holds two meetings weekly at its Headquarters, ironically enough a delicensed public house in Sydney. These meetings are held on Tuesdays and Fridays, starting at 8 & P.M. On Tuesdays we may bring our wives, sweethearts, minister of religion and friends who are interested. Friday is set apart for alcoholics only, except that founders and Mr. Frank Sturge-Harty (whom we regard as a sort of Deputy Founder) may attend if they wish. On odd occasions one or more of them may appear, but mostly we are left to ourselves.

On Friday, July 5, there was a large attendance (some 50 or 60 being present). Six or seven were drunk, but no one took much notice of this.

Of later months a certain element has been of some bother to us. They are male members who have been turning up quite regularly - sometimes sober, sometimes not. They move from member to member, getting a cigarette here, a shilling or two there. They never under any circumstances make the slightest attempt to live the 12 Steps, and are, at times, a disorganizing influence at meetings.

Cold Shoulder Works

Our founders advised us not to give them money or help them in any way; we first commenced taking this attitude (feeling rather mean about it) on Friday, July 5. At the subsequent meetings not one of them put in an appearance. So it seems they were more interested in supplementing their incomes than in learning how to be dry and happy.

A branch of Alcoholics Anonymous has now been established at Manly (a seaside suburb of Sydney) and another is expected to be established at Katoomba, a mountain town 70 miles west of Sydney. There has for some time been a branch at Barellan in central New South Wales. Another branch may soon be established in Melbourne, capital city of the State of Victoria. Melbourne has a population of 1,200,000 as compared to Sydney's 1,350,000. Sydney is the capital of the State of New South Wales. Further, we are trying to urge the Australian Red Cross Society to establish a branch in Adelaide, capital city (300,000 people) of the State of South Australia. - R.A.