

# CENTRAL BUSINESS BULLETIN

VOL. III-No. 4

BOX 1638, STATION C, CLEVELAND, OHIO

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## Editorial

"How can I put faith in 3 Supreme Power when brutal people like the Germans and the Japanese have loosed upon the world a campaign of wanton destruction that has killed thousands upon thousands of innocent people, when our own sons, who never have harmed anyone, are being slaughtered? Would a just God permit anything like that to happen?"

The question came over the phone from one who has been having a bit of trouble both with alcohol and the Third Step. We thought, 3s we listened to this cry of frustration, how we had lain in bed, awake at 3 o'clock Christmas morning, and had wondered if we ever again could turn to the Supreme Power for help. We thought of the brutal revenge that Germans were taking then on Belgians who had celebrated too soon their release from oppression; we thought of our young men who were battling in the snow to smother the German drive into the Ardennes. We thought of telegrams our friends, neighbors and relatives were receiving. Fine young men, some of them in the service barely six months, and now casualties. How had they offended the great God that He should strike them down?

How has this war come upon the world to bring suffering such 3s man never before has known? It would be mockery to say that God willed it, to say, as ancients did in time of famine, plague, flood and disaster, that God was visiting his punishment on the people for their sins. For, thus, God would be showing himself in human terms that we consider unworthy. If God's nature were such that we should expect him to intervene in human affairs, we should expect not a scourge but a more sublime tool of action. But why, we cry, does the Supreme Power allow the scourge to fall upon us? Why does he not stay the hand of the monsters who have loosed this war upon the world?

The war is our doing. We cannot shift the blame to the Supreme Power, either directly or indirectly. God has not made this war, has not visited it upon us or sanctioned it. Nor is God to be charged, in human terms, with permitting it through neglect.

The evils that have fallen upon the world are the results of human acts. For them, we are responsible and answerable. The Supreme Power gave us the material world for our use, gave us our material persons for our wills to rule. God reveals his will to us, but he does not conduct our lives for us, either individually or collectively. God gave us laws for human conduct and standards under which we may achieve peace, accord and happiness.

The truth is that mankind never has placed itself in the realm of God, never has adhered to God's laws or abided by his standards. As nations of people, we have sought to encourage the belief that the Supreme Power serves our selfish ends. Even when those who are relatively just have triumphed over those who are relatively unjust, an effort has been made to freeze the victory to serve the selfish ends of the victors.

The reader may find, toward the beginning of these lines,

(Continued on page two)

## Tragedies

In the columns of the Cleveland newspapers during the past few days there appeared stories of stark tragedies which were caused either directly or indirectly by an abuse of the privilege of drinking. Instinctively we shudder with the thoughts of what might have happened had we continued in the errors of our ways.

We, in our self-centered minds, always believed that our luck would hold that we could gamble with our souls, and, tempting fate, could abuse privileges without worry about the law of retribution.

How many of us experienced the same resentment that stirred that young man who mortally wounded a bartender

when he "was forcibly ejected from the E. 105th saloon. Only 25 years old, the son of 3 respected businessman, deferred in the draft, but already an alcoholic — or certainly showing 311 characteristics of one. How many of us, when we were feeling high, made ourselves objectionably conspicuous 3s this lad did, and resented any efforts to stop us. Just by the grace of God were we fortunate that He had His protecting hand over us. We know the remorse that comes to this lad in his cell 3s he keeps shouting! according to the news item, Kill me, kill me! Why doesn't someone kill me!"

A month before, according to the dying bartender, he had been warned about brandishing the gun in a saloon. He probably had been warned about drinking too much, too.

Another news item relates the sordid facts about the death of 3 couple in a rooming house. The man was unmarried and the woman the wife of a soldier

lying in a hospital in Europe. On the table was a partly emptied bottle of brandy and an eight-page letter from the husband filled with loving thoughts addressed to the nude body on the bed, lying beside her paramour.

Escape! Escape from the responsibilities of life. How simple it always seemed to be.

We who have found happiness in our new way of life shudder when we think of what could have happened to us had we not embraced the AA program. Stories of these daily tragedies awaken in our hearts sympathetic thoughts. If only these poor souls could have learned about the program, these events would not have occurred!

But, you say, they wouldn't have listened to you? How do you know? How often we are silent when just 3 word of warning or advice might avert tragedies such as those mentioned above. And if your advice isn't heeded, you at least have done your part. You've fulfilled your obligation to your brother man.

## BOUND VOLUMES

The bound volumes of the first two years' issues of the Central Bulletin are finally beginning to appear. Priority on war orders and holiday work taxed the bindery to such an extent that this job was set aside. Delivery has been made to several, and the neatly bound book has brought praise and new orders. There are still a few available at \$2.50 per volume.

### WORTH

By Orrin A. DeMass

When you think of a man you seldom think  
Of the knowledge he has of books,  
You seldom think of the clothes he wears,  
His habits, or faults, or looks.  
You seldom think of the car he drives,  
Nor the bonds his gold has bought;  
When you think of a man you mostly think  
Of some kindness he has wrought.  
You judge him not by his blocks of stocks,  
Nor his power of name or pen;  
You judge a man by the place he's made  
In the hearts of his fellow men.  
You judge him more by the fight he's made,  
By the way he has faced the strife,  
And not the amount of the bank account  
He's managed to get in life.  
You think of the friend he's been to man,  
The good that he has done,  
And you judge the sort of 3 man he is  
By the friends that he has won.

## EDITORIAL

*(Continued from page one)*

a confession that **this** writer has been tempted, because of emotions aroused by recent events of the war, to deny the existence of God. For one who only lately emerged from a Godless life, the temptation is easy to yield to.

Here is a time not merely for earnest prayer in the usual sense, but for prayer in another sense, which demands stern application **to** cold, sober thought.

Perhaps we may not understand how the Supreme Power works on the level of collective existence, but we can understand what has happened to us as individuals. We need only to apply the test of experience and to ask what difference the existence of a Supreme Power upon which we can rely has meant to our lives.

We may express our experience as we will? but the simple facts are that through selfish and self-willed action we came to disaster, that in trying to meet real personal problems through escape into alcohol we came to disaster, that by following the paths of easy gratification we came to disaster. The laws we observed and the standards we followed were our own. What difference did it make when we followed our own wills? And what difference did it make when we tried to meet our problems by relying only on our own resources? And what difference did it make to us that the Supreme Power was still available to us?

In all times, in all conditions of life, men who have found themselves unable to bring order into their lives, unable to meet a personal tragedy or to rise above disaster, have found comfort and help through establishing relations with the Supreme Power.

That they and we have found solution by turning to the Supreme Power, by abiding by the laws and standards set by the Supreme Power, has been proof enough of the existence of **that** Power.

Our life exists on several levels: the level of the individual, that of the family, of the social group, of the community, the state and the nation. On the personal, the family and the group levels, we have experienced God's help when we have placed ourselves in the higher realm, when we have striven to abide by God's laws.

From the solutions we have found in our individual lives, we may suggest that the collective problems of the peoples in the world at large may be similarly met. Our part is to be the best men we can, to contribute to understanding on higher levels, to help create a society based on justice, on mercy, on morality. God's will will be the will of the world when the world realizes it must adhere to God's standards.

## DOWNTOWN OFFICE ELECTS TRUSTEES

At a special meeting held Tuesday, January 16th, in Cleveland Hotel, representatives considered a slate of thirteen selected and qualified candidates for the administrators of the downtown office soon to be established. Jack D-, receiving the greatest number of **votes**, was elected for a **term** of three years; Paul J- was elected for two years, and Chas. D-, Dr. F. F- and Cliff B- for one year. The latter three will serve until Dec. 31, 1945, when an election will be held to select a member who will serve a **three-year** term.

The nominating committee, consisting of Dick S-, Elmer L- and Abby G-, were elected trustees to serve one year.

The elected administrators will open the office as soon as possible and appoint the executive secretary. This office will prove to be a boon to all AA's in the Cleveland area and will lighten the burden for many whose offices have served as information centers for some time.

The finance committee reported contributions and pledges had almost reached the goal it set, with about 200 contributors contributing about \$3,600. More pledges were assured when the office was opened.

The chairman asked for complete faith and trust in the men selected, and it is hoped that everyone will give them their whole-hearted support.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Only 17 groups were represented at the January 2nd meeting of Central Committee. Inclement weather undoubtedly was the cause for poor attendance.

The Sponsorship Committee reported a distribution of **2,200** pamphlets and that an additional 2,599 were sold to out-of-town groups. It was decided to send copies of minutes of Central Committee to all groups for distribution to their members.

The Hospital Committee reported negotiations being under way to increase the number of beds in regular hospitals.

A special meeting **was** decided upon to select the administrators for the downtown office, to be held January 16th at Hotel Cleveland.

## MASS MEETING

The December Mass Meeting, held on December 17th, was attended by about 600 people, who heard Miss Marty Mann, of New York, and were completely won over by her with her frank discussion and excellent analysis of the alcoholic problem. Neither of the Bulletin Editors attended the meeting, to their extreme regret. **Other** engagements which could not be changed made attendance an impossibility. The Cleveland newspapers gave the meeting excellent and accurate stories.

Due to weather conditions and other reasons, there will be no consolidated mass meeting in January.

## LETTER FROM A SOLDIER

Undoubtedly the tempo of the war has made it difficult for the boys to write letters for the Bulletin. We appreciate receiving a V-mail letter from Frank Orpse, who has been a faithful correspondent, as well as a note from Glen Wadick, whom we were also glad to hear from. How about hearing from some more of you boys?

*Christmas Day, 1944*

Thanks *muchly* for the copy of the Bulletin for November which Z received during the past week. Z still contend that it's a great help in staying on the beam, to us who are in the service.

*Sitting here by the stove in our hut this Xmas day, brings many thoughts of how other holidays were spent at home—most of them before Z got to know the AA way of life—how they were spent in a manner most unfitting the birth of the Christ child. How much Z now have to be thankful for in being able to celebrate this day as it should be, even though far away from home and contacts.*

*Z liked your editorial on the third step a whole lot.*

*Am still "on the beam"—miss you all and Z hope the time comes soon when Z can make AA contacts again.*

*Sgt. Frank M. Orpse*

*Philippine Islands, Dec. 13, 1944*

*Just received my copy of the August Central Bulletin, so will advise you of my new organization and mailing address. Although Z am far away and have kind of lost contact, Z still do appreciate receiving the Bulletin. Things are well with me. Allow me to say "howdy" to my many AA friends and to wish them the best of everything. It is impossible to correspond with them all, but Z do remember their many acts of kindness and helpfulness. Good 'luck to you all always.*

*Cpl. Glen R. Wadick*

## WARREN-YOUNGSTOWN

Cleveland speakers appeared at groups in Warren and Youngstown and returned with praise for the attention and consideration they received in both places. It goes to prove that the principles of AA find willing hearts ready to receive them wherever they are voiced. Through this medium of exchange we strengthen the spirit of those who desire to better their way of life.

Incidentally, Henry O., a member of the Warren, O., Group, will lead at the Public Square Group, in Cleveland, Tuesday, January 23rd. Everyone is welcome.

## DOCTOR BOB AT PARKWOOD

On Sunday, February 4th, the Parkwood Group will have the pleasure of hearing Dr. Bob S. of Akron. Dr. Bob is the co-founder of AA and all groups are invited to attend the meeting.

This group meets every Sunday at 8 o'clock in Virginia Hall, 10921 Superior Avenue.

## PAINESVILLE—WILLOUGHBY

The Painesville Telegraph covered the first birthday meeting of the Painesville AA Group in splendid and intelligent fashion, with about a column and one-half story of the growth of this hard-working group and its contribution to the community. It cited comments by a judge and a pastor, and gave a faithful story of how AA works.

The Painesville Group, incidentally, outgrew its first meeting place, and now meet in their new quarters at 33 N. State St. on the third floor. No, there's no elevator. They meet on Thursday nights at 8:30.

The Willoughby Ladies (or wives of Willoughby AA's) presented the Painesville Group with a set of dishes at their birthday party.

The joint New Year's Eve party was such a success that there was a demand for more such parties in the future. Could be!

## NEW GROUP FORMED

A new group, which will call itself the North-East Group, was just formed and will hold its first meeting on Friday, the 9th of February, at 8:30 p. m. in the Fidelity Baptist Church, E. 84th St. and Wade Park. Frank W. is the secretary, and he invites all AAs to attend this meeting.

## DOAN DATA

The Doan Men will celebrate their fourth anniversary Wednesday, Jan. 24th, and this will also mark the first anniversary in their new quarters at 2928 E. 105th St. Chas. D. will lead the meeting, and a special plea is made to the original members of the original Crawford Rd. Group to attend.

Bill T. carried out his duties as chairman very efficiently in December. . . Roy W. is in Charity Hospital with a fractured vertebrae . . . We miss him terrifically . . . New Year's Eve party huge success . . . Attracted over 300 . . . Earl A. "dance manager," hasn't recovered yet from his highly amusing antics . . . Getting too old, we fear, for him to bunnyhug and variety dance . . . Eric W. led Warrensville meeting first Thursday in January . . . inclement weather was braved by 7 AAs . . . Others tried but missed connections.

## JUST FOR TODAY

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs,  
I do not pray;  
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin,  
Just for today.

Let me both diligently work,  
And duly pray;  
Let me be kind in word and deed,  
Just for today.

Let me be slow to do my will,  
Prompt to obey;  
Help me to sacrifice myself,  
Just for today.

Let me no wrong or idle word,  
Unthinking say;  
Set Thou a seal upon my lips,  
Just for today.

Let me in season, Lord, be grave,  
In season, gay;  
Let me be faithful to Thy grace,  
Just for today.

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs,  
I do not pray;  
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord,  
Just for today.

## TAKING THINGS FOR GRANTED

One of the most innocent looking sins, yet one that reveals a loveless heart, is the sin of ingratitude. This sin is quite prevalent. We have felt its sting. We ourselves have been guilty time without number.

We take things for granted in the home and among friends. We are far less considerate of the feelings of the home folks than of strangers. Too often our loved ones go on toiling with no sunshine of appreciation lighting up the way.

We take things for granted with God. We forget His kindness and mercies. We forget that in Him we live and have our being. We forget His great redemptive work in Christ. Without giving any thought to our worth-for there is none-He sent His Son and placed upon Him all our sins. Jesus suffered also from these sins of ingratitude. He weeps over Jerusalem that would not recognize His mercies. He laments because Capernaum would not listen to His Word nor appreciate His mighty works.

We also forget His counsel and His works. In His Word God speaks to us, but we fail to read it. We pay no attention to His warnings nor to His invitations. We live as though there were no God.

Oh, the sinfulness of our thankless hearts!

Such sins are **inexcusable**. We ought to recognize the favors we receive from God, from our friends, and from our fellow men. It is reasonable to expect us to remember. Yet we forget. But we cannot dismiss these neglects with a shrug of the shoulder. They must be forgiven. We must not only ask God to forgive, but also plead for strength to overcome this sin of ingratitude today and tomorrow.

## LORAIN AVE.-THURSDAY

Our group was honored by many inspiring leaders during the past year, particularly Norman Y., of Youngstown . . . Vernie H. made his initial lead, and after a shaky start, managed to finish standing up . . . Hats off to our secretary, Tom T., for his fine devotion to the group, to Al "Santa Claus" S., who made our Christmas party a success, and to Vem B., who has started many a foot in the right direction. Let's renew our New Year's resolutions every twenty-four hours.

## BROOKLYN

Good old Hank W., formerly secretary of this group, has relinquished his reins to Charley S., who took over the job in January. Hank was a faithful secretary, and the group owes him a lot for his splendid devotion to it. Charlie S. is another old-timer and one of the first members in the group, and we're sure he'll do a good job, too.

The meeting place is still at 3316 Broadview Rd. and still meets on Wednesdays at 8:30 p. m.

## HOTEL ANTLERS-LORAIN, O.

We hasten to correct a misunderstanding concerning the Lorain-Antlers Group, which we quoted as having changed its meeting place and night in the December issue.

The Lorain-Antlers Group still meets at the Antlers Hotel on Thursday nights. A new group formed from this group meets on Tuesday evenings at the Central Housing Community Hall.

## PEARL GROUP

Our group is considering moving to another meeting place? and possibly on another night. We temporarily are meeting on Mondays instead of Fridays at Good Counsel Hall.

## FISHER FOOD MAGAZINE

A splendid article on Alcoholics Anonymous was featured in the Fisher Food house organ, "The Family Circle," written by Stewart Robertson, in their issue of January 5th. Very well written.

## LAKESWOOD

The Lakeswood Group celebrated the third anniversary of Stanton McD.'s with a nice crowd on Monday, January 8th. He has been a wonderful worker and an inspiration to his fellow members.

OUT OF TOWN MEETINGS

GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

AKRON MEN'S GROUP-199 E. Market Street. 8:30
ASHTABULA, O.—Linne Hall, 3403 Station Ave.—except 2nd Mon. 8:00
BARBERTON, O., Homes of group members 8:30
ERIE, PA., Perry Group, 1110 Parade St. 8:00
DETROIT, MICH., North-West Group (Instruction Meeting), 10216 Plymouth 9:00
STEUBENVILLE, O.-Y. M. C. A. North 4th St. 8:00
TOLEDO, O.—241 1/2 Superior St. (2nd Floor) 8:30
NEW PHILADELPHIA, O.—Tuscarawas County Group, Assembly Hall, 2nd floor Tuscarawas Savings & Loan Bldg. 8:00

TUESDAY

AKRON, O., Morning, 897 E. Market St. 10:00 A. M.
AKRON, O., St. Vincent High School Auditorium, cor. Walnut & W. Market St. 8:16
BELLEVUE, O.—Sumner C. Fehl, Sec'y, 666 E. Center St.; YMCA Hall 8:00
CINCINNATI, O.—626 Broadway, Room 230 8:30
DAYTON, O., Mutua 1 Home Bldg. 8:30
DAYTON, O.—9th Floor Gas & Electric Bldg. 8:30
DETROIT, MICH., East Group, Community Hall, E. Jefferson & Manistique 8:30
MANSFIELD, O.—North Lake Park, Sec. Address, 175 1/2 Lexington 8:30
PITTSBURGH (E. Liberty)—E. Liberty Y. M. C. A. 8:30

WEDNESDAY

AKRON GROUP NO. 1—King School, W. Tallmadge at Aqueduct Street 8:15
BEAVER, PA., Beaver Valley Group, Home of J. E. Pittinger 8:30
BUFFALO NO. 1—95 Johnson Park 8:30
BUFFALO, N. Y.—Johnson Park Group, 95 Johnson Park 8:30
BUFFALO, N. Y.—North Buffalo Group, 2387 Fillmore at Main 8:30
COLUMBUS MORNING GROUP—1686 Summit St. 1:00 P. M.
DAYTON, O., Lutheran Inner Mission, 4th & Commercial Sts. 8:30
DAYTON, O.—Christ Epis. Church (Parish House), 20 W. First St. 8:30
DETROIT, MICH., Northeast Group, Olivet Lutheran Church, 19521 Van Dyke St. 9:00
DETROIT, MICH., Central Group, Hard of Hearing Hall, 4242 Cass Ave. 9:00
ELYRIA, O.—108 Middle Ave., "On the Square" (3d Floor) 8:30
ERIE, PA., Lawrence Group, 815 Plumb St. 8:00
TOLEDO, O.—241 1/2 Superior St. (2nd Floor) 8:30
TOLEDO, O.—Morning Group, 241 1/2 Superior St. (2nd Floor) 10:00
WARREN, O.—Welsh Club, High St. (except second Wednesday) 8:30
YOUNGSTOWN, O.—Southside Group, 60 W. Indianola 8:30

THURSDAY

CINCINNATI, O.—Training Meeting, 626 Broadway, Room 230 8:00
DAYTON, O., Members' Residences, Phone 9611 for information 8:30
DAYTON, O.—Members' Residences, Phone ADams 9611 for information 8:30
DETROIT, MICH., Northwest Group, Club Hall, 10216 Plymouth 9:00
EAST AKRON-397 E. Market Street 8:00
THURSDAY STAG, COLUMBUS, O.—Broad St. Church of Chr. 8:30
TOLEDO, O.—Highland Park Shelter House 8:30
WARREN, O.—Welsh Club, High St. (second Thurs. in month only) 8:30

FRIDAY

AKRON, O. Night Group, Firestone Local Hall, So. Main St., just south of Railroad Bridge 8:00
AKRON, O. Noon Group, Bendel's, Howard & Mill's St. 12:00 Noon
DETROIT, MICH. West Group, Club Hall, 10216 Plymouth 9:00
DETROIT, MICH., Windsor Group, 66 Sandwich St., W Windsor, Ont., Canada 9:00
ERIE, PA.—Stag Group, Room 206, Ford Hotel 7:30
KENT, O. of C. Hall, No. Deputy St. 8:30
PITTSBURGH, PA.—Downtown-Keystone Hotel 8:30
TOLEDO, O.—241 1/2 Superior St. (2nd Floor) 8:30

SATURDAY

CINCINNATI, O.—626 Broadway, Room 236 9:00
CUYAHOGA FALLS—2150 Front Street 8:30
CANTON, O. I.O.O.F. Temple, 1439 Cleveland Ave. 8:30
CENTRAL, COLUMBUS, O.—I.O.O.F. Temple, 24 W. Goodale St. 8:30
NO. SIDE, COLUMBUS, O.—Olentanzky Village, 2929 N. High St. 8:30
OBERLIN, O.—Legion Hall, North Main 8:00
DAYTON, O.—Social Night—For location, Phone ADams 9611 for information 8:00

SUNDAY

ASHTABULA, O.—Linne Hall, 3403 Station Ave.—preceding 2nd Monday 6:00
BUFFALO NO. 1—Q6 Johnson Park 8:00
BUFFALO, N. Y.—Johnson Park Group, 96 Johnson Park 8:30
BUFFALO, N. Y.—North Buffalo Group, 2333 Fillmore at Main 8:00
DAYTON, O., 9th Floor Gas & Electric Bldg. 8:30
DETROIT, MICH., Church of The Messiah, E. Grand Blvd. 8:00
Lafayette 8:00
DETROIT, MICH., Windsor Group, 65 Sandwich St., W. Windsor, Canada 2:30
LISBON, O. Columbiana Group, American Legion Hall 8:30
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Riley Hotel, Capital Ave. & 16th St. (Breakfast) 9:00 A. M.
Weekly meetings Mon., Wed., Thurs Friday in homes of members. Telephone Franklin 2743.
PITTSBURGH, PA.—Corapolis YMCA 2:30
PITTSBURGH (No. Side)—North Side Y. M. C. A. 2:00
YOUNGSTOWN, O.—34 W. Spring St. 8:00
DETROIT, MICH., AA Club of Detroit, 14 W. Milwaukee Ave., open from 11:00 A. M. to 11:00 P. M.

MONDAY

BORTON-13931 Euclid Ave. 3:45
GLENVILLE WOMEN'S—10421 St. Clair Ave. 8:30
LAKEWOOD—Townsend Hall, 15903 Detroit Ave. 8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—S t. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton and Detroit. 8:30
LAKE SHORE—Lake Shore Hotel, Dinner at 7:30, Meeting at 8:30
LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road 8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain 8:30
UNION AVENUE—12907 Union Ave 8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episcopal Church, 3461 Warrensville center Rd. 3:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-10203 Miles Ave. 8:30
WEST 25TH ST.—Marvel Hall, 2858 W. 26th St. 8:30
SOUTH AMHERST—Congregational Church Basement. 8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O. 8:30

TUESDAY

BROOKLYN—PARMA—4427 Pearl Rd. 8:30
EUCLID-WADE—Emmanuel Church (Rear), 8614 Euclid 8:30
PUBLIC SQUARE—Hotel Cleveland (See Bulletin Board) 8:30
SALVATION ARMY—E. 9th and Eagle 8:00
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 88th 8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts. 8:00

WEDNESDAY

BROOKLYN-K. of P. Hall, Broadview and Pearl Rd. 8:30
COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave. 8:30
DENISON—St. Phillips Hall, 3290 Denison Ave. 8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St. 8:45
LEE ROAD—Mayfield and Prever, Heights Presbyterian Church. 8:30
WOMEN'S (Lakewood)—12214 Detroit Ave. 8:30
YOUNG PEOPLE'S—West Side Evangelical Hall, W. 33th & Bridge 8:30
BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave. 8:30
ELYRIA, O.—108 Middle Ave., P. O. Box 491, On the Square 8:30

THURSDAY

ARCADE-601 The Arcade 8:00
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair 8:30
LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road 8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain 8:30
WARRENSVILLE, Workhouse Chapel-1st Thurs. each mu. 7:00 P. M.
PAINESVILLE, O.-33 N. State St., Third Floor 8:30
LORAIN, O.—Antlers Hotel 8:30

FRIDAY

GORDON SQUARE—St. Helena's Church Hall, 1367 W. 66th St. 8:30
LEE ROAD—1637 Lee Road 8:30
PEARL-Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd. 8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview off Detroit Rd. 8:30
NORTHEAST-Fidelity Baptist Church, E. 84th and Wade Park 8:30
AVON LAKE-1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O. 8:30
BEREA—Social mom of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church Sta. 3:30
EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church E. 200th St. off St. Clair 8:30

SATURDAY

GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair 8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road 8:00

SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue 7:30
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 106th St. 3:00
PARKWOOD-Virginia Hall, 10921 Superior Ave. 8:00

1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building Room 370 8:30

LAST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Bldg., Room 370 8:30

MORNING MEETINGS

Monday Mornings

BOLTON SQUARE-2028 E. 106th St. 10:00 A. M.

Wednesday Mornings

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave. 10:00 A. M.

Thursday Mornings

WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave. 10:00 A. M.

Friday Mornings

SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair. Breakfast 8:00 A. M.-Meeting 9:00 A. M.

Subscription Blank for Central Bulletin

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# CENTRAL BUSINESS HONESTY PURITY LOVE AA BULLETIN

VOL. III-No. 5

435 WILLIAMSON BLDG., CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

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## Editorial

The Devil always has spoken with a voice of sweet reasonableness, whispering soft mischief in our willing ears, jesting at the pains of bitter experience. Soft lights and the tinkle of glass, the body glow that comes with the first drink, the loosened tongue? the ribald joking or the confidential, revealing conversation that seems to come at no other time: these are strong lures that make us forget the pain of the past.

Perhaps we have long since passed the strong craving for drink. In its place, there is just a gentle desire that seems to come from no demand of the body for alcohol. Instead, it's a desire of association, for the things that have gone with drinking in its pleasanter forms. The saloon long has been known as "the poor man's club." But whether men have been poor, or in the middle station of life, or rich, their hilarious occasions frequently have been drinking occasions. One writer, speaking of American businessmen's conventions says they are occasions for men to play hookey. At such times, the associations are of first importance, the drinks are secondary; and with most persons, who can get their fun with two or three drinks, the drinks remain secondary.

At an AA meeting several weeks ago, we met a man who had been dry for three years, without trouble. "Nothing," he said, "could persuade me to take another drink." When next we heard of him, two weeks later, he had been drunk for two days. He had gone to an annual dinner meeting of a business organization he belongs to, an occasion usually marked with a little mild drinking. Here was an old association of going with the crowd, joining in the fun, being one of the gang. It is highly likely that on this occasion in which our man fell back into the old groove, there really was no strongly-felt desire for drink. The man may have had a warning signal in his mind that he was doing wrong or perhaps he did not. There may have been nothing more than a yielding to a feeling of elation, but in either case the man had not prepared himself in advance for the temptations of the evening.

We have known of strong AA's of long standing, who, when placed in a situation in which they formerly enjoyed drinking, have had a strong craving, and have had to call on all their resources to avoid a slip. These men could see the warning signals and could remember their alcoholic experiences. But it is when we don't see the signals, or when we ignore them that we may drift into trouble.

It is well, when we are to go back into an association of drinking, a social-business occasion or a pure social occasion, to arm ourselves in advance, by taking into account the facts that there will be drinking, that we shall be asked to join, and that if we do join we shall be just where we were when we came into AA.

For those who look forward to the occasion as an opportunity to drink, who have been telling themselves for weeks that it will be all right, we can only say that unless they remember in time the bitter experiences of the past, they are in for new disasters.

(Continued on page two)

## The Pay-off

You pay in some way or other for every wrong or evil act that you have committed, in some way or other sometime in your life.

This remark was made by a leader in an excellent talk at the Public Square Group's meeting last night.

And he went on to say that every naturally good deed that was rendered was rewarded in some way or-other-if not immediately, some time surely.

He challenged us all to name any known misdeed that we had committed for which we had not been punished, whether it was through actual physical punishment or deep, burning remorse.

And using this presumption as a basis, he proved to our satisfaction that the Power which decided on the method of punishment for the evil, would likewise reward in great measure the good deeds that were done.

We hear so often from people, that they have difficulty in conceiving this Power and that in their intense desire for sobriety they mechanically accepted or tried to accept the program with the hope that this Power would manifest itself. These are people who have had little or no religious background and who have been promised that if they just practice the mechanics of the AA program they'd come out all right. Possibly it will keep them sober for a time, but not until they recognize this Power, and believe humbly and devoutly, that without it they would be helpless, will they find the peace of mind and the happiness which is their certain reward for absolute faith.

How does this Power convey itself?

Everyone, we presume, knows the difference between right and wrong. You have the right to choose between them. The Power represents the good and reminds you through your conscience which choice to make if you want to please Him. In our 24-hour plan, we should train ourselves day by day, hour by hour, yes minute by minute, to obey our better instincts and to shv away from the evil. Our rebellious nature seems to beg us—to plead with us—to tease us to hold on to just a few of the evils. If we submit ourselves completely to this Power we won't bargain, nor will we chisel a little sin here and a little cheating there, thinking that this Power will forgive as He has in the past. At the start this is difficult, for our habits of thinking have been so completely askew that it means daily concentration until right thinking outbalances the evil, and honest and decent behaviour becomes automatic.

We have written the above with an attempt to understand the workings of the mind of persons who have not had the conception of a Supreme Power. We who believe this Power to be our God and worship him accordingly have difficulty in understanding the atheist's or agnostic's conception of a Power greater than himself. Without the submission to that Power the keystone of the AA structure falls. Every step of the twelve steps is essential, but without the third step, we believe, no person could be successful in AA.

This is my opinion which I believe is shared by 99% of others successful in AA.

VISIT AND USE  
THE  
CLEVELAND  
DOWNTOWN  
OFFICE

435 WILLIAMSON BLDG.

TELEPHONE  
CHerry 7387

## EDITORIAL

(Continued from page one)

Why am I an AA? Because I am an **alcoholic**. How do I know I am an alcoholic? Because of my experience with alcohol. Will I ever be cured? If I remember my experience during the years before I became **an alcoholic**, and if I remember the experiences of others like me, I know I never shall be cured. And my experience in AA has been that without alcohol I can be happy.

### THE DOWNTOWN OFFICE

The Cleveland downtown office was **opened and began functioning** on February 7th. Located in the **Williamson Building**, which is on the southeast corner of Cleveland Public Square, it is easily accessible to east, south and west sides.

The offices are furnished modestly, but with good taste, and reflects credit to the organization. There is an adequate waiting room with two good-sized, **well-lighted** office or conference rooms. These offices are open from **9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.** except Sunday. The telephone number is **CHerry 7387**.

**The secretary is Mrs. Laverne Hawkins, whose previous experience makes her ideally qualified for this difficult and delicate position. She has had years of domestic relations experience in Juvenile Court and has had intimate contact with the AA program for over five years.**

During the first hectic week of **confusion** inevitably resulting from getting settled, the office succeeded in arranging for the hospitalization of two men who called for help.

The purposes of the office are to provide a service to individual and prospective members; to serve as a source of information and literature for individuals and groups; and to act in such general AA activity **as** requires office facilities. It is dedicated to the Twelfth Step in our program.

The relaying of calls will be made on a geographical basis. All secretaries are asked to make arrangements with Mrs. Hawkins where they or their alternates can be reached for instant service.

The editor received a contribution for the last Bulletin which arrived a day too late for **publication** but which deserves consideration. The need of this **office** was evidently not seen by all the groups in Cleveland. **This** contribution was a letter to a new member from his **sponsor**. We **print** it in part, as follows:

Dear Joe: You seem a trifle disturbed and concerned about the newly established Downtown **Office**. It's true only a few more than 200 from the fellowship **either** contributed or pledged their financial support to the venture and that these represent but 10% of the estimated membership of AA's in Greater Cleveland. You're right, **that** you as a contributor had no voice in the selection of the executive board . . . that your Central Committee representative cast the **vote** for the group you were a member of. . . that he didn't consult you. You pessimistically fear that the plan "may explode and do more harm than good."

Joe, it may just do that—"explode and do more harm than good."

But if it does, Joe-mark this well—if it does, you will have a piece of that failure. **Particularly if** you let yourself be swayed by these reactions and allow **them** to persist and grow.

Now don't get me wrong . . . please. **Don't** think for a minute I'd have you stifle your own thoughts just because I (your sponsor) happen to think them off base. As a matter of fact . . . my immediate reaction to the meeting at The Cleveland a few days back was much the same as yours. I, too, found myself trailing along in the calamity howlers' camp . . . much more willing to pick out imperfections in the pattern than to gaze with hope and confidence at the beauty of the whole garment.

Quite frankly . . . this attitude of mine didn't occur to me until I'd drawn away from the trees **sufficiently** for the forest to be seen, as it were. Then, and only then, did the fog lift.

You and I, **Joe**, are the kind of guys who used to find it impossible to **believe** that anything we didn't originate . . . anything we didn't have at least a substantial hand in . . . wasn't good for much; didn't have a great chance for **growth**.

So there we were, sitting in The Cleveland meeting; watching others run with the ball. Apart from the few

paltry pennies we'd chipped into the pot . . . it was their show. And as much as we've heard and talked about and **have** actually seen pride . . . and faith . . . and confidence in **God** . . . and resentment in others (to name only a quartet of sins and graces)—we, you and I, Joe, bit for the sins; played the devil's game; sidestepped faith and confidence, and as a result became uneasy; distrustful; AA fifth columnists.

Now I, for one, Joe, don't want to be an AA fifth columnist. Nor do I want to have anything to do with things satanical.

And that's what I think I'd be . . . that's the devilish game I'd feel I was playing if I didn't hop aboard the bandwagon and lend whatever **weight** and **support** I **might bring** to the successful functioning of the Downtown **Office**.

For the Downtown Office is right. The motivating forces behind it and its reason for being are utterly selfless. Its creation is absolutely predicated on helping others . . . faster . . . better . . . in greater numbers . . . more soundly than ever before.

So let's have faith and confidence in those who will direct this office in the critical period ahead, Joe. Let's just enjoy the healthy rivalry which exists between the West and East Side without allowing it to grow into jealousy and resentment. Let's stifle our **pride** and **get** back where we belong . . . where there aren't any **railroad** tracks to have sides **to**.

Let's you and I be a plus, Joe. Not a minus. Okay?

Best,

Tom.

### NEW ADDRESS FOR BULLETIN

Since the beginning of the Central Bulletin, we have been privileged to use the postoffice box of a generous member of AA for the mailing address of the paper and we herewith extend our sincere thanks to Bill H. for his unselfishness and to Ed. C. for faithfully collecting and delivering it to us during the past two years. Naturally we could scarcely hope for daily delivery of the mail, for that was impossible, but we usually received it once a week. Since we are handy to the newly established downtown office, the managing board has given its consent to our using that office as our **mailing** address. This will give us no excuse for not receiving **Bulletin** material in time for **publication**—provided it is sent before the 12th of the month. It will also expedite the filling of subscriptions as well as further acquainting the membership of the location of the office.

### IN THE MAILBAG

Several readers have suggested that we list coming events in the Bulletin and we are heartily for it. If all groups will plan their special events and send them to us even if they are months in advance we will gladly list them under a special heading. We go to press as near as possible to the 15th of the month, and the Bulletin is usually delivered around the 20th or **22nd**, so plan your events **accordingly**.

From Springfield comes the laconic comment, "Bulletin O.K., Cheap Insurance". We like to hear that. Others have made similar remarks to us—that the Bulletin, coming monthly, is their insurance—a reminder that they had, and have, a problem and the Bulletin helps to keep the keel in balance.

A Clevelander wants us to eliminate the group listings—waste of space—everybody knows where groups are located now and what time their meetings **start—space** could be used for more helpful articles. We admit that the listings take more space than we expected, and we planned to publish the complete listings about once in a quarter, but each issue contains additional **groups**, corrections and **location** changes. We'll catch up with **all near-by** groups soon, publish a correct list and then devote the space to reading matter.

Another reader writes us that he finds The Bulletin a valuable and needed "**turner-primer**" on his visits to the hospitals. He was always **at a loss** for words when he called cold turkey so to start his visit, he says he yanks out the current copy of the Bulletin, reads one of the articles and with that article as his primer, he elaborates on the AA program. Good idea. Incidentally, this man is one of our best subscription "turner-inners".

Another comments—"The Bulletin is doing more to pull Cleveland groups together than any other single influence. News from more groups would be of great help."

## COMING EVENTS

March 10—**Dr.** Bob S. of Akron, speaking at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, E. 86th & Euclid at 8:00 P.M.  
 March 18—**Consolidated** Mass Meeting, Hotel Cleveland at 4:00 P.M.  
 April 14—Benefit Spring Dance, sponsored by West Side Women's Group at Swiss Hall, 2714 Walton Ave., 9:00 P.M.  
 April 15—**Consolidated** Mass Meeting, Hotel Cleveland, at 4:00 P.M.  
 April 21—**Annual** Minstrel Show, given by **Mack's Merrie** Minstrels at Music Hall, Public Auditorium. An all **AA** cast.

## CONSOLIDATED MASS MEETING

"The growth of Alcoholics Anonymous must be due to almost eight years' standing, told 460 members and friends in a meeting at Hotel Cleveland yesterday.

He traced the history of the fellowship which was founded by a New York businessman and an Akron **physician** who met almost by "accident" to work out a solution to their drinking problems.

"Having tried everything else, they had both come to believe that the solution was in a power greater than themselves, but it remained for the man from New York to convince the man in Akron that 'faith without works is dead,'" he said.

One of the first dozen men in the fellowship, the speaker said that his initial impression of the others was of their happiness and peace of mind.

"By following their principles of living I have attained a peace of mind such as I have never known before. Yet 19 years ago you never could have convinced me that I could be happy without drinking."

The next consolidated **meeting** will be held on March 18th at Cleveland Hotel at 4:00 P.M.

## HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

The regular monthly **meeting** of the Hospital Committee was held on **Sunday** evening, **January 28th**, at which time fifty-seven (57) of the **seventy (70)** AA -books recently purchased were allotted to Greater Cleveland hospitals and interested agencies, as part of an educational program adopted by the Committee.

A suggestion to meet with the **operators** of nursing homes was acted upon favorably and **this** meeting was held **Sunday** evening, **February 4th**, at the downtown office. Representatives of the **following** **nursing homes** were present: **Bender's, Farquharson's, Hirsch's, Smith's, Webster's.**

The general policies of the Hospital **Committee** were **discussed** and the managers of the respective nursing homes agreed not to take patients without sponsors and that definite financial arrangements must be made by the sponsor or the patient upon admission to the hospital. The nursing homes will assume full financial responsibility for patients admitted under any other arrangements.

The attitude of the managers of the nursing homes was quite **gratifying**, in that they not only agreed to cooperate with the Committee, but also among themselves, to bring about a better understanding between all concerned.

The question of advertising was brought up and it was **agreed** not to use the name or initials of AA in any manner. **Later** the Central Committee, at their regular meeting, recommended that advertising be limited to the **regular** listing and not the block type of advertising in telephone directories.

The Hospital Committee again takes this opportunity to remind all sponsors that they are definitely responsible for making financial arrangements with the nursing homes for their patients, and advises them in no instance to sponsor a patient who has not sufficient interest in following the AA program.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held **at** the downtown office at **8:15** Tuesday evening, February **27th**.

## LORAIN AVE.-THURSDAY

Snow and ice are no obstacle to folks when it comes to attending an "AA" meeting. The ever-increasing attendance at our meetings has proved such. We have had some very lively discussion periods of late which makes a very interesting meeting.

Our congratulations to Max K. and Fred T. on their third and first anniversary respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Bill W. on their bundle from Heaven. Best of health to Gus J. from the group.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

At the February meeting, 22 groups responded to roll call . . . Routine committee reports were made . . . Consolidated meetings committee **reported** its selection of Dick S. of Lee Rd. Thursday as speaker for the February meeting . . . It also announced that consolidated meetings will be **held** monthly until further notice on the third Sunday of every month in Cleveland Hotel at 4:00 p. m. . . . Hospital committee report is printed in full elsewhere in the Bulletin . . . Jack D., chairman of Downtown Office, announced the opening, gave a complete report of progress to date, introduced the secretary, and made a splendid and sincere plea for cooperation . . . asked to PLEASE use new telephone number **Cherry** 7387, rather than present telephone book listing, since it costs us an extra ten cents for each call.

## DOCTOR BOB S. SPEAKS MARCH 10TH

Dr. Bob S., co-founder, will be the speaker at a special meeting held under the auspices of the Euclid-Wade Group on Saturday, March **10th**, at 8:00 p. m. in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Euclid Ave. at E. 86th St. The meeting will be preceded by an organ recital by an accomplished organist.

Holding the meeting in the church proper, rather than in the basement where our meetings are usually held, enables us to accommodate the much larger crowd that Dr. Bob will undoubtedly attract. Everyone is welcome-in fact, is urged to attend.

## GLENVILLE

Attorney Eugene H., of Toledo, Ohio, won another "case" after making a masterful plea to the fortunate panel of "jurors" who were present at Glenville, February 1st. Although Gene said, in answer to a question, "The jury is still out," those who attended unanimously agreed that his oration was one they'll all remember as one of the best. He and James T. **McM.** (also of Toledo) stopped overnight on their way to New York. Dick S. addressed a packed house on Saturday, February 17th.

## PEARL GROUP

Jim C., former prosecutor, led a most impressive meeting at the Pearl Group's first anniversary meeting, on February 12th. A spaghetti dinner was served to a large and appreciative group and visitors who heard Jim at his best. This group has grown from its original four members to 30 within a year.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

We of the Young People's Group, who meet on Wednesday evenings at West Side Evangelical Church, West 38th and Bridge Ave., are most anxious to have AA as a whole understand our purpose of existence, next to maintaining the AA program.

It is to form a nucleus of a fellowship to attract the returning soldier with an alcoholic problem. We feel that because of our youth we could probably be more convincing than an older AA, whose age might give the impression that he's trying to **deny** the younger man an opportunity to fling himself around some more until he had to give up.

Wish us luck, and show your interest by attending our meetings. We may be young in years, but we are sincere in our purpose and we need your encouragement and advice.

## LORAIN AVE.-MONDAY

Bowling Captain Syl. N. once again has his team moving up fast, after disaster struck them in the form of losing three games to the bad boys of Public Square. Ed B. starred recently with a 241 game and a 640 series.

Johnny K. made another trip to the hospital-a legitimate trip, we mean-and we're all pulling for him . . . **Doc** B., chairman for January, furnished some excellent leaders . . . We're still giggling over Tommy **F.'s** humorous lead . . . **Our** chef, Charley R., is still accomplishing miracles. **Come** over and visit us some Monday.

## SPRING DANCE

The West Side Women's Group is sponsoring another Spring Dance which will be held at Swiss Hall, Saturday, April **14th**, at 9:00 p. m. Tickets one dollar. This will be a benefit dance for the group's welfare fund and is deserving of full support of all groups. Their last dance was enjoyed by everybody, and this one should be another fine affair.

**DOAN DATA**

The Doan Group's elaborate quarters were packed at its anniversary meeting on Jan. 24th. Chas. D. of Willoughby led one of the most impressive meetings this writer has ever heard and we believe did much to inject a greater strength in every listener's resolve to further embrace the AA program. Charlie's story of how he applied the principles embodied in the AA program when he lost two of his fine sons in this war was a lesson never to be forgotten. Simply told, it was a masterful and memorable talk. Pat D. did an excellent job as chairman for January. W. Roy W. was elected secretary. Earl A. led a striking and hilarious meeting on his fourth anniversary, which also marked the 3rd anniversary of Matt C. John C. led the Warrensville meeting. More AA's should avail themselves of this opportunity for service. Everybody who has participated in this work claims to have received inestimable benefit from it.

**LAKESWOOD**

Our group still maintains a lusty discussion period, which helps make the meetings much more interesting, as well as complimentary to the speakers. During a discussion on "slippers," one of our members caused food for thought with the remark, "How can anyone slip, if he never gets up off the floor?" He's got something there, we think.

**NORWALK GROWING**

This group has only five members, but we have four in the making. This is fertile territory, and we expect to accomplish much in the future. We meet on Mondays at 8:00 o'clock at the Elks' Grill, East Main St., downstairs.

**NEW PHILADELPHIA OPENS NURSING HOME**

A long-desired and much-needed AA nursing home was opened during the past week in New Philadelphia. Its name is Victory Rest Home, and it is located at 315 So. Broadway. There are adequate facilities for hospitalization and real service to the community.

**FARQUHARSON'S**

Since the first of the year, patients who have hospitalization cards can apply them to their bills at Sophie Farquharson's Nursing Home. One of the oldest and one of the most popular nursing homes, this feature was sorely needed. Congratulations to you for making it possible.

**ERIE, PA.**

This editor had the pleasure of leading the Sunday Perry Group meeting and found a happy, splendidly cooperative audience. An interesting discussion period of almost an hour enlivened the program. This Sunday meeting is held or every third Sunday of each month, and includes a tureen supper (pot-luck supper, in my language). They may change this since they learned that Cleveland holds its Mase meetings on the same day. Any change will be announced in these columns.

A stag group was formed in Erie which meets Fridays at 7:30 in Room 206 of the Ford Hotel.

**LIST OF APPROVED AA HOSPITALS, AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 1945**

- Bender's.....8023 Detroit Ave.
- Charity Hospital (St. Vincent's).....Central & E. 22nd St.
- Deaconess Evangelical Hospital.....4233 Pearl Road
- East Cleveland Clinic.....13240 Euclid Ave.
- Emergency Clinic.....928 E. 152nd St.
- Farquharson's.....6037 Pearl Road
- Hirsch's (Women's Hospital).....12214 Detroit Ave.
- Nottingham Hospital.....18920 Nottingham Road
- Betty Smith's.....3480 Scranton Road
- Webster's.....3730 Euclid Ave.
- Martha Irwin's.....Mentor O., P.O. Box 122

**AA ON THE AIRWAVES**

A bulletin comes to us from Detroit, advising us to tune in on WWJ (950 on dial) Saturday, February 24 at 11:15 p. m. (E.W.T.) and every other week thereafter. Comments on the program are welcomed and should be addressed to "AA, Box 6, College Park Station, Detroit (21), Mich."

**GROUP MEETINGS**

**MONDAY**

- BORTON-18921 Euclid Ave.....:a: 45
- GLENVILLE WOMEN'S-10421 St. Clair Ave.....8:30
- LAKESWOOD-Townsend Hall, 15903 Detroit Ave.....8:30
- LAKESWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton and Detroit.....8:30
- LAKE SHORE-Lake Shore Hotel, Dinner at 7.80. Meeting at.....8:30
- LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road.....8:30
- LORAIN AVE.-Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....8:30
- UNION AVENUE-12907 Union Ave.....8:30
- SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal church, 3451 Warrenville Center Rd.....8:30
- SOUTH EAST GROUP-10208 Miles Ave.....8:30
- WEST 25TH ST.-Marvel Hall, 2868 W. 26th St.....8:30
- SOUTH AMHERST-Congregational Church Basement.....8:30
- WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....8:30

**TUESDAY**

- BROOKLYN-PARMA-4427 Pearl Rd.....8:30
- EAGLE! TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....8:00
- EUCLID-WADE-Emmanuel Church (Rear), 8614 Euclid.....8:30
- PUBLIC SQUARE-Hotel Cleveland (See Bulletin Board).....8:30
- WEST SIDE MEN'S-St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 88th & 830
- LORAIN, O.-Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....8:00

**WEDNESDAY**

- BROOKLYN-I. K. of P. Hall, Broadview and Pearl Rd.....8:30
- COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave.....8:30
- DENISON-St. Phillips Hall, 2291 Denison A n.....8:30
- DOAN MEN'S-2028 E. 106th St.....8:45
- LEE ROAD-Mayfield and Preyer, Heights Presbyterian Church.....8:30
- WOMEN'S (Lakewood)-12214 Detroit Ave.....8:30
- YOUNG PEOPLE'S-West Side Evangelical Hall, W. 88th & Bridge 8:30
- BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....8:30
- ELYRIA, O.-108 Middle Ave., P. O. Box 491, On the Square.....8:30

**THURSDAY**

- ARCADE-601 The Arcade.....8: 00
- GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair.....8:30
- LEE ROAD-1427 Lee Road.....8:30
- LORAIN AVE.-Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....8:30
- WARRENSVILLE, Workhouse Chapel-1st Thurs. each mo..7:00 P.M.
- PAINESVILLE, O.-33 N. State St., Third Floor.....8:30
- LORAIN, O.-Antlers Hotel.....8:30

**FRIDAY**

- CEDAR-Salvation Army, 2181 E. 66th St.....7:30
- GORDON SQUARE-St. Helena's Church Hall, 1367 W. 65th St.....8:30
- LEE ROAD-1837 Lee Road.....8:30
- PEARL-Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.....8:30
- ROCKY RIVER-St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview off Detroit Rd.....8:30
- NORTHEAST-Fidelity Baptist Church, E. 84th and Wade Park.....8:30
- AVON LAKE-1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O.....8:30
- BEREA-Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church Sta.....8:30
- EUCLID, O.-St. Paul's Church E. 200th St. off St. Clair.....8:30

**SATURDAY**

- GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair.....8:30
- W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.....8:30

**SUNDAY**

- COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue.....7:30
- DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 105th St.....3:00
- PARKWOOD-Virginia Hall, 10921 Superior Ave.....8:00

**1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH**

- CENTRAL COMMITTEE-Hanna Building Room 670.....8:30

**MORNING MEETINGS**

- Monday Mornings**
- BOLTON SQUARE-2028 E. 106th St.....10:00 A. M.
- Wednesday Mornings**
- COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave.....10:00 A. M.
- Thursday Mornings**
- WEST SIDE-7402 Denison Ave.....10:00 A. M.
- Friday Mornings**
- SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair, Breakfast 8:00 A. M.-Meeting 9:00 A. M.

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# CENTRAL BULLETIN

VOL. III-No. 6

435 WILLIAMSON BLDG., CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

March, 1945

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TEN CENTS PER COPY

## Editorial—"Almost".

How often do you check up on your work?  
And when you do check up, do you see to it that you are hewing to the line?

Or, are you satisfied with "almost"?

The danger in the feeling that "almost" is good enough is that the "almost?" may become the new standard, to yield again to a new "almost."

It is said that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. We might add that good intentions become nothing more than intentions because of our "almonds." Our intentions ooze away, little by little.

\* \* \*

When we come into AA, we make a fearless moral inventory. We identify our faults, admit them to God, to ourselves and to another person. We ask God to remove our defects of character.

A child makes a wish and expects to see it fulfilled immediately. Some of us are like that. We ask God to remove our defects of character, and expect to see the change made immediately, without trouble to ourselves.

We have spent too many years building on error; too many years of making our defects the major part of our lives, too many years of living and thinking evil.

So, we have barely made our good resolutions when we have a hand-to-hand struggle with the Devil, with our deeply seated habits. We have developed automatic ways of responding to suggestions. The urges we have followed so many times demand satisfaction. The faulty ways of thinking, which have opened to us so many times in the past, open all too readily for us now when we feel a surge of self pity.

The path we have to follow is rough and rugged, at least at first. Wish-fulfillment demands effort, particularly when the wish is contrary to our alcoholic natures. Later on, after we have taken the hand of God, the path becomes easier. But it still is narrow, it still skirts the edge of the precipice, and it still has obstacles.

Most of us have learned how to deal with the big problems, how to meet great crises. The big problems usually carry their own warning signals. With the urge to escape, we who have done that before get strong reminders of what happened before. The Twelve Steps become alive, and the Third Step becomes our sure help.

Yet, some of us who have met big problems successfully fail when the problem is small or when it is not dramatic. And some of us fail when we seem to have no problems at all.

Here we meet the danger that comes from neglecting the daily inventory and the danger that comes from the feeling that "almost" is good enough.

When we neglect the daily inventory, the daily check-up on our work, we allow errors in our conduct and errors in our tendencies in conduct to escape us. Those tendencies may lead us to grief without our suspecting the danger.

If we take our eye off the higher goal and allow ourselves to be satisfied with today's work whatever it is, we may miss the fact that today's work was not as good as yesterday's and yesterday's was not as good as that of the day before.

The Devil, as we have remarked before, is a sly creature. When he fails in a hand-to-hand struggle with us, he tries deceit and slips up on us unawares. One of his surest deceptions is self-satisfaction. And that starts with feeling that "almost" is good enough.

## AA History

*Believing that many of our readers would be interested in knowing about the remarkable growth of AA in the Cleveland area, we have asked Dick S. who was one of the first "guinea pigs" to give us factual information. This article is the first of three which will appear in successive issues.*

It was back in 1934 that the conception of AA and its high purpose was born in Bill's mind; namely, that of being helpful to people desiring to do something about their alcoholic problems, and which would at the same time be helpful to him.

After being dry for nine months, a business opportunity brought him to Akron, where, thought Bill, his efforts toward helping alcoholics were going to really "pay off"—with Bill reestablished in Business as head of a big manufacturing company, and a good income once more assured.

Bill's deal blew up—and he found himself in Akron with no job—a return ticket to New York—a few dollars in his pocket, and a deep resentment regarding the business deal. Being one of us, the thought hit him that he could be a millionaire for a couple of days by adding a couple of fifths of gin to his general situation.

However, in this extremity Bill turned, as he had learned to do during the preceding 9 months, to God for guidance, saying, "God, don't let me think this way". The thought of taking a drink was replaced by the one that he must find an alcoholic and try to be helpful to that individual, and incidentally himself.

Then came a series of telephone calls, the first six or seven bringing nothing to light—and then by accident dialed the wrong number—and got the one person in Akron, who not only knew an alkie, but one who had been desperately trying to find a solution to his drinking problem wholly through a spiritual approach—Dr. Bob.

Dr. Bob, as indicated, had a drinking track record covering some 35 years, the last 10 years of which his drinking became his biggest problem, and like so many of us, tried various ways of correcting it—by methods of controlled drinking—and found there could be no controlled drinking for an alcoholic.

Finding that the only solution to his problem was not to drink anything at all containing alcohol; and finding he could not avoid drinking, and well aware that he could expect no help from doctors, psychiatrists or psychologists, and that "cures" were not helpful, he, like so many, in an extremity had turned to God.

Under the guidance of a kindly group, Dr. Bob had started a program of spiritual exercises, that took several hours each day—and in desperation had followed for 2½ years—but had continued to drink.

Thus through a series of circumstances over which neither Bill nor Dr. Bob had any control, they were brought together.

Bill felt that he had found a solution to his problem through asking God's help—and that his continued sobriety lay in showing his gratitude to God by trying to be helpful to other alcoholics—though till that time in his own words hadn't "dried up one drunk" except himself.

Dr. Bob had, on the other hand, been using prayer, medi-

(Continued on page two)

### TRUTH

Get but the truth once uttered and Yis like a star new-born that drops into its place, and which, once circling in its placid round, not all the tumult of the earth can shake.

-Lowell

CONSOLIDATED MASS MEETING AT  
CLEVELAND HOTEL, POSTPONED  
TO SUNDAY, MARCH 25th

## A A HISTORY

(Continued from page one)

tation, discussion with people familiar with things of a spiritual nature, and had a knowledge far beyond Bill's, but was still drinking.

We often hear it said "Wasn't it strange that those two men should have met?"

Let's consider that a moment.

Was there not a world-wide problem of alcoholism? Was it not true that medical science had failed to offer any help, and other man-directed sciences had no solution?

It seems that the old saying: "Man's extremity is God's opportunity", was never more true than with the problem of alcoholism, and instead of being strange that these two men should meet, it was the most natural thing in the world that they should be brought together.

One practicing, as he saw it, a design for living that included being honest with himself which meant being as honest as possible with everyone else, and trying to be helpful with other people and none too successful, except with himself.

The other with highest purpose, studying, endeavoring to solve his problem by knowledge of things spiritual, but beyond that doing little, and with no success even with his own problem.

Thus, out of each one's necessity to the other, solving their alcoholic problems, and being helpful to other people, came the fusion of ideals now fundamental in AA.

## POWER WITHIN

"I've never met a person," says Dr. Preston Bradley "I don't care what his condition, in whom I could not see possibility. I don't care how much a man may consider himself a failure, I believe in him? for he can change the thing that is wrong in his life any time he is prepared and ready to do it. Whenever he develops the desire, he can take away from his life the thing that is defeating it. The capacity for reformation and change lies within."

Triumphant, victorious living depends on our own inner attitude. One cannot climb up, while thinking down. One cannot develop power while thinking weakness.

At the end of his life, Charles Darwin made the wise observation that men differed less in capacity than in zeal and determination to use the powers they have. And it was William James, the psychologist, who taught that the average man uses only ten percent of his potential ability. Few men energize up to their maximum.

The real person to blame for our failures is usually one's own self. We may rave against fate, conditions and bad luck-but it is just a waste of time. The secret of conquest is to turn on more power within. The scientists tell us we have it. It's up to us to put it to work.

## WHAT DO YOU BRING HOME?

It had been a pretty hectic day for Mrs. X. Everything had gone wrong. She had broken a favorite dish, the telephone was out of order, she'd had "words" with the neighbor, the baby had fallen out of his highchair, and now she had burned the dinner. Just at this crisis her husband appeared with a bouquet of flowers. "Oh George," she cried, "I've had a miserable day and here you come home drunk!"

George wasn't drunk. But when a husband who had had an alcoholic problem, brings flowers home to his wife for the first time in five years, who can blame her for being surprised?

This story set me to thinking. We talk about bringing home the groceries-and the bacon. But does a husband and father's job end there? It seems to me there are other things he should bring home. Flowers, surprise gifts of all sorts, candy-little gifts that will make a wife's heart glow with happiness. Little surprises for the children. But still more than these, he should bring home laughter, kind words, love, encouragement, appreciation.

When your children press noses against windows looking for daddy, when your wife hums a song of joy in anticipation of your coming, with full confidence that you're coming home sober, and when your dog wags his tail at the sound of your step-then Mr. X, you are a success!

## COMING EVENTS

March 19-Round Table Meeting, **Lorain** Ave. Monday Group, Banater Annex, W. 120th and **Lorain**, 8:30 P.M.

March 25-Consolidated Mass Meeting, Hotel Cleveland, Sunday, 4 P.M. Ball Room.

April 1-First Meeting of New Saturday Evening Downtown Group, 505 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Rd. at 8:45 P.M.

April 14-Benefit Spring Dance, sponsored by West Side Women's Group at Swiss Hall, 2714 **Walton** Ave., 9:00 P.M.

April 1&Consolidated Mass Meeting, Hotel Cleveland, at 4:00 P.M.

April 21-Annual Minstrel Show, given by Mack's Merrie Minstrels at Music Hall, Public Auditorium. An all AA cast.

## TIPS FROM A PUBLIC SPEAKER

The best salesmen talk the least. They are not orators. Those who sell, however, can learn a lot from successful public speakers. There is a chapter on the psychology of public speaking in Overstreet's book, "Influencing Human Behavior," that contains some very helpful hints.

"The speaker should talk with his audience, not at them." "Keep your audience thinking with you. Keep thinking with your audience."

"It is only when the speaker looks directly at his audience that the invisible wall between him and his audience falls away."

"If we scowl at our audience, there is every likelihood that inwardly or outwardly they will scowl at us. If we are timid and rather flustered, they likewise will lack confidence in us. If we are brazen and boastful, they will react with their own self-protective egoism. Even before we speak, very often, we are condemned or approved."

"A speech should be like mountains and valleys, not like a monotonous flat land."

"Never make an audience feel inferior."

## DOWNTOWN OFFICE

An official report will probably be sent to all groups on the result of the first month's operation of this much needed project.

Unofficially, we quote the following figures, which we gleaned from the records. Only a visit to the office on any day could make one appreciate the amount of work done there. There were 31 office and phone contacts from February 7th to March 1st. Ten were hospitalized and one sent to Salvation Army. There were 14 inquiries regarding out-of-town group meetings not listed in Central Bulletin. There were five calls to furnish speakers. The 31 calls were assigned to 15 groups. Each assignment was placed with the group nearest to the prospect's home.

We urge everyone to drop in to inspect the quarters and we hope you visit often. There is so much work to do and when you call be prepared to interview a prospect. This editor had the privilege to interview four people who called at the office for help-two were hospitalized.

From our own observation we believe the office is justifying its need. It does just what it was hoped it would do—serve the public more efficiently, faster and better. Come in and see for yourself.

## AA BOWLING LEAGUE

The season is nearing its close and we hate to see it end. The healthy rivalry has brought the 16 groups participating very close. In spite of razberries everybody seems to have fun. High average man has 188, five are in the 170's and twelve in the 160 class.

## TEAM STANDINGS AS OF MARCH 15, 1945

Team	W	L	Team	w	L
Union	47	28	Public Square	36	39
Denison	4	31	Euclid Wade	36	39
Orchard Grove	43	32	Lake Shore	36	40
Southeast	41	34	Doan	35	40
Lorain Ave	41	34	Collinwood	33	42
Berea	41	34	Brooklyn	31	44
Lee Rd. Friday	40	35	Brooklyn-Parma	28	47
Gordon Sauare	38	37			

Team High Single Game: Public Square 929, Orchard Grove 927, Denison 917.

Team High Three Games: Public Square 2664, Denison 2527, Southeast 2627.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

At the March meeting of Central Committee, only 17 groups were represented, but the meeting was most interesting and constructive. The question as to why so few groups showed their interest in the Committee resulted in a check-up which showed that 33 groups had been represented at at least one meeting and that only six of the groups holding evening meetings had not been represented at any meeting. After routine committee reports were disposed of the question of continuing Central Committee was considered, inasmuch as its major objectives for existence (the mechanics of making and maintaining contacts and telephone service) were being assumed by the Downtown office.

After considerable comment, it seemed generally agreed that a body representative of all groups was necessary to maintain group policy and aid in the dissemination of ideas and group contact, whose only connecting link was Central Committee. It would serve as a forum to control, by popular opinion, the policy of the Central Downtown office, the Central Bulletin, Consolidated Meetings and other activities which reflect the true AA spirit in Cleveland.

Whether it should continue to be called Central Committee, Clearing House or Central Discussion Committee will be decided at the next meeting which will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd at 370 Hanna Building. A new set of objectives will be presented and all groups are urged to send their representatives in order to properly set up a proper vehicle to do the greatest amount of good for each other in the Cleveland Metropolitan area.

## AA MINSTRELS

Last year a group of about 60 AA's presented their first Minstrel Show under the name of Mack's Merrie Minstrels. They present their 1945 show with much of the same cast at Music Hall of Public Auditorium, Saturday evening, April 28th. Tickets are now on sale at all groups.

The show promises to be a larger and finer production than the first and deserves to be well patronized. The cast is composed entirely of AA's and is a well-balanced blend of songs, both old and new, comedy and a series of variety acts.

The proceeds of last year's show were used to purchase books for free distribution to hospitals, nursing homes and welfare agencies and other educational objectives.

This is again their purpose.

See you at the Minstrel.

## CEDAR-EAGLE GROUPS

The Salvation Army is doing a splendid job in Cleveland with its present set-up.

Their plan provides a training session to which candidates from "Skid Row" are invited to attend. These meetings are held every Tuesday evening at Eagle and E. 9th St. The program is fully explained and after four weeks of faithful attendance, the "prospects" are finally weeded out and permitted to join up with the Cedar Group which meets every Friday at Cedar and E. 55th St.

Jobs are provided for them as well as housing, and through the AA cooperation they "find themselves" regain their self-respect and self-confidence and are again infiltrated into normal society.

At a recent meeting 88 attended. Skid Row was well represented and 13 men were culled from the lot, eight of whom are now in AA and the other five still on the four-week probation before being qualified for acceptance by the Cedar Group.

Their enthusiasm and spirit is a joy to see. They are doing a most valuable work.

## UNION GROUP

After April first, we will reserve the second Monday in each month for a closed meeting for AA's only. A business meeting will follow the meeting. Visiting AA's of course, will be welcome as always.

On Monday, April 26th, Dick S. will be our speaker. This will be an educational meeting and we hope to have a full house. Everybody welcome!

We were saddened to hear that a former member of ours, Thomas L. Tucker was killed in action, December 27, 1944. He was a good kid-came to us from the Salvation Army and found in our group friendship which he sorely needed. May his soul rest in peace.

## VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Some splendid, unselfish work has been done during the past year by about 12 or 14 AA's who have served as volunteer workers at Charity Hospital during visiting hours, easing the burden caused by a shortage of help. These volunteers police the wards during visiting hours and aid in preparing case-histories as well as doing other minor detail work.

Some of these faithful workers serve several nights weekly. More volunteers are needed. If you can spare the time, the work is light and the hours are not too inconvenient. The hours are from 7 to 9 evenings and from 2-4 on Sunday afternoons.

If you can serve, contact Sister Victorine at Charity Hospital for an assignment.

## NEW GROUP STARTED

A new Saturday night downtown group will open April 7th at 8:45 P.M. The meeting will be held at 505 Carnegie Hall, Playhouse Square. No excuse for tired tooties because we have elevator service.

Kipling wrote, "East is east, and west is west, and ne'er the twain shall meet." But in AA all barriers are down and many things are made possible. So come eastsiders and westsiders, the Carnegie Hall Group welcomes you to a stronger and fuller unity in AA.

Remember the date, Saturday April 7th at 8:45 P.M. The meeting place, 505 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Rd. Don't forget the elevator.

## SUNNY ACRES

The boys at Cooley Farm, Warrensville have established a small discussion group. One patient and eight employees compose the group and they meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 P.M. in the Children's Building. How about dropping in on them and encouraging them.

## FIRST AA CASUALTY

We have been advised that Thomas L. Tucker, a former member of the Union Group was killed in action on Dec. 27, 1944. Tucker is the first Cleveland AA serving in the armed forces to be reported killed in action. May God in His infinite wisdom protect all of our boys who are still active. His will be done.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

All AA's and their friends are urged to support this group by attending their Tuesday night meetings. They are young in years, but old in experience, but realize they need the cooperation of the oldsters. Bill OR. made a deep impression on us with his interpretation of the 12 steps.

## LORAIN AVE.-THURSDAY

This group has been growing with each meeting. What has become of the several men who have dropped from our midst? They're always welcome.

Our bowling, sparked by Paul D., has been very successful. We express our deepest sympathy to Max K. who lost his mother and also wish him speedy recovery.

## WARRENSVILLE WORKHOUSE

We are now in position to report our first year's activity in Warrensville Workhouse. 174 were contacted. 69 were sponsored and of these 15 have had absolutely no trouble, 16 were sober from two weeks to two months and five of these have since returned to embrace the fellowship.

It has been a most interesting and pleasant experience for the 25 or 30 who have been the workhorses on this experiment. The chapel meetings held on the first Thursday of each month are filled with the curious, skeptical and doubting inmates, but among them we always find a few who are impressed with the program and on our follow-ups we can cull out the sincere and do our effective work.

Matt C. has assumed the secretaryship and those that know Matt with his intense enthusiasm and responsibility, expect even greater results than we have been able to accomplish this first year.

### DOAN DATA

Bill F. w&chairman during February and his diversified speakers each distinguished himself, particularly Tony K, who, sober for one year gave a good common-sense talk. We received and read a splendid letter from member John E. who is in the merchant marine and who expressed appreciation of what AA had done for him and that how now that he was away, how much he realized the importance of attendance at meetings.

### EUCLID-WADE

Dr. Bob S., co-founder of AA was in fine fettle at the March 10th meeting in Emmanuel Church. His talk was inspiring and greatly interesting to those that were able to hear him. Evidently the microphone was out of kilter and people in the rear of the church were unable to hear him. Over 700 attended. Vince P. gave a beautiful organ concert prior to the talk and "The Lord's Prayer" was sung with deep feeling by Miss Stanley from Akron. A pretty girl with a beautiful voice.

### LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL

AA hospital facilities have been established in Lake County at Martha Irwin's Sanitarium. Located on Route 20 on the eastern boundary of Mentor Village it offers clean and modern facilities. It provides 60 beds. Private rooms for segregation are available if desired. A registered nurse is in attendance and Hospitalization Insurance is accepted. The Willoughby and Painesville Groups are to be commended for their seal in making these arrangements possible.

### LORAIN AVENUE-MONDAY

Al S., our new hard-working secretary and Geo. W., program chairman have arranged a round-table discussion meeting for Monday, March 19th. The speakers will be Doctor T., Harry R., Luther M. and Jim B. This all-star cast should attract plenty of visitors, so we will hold this meeting in Banater Casino, instead of the Annex.

Charlie R. Celebrates his fifth anniversary with us on March 26th.

### BEDFORD

The Bedford Group held an invitational meeting on Sunday, Feb. 11th. The local judge, members of the clergy and medical field attended.

Frank W. of the Southeast group and Johnnie M. of the Men's group each spoke for a half hour and completely covered all phases of AA.

It was interesting to note the members of the clergy stated that they felt they had learned much about our practical religion, and found an answer to a problem they had been groping many years to answer, "How to define and help the alcoholic back to a normal existence." There were sixty members and guests present at this special meeting.

### CONNEAUT ENTHUSIASM

We read a letter addressed to a Cleveland AA in which the writer told about having led a meeting, dressed in pajamas, lying flat on his back in bed with his leg in a cast. The Conneaut group held its meeting in his home and had a very good turnout and a swell meeting. Takes real enthusiasm to do this, we think.

### SPRING DANCE

The Hospital Benefit Dance sponsored by the Lakewood Women's Group will apparently be a great success according to the advance sale of tickets. It will be held Saturday evening, April 14th at Swiss Hall, Walton Ave. and W. 26th St. If you haven't purchased your ticket, do so now. It's for a Worthy Cause.

### HOUSING PROBLEMS

We were asked to make a plea through these columns for rooms in AA homes for new AA's to help them over the hump until they have readjusted themselves. Often times they need sympathetic companionship and certainly should find it in the home of a good AA. If you have rooms available, contact the Downtown office at Cherry 7387. You will be doing yourself and your fellowman a real service.

## GROUP MEETINGS

### MONDAY

BORTON—13931 Euclid Ave.....	8:46
GLENVILLE WOMEN'S—10421 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD—Townsend Hall, 15903 Detmit Ave.....	8:30
LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episcopal W. Clifton and Detroit.....	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Lake Shore Hotel, Dinner at 7.80. Meeting at.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-1687 Lee Road.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain.....	8:30
UNION AVENUE—12907 Union Ave.....	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episcopal Church, 8461 Warrensville Center Rd.....	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-10203 Miles Ave.....	8:30
WEST 25TH ST.—Marvel Hall, 2868 W. 25th St.....	8:30
SOUTH AMHERST—Congregational Church Basement.....	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O.....	8:30

### TUESDAY

BROOKLYN—PARMA—4427 Pearl Rd.....	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle.....	8:00
EUCLID-WADE—Emmanuel Church (Rear), 8614 Euclid.....	8:30
PUBLIC SQUARE—Hotel Cleveland (See Bulletin Board).....	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 88th.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.....	8:00

### WEDNESDAY

BROOKLYN-K. of P. Hall, Broadview and Pearl Rd.....	8:30
COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave.....	8:30
DENISON—St. Phillips Hall, 8290 Denison Ave.....	8:30
DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 106th St.....	8:46
LEE ROAD—Mayfield and Preyer, Heights Presbyterian Church.....	8:30
WOMEN'S (Lakewood)—12214 Detroit Ave.....	8:30
YOUNG PEOPLE'S—West Side Evangelical Hall, W. 88th & Bridge.....	8:30
BEDFORD, O.—V. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave.....	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—108 Middle Ave., P. O. Box 491, On the Square.....	8:30

### THURSDAY

ARCADE—601 The Arcade.....	8:30
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
LEE ROAD-1687 Lee Road.....	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain.....	8:30
WARRENSVILLE, Workhouse Chapel-1st Thurs. each mo.....	7:00 P.M.
PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor.....	8:30
LORAIN, O.—Antlers Hotel.....	8:30

### FRIDAY

CEDAR—Salvation Army, 2181 E. 55th St.....	7:80
GORDON SQUARE&St. Helena's Church Hall, 1867 W. 66th St.....	8:30
LEE ROAD—1637 Lee Road.....	8:30
PEARL—Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd.....	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview off Detroit Rd.....	8:30
NORTHEAST—Fidelity Baptist Church, E. 84th and Wade Park.....	8:30
AYON LAKE-1112 W. Erie St. Lorain, O.....	8:30
BEREA—Social mom of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church Sta.....	8:30
EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church E. 200th St. off Clair.....	8:30

### SATURDAY

CARNEGIE HALL-605 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Rd. (April 7th, 1st meeting).....	8:45
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair.....	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4421 Pearl Road.....	8:00

### SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue.....	7:80
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 105th St.....	3:00
PARKWOOD—Virginia Hall, 10921 Superior Ave.....	8:00

### 1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building Room 870.....	8:30
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### MORNING MEETINGS

#### Monday Mornings

BOLTON SQUARE&2028 E. 106th St.....	10:00 A. M.
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#### Wednesday Mornings

COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave.....	10:00 A. M.
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#### Thursday Mornings

WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave.....	10:00 A. M.
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#### Friday Mornings

SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair.....	
Breakfast 8:00 A. M.—Meeting 9:00 A. M.	

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Official Publication of A A in the Cleveland Area

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# CENTRAL BULLETIN



VOL. III—No. 7

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April, 1945

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## Editorial—The Check Up

Did you ever read the story of the creation of the world? It is in the first chapter of Genesis in the Bible.

As the story of the creation goes on, step by step, we read, "And God saw that it was good." After the second day's work, after the third day, the fourth day, after the creation of the animals, God looked at his work, "And God saw that it was good." And then, finally, at the end of the story, "God saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good."

Many important religious doctrines are based on this final statement, but the thing that interests us here is that before we reach the final statement we see that the Creator of the world examined his work step by step. Before we are told that everything God made was good, we learn that God looked at each thing he had made to see that it was good.

God is the perfect workman; we mortals are imperfect, and we alcoholics are imperfect, lazy and careless. We have imagined ourselves greater than the Supreme Power.

If we are to do good work, we must look over our work as we go along, examine it step by step. If there are errors, the errors are to be corrected before we build more; if there are flaws, the flaws are to be removed. That is why the daily inventory is important.

Actually, we alcoholics start out on our reform greatly in error, and we have to work patiently to cut our errors down. If we stop this effort, if we coast along without examining our position we may do so at a time when we are off the course.

Once aboard ship, after a morning in the bar, this writer went out on deck at noon to watch the ship's officers "shoot the sun," to reckon the ship's position.

"Why," I and that Scotch and soda said to the captain, "I could take a map, use the taffrail log which shows how far we've gone, and use my watch as a compass and guide this ship to New York."

The captain was patient. "You'd be off course in an hour," he said, "and in a week you'd be heading for the coast of Florida, many many miles from New York."

He might have added that in less than a week of building error upon error, I'd have become a menace to navigation. The captain knew where he was; he knew where he was going and he had the right tools to get him there; but he checked up on his work day by day.

### ALARMING FIGURES

From the probation department of the Cleveland Police Department, the following interesting and alarming figures tell their own story. In March, 1944, 62 arrests were made for driving while intoxicated, while an additional 121 were arrested for intoxication. In March, 1945, there were 38 D.W.I. cases but 300 were arrested for intoxication.

### COMING EVENTS

April 28th—Annual Minstrel Show given by Mack's Merrie Minstrels at Public Music Hall.

May 9th—Brooklyn Fifth Anniversary. Organ concert at 8 :00. Panel of four speakers. West Side Evangelical Church, W. 38th and Bridge.

May 20th—Consolidated Mass Meeting, Hotel Cleveland at 4:00 p. m.

June 10th—Tenth Anniversary Banquet and meeting in Akron, Ohio.

## Back Seat Drivers

Passing a dual-control automobile the other morning, in which an inexperienced driver almost swerved into me as I passed only to be quietly but quickly corrected by the experienced teacher beside him, a simile occurred to me.

When we started out in life we virtually had dual-control. As children we were constantly under supervision and correction. Our mentors, parents, teachers or companions, taught us how to handle ourselves in the traffic of life. We were permitted certain liberties and generally conformed to a pattern of behavior as we grew in experience and in years.

Most of us were taught to believe in God. A God to whom we could turn in time of trouble and we were assured that He would help us. A God who gave us the right to self-expression—the right to drive our car of life.

As we drove this car, we found we could speed up on occasions without being caught . . . we had narrow escapes, flat tires, we ran out of gas . . . but mostly we were able to get a kick out of driving this car of life and life was good.

Then came alcohol—too much alcohol—and our troubles \*multiplied. Under its influence we increased our speed, thumbed our noses at traffic laws, began having minor accidents and then more serious ones, and finally came to the point where we were arrested. Admonitions, warnings and threats curbed us only for a while and we continued to abuse the car of life with reckless abandon until we finally wrecked it completely.

In desperation we turned to our best Teacher and turned over the driving rights to Him as we were told to by our AA mentors. We were able to enjoy the scenery of life again and the pleasure of riding was ours once again. We rode in safety and daily arrived at our destination. But after a period of several months some of us balked at the regular, safe and sane riding. Other drivers were passing us and taking liberties with traffic—and seemed to be getting by with it! So we started barking orders from the back seat, "More speed," "More thrills," "More excitement." Sometimes we even jerked at the wheel and nearly wrecked the car in our impatience with the Driver. We ordered Him to take short cuts that we guessed would get us to our objective sooner. Often we found those short cuts leading into dead-end streets.

We once made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God as we understood Him. Let's remember that the breaking of the "traffic laws" of life brought us nothing but trouble and that we must be ever alert, for those fractious tendencies of ours are likely to make us try to run the car of life without His help again. Let's trust our Driver and let's not be back seat drivers.

Everything has a limit of endurance. Bridges and roads have their weight restrictions; machinery has a speed and endurance limit; but some people seem to think the human body has no exhaustion point.

### TENTH ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, June 10th, a grand celebration will be held in Akron, where Alcoholics Anonymous was formed. Tentative plans include a banquet and a later mass meeting which will be addressed by the two co-founders of AA—Bill W. of New York and Dr. Bob S. of Akron.

More details will be given in next month's Bulletin as to the exact time and place. But it will be held on June 10th.

*There is a destiny that makes us brothers—*

*None goes his way alone;*

*All that we send into the lives of others*

*Comes back into our own:*

*-Emerson.*

## AA HISTORY

*Following is the second article prepared by Dick S., one of the first "guinea pigs", on the growth of AA. The third article will appear in the May Bulletin.*

When Bill and **Doc** had been providentially brought together, in their effort to be helpful to each other, they discussed the intimate problems related to their excessive drinking, which in turn had **developed** into alcoholism. In doing this, they developed a design for life which we know today as the Principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Both Bill and Bob knew from their own history that they had been unable to control their drinking and also that it was impossible to buy help through medicine, psychiatrists, psychology or "cures". In their extremity, they turned to **what** they were sure was the only answer to their problem—spiritual help. A couple of years before he met Bill, Dr. Bob had felt that his only help lay in an appeal to a power that was greater than himself. Bill had demonstrated for nine months that this power worked, but that faith without works is dead.

After several days of almost continuous contact and conversation with Bill, Dr. Bob developed a "great thirst for knowledge" and thought that the only source of this knowledge would be a medical convention that was to be held in Philadelphia. He went to Philadelphia and there learned that his thirst hadn't been altogether for knowledge, and did a little experimenting which naturally turned out to be temporarily disastrous.

When he returned to Akron and had overcome the effects of the hangover, he and Bill actually started to put their program into operation. On making inquiry, they found that Bill D. had made his eighth trip to the hospital in as many weeks, as a result of drinking. He was at that very moment **strapped** to his bed. Certainly he was in a mood to **accept help** with his drinking problem.

Bill D. has become generally known as the AA guinea pig. The fact that he was able to follow all the instructions and do all the things that Bob and Bill thought necessary, proves that he had a very keen desire to stop-drinking.

Bill D.'s background and training made it easy for him to accept the spiritual approach to his drinking problem with faith. Thus the founders of AA had made their first convert, and it is interesting that since the first day he was contacted nearly ten years ago, he has been continuously dry.

The three started looking for the fourth, and each in his own way has been looking for people who desire help with their alcoholic problem ever **since**.

It was not as simple for those pioneers as it is for us who came after. The idea was so new, the number of **demonstrations** so few, and the length of time so short, that it was a struggle to build faith in the new men. Consequently, the growth in the very early stages was slow.

In September, three months after **Doc** and Bill had met, they had three others dried up. At this time Bill returned to New York. By November of that year, he had three dry in New York. At the end of the second year, between Akron and New York they had 15 members. At the end of the third year, they had 40. By the end of the fourth year, they really had something to point to—100 members, some of them dry, four years.

All this work was by personal contact. It was strictly on a man-to-man basis.

By this time it had begun to be noised about that there was an activity that was **successful** in helping to solve the alcoholic **problem**. A few from Cleveland, at least one from Detroit and one from Chicago who had heard of what **was** going on, went to Akron and were hospitalized there. Bill, in New York, had attracted some from New Jersey as well as up-state New York. We began to realize that this **was** not an **activity** to be limited to Akron and New York, but that it was **definitely** a solution to an age-old problem that was nation wide.

How to reach these helpless and hopeless individuals who had not been so fortunate as to be around Akron or New York was a problem. The idea of a book that could be generally distributed came up. It was felt that this book should explain the principles so that they would be understandable to anyone who was honestly seeking a solution to his

problem, and that it be **attested** to with personal stories. Thus the book, that was to be named Alcoholics Anonymous, was written.

The fact that the book developed no controversies either with the medical profession or with any form of religion, although it relies on both, proves that this activity has been divinely guided.

## WOMEN IN AA

*This is the first of a regular series of articles which will appear in the Bulletin, written by the newest addition to the Bulletin staff, Mrs. Sybil F. Her next month's article will be entitled "How to Approach a Woman AA."*

May 1945 marks the fourth anniversary of the pioneer group of women's **AAs** in the United States. Planned and conceived by a few women who felt that they were "lost" in a world of men alcoholics—the little band met in each other's homes.

When, by July, the **membership** had increased to the **incredible total** of six, they approached Irene Hirsch and interested her in **opening** her home as a hospital. This then became the **first Women's AA hospital** in the country. A cheerful, homey place it is run with close adherence to AA principles and governed by a hospital committee consisting of three members. Here, too, the women found a meeting place, not only for their regular Wednesday night group, but somewhere to go when they were a bit "shaky" or a little blue. One was always sure of a friendly piece of advice and a cup of coffee at Irene's.

The membership increased slowly but steadily. More and more women who hesitated about going to mixed groups identified themselves with the West Side Women's **Group**.

The men helped tremendously both by bringing in patients, who in turn became members, and by lending their willing support when outside speakers were needed. The wives of the men have been very gracious and cooperative at all times. The women AA's no longer feel they are in a world apart. They help others and in turn are being helped to make a place for themselves, which after all is the very essence of AA.—S. F.

## ONCE AN ALCOHOLIC ALWAYS AN ALCOHOLIC

Sobriety in itself does not provide immunity from alcoholic tendencies.

This has **been** forcefully and painfully brought to the attention of several of our older members who were suddenly taken drunk. To thoughtful **AAs** less concerned with mechanics and politics of the activity, this is not a calamity.

The individuals concerned generally have been very active and may have taken themselves too seriously, forgetting that AA teaches us that the individual is of very little importance.

**Ofttimes** it seems that individuals get confused on what is mechanics and what is politics! and are consciously or otherwise endeavoring to build their own importance.

This should be guarded against, and a careful perusal of the 12 steps teaches us that we are powerless. We humbly ask God's help. We accent this **help** and endeavor to demonstrate our gratefulness by being-helpful to others.

This doesn't mean that we are given God's wisdom. It doesn't mean that the tendencies which made us alcoholics are removed. It doesn't mean that we thereafter can direct other individuals. It doesn't mean that we are capable or should attempt to think for other individuals.

"We, of ourselves, are nothing."

The fact that some **individuals** with one, three, five and seven years of sobriety behind them have had trouble should be of no cause for concern to other individuals who are sincerely and honestly endeavoring to live the AA program.

## GORDON SQUARE

We are moving to a new meeting place. Beginning Friday, April 27th, we will meet in the People's Methodist Church, W. 65th St. and Bridge Ave. At this meeting we will have a panel of four speakers.

### MINSTREL SHOW

Don't miss the minstrels! The annual show presented by the Mack's Merrie Minstrels will be presented on Saturday, April 28th at Music Hall of Public Auditorium. The cast is entirely composed of **AAs**, and it promises to be well worth while.

### BOWLING SEASON OVER

The 1944-1945 AA bowling season ended April 12th. The team representing the Union Group ended in first place and although every other of the 15 teams claim their team was the better team, the fact remains that in Union there was strength—they won the most games and according to the "figgers," they're champs. This is sharply disputed by Public Square, who had team high of 2664 and high single of 929—but they finished in twelfth place.

The banquet and prize distribution will be held at the Carter Hotel on Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 p. m. Get your reservations in by the 26th of April.

#### FINAL STANDINGS-APRIL 12, 1945

	W	L		w	L
1. Union	56	34	9. Euclid-Wade	.43	47
2. Denison	64	36	10. Collinwood	.43	47
3. Orchard Grove	61	39	11. Brooklyn	.43	47
4. Berea	61	39	12. Public Square	.42	48
5. Southeast	60	40	13. Lake Shore	.41	49
6. Gordon Square	47	43	14. Doan	.39	51
7. Lorain Ave.	46	44	15. W. 25th St.	.38	52
8. Lee Rd. Friday	43	47	16. Brooklyn-Parma	.34	56
Team High, Singles			Team High, Three		
1. Public Square	929		1. Public Square	2654	
2. Orchard Grove	927		2. Denison	2527	
3. Denison	917		3. Southeast	2627	

### BROOKLYN FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Brooklyn Group will celebrate its fifth anniversary in a big way and is inviting all groups in Cleveland to participate and to bring their friends.

A panel of four outstanding speakers, which include Dick S., Jack D., Luther M. and Miss Rhea F. will discuss various phases of AA. Clarence S. will be the chairman in charge of proceedings.

An organ recital, starting at 8:00 p. m. will precede the meeting which will be held in West Side Evangelical Church, W. 38th and Bridge Ave., on Wednesday evening, May 9th.

Admission is free and there will be no collection taken.

### CARNEGIE HALL

This new group started auspiciously on April 7th and bids fair to be a very popular group. This group has adopted a policy of eliminating discussions, believing that many use-less comments are made during the prevailing discussion periods. If questions arise they will be made to the speaker in private after the meeting is adjourned. Bill O'R. led the first meeting and was in his usual good form although his loyalty to his own group caused him momentary embarrassment.

### LAKWOOD

An interesting departure from the "orthodox" meeting was made by Wally L., at the April 2nd meeting. As persons entered the hall they were given paper and pencil and asked to write questions on AA. The chairman read the questions and asked the audience, in rotation, to answer them. The question could be passed on to the next person until it was answered. A real lively and interesting meeting resulted.

On the 16th of April the Mansfield Group visited us and ran our meeting and did an excellent job.

Hank W. speaks on the 23rd and on the 30th, O. D. Mc. will celebrate his fifth anniversary by addressing the group. We hope to have a large turnout for this loyal worker in AA.

### INDIANAPOLIS OPENS A NURSING HOME

From our good friend, Jim B., of Indianapolis, comes the pleasing information that on the first of April, he and Dr. John Nevitt opened a nursing home for the treatment of alcoholics, and that they are equipped to take care of twenty Patients. We wish them success in their endeavor.

The hospital is called Indiana Home and is located at 1341 No. Alabama Street, Indianapolis, Ind.

### DOWNTOWN OFFICE

If there ever is any doubt in your mind as to whether the downtown office is a necessity, just spend a half hour or hour there and convince yourself. You will wonder, as we did, how we ever functioned without it. The original secretary, Mrs. Laverne Hawkins, was forced to give up the secretaryship last month because it conflicted with her home duties. She had done a remarkable and highly satisfactory job and it was with great regret that the directors accepted her decision.

The new secretary, John Hilliard, is also doing a highly satisfactory job and was a happy choice. He knows AA thoroughly and his only complaint is that the day isn't long enough to do all there is to do.

A complete report was not prepared, so we cannot give you "vital statistics" in this issue.

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE

At the April meeting, which was well represented, the question of whether to continue the monthly meetings was thoroughly discussed.

A proposed "aims and purposes" was read and was given to representatives to take to their groups for acceptance. It seemed generally agreed that a discussion group was necessary to hold the unity and to perpetuate the ideals of AA.

Old antagonisms and misconceptions of the purpose of Central Committee were brought up, discussed and clarified, and it is hoped that the May meeting will bring a 100 per cent response to supporting this vitally necessary adjunct to group activity.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday; May 1st, at 370 Hanna Building, at 8:30 p. m.

### HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Over seventy books of Alcoholics Anonymous have been distributed to all hospitals, nursing homes, welfare agencies and libraries. These books were purchased with the money derived from last year's minstrel show and which was earmarked for educational purposes.

Paul J.'s resignation was accepted and Harry D. of the Public Square Group was appointed to fill the vacancy. He "polices" Charity Hospital and Webster's with Roy W.

Several complaints on hospital policies were discussed and corrective measures were agreed upon.

Distribution of patients to hospitals through the downtown office medium will be made on a rotation basis.

Rumors of maltreatment and other practices have come to our ears in various group meetings. All members who have a legitimate complaint **must in all fairness submit the complaint in writing to the Hospital Committee**. We cannot act on rumors. All hospitals and nursing homes who were on the approved list are still cooperating wonderfully with the committee and are anxious to clear up any misunderstandings. Put it in writing before you spout off.

Charity Hospital insists that patients must go through admittance office. The personnel has been most co-operative and has gone out of their way to help, but it is obvious that hospital procedure must be observed.

### SPONSORSHIP BOOKLETS

We have visited quite a few of the Cleveland groups lately and have noticed that the sponsorship booklet is not in evidence in the majority of groups. The responsibility of proper sponsorship is so vital, it seems to us that this book should be given to every new man who has signed the roster of any group. Indoctrinate him properly before his enthusiasm and appreciation directs him into too impulsive action. Additional booklets are available at the downtown office.

### SUNNY ACRES

Frank W., former hard working secretary of the South East Group, is a bed patient at Sunny Acres and is a great help to us with his knowledge and experience in AA.

As long as we have these meeting quarters out here we will keep our chins up, and are very happy to help others less fortunate than we are.

Visitors are appreciated. Meetings are held every Tuesday night.

Visiting hours are from 1:00 p. m. to 2:20 p. m. on Thursdays and Sundays and from 7:00 p. m. to 8:20 p. m. on Tuesdays.

## DOAN DATA

The Chairman for March was Joe M. Maurice **McG.** of the Salvation Army Group, led one of the finest meetings we've had. We heard him before at "mixed meetings" but this talk to a group composed only of men was outstanding. Other ~~sneakers~~ were Dick T., Dave P. and Manuel P., who also gave interesting **interpretations** of the **program**. All speakers provoked spirited discussions.

We cannot stress the Sunday Training Meetings too much. Held at three o'clock every Sunday, we find evidences of **the** need and importance of these training meetings. They serve this purpose, that they remove **the** first "dread," which all newcomers to the movement seem to possess. After the thorough session they are ready for assimilation in any group. On Sundays, upon which the monthly consolidated meetings are held downtown, our meetings are held at two o'clock instead of three.

At the Warrensville Chapel meeting, Roger C. led. His story and comments made a deep impression on the inmates.

## LORAIN AVENUE THURSDAY

We had the pleasure of listening to some very fine leads during the past month which stressed the spiritual phase of the AA program. Johnny K., of Gordon Square, gave a fine message as he celebrated his first anniversary. Tom Q., of Akron, also was outstanding.

Our St. Patrick's Day party went over with a bang, thanks to Billy M., who furnished us with a pleasant surprise—a seven-piece band.

Back in our midst are Max K. and Gar J., who had long sieges of illness. Our prayers for their recovery have been answered.

## PARKWOOD

The **Parkwood** Group extends an invitation to all AA members to a round table discussion of the Twelve Steps. The date is Sunday, April **29th**, at 9:00 p. m., at 10529 Superior Avenue. The speakers will be, Bill O'R., of the **Lorain** Avenue Monday Group, Win W. of the Wednesday **Lee** Road Group, and Jim C. and Hardd S., both of the Arcade Group. We feel that this meeting, **led** by men so well qualified to discuss this part of the AA program, will be a benefit to both the newer members and the older ones.

## ROCHESTER-GROWTH

Three years ago, Rochester had four **AAs**. Now there are 197. Rochester celebrated its anniversary with a dinner meeting Sunday, April **15**. Nearly **300** persons attended. They include **AAs** and their **wives**, clergymen, physicians, judges and court officers. Several members of the Buffalo group attended, among them Mark H., former secretary of the **Doan** Men's group, now working in **Buffalo** and Ottawa, Canada. Fred S., of the Cleveland Thursday Lee Road group led the meeting.

## DAYTON

Dayton rejoices in its acquisition of a new meeting house. It is a building about 50 by 200 ft., located at 124 W. Monument Ave., and has plenty of parking space outside. **They** can accommodate 300 at **their** meetings—if they **show** up.

The building was given to them rent free by a non-alcoholic. They have installed a nice kitchen and other facilities. Their meetings are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 p. m. and Sundays at 2:30 p. m. A Saturday night social party is held at 7:00 p. m. And are they **happy!**

## OUT OF TOWN LISTINGS

We are publishing the out of town listings in this issue. Many changes and additions have been made. This will be done quarterly if possible. Particularly happy are we to have the complete Toledo, Columbus and Detroit listings which came to us at long last. We regret that we cannot, because of lack of space, list all Detroit group meetings. We list at least one for each night, and other listings are available at the Central Office.

## PRAY ING

By George Matthew Adams, Cleveland, O. News

There is no power, given to man, that can be made more powerful as an **agency** for health and hayviness than just **simple, sincere prayer**, uttered from **the** heart to **the** Creator of all life, all beauty, and all hope for an existence beyond this brief 'one upon **the** earth.

The famous Dr. Alexis Carrel has this to say about prayer: "Prayer is a force as real as terrestrial gravity. As a physician, I have seen men, after all other therapy had failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the serene effort of prayer." And here is another statement from Dr. Carrel: "Only in prayer do we achieve that complete and harmonious **assembly** of bodr. mind and svirit which **gives** the frail human **reed** its unshakable strength."

Go through the pages of history and you will note that all the really great leaders of the world were praying men and women. They early learned its power of renourishing the spirit and giving to the mind both its courage and its daring, for prayer brushes away so much that is irrelevant and so much that is dross.

Prayer sweeps out the mind. Especially does it drive out all fear and anxiety, replacing them with peace and the hope of happiness. All day long this invigorating spirit of prayer may **go** on—no matter where you may be, for prayer is not a **public** affair, but one that is personal and private to the one who utters it. And it can be uttered anywhere and at any time.

Only those who have learned the power of prayer **can** understand its influence upon health and happiness, as well as upon all the affairs of life.

## HAVE YOU?

Have you lifted anybody  
From the **wayside** dust to-day,  
As you went **about** your **business**  
In the old familiar **way** ?  
Have you brightened anybody  
With the sunshine of your smile,  
As you trod your path of duty  
In the old familiar style ?  
Have you talked to anybody  
**Through** your sunny **hours** of life,  
Of the happiness of labor  
And the sweetness after strife ?  
Have you tried to make them happy  
And to blossom and to sing  
As the days went by so gladly,  
With life's sweetness on their wing?  
Have you heartened anybody  
With your own heart's joy to-day,  
As they struggled all around you  
In the conflict and the fray?  
Have you made the world seem better  
As **with** gladness and with trust,  
You have lifted someone's spirit  
From the shadows and the dust ?  
-Unknown.

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# CENTRAL BULLETIN



VOL. III—No 7-A

435 WILLIAMSON BLDG., CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

May 3, 1945

## *Important Announcement*

The Cleveland Fellowships of Alcoholics Anonymous are privileged this year to be hosts to what will undoubtedly be the most significant meeting in the lo-year history of Alcoholics Anonymous.

June 10th marks the inception of AA; that being when Bill Wilson and **Doc** Smith fused their separate ideologies into the principles of what has become our great nation-wide activity.

On Sunday- June 10, **1945**—ten years of AA history is behind us as we embark hopefully upon the second decade in our endeavors.

And s-that milestone is to be appropriately commemorated in Cleveland, Ohio, at The 10th Anniversary Meeting at which Bill Wilson and **Doc** Smith will be our speakers.

This meeting is held for AA's nation-wide-and indications are that groups will be represented by membership from all sections of the United States, to join with Bill and **Doc** in an expression of thanksgiving.

The AA's of Cleveland area are arranging an interesting and complete **program**—from Saturday evening, June **9th**, on thru this eventful meeting and including a "get-acquainted" dinner.

Nevertheless the Anniversary Meeting will be held at 2: 30 P. M., Sunday, **June 10th**, at The Music Hall in downtown Cleveland.

\* \* \* \* \*

This advance notice will be followed by more details as to the full program-this being mainly to insure your reserving this date-A MOST IMPORTANT ONE TO EVERY AA.

*The 10th Anniversary Committee*

Tenth Anniversary Edition

**CENTRAL BULLETIN**



VOL. III-No. 8

435 WILLIAMSON BLDG.. CLEVELAND 14. OHIO

May, 1945

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00 PER YEAR

TEN CENTS PER COPY

Tenth Anniversary Committee  
Carter Hotel  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friends:

We are glad to accept the invitation of the Cleveland A. A. to be the speakers at the Tenth Anniversary Meeting. This is a 'most important day for all of us. The ten years that have been so short for us have seen the activities grow from three persons in 1935 to untold thousands in 1945.

We are both looking forward to being with you June 10th and seeing you and all those outside of Cleveland that expect to be there.

Sincerely,.

BILL and BOB

## CLEVELAND IS HOST

On June 10th, 1945, the Cleveland AA's will be hosts to AA members from all parts of the United States in a grand celebration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of AA in America.

Two gentlemen, Bill Wilson and Dr. Robert Smith, will be the only speakers at this meeting, which will be held in Music Hall of Cleveland's Public Auditorium. These two gentlemen with separate approaches to their individual alcoholic problem came together on this date, ten years ago. Each at that time seemed to lack a certain ingredient in their program, and strangely each found in the other the complete answer to their mutual **problem**.

Hence the welding together of their two ideals into one was the start of what we all firmly believe to be a Divinely guided motivation into action.

Neither dreamed of the potentials of the movement which started on that memorable day in June.

Every AA in the country feels a tremendous gratitude in his or her heart toward Bill and Doc and has long looked for a means to express it. So our presence at the Tenth Anniversary meeting, Sunday, June 10th, will bear testimony to our appreciation.

Music Hall accommodates 3,000 people, and we in Cleveland believe the Hall will be filled to overflowing.

An opportunity to hear and meet the two who contributed so much to our personal happiness comes very rarely, and to those not personally acquainted with them, we assure you that it will become quite apparent that their complete selflessness has been probably the most potent force from which, from the first, pointed our fellowship toward the goals now reached and still ahead.

They are coming to visit with us at this meeting. We are going there to visit with them—every one of us.

Thanks, Bill—Thanks, Doc.

Elsewhere in the Bulletin is the complete program for the anniversary celebration, which will begin on Saturday night with regularly established group meetings as well as special open house parties on the east and west side of the town. These parties will enable us to get better acquainted with the out-of-town visitors.

The Central Bulletin, believing this meeting to be of supreme importance in the history of AA, is enthusiastically supporting it, and therefore adds to its ordinary four-page stature, a metropolitan **8-page** issue.

## WOMEN TAKE HOLD

The committee of women arranging the entertainment for the visiting women AA's and wives of AA's, have completed plans for a tea which will be held in the Spanish Room of Hotel Carter from three to five on Saturday afternoon, June 9th. It will be open house, and Violette S., the chairman, and her committee are prepared to make every one feel at home.

This collaboration of the women contributes a great deal to the Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

## COMING EVENTS

- May 20—Consolidated Mass Meeting, Cleveland Hotel Ballroom. Two speakers—closed meeting. 4 P. M.  
 May 26—Youngstown Fifth Anniversary Dinner Party, YMCA, N. Champion St. 6:30 P. M.  
 May 28—Second Anniversary of Bolton Square Morning Group, 2028 E. 105th St., at 10 A. M.  
 June 3—West Side Social Group Picnic, Clague Park, Clague and Hilliard Rds.  
 June 10—Tenth Anniversary Meeting, Music Hall, 2:30 P. M.  
 June 10—Tenth Anniversary Dinner, Carter Hotel, Rainbow Room, 6:30 P. M.  
 June 17—Consolidated Mass Meeting, Cleveland Hotel Ballroom, 4 P. M.

## STRADDLING

We look with disgust at the politician or the individual who straddles the fence on important issues. We expect our leaders to take a definite stand on one side or the other. Even if we differ with their stand, most of us in our hearts admire them for the firmness of their conviction.

Lately in AA circles we are beginning to see a dangerous trend—a change in attitude—a lack of respect and fear of that first drink-carelessness on assignments—neglect of hospitals—irregular attendance at meetings—disregard of moral laws—etc. They may be dry, but their self-discipline is slipping.

On June 10th, Cleveland will honor the two founders of AA who ten years ago translated an idea into action and by stalwart example and almost fanatical conviction, brought happiness and blessings to thousands of people all over the country.

They and their successful followers didn't straddle. They stuck to their convictions and wonders were accomplished. This wasn't done without discipline.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, in one of his sermons, asserted that "the beginning of wisdom was a desire of discipline." We quote further, "Our most liberated and worth-while hours are associated with the experience of being mastered. We saw a scene in nature which captivated us with its grandeur and charm: we fell beneath the spell of music, until we hardly knew whether we were in the body or out of it; or some commanding book swayed us with its truth; or we fell in overmastering love; or we found our work to which we gave our full devotion."

"An unmastered life is not only impossible—it is undesirable. We must come under the highest masterships to find wisdom—we must find the desire for discipline."

"Whichever way we look at this, whether we come at it from the fact that anything always costs something else, or the fact that the only way to escape little tyrannies is by coming under great masterships."

"If you wish to be an expert in any field, the beginning of wisdom is the desire for discipline. Quit the moral looseness and laxity. The undisciplined life is the insane life. Pull yourself together around high ideals of clean, serviceable and effective living under the highest mastery."

"The old platitudes still hold good—'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.'—You can't eat your cake and have it—You can't have positive electricity on one end of the needle without getting negative electricity on the other."

"Be sure of this: however far we plunge before our rope goes taut, however wild and lax our lives, thinking we are getting away with it, we cannot evade this platitude: Something always has to be paid for something else. All fine living, therefore, is like a fine art, the conscious choice of spiritual beauty to be created, and then going through that narrow gate and down that strait way to get it!"

"We cannot have lovely homes and loose lives, for if we will not sacrifice loose living for lovely homes, we will sacrifice lovely homes for loose living. We can't have the satisfactions of friendships and the indulgence of bad temper, for if we will not sacrifice temper for friendship, we will sacrifice friendship for temper. We cannot have the predictable character that our friends bank on and trust, along with crooked practices, for if we will not sacrifice crookedness for trustworthiness, we will sacrifice trustworthiness for crookedness."

Let's put some iron in our systems and reaffirm our faith in the principles of AA. Everyone who accepts them without reservation and who practices them daily, devotedly and fervently, has found a new joy in life and has made of himself an asset to the community.

There's no middle ground in AA. You're either in it 100% or you're out 100%.

Don't be lukewarm! Be definite!  
 Don't straddle!

## HOW TO APPROACH A WOMAN AA

So many times you hear "I'd like to contact a woman patient, but don't know how to go about it." Well, it's simple. All you need is a little tact and diplomacy. Women are no harder to talk to than men. They have the same old alcoholic problem—they're drinking too **much** and they don't know how to stop. All right, **you do knots** and **you** have found the answer. Explain how you did it.

Tell them your story, enough of it to **qualify you** as an alcoholic (and here's **where** the tact **comes in**). Don't dwell on a lot of sordid details and horrible **experiences**. She may or may not have had some, too. If she has, she wants to forget it, if she hasn't you'll give her a terrific jolt and she'll wonder if she really needs this program. Be **careful** of your language—profanity and coarse expressions won't make the program any clearer to her, and you'll put yourself a notch lower in her estimation. **Above** all, don't talk sex. If she's three times seven she probably knows it exists.

Keep your talk short and to the point. Explain how the program works for you and what benefits you have derived from it. That's all the new member is interested in, anyhow. Don't be a superior male who has been dry for a period and now exudes self-satisfaction. You're only dry today. A few simple words of friendly encouragement go a lot farther than an hour's discourse on the theories of AA.

Remember the patient is a sick woman, and **remember** above all it could have been your wife. **S. F.**

A contented man is never poor! A discontented man is never rich!

## AA DANCE ATTRACTS TWO

At the Painesville-Willoughby monthly party on Saturday, May 12th, the weather permitted **open** windows. Through these windows, laughter and happy voices were wafted out into the night.

In small towns such as Painesville it was no secret to the townspeople that the AA's were having a "shindig," and naturally many were curious and wondered how such people could have any fun.

One of them, lonely and forlorn, suspicious and wary, and about seven-eighths in the bag, marveled at the sight and finally made a decision which he couldn't make until he saw that people actually could enjoy **life—could** have fun—even though sober. He was hospitalized in an hour. His last doubt was satisfied.

And to the members' delight, didn't another "moth" enter the vestibule within another hour and ask for information. Within a half-hour he also was in pajamas at Martha Irwin's Sanitarium.

The committee is debating whether they should hold these parties weekly.

## NORTHEAST GROUP MOVES

Encountering difficulty in finding suitable quarters, the Northeast Group found a welcoming hand offered it by the Doan Men's Group, who offered their quarters. The first meeting in these quarters was held on Friday, May 4th. The group meets every Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock. No cards after the meeting.

## CONSOLIDATED MEETINGS

The committee on the consolidated meetings, which are held every third Sunday in the month at Cleveland Hotel, is at a loss to understand the poor attendance at these top-notch affairs.

Speakers such as T. J. M. and Stone, of Newark, N. J., who gave the 300-odd an **extraordinary** talk, certainly must wonder why Cleveland is reputed to be such an enthusiastic AA town.

These meetings should attract every AA in Cleveland, and it is hoped that the May 20th meeting and the one on June 17th will make up for the past several. The committee has selected Jack N. of New York, and Frank S. of Cleveland, as the speakers for May 20th at 4:00 P. M.

Let's show the committee that we appreciate their efforts by packing the Cleveland Hotel Ballroom.

This will be a closed meeting—members and their wives only.

## CHARITY HOSPITAL

Charity Hospital has taken a decided step forward in recognizing that alcoholism is a disease and that it requires intelligent treatment. It has assigned a four-bed room which will be filled entirely by patients admitted through AA auspices.

Working with the Hospital Committee, an agreement was reached on charges, **policy** and treatment, and the significant feature of their experiment is that this room will be occupied by first-time patients only. Anyone previously hospitalized by AA or having been recognized as a member cannot be treated in this room. A private room at **pre-**vailing hospital rates is the only **haven** possible for the patient having trouble assimilating the AA program. All reservations must be made through regular Admittance Office.

We commend Charity for having cooperated in making this great advance in AA treatment.

The greatest criticism of hospitals and nursing homes has been of the fact that first-timers often are disillusioned when thrown in company with convalescent repeaters, who in self-vindication oftentimes deprecate the marvelous recoveries effected through AA principles.

It will be interesting to follow up on these cases.

Visit the AA room, L-231, and give these patients intelligent help. Keep in mind the experiment, and be optimistic.

## DOAN DATA

John G. was chairman for the month of April, and did a swell job in lining up Jim B., John H., Frank S. and Bill B. as speakers. **Earl** A. and Roy W. returned from a **ten-**day trip to the East, filled with greater enthusiasm than when they left—if that was possible. They visited eight groups in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. They were particularly impressed with the new hospital set-up in New York at the Knickerbocker Hospital, where 21 beds are available. The Bellevue set-up also was changed. Their admiration for the zeal of Jack N., who will speak at the Consolidated Cleveland meeting, May 20th, was unbounded. His untiring efforts in the face of discouraging setbacks brought **fine** results, and the "visiting firemen" were lavish in their praise.

They also raved about the new clubhouse in Newark, N. J., which is called the **Alanon** Club. It is owned and operated by the 18 New Jersey groups, and is located at 7th Avenue and 7th Street. They have complete club facilities, including four bowling alleys, billiard tables, a bar (for coffee) and fine meeting rooms. The "firemen" admit their own **Doan** quarters **don't** compare, so it must be grand. More **power** to them.

And to **hear** them talk about Boston and Dorchester and their reception there—but space does not permit more.

Dave L. was the leader at the May Warrensville meeting. The old meeting place proved too small, and the meetings are now held in the library. Dandy turnout of **AA's**. 28 showed up and 150 inmates attended. Best meeting of the year.

## YOUNGSTOWN CELEBRATES

The Youngstown AA's will celebrate their fifth anniversary with a dinner party in the YMCA on Champion St. on Saturday evening, May 26th, at 6:30 P. M. The cost is \$1.25 per plate.

A grand meeting with nationally known speakers will be held at the same place at 8:30 P. M.

Reservations must be made by May 21st.

## BOWLING BANQUET

The Cleveland AA bowlers had themselves a hilarious time at an excellent banquet at the Carter Hotel, when the prizes and cups were distributed, along with plenty of razzberries.

Plans were made for continuing next season.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S

The Young People's Group will change their meeting place on May 22nd to Detroit Ave. Methodist Church, Detroit and Winchester Aves., Lakewood.

This group merits real support. Let's attend the meeting and give them our encouragement. Emil D. is the hard-working secretary.

# Tenth Anniversary Meeting

## *Program*

at

**MUSIC HALL**

in Downtown Cleveland

2:00 P. M. to 2:30 P. M. .... Organ Recital  
 Vincent Percy

2:30 ..... 10th Anniversary Meeting

From Cleveland AA's—Thanks ..... A Member

Introduction of Founders ..... A Member

Talk ..... Wm. Wilson

Talk ..... Dr. R. H. Smith

Lord's Prayer ..... Vocal Solo  
 Nanette Stanley

Organ Music

## *Events*

"Get Acquainted" Dinner ..... 6:30 P. M.  
 Rainbow Room, Carter Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio  
 Reservations to be made in writing (with check) to Tenth Anniversary  
 Committee, Carter Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio—BEFORE JUNE 1st  
 Dinner ..... \$3.25 per plate

Introductions—Entertainment—A Wonderful Time

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON—JUNE 9TH

Ladies' Tea ..... 3:00 to 5:00 P. M.  
 Spanish Room, Carter Hotel  
 For all women members and wives of members, to welcome our  
 visiting women members

### SATURDAY EVENING—JUNE 9TH

Regular AA Meeting ..... Glenville Group  
 East 105th Street and St. Clair Ave.

Regular AA Meeting ..... Carnegie Hall Group  
 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Road—Room 902

Open House—East Side ..... Doan Men's Group  
 2028 East 105th Street  
 Orchestra—Dancing—Singing—Refreshments

Open House—West Side ..... West Side Social Group  
 Good Counsel Hall, 4428 Pearl Road  
 Orchestra—Dancing—Bingo—Entertainment—Refreshments

## CARNEGIE HALL

The meetings of the Carnegie Hall Saturday Nite Group have been proving **very** successful. It is attracting AA's who live downtown, and Saturday night seems to be a good night for those who come from out of town and wish to attend a **meeting**.

Something **different** is being tried at Carnegie Hall that has proved successful in New York and out-of-town groups. The many groups that the Cleveland area has, there is a group to meet the needs of many of us. Our group will try to meet the desires of those who like our type of meeting. There is no **discussion** after the leader gets through with his or her talk. **The** reason we give for doing this is (and this is only our own opinion), there are many who contribute much good in their type of comment, also there are a few who tend to cause ill feelings by saying something that may tear down a good lead. Some like to get up to hear themselves talk. On the other hand, new and old members are sometimes shy and timid and feel incapable to voice any open comment from the floor. The social time after the lead puts all those present on an equal footing, for all may hold conversation with the speaker in agreement or disagreement, feeling free as they should to voice any opinion they may **have**. We are not trying to restrain, only hoping that the privilege of making comments can be better directed **personally** to those involved. There may be some doubts and question as to this method, but as the old saying goes, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." Results are obtained only by trial.

It is the hope of C. H. Group to alternate speakers each week in order that both ends of town will be represented. All are welcome to Carnegie Hall Saturday Nite Group. Elevator service.

An old-timer's notion of dressing for dinner was to let his belt out two holes.

## WOMEN'S SPRING DANCE

The spring dance held by the West Side Women's Group in **April** is now a thing of the **past**, but it will long be remembered by all who-attended- it.

The rooms were tastefully decorated in pastel shades, and huge vases of lilacs added to the profusion of color. The music was smooth, the crowd large enough to satisfy even the most critical, and most gratifying of all, the returns were overwhelming.

Proceeds of the dance were put into a fund to hospitalize worthy women who haven't **the** necessary financial resources. The Secretary, Evelyn P., extends her sincere thanks in behalf of the group to all who helped **make** this enterprise a success. **S. F.**

## DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all up **hill**,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must-but don't you quit.  
Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure **turns** about  
When he might have won, had he stuck it out;  
Don't give up, though the pace seems **slow**--  
You may succeed with another blow.  
Often the goal is nearer than  
It seems to a faint and faltering man.  
Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the victor's cup  
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down  
How close he was to the golden crown.  
Success is a failure turned inside **out**--  
The silver tint of the clouds in doubt.  
And you can never **tell** how close you are ;  
It may be near when it seems afar;  
So stick to the **fight** when you're hardest **hit**--  
It's when things seem worst that you musn't quit.

"It isn't the ice that makes people slip, it's what they mix with it."

## OUT-OF-TOWN GROUPS

We have been asked to bring up a very delicate subject which has embarrassed some of our more popular speakers from the Cleveland area lately.

Whenever a Clevelander is asked to sneak before **out-**of-town groups, he has invariably responded gladly and willingly. He feels that anything he can do to further the cause of AA is his **bounden duty**.

Some have been in **great** demand, and this taxes both their time as well as **their** pocketbooks. Some can't afford to take time from their work, but they have done so willingly.

But we believe it is only fair that out-of-town groups pay the traveling **expenses incurred**. Some **members really** can't afford it. We know of one man, whose extracurricular expenses amounted to \$22 in one week, and his income was less than \$60 per week.

## BOLTON SQUARE MORNING

On May 28th the **Bolton** Square Morning Group will celebrate its second anniversary. They expect to have an unusual program, and trust a good crowd will attend.

## SPONSORSHIP MEETING

Through an unintentional oversight, we have failed to list a very popular and well-attended function of the **Glen-**ville Group-the sponsorship meeting. They meet on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 o'clock, and have been averaging 40 in attendance.

It will be listed from now on.

## WEST SIDE SOCIAL GROUP

The West Side Social Group's summer picnic dates are announced as follows: June 5-July 8-August 19--**Sep-**tember 9. Picnics will all be held at Clague Park, corner of Clague and Hilliard Roads. These are new picnic grounds for us-and all our friends will agree that they are much nicer than last year's grounds.

The Social Groups furnish coffee and sandwiches; but you are requested to bring your own cups, and any other delicacies of your own choosing.

There will be ball games, races, dancing and all the other things we have long enjoyed at picnics. Come out, and have a good time with us.

## BROOKLYN FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

A splendid crowd of over 500 turned out to help Brooklyn celebrate its fifth anniversary at West Side **Evangelical** Church, W. 38th and Bridge Ave., on Wednesday, **May** 9th.

A beautiful organ recital by the well-known Henry Markworth preceded the meeting, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Brooklyn is to be congratulated for its elaborate celebration.

## CONTRIBUTED

If we take habitual drunkards as a class, their heads and their hearts will bear an advantageous comparison with those of any other class.

A. Lincoln  
Speech in Springfield, Ill.  
Feb. **22, 1842**

From the San Francisco Morning Chronicle comes the following amusing clipping:

**MR. MALAPROP:** Billy McDonnell of the Public Defender's office was all through entering the plea of guilty to the charge of burglary against the defendant, and Judge Lile T. Jacks was about to sentence him. But before he did, Judge Jacks leaned toward him and asked kindly: "My man, why did you steal? What got you into this mess?" The defendant shook his head sadly. "Drinking, Your Honor," he replied. "I've been drinking steadily for a whole year. What I should have done long ago is join the Alcoholids Unanimous."

## AA'S GET NEW SUPPORT

(An Editorial from a Detroit Newspaper)

"Can the doctor alone solve the problem of alcoholism?" a medical writer asks in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"The answer," he continues, "is definitely no."

In the light of a reputed reluctance in the organized medical profession to place its seal of approval on therapies originating outside its ranks, it is good to find in the same article a word of warm approval for Alcoholics Anonymous, the organization of ex-addicts who have dedicated themselves to the salvage of others from the clutches of drink.

It is an interesting series of true life stories which AA is dramatizing on Saturday evenings, each dealing with a case history in the experience of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It will occur to the listener, as the medical reporter emphasizes, that AA's approach is positive; that instead of keeping constantly before the victim a mirror of his present and ultimate degradation, AA assumes his capacity for good citizenship and social decency, and, in accord with the best principles of modern mental hygiene, gives him a hand in its fulfillment.

Medicine, in the limited sense, has a place in the war on drink, but, in the words of one honest authority, "It is too complex for the biological and medical disciplines." It is in the realm outside these disciplines, in the social approach, that Alcoholics Anonymous undertakes its mission in unique and invaluable ways.

## STUBBED HIS TOE

Did ye ever pass a youngster 'et had gone an' stubbed his toe,

An' was cryin' by th' roadside sort of lonesome like an' slow A'holdin' of his dusty foot, all hard an' brown an' bare An' tryin' to keep fr'm his eyes th' tears that's gatherin' there?

Ye hear him sort o' sobbin' like, an' snuffin' of his nose Ye stop an' pat him on th' head an' some way try t' ease his woes

Ye treat him sort o' kind like, an' th' fust thing that y' know He's up an' off an' smilin'-clean forgot he stubbed his toe.

Long th' road o' human life ye see a fellow travelin' slow An' like as not ye'll find he's some poor chap that's stubbed his toe;

He was makin' swimmin' headway, but he bumped into a stone

An' his friends kep' hurryin' onward an' they left him there alone.

He ain't sobbin' er ain't sniffin'—he's too old for tears and cries.

But he's grievin' just as earnest, ef it only comes in sighs An' it does a heap o' good sometimes, to go a little slow, To say a word o' comfort to th' man that's stubbed his toe.

Ye're never sure yourself, an' they ain't no earthly way t' know

Jes' when it's goin' t' come yer time t' trip an' stub yer toe: Today ye're smilin', happy in th' bright sun's heat and glow Tomorrow ye're a-shiverin' as ye're trudgin' through the snow.

Just when ye think ye got th' world fastest in yer grip Is th' very time ye'll find 'et ye're th' likeliest t' slip N' it's mighty comfortin' t' have some fellow stop, I know An' speak t' ye an' kind o' help ye when ye've gone an' stubbed ver toe.

—By James W. Foley.

There are usually two sides to every question—the truth and what you think.

Sweet fellowship in shame!  
One drunkard loves another of the name.

Shakespeare:

Loves Labor's Lost

## LOVE FOR ALL

God is all-powerful, all-wise, and omni-present; but highest and best, and certainly dearest to us of all His wonderful attributes, is His love.

The object of God's love is the world. This fact is perplexing, because this love takes in so much territory. Human love seldom reaches out that far. A man loves his wife and children, his parents, brothers, sisters, and then perhaps a narrow circle of people in addition to his relatives; but when it comes down to actual cases, human love often is very weak. And the farther you stretch it out to include more people, the thinner that love becomes. Human love has limits.

But it is not so with the love of God. God's love is just as true, just as deep and earnest, just as helpful and saving here as it is at the ends of the earth. Soldiers have learned to appreciate the love of God and the comfort of Christ's salvation more, even near the battle fronts, than they appreciated it at home.

The Niagara River is a mighty stream which every minute sends thousands of tons of water crashing over Niagara Falls; however, the Niagara once stopped flowing. In the winter an ice jam blocked the stream and kept the water from rushing over the falls. But there is no power which can ever shut off the stream of mercy which flows from the throne of God. God's love would have all men everywhere to be saved in Christ Jesus.

Lord, help us to repeat each day the wonderful truth that Thy mercy endureth forever.

## "FRIENDSHIP"

True friendship is something

Which few know its worth;

It don't need the rain

Don't grow from the earth;

It never has foliage

It never grows old,

It never brings harm

It never seeks gold.

It's fed from the depth

Of a beautiful thought,

And drinks from the well

Of happiness brought;

It twines round our lives

In a manner untold,

Brings warmth to each heart,

No matter how old.

How often it's cursed

And how often it lies

At our feet and is crushed,

And yet it survives;

And clings to us, helpless

As days turn to years,

But wins its long fight

When our eyes fill with tears.

—S. J. B.

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CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

Table listing Cleveland group meetings for Monday, including BORTON, GLENVILLE WOMEN'S, LAKEWOOD, etc., with times and locations.

TUESDAY

Table listing Cleveland group meetings for Tuesday, including BROOKLYN-PARMA, EAGLE TRAINING, EUCLID-WADE, etc.

WEDNESDAY

Table listing Cleveland group meetings for Wednesday, including BROOKLYN, COLLINWOOD, DENISON, etc.

THURSDAY

Table listing Cleveland group meetings for Thursday, including ARCADE, GLENVILLE, LEE ROAD, etc.

FRIDAY

Table listing Cleveland group meetings for Friday, including CEDAR-SALVATION ARMY, GORDON SQUARE, etc.

SATURDAY

Table listing Cleveland group meetings for Saturday, including CARNEGIE HALL, GLENVILLE, etc.

SUNDAY

Table listing Cleveland group meetings for Sunday, including COLLINWOOD, DOAN MEN'S, etc.

1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building Room 370. . . . .8:30

MORNING MEETINGS

Monday Mornings

Table listing morning meetings for Monday, including BOLTON SQUARE, COLLINWOOD, etc.

Thursday Mornings

WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave. . . . .10:00 A. M.

Friday Mornings

SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair. Breakfast 8:00 A. M.—Meeting 9:00 A. M.

OUT OF TOWN MEETINGS

MONDAY

Table listing out-of-town meetings for Monday, including AKRON, ASHTABULA, BARBERTON, etc.

TUESDAY

Table listing out-of-town meetings for Tuesday, including AKRON, ASHTABULA, BELLEVUE, etc.

WEDNESDAY

Table listing out-of-town meetings for Wednesday, including AKRON GROUP NO. 1, BEAVER, BUFFALO, etc.

THURSDAY

Table listing out-of-town meetings for Thursday, including BUFFALO, CINCINNATI, DAYTON, etc.

FRIDAY

Table listing out-of-town meetings for Friday, including AKRON, COLUMBUS, DAYTON, etc.

SATURDAY

Table listing out-of-town meetings for Saturday, including CINCINNATI, CUYAHOGA FALLS, CANTON, etc.

SUNDAY

Table listing out-of-town meetings for Sunday, including AKRON, ASHTABULA, BUFFALO, etc.

DETROIT, MICH., AA Club of Detroit, 14 W. Milwaukee Ave. open from 11:00 A. M. to 11:00 P. M.



# CENTRAL BULLETIN



VOL. III-No. 9

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June, 1945

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## Editorial-Faith *and* Works

Faith without works, we hear, is dead.

It is equally true that works without faith are dead. Nay, more than that, faith in works alone tempts disaster.

For with faith in the Supreme Power, the works that a man does are the will of the Supreme Power and they glorify the Supreme Power. With such faith, man knows his proper station and is humble.

But with faith in works alone, man is tempted. He is tempted to glory in achievement and to glorify himself. "Bow down to me, all ye people, for I have done these great things."

And if the people do not bow down, or if the works do not turn out well, there is frustration, there is resentment, and the desire for escape.

What have been our sins in our days of heavy drinking? Those sins are just as grievous if continued in sobriety and in the name of AA. And they are just as certain to lead to ultimate disaster.

And if our faith is in works alone and we believe that with many works we can keep sober, what of the time when we may find no works to do? We know what has happened in instances like this. And we know how well men who have no opportunity to do works in AA have done when they have placed their faith in the Supreme Power, have been humble and have gone about doing such other good works as they can.

All the Twelve Steps are important, not just the twelfth step alone. The foundation stone in AA is the First Step. And the stone that the faulty builder rejected, the stone that is the headstone in the corner is our Third Step. Without these two stones the structure of new life cannot stand.

### ? CLASS DISTINCTION ?

"There are three kinds of AAs—the drones, the workers and the **showmen**"—

These words came from the lips of Bill W. at the 10th Anniversary meeting in Cleveland's Music Hall. This simple statement started a train of thought about our **women in AA**.

The Drones, like the poor, we have always with us. The ones who are content to sit back, absorb one or two meetings a month, who always are either too busy to work or are never available for" countless reasons, **though** never too busy for other social activities. Perhaps their time is taken up entirely in trying to stay sober the hard way. Poor things—what a dull existence it must be; what a lot they miss of the joy of giving. They are just "on the wagon"; that and nothing more.

The **Showmen** on the other hand flit from pillar to post, here and there—much ado about nothing. Sure, they make calls, and leave the prospect in a bewildered state of mind with their sixteen-cylinder words and high and mighty attitude, talking much and saying nothing. Their batting average is remarkable for the number of patients they bring into hospitals, the number they have sponsored throughout the year, the many meetings they attend. They are like a brilliant fireworks display, radiant in the first full burst of dazzling light and beauty, rocketing across the sky, with each succeeding burst coming a little closer to earth, falling until they fade into nothingness.

(Continued on page two)

## Cleveland Acclaimed

They were here from thirty six states as well as from Canada and **Mexico**—nearly three thousand of them—**ready to pay** rousing tribute to the two founders of the AA movement in **Cleveland** on June 10th at Cleveland's Public Hall. Each visitor came with thankfulness in his heart to see and hear these two men who had been responsible for their sobriety and the sobriety of countless others. Each came to pay homage to Bill and **Doc**.

And Bill and **Doc** brought them to their "mental feet" with their simple and humble disavowal of credit. They both emphasized the fact that they were but the happily chosen instruments and that if honor and acclaim were due anyone, it was to God who made this possible.

These were no empty and trite statements. They rang with sincerity. Had there been any semblance of insincerity in their utterances, it would have been immediately apparent to the rapt, listening audience. The trip to Cleveland was pronounced a success—their faith was renewed and invigorated.

The first visitor registered on Thursday, June 7th. He came from Stockton, Cal. Shortly after came a man from Marshalltown, **Ia**. They were taken in tow and were shown all Cleveland had to offer from hospitals and nursing homes and meetings to a visit to the Warrensville workhouse. Many visitors registered during Friday and group meetings were swelled by their attendance.

On Saturday the meeting was beginning to assume convention proportions. The aptly assigned "Saints and Sinners Room", which was headquarters, was crowded beyond capacity throughout the weekend. Out-of-town guests were quickly assimilated and made acquainted with their brothers from far and near.

The ladies' tea from what we hear, was a happy success. Transportation was provided by Clevelanders to the four Saturday open-house parties. Each was packed to overflowing. Some visitors, in typical extremist fashion attended all four meetings.

The banquet, attended by 970 persons was a pronounced success. There were no speeches. Presentation of gifts were made to Bill and **Doc**, and Bill brought a roar of laughter in his acceptance of the gift with the remark: "I wonder what we would have thought ten years ago, had we been able to look into the future. What a wonderful racket we could have made of it then." The highlight of the banquet was the introduction of out-of-town visitors by Jack D., chairman of the banquet committee. Only one city of great distance was overlooked and we take this opportunity to acknowledge his presence—George S. of **Gugin, California**, a suburb of Stockton, Cal., we apologize for not having your card up there.

The banquet, which was served in record time of less than one hour, ended with a short entertainment and community singing. Sweet Adeline was sung three times before perfection was reached.

From comments and letters received from all parts of the country, we believe the tenth anniversary meeting was justified. AA received an injection of enthusiasm which will show results all over America. We are sure that everyone who attended was proud of his association with the AA fellowship.

It was good for us to have you, folks. Come again. You were fine people.

SO MUCH TO DO  
SO LITTLE DONE

We are deplorably late with this June issue of the Bulletin. The above slogan is our only excuse.

## ? CLASS DISTINCTION ?

(Continued from page one)

The Workers are the backbone of AA-the plodders who quietly go about their work always keeping to the old yet ever new adage "Easy does it". They are the ones who can always be depended upon to visit the hospitals, sponsor a person well. They, too, are the ones to whom the other members of AA turn in time of need; a ready hand is theirs, always stretched out to lift not push. They are the ones we mean when we say she is a good **AA**.

Let's take another inventory of ourselves right now (and he honest, gals).

To which class do you belong?  
Which class do you wish you were in?  
what are you going to DO about it?

Sybil F.

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY TEA

The pre-formal opening of the Tenth Anniversary was a tea given by the Cleveland Women AA's for their out-of-town guests in the Spanish Room at Hotel Carter on Saturday, June 9th.

What a bright-eyed vivacious crowd turned out-members from almost every State in the Union from California to Vermont. Lois W. and Bobby B. of New York were enthusiastically welcomed, and charmed everyone with their ability to be at ease with the constant demands on their attention. We were able to renew our old acquaintances and add many new ones to our growing list of out-of-town friends.

The attendance far surpassed our timid estimate of a few weeks **back**; in fact, it grew to **such** proportions that the adjoining **dining** room was opened so we could circulate more freely. Popular guesses placed the number at about 250-a record turnout for a "manless" tea.

Sybil F.

## CARNEGIE HALL

It is needless to **sneak** of the large attendance at the June 9th Saturday **night** meetings & Cleveland from **out-**of-town visitors. Carnegie Hall too had an overwhelming crowd. Standing room only, despite the many extra **chairs** procured for the occasion. The four-point talk by four Cleveland AA's was well received. The no discussion policy of C. H. was highly approved of, especially by Detroit **guests**, since their own meetings are conducted in like manner. The guests were glad to know that an AA group is located **in** downtown Cleveland on a Saturday night as they may make use of it when business necessitates them making a week-end visit to Cleveland.

The free literature was depleted by our guests who eagerly accepted what we offered. Several guests took notes on the speakers' talks. We hope they may be helpful to their own home groups. It was a very happy occasion that all will long remember. Friends were reunited and new friends made. It goes without saying that a closer and deeper bond in AA was the result of this great occasion.

## VISITORS FROM FAR AND NEAR

The largest group of "visiting firemen" attending the tenth anniversary meeting came from Detroit, well over 250. The next largest came from Toledo-nearly 100. Buffalo was represented by **65**.

Coming from the greatest distances were those from Los Angeles and Stockton, Cal., Mexico, Birmingham, Ala., Memphis, Tenn., Montpelier, Vermont, Boston, Mass., Hartford, Conn., Minneapolis, Minn., St. Louis, Mo., Kansas City, Mo. and Canada.

Des Moines, **Ia.** had ten visitors and Chicago, Pittsburgh and New York had many. North Carolina, W. Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York **State**, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Washington, D. C. were also well represented.

Ohio was well represented, particularly from Dayton, Cincinnati, Youngstown, Canton, Akron, Warren and **Lorain**.

This reporter tried to contact all the visitors but that was nigh impossible. The Saints' and Sinners' Room will always hold pleasant memories.

"Our eyes are where they are for seeing opportunities ahead-not for looking at our mistakes behind."

## ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET PLANNED

A booklet containing transcripts of the talks by Bill and **Doc** at the 10th Anniversary meeting in Cleveland June 10th. clippings from two Cleveland newspapers whose reporting of the meeting was really excellent and faithful, plus a picture of the two founders taken at the meeting will soon be produced. These will be available about the first of August.

## HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

The new hospital committee chairman, Roy W. announced the appointment of Howard B., the hard-working, west side gasoline man, as visitor to West Side hospitals with Jack S. and Harry H.

Women's groups were well represented and the women's committee was augmented by three.

The newly established Women's Hospital, Katherine Kilbane's Nursing Home, was approved.

### LIST OF APPROVED **AA** HOSPITALS AS OF JUNE 26, 1945

Render's (Lakewood 1636) . . . . .	.8023 Detroit Ave.
Charity Hospital (Main 9400) . . . . .	Central & E. 22nd St.
Deaconess Evangelical Hospital (Florida 0070) . . . . .	4233 Pearl Road.
East Cleveland Clinic (Glenville 3244) . . . . .	13240 Euclid Ave.
Emergency Clinic (Glenville 4400) . . . . .	928 E. 152nd St.
Farquharson's (Shadyside 8374) . . . . .	6037 Pearl Road
Kath. Kilbane's Nursing Home (Women) (CL. 5969) 14401	Gramatan Ave.
Martha Irwin's . . . . .	Mentor O., P.O. Box 122
Nottingham Hospital (Ivanhoe 0133) . . . . .	18920 Nottingham Road
Betty Smith's (Shadyside 4692) . . . . .	3480 Scranton Road
Webster's (Express 0180) . . . . .	3730 Euclid Ave.
W. 89th St. Nursing Home (Woodbine 4870) . . . . .	2240 W. 89th St.

## W. 89TH NURSING HOME

Tom D., secretary of the West Side Men's Group has opened a nursing home at 2240 West 39th St. and trusts that members will include his hospital in their application of the twelfth step.

## NEW WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

The West Side Women's group announces the opening of a new hospital, the Katherine Kilbane's Nursing Home. Located at the corner of Triskett and Gramatan Roads, it is easily accessible to Berea and Bomber Plant busses.

The hospital is one of the new homes in that section, tastefully decorated and modernly equipped with accommodations at present for eight patients. Here the women will absorb the AA program in quiet restful surroundings. Dr. John Hindulak will be the attending physician.

The owners, Katherine and James Kilbane, are having Open House Sunday, July 8th, from three until ten P.M.

## DOAN DATA

Tom **McG.** turned in an excellent job as the May chairman . . . Sneakers were Jack U., **Scotty** L. Bill W., Al P. and Roger **C.** . . . Roger C. stressed the privilege of starting out in life with all the advantages of social position, education and financial independence and still ending up behind the proverbial eight ball as an alkie. He incidentally is now re-occupying a highly responsible position. He emphasized the daily appliance of the 12th step. Incidentally, we here-with call attention to his fine work in **Warrensville** Workhouse. He certainly practices what he preaches in a quiet, unassuming and effective way. . . . The workhouse chapel meeting was led by Jimmy **B.**, a graduate, and dry six months. His cheery smile, in spite of his physical handicap, won him unusual attention with the audience of 1'70 inmates. His talk was outstanding. He pulled no punches. 30 AA's gave him moral support . . . Our open-house party for the 10th Anniversary was successful because of splendid co-operation of all groups. We're sorry our facilities were so inadequate. The large crowd of visitors overwhelmed us. Sorry we ran out of souvenir programs. They made quite a hit, apparently.

## SOUTH EAST

Karl M. is the **newly** elected secretary of the South East Group.

A women need not give up her mixed group to join **up** with the women's groups. She can belong to both.

## AA CLEVELAND DISTRICT OFFICE

A comprehensive report was made available to every member of AA during the final week of June and reveals the tremendous amount of work accomplished through the opening of this office.

We were astonished at the small number of contributors to the office and wonder what delays support of this most necessary function to the AA movement in Cleveland.

If you have not contributed toward the support of this office do so *at once*. It is your duty. Certainly your sobriety is worth at least five or ten dollars a year! If every AA in Cleveland gave at least the aforementioned sum, the office could hire a much needed girl and many times the work could be accomplished.

If you haven't contributed—DO IT NOW!

If you haven't read the report, get one from your secretary, and it will open your eyes! READ IT!

## DAYTON, OHIO

Our listing of out-of-town groups did not include Dayton's night meeting. They meet in the Fraternity Room of the Miami Hotel at 8:30 and on the first and third Saturday of each month they have a recreational party at St. John's Hall, 842 Xenia Ave.

The Friday Night or Uptown Group is composed of the original members (some 30) of the first Dayton group and enjoys an aggregate of 44 years of sobriety. They have had but one slip in the past six months and have one seven-year man.

## PARKWOOD GROUP

The Parkwood Group has moved its meeting place from Virginia Hall to the Glenville AA Hall, 10421 St. Clair St. and will meet at 9:00 o'clock every Sunday evening in these quarters. J. B. was elected secretary on June 17th.

## PAINESVILLE

On June 16th we held another monthly dance. Since it was Father's Day, prizes were given to the youngest and oldest fathers, as well as to the one having most children.

The dance attracted four outsiders who were the worst for wear, each carrying a fairly heavy load. Our efforts were in vain however and our membership was not augmented.

We now have a pool table in the hall. Come on down and shoot a game.

## BEREA STARTS NEW GROUP

A new Berea group will open its first meeting on July 5th and the meetings will be held on Thursday nights in the Fine Arts Club, on East Bagley Rd., 3 doors east of Eastland Rd.

The first Thursday of each month will be a closed meeting for alikes only. Carl M. is secretary.

## ROCKY RIVER

Quite an affair was held June 29th in Rocky River, when the popular retiring secretary, Hank H., was presented with a beautiful leather travelling bag in appreciation of his devotion to the group. Geo. D. is the new secretary.

A group from Mack's Merrie Minstrels provided entertainment which included a skit, solos and some close harmony quartet singing.

## LAKESWOOD

A packed house greeted Warren C. of Mt. Vernon who celebrated his sixth anniversary at his old stamping grounds.

The meeting was held in the regular meeting hall which was air-conditioned for the occasion.

Warren led one of his best meetings. 12 of the original 14 who formed the first west side group were present:

## PLAY A MANDOLIN?

One of our older Cleveland members has nostalgic memories of grand parties in which entire evenings were devoted to plucking and strumming mandolins and guitars and consuming truck loads of beer withal. He wonders if some other members in Cleveland wouldn't like to recapture some of those good times—without the beer—just for fun. Contact him through the Central Bulletin.

## LORAIN COUNTY

Lorain County joint meeting was held in connection with their picnic in Lake View Park, Lorain, O. on Sunday, July 1st and it was led by Warren C. of Mt. Vernon, O.

## BROOKLYN-PARMA MEN'S GROUP

The Brooklyn-Parma group announces the formation of a men's group which meets every Tuesday at 8:30.

They plan to organize activities for the summer which will include bowling, fishing and card games.

The first business meeting was held June 12th at Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Road.

## LORAIN AVE.-THURSDAY

Our hats are off to Tom T. whose leadership as our secretary flowered a mere handful of a group to one of the larger groups in Cleveland in two short years.

A round table consisting of Vern B., Harry R., Tom T. and Max K., highlighted the second anniversary meeting. Congratulations to Gar J. and John G. who celebrated their first year in AA.

Most of us found AA in hospitals and nursing homes. Let's not forget to do what others did for us. Visit the hospitals and impart the message.

## YOUNGSTOWN

The Youngstown Group celebrated its fifth anniversary Saturday, June 2nd at the YMCA. About 150 people attended with visitors from Akron, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Warren.

The speakers were from Pittsburgh, Akron, Youngstown and Cleveland and each contributed much to the occasion. The Youngstown Vindicator gave a very fine and intelligent write-up on the event.

Swell group and a bunch of hard workers.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The discussion on the changing of the name for Central Committee is ended. The groups voted by a goodly majority to retain the name.

However, in the future the person presiding at the meeting will be called a moderator instead of chairman. Dewey S. was elected moderator and Dick M. vice moderator. Harry S. was re-elected treasurer.

## EAST SIDE WOMEN

The Benefit Dance held on June 30th at K. of C. Hall was a huge success. There was a grand crowd which danced to the strains of a fine band. There were cakes and coffee. There were door prizes which included such grand prizes as a ham and a carton of cigarettes. At the present writing over \$250 was cleared over and above expenses. Thanks to all who made this successful.

On Monday, July 30th at 9:00 P.M. the women's group will hold an open meeting for all ladies, whether members or not. This is the first meeting of its kind and it is hoped that wives of AA's will come and participate. It'll be interesting.

## EUCLID-WADE PICNIC-JULY 5TH

The Euclid-Wade annual picnic will be celebrated with their third anniversary at Wiegand's Lake on Route 87 east, on Sunday, July 8th from 11:00 A.M. on.

There will be games and contests for grown-ups and children. Swimming and horseshoes and a ball game for those that can take it. Dancing to a 6-piece orchestra from 6 to 10 P.M. with a prize waltz and other novelties.

Bring your own lunch. Coffee, sandwiches and soft drinks can be purchased at the grounds.

## "TO MY FRIENDS WHO INSIST"

If you knew what a drink would do

You'd take "No Thanks" for an answer.

One drink to me, means ninety-three

And the pain is worse than cancer.

If I were to tell of all my hell

Caused by that grim-romancer—

Can't stop at one, two, or three

Can't handle the stuff-it handles me.

So thanks for taking "No Thanks" for my answer.

-L.C.

# CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

- MONDAY**
- BORTON—13931 Euclid Ave. . . . . 8:46
  - GLENVILLE WOMEN'S—10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 9:00
  - LAKEWOOD-Townsend Hall, 16903 Detroit Ave. . . . . 8:30
  - LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton and Detroit. 8:30
  - LAKE SHORE-Lake Shore Hotel, Dianer at 7:30, Meeting at . . . . . 8:30
  - LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road . . . . . 8:30
  - LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex W. 120th at Lorain . . . . . 8:30
  - PEARL—Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30
  - UNION AVENUE-12907 Union Ave. . . . . 8:30
  - SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episcopal Church, 3451 Warrensville Center Rd. . . . . 8:30
  - SOUTH EAST GROUP-10203 Miles Ave. . . . . 8:30
  - WEST 26TH ST.—Marvel Hall, 2868 W. 26th St. . . . . 8:30
  - WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O. . . . . 8:30

- TUESDAY**
- BROOKLYN-PARHA- Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30
  - EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle . . . . . 8:00
  - EUCILD-WADE-Emmanuel Church (Bear), 8614 Euclid. . . . . 8:30
  - PUBLIC SQUARE-Hotel Cleveland (See Bulletin Board). . . . . 8:30
  - WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th. 8:30
  - YOUNG PEOPLE'S-Detroit Meth. Church, Detroit & Winchester. 8:30
  - LORAIN, O.-Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts. . . . . 8:00

- WEDNESDAY**
- BROOKLYN-K. of P. Hall, Broadway and Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30
  - COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 8:30
  - DENISON—St. Phillips Hall, 3290 Denison AR. . . . . 1:30
  - DOAN MEN'S-2028 E. 106th St. . . . . 8:46
  - LEE ROAD-Mayfield and Preyer, Heights Presbyterian Church . . . . . 8:30
  - WOMEN'S (Lakewood)—1214 Detroit Ave. . . . . 8:30
  - BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A. Tarbell Ave. . . . . 8:30
  - ELYRIA, O.—108 Middle Ave., "On the Square" (3d Floor). . . . . 8:

- THURSDAY**
- ARCADE—601 The Arcade (Superior Entrance). . . . . 8:30
  - BEREA, O.-Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 doors east of Eastland 8:30
  - GLENVILLR-10421 St. Clair. . . . . 8:30
  - LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road. . . . . 8:30
  - LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex W. 120th St. at Lorain. . . . . 8:30
  - WARRENSVILLE, Workhouse Chapel—1st Thurs. each mo., 7:00 P.M.
  - PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St, Third Floor. . . . . 8:30
  - LORAIN, O.-Antlers Hotel . . . . . 8:30

- FRIDAY**
- CEDAR-Salvation Army, 2181 E. 55th St. . . . . 7:30
  - GORDON SQUARE—St. Helena's Church Hall, 1367 W. 65th St. . . . . 8:30
  - LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Rod. . . . . 8:30
  - ROCKY RIVER-St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview off Detroit Rd. . . . . 8:30
  - NORTHEAST-2028 E. 106th St. . . . . 8:30
  - AVON LAKE—1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O. . . . . 8:30
  - BEREA—Social room o f Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church Sta. . . . . 8:30
  - EUCILD, O.-St. Paul's Church E. 200th St. off St. Clair. . . . . 8:30

- SATURDAY**
- CARNEGIE HALL-902 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Road. . . . . 8:45
  - GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair . . . . . 8:30
  - W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road . . . . . 8:00

- SUNDAY**
- COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Ckir Avenue. . . . . 7:30
  - DOAN YENS TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 106th St. . . . . 8:00
  - PARKWOOD-Glenville AA Hall, 10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 9:00
  - SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 2:00

- 1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH**
- CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building Room 370. . . . . 8:30

### MORNING MEETINGS

- Monday Mornings**
- BOLTON SQUARE—2028 E. 106th St. . . . . 10:00 A. M.
- Wednesday Mornings**
- COLLINWOOD-14700 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 10:00 A. M.
- Thursday Mornings**
- WEST SIDE—7403 Denison Ave. . . . . 10:00 A. M.
- Friday Mornings**
- SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-16421 St. Clair. . . . .
  - Breakfast 8:00 A. M.-Meeting 9:00 A. M.

# OUT OF TOWN MEETINGS

### MONDAY

- AKRON, O.-Men's Group, N. Main St., Opp. St. Thomas Hospital. 8:30
- ASHTABULA, O.—Linne Hall, 3403 Station Ave.-except 2nd Mon. 8:00
- BARBERTON, O.-Homes of group members . . . . . 8:30
- BUFFALO, N. Y.-Sheraton Group, 715 Delaware Ave. . . . . 8:30
- COLUMBUS, O.-Upper Arlington-Grandview, 1st Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Pl. . . . . 9:00
- ERIE, PA., Perry Group, 1110 Parade St. . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH.—North Group, 11629 Linwood. . . . . 8:30
- MT. VERNON, O.-On the Square. . . . . 8:30
- NEW PHILADELPHIA, O.—Tuscarawas County Group, Assembly Hall, 2nd floor Tuscarawas Savings & Loan Bldg. . . . . 8:00
- NORWALK, O.-Elks Grill, E. Main St. (downstairs). . . . . 8:00
- STEBENVILLE, O.-Y. M. C. A., North 4th St. . . . . 8:00
- TOLEDO, O.—241½ Superior St. (2nd Floor) . . . . . 8:30

### TUESDAY

- AKRON, O., Morning, 897 E. Market St. . . . . 10:00 A. M.
- AKRON, O., St. Vincent High School Auditorium, cor. Walnut & W. Market St. . . . . 8:15
- ASHTABULA, O.—(Except Second Monday) Linne Hall, 3403 Station Ave. . . . . 8:00
- BELLEVEUE, O.—Sumner C. Fehl, Sec'y, 600 E. Center St.; YMCA Hall . . . . . 8:00
- CINCINNATI, O.-Group No. 1, 626 Broadway, Room 230 . . . . . 8:30
- COLUMBUS, O.-West Side 3178 W. Broad St. . . . . 8:30
- DAYTON, O.—124 W. Monument Ave. . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH., East Group, Community Hall, E. Jefferson & Manastique . . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT MICH.—Pontiac Group, YMCA, Mt. Clemens and Seneca. 8:30
- MANSFIELD, O.-North Lake Park, Sec. Address, 176% Lexington, Mansfield. . . . . 8:30
- PITTSBURGH (E. Liberty)-E. Liberty Y. M. C. A. . . . . 8:30

### WEDNESDAY

- AKRON GROUP NO. 1-King School, W. Tallmadge at Aqueduct Street . . . . . 8:15
- BEAVER, PA., Beaver Valley Group, Home of J. E. Pittinger . . . . . 8:00
- BUFFALO, N. Y.—Johnson Park Group, 95 Johnson Park . . . . . 8:00
- BUFFALO, N. Y.-Main-Fillmore, 2387 Fillmore . . . . . 8:00
- CINCINNATI, O.—Group No. 2, 626 Broadway, Room 230 . . . . . 8:30
- COLUMBUS, O.-East End W.O.W. Hall, McAllister & Gilbert Sts. 8:30
- DAYTON, O.—124 W. Monument Ave. . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH.—Central Group, 4242 Cass, near Canfield . . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH.—North East Group, 19475 Van Dyke . . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH.—Combined meeting of all groups, first Wednesday in each month, Colonnade Room of Masonic Temple, Corner Temple and Second Blvd. . . . . 8:30
- ELYRIA, O.—108 Middle Avenue (on the Square). . . . . 8:00
- ERIE, PA.-Lawrence Group, 315 Plum St. . . . . 8:00
- JAMESTOWN, N. Y.-Allen Sq. Bldg., Main and Second Sts. . . . . 8:00
- TOLEDO, O.—241½ Superior St. (2nd Floor). . . . . 8:30
- TOLEDO, O.-Morning Group, 241½ Superior St. (2nd Floor). . . . . 10:00
- WARREN, O.-Welsh Club, High St. (except second Wednesday). 8:30
- WHEELING, W. VA.—McLure Hotel . . . . . 8:30
- YOUNGSTOWN, O.-Southside Group, 60 W. Indianola . . . . . 8:30

### THURSDAY

- BUFFALO, N. Y.-Johnson Park Group, 95 Johnson Park. . . . . 8:00
- BUFFALO, N. Y.-Tonawanda Group, 116 Tremont St., Tonawanda, N. Y. . . . . 8:30
- CINCINNATI, O.-Group No. 3, 626 Broadway, Room 230. . . . . 8:30
- COLUMBUS, O.-Men's Group; Broad St. Church of Christ, E. Broad and 21st Sts. . . . . 8:30
- DAYTON, O.—124 W. Monument Ave. . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH., Northwest Group, Club Hall, 10216 Plymouth. . . . . 9:00
- EAST AKRON-897 E. Market Street. . . . . 8:50
- TOLEDO, O.-Highland Park Shelter House. . . . . 8:30
- WARREN, O.-Welsh Club, High St. (second Thurs. in month only) 8:30

### FRIDAY

- AKRON, O., Night Group, Firestone Local Hell. So. Main St., just south of Railroad Bridge. . . . . 8:00
- AKRON, O., Noon Group, Bendels, Howard & Mill . . . . . 12:00 Noon
- CINCINNATI, O.-Group No. 4, 626 Broadway, Room 230 . . . . . 8:30
- COLUMBUS, O.-South End, 245½ So. High St. (2nd Floor). . . . . 8:30
- CONNEAUT, O.—Basement, St. Paul Episcopal, Cor. State & Buffalo Sts., Route 20 . . . . . 8:00
- DAYTON, O.-Uptown Group, Fraternity Room, Miami Hotel . . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH.—Royal Oak Group, E. 4th and Stephenson Hwy . . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH.—Windsor Group, 66 Sandwich St., Windsor, Ont. 8:30
- Ont., Canada . . . . . 9:00
- ERIE, PA.—Stag Group, Room 206, Ford Hotel. . . . . 7:30
- KENT, O., K. of C. Hall, No. Depuyster St. . . . . 8:30
- NORWALK, O.-Elks Grill, E. Main St. . . . . 8:00
- PITTSBURGH, PA.-Downtown-Keystone Hotel. . . . . 8:30
- TOLEDO, O.—241½ Superior St. (2nd Floor). . . . . 8:30

### SATURDAY

- CINCINNATI, O.-626 Broadway, Room 230 . . . . . 9:00
- CUYAHOGA FALLS-2160 Front Street . . . . . 8:30
- CANTON, O., I.O.O.F. Temple, 1439 Cleveland Ave. . . . . 8:30
- CENTRAL, COLUMBUS, O.-I.O.O.F. Temple, 24 W. Goodale St. . . . . 8:30
- GALION, O.-A. F. of L. Hall . . . . . 8:30
- NO. SIDE, COLUMBUS, O.—Olentangy Village, 2929 N. H&H St. . . . . 8:30
- DETROIT, MICH.—Uptown, 14 W. Milwaukee . . . . . 8:00
- GALION, O.-A. F. of L. Hall . . . . . 8:30
- OBERLIN, O.-Legion Hall, North Main St. . . . . 8:00
- DAYTON, O.—Social Night-For location, Phone ADams 9611 for information . . . . . 8:30
- TOLEDO, O.-W. Side, Redman's Hall, 3368 Monroe St. . . . . 8:30

### SUNDAY

- AKRON, O.-N. Main St., Opp. St. Thomas Hospital. . . . . 6:00
- ASHTABULA, O.—Linne Hall, 3403 Station Ave. (Second Sunday in month) . . . . . 6:00
- BUFFALO, N. Y.-Johnson Park Group, 95 Johnson Park . . . . . 8:00
- BUFFALO, N. Y.-Main-Fillmore, 2387 Fillmore at Main. . . . . 8:00
- DAYTON, O.—124 W. Monument Ave. . . . . 2:30
- LISBON, O., Columbiana Group, American Legion Hall. . . . . 8:30
- INDIANAPOLIS, IND.-Riley Hotel, Capitol Ave. & 16th St. (Breakfast) . . . . . 8:00 A. M.
- Weekly meetings Mon., Wed., Thurs., Friday in homes of members. Telephone Franklin 2743.
- JAMESTOWN, N. Y.-Allen Sq. Bldg., Main and Second Sts. . . . . 8:00
- PITTSBURGH, PA.—Corapolis YMCA . . . . . 2:30
- PITTSBURGH (No. Side)-North Side Y. M. C. A. . . . . 2:00
- YOUNGSTOWN, O.-34 W. Spring St. . . . . 8:00

DETROIT, MICH., AA Club of Detroit, 14 W. Milwaukee Ave., open from 11:00 A. M. to 11:00 P. M.

# CENTRAL BULLETIN

VOL. III-No. 10

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July, 1945

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## Editorial—Temperance

Virtue is the highest good, and thus should be the goal of human effort.

There are seven great virtues, the scholars tell us: the four moral virtues, which are prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude; and the three theological virtues, which are faith, hope and love.

All these virtues are important to us as they are to all men, we may well direct our attention to them as goals once we have freed our minds from the immediate struggle with alcohol.

The great scholars name prudence as the chief of the moral virtues. But perhaps for us our first attention should be directed to temperance, simply because most of us have spent years in developing intemperance in all our habits and thoughts.

"We know, of course, that for us there is no such thing as temperance in the use of alcohol. We have misused alcohol so long that our bodies have undergone a permanent change that makes it impossible for us to use any alcohol. Moreover, we cannot achieve temperance in anything as long as we allow alcohol to have dominion over our bodies and our minds.

Without alcohol, we discover that we are the self-made victims of many kinds in intemperance, not only in the body appetites but more particularly in the ways of the mind.

Here, indeed, we touch upon all the other virtues, since temperance in habits of thought and action demands that we learn prudence, justice, fortitude. Moreover, we shall succeed in our efforts to be temperate only as we lift up our hearts and our minds toward the higher power. We have to practice self control, develop habits of thought in self control. The practice is made effective when we turn our minds continuously to the source of all good. Excesses in speech, in thought, in action are evils that detract from the good that is in us. Starting through self-control to learn the virtue of temperance, we grow in goodness and we learn something of the other virtues.

### HOW ABOUT YOU?

(Reprinted from November, 1944. The Empty Jug, Chattanooga, Tenn.)

Good AAs pay all their old bills (if they have any) and no matter what kind of bills they are, as soon as they can possibly do so.

Money that used to burn your pocket until you bought that pint or that quart or that gallon should NOW burn your pocket until you pay all your honest debts.

The debt may be five, ten or twenty years old. Maybe the statute of limitations has invalidated it long ago. Maybe you have taken the bankrupt law. ALL THAT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE;

You are paying your bills because you are fixing up things with the person you see in the mirror.

Also, good AAs make amends in other ways . . . the embarrassment you caused a friend . . . the times you humiliated your wife . . . the time you put the "bee" on the preacher for money to buy food, but spent it on liquor . . . the cold check you asked a friend of your family's to cash.

How about it, fellow?

## Which step shall we omit?

At one of the Cleveland Consolidated Meetings the leader, Frank S. of Cleveland stated he had been asked by someone which of the Twelve Steps he would dismiss as unimportant, if he had his choice. He carefully weighed his answer by enumerating the manifold advantages he had gained through the application of all steps and ended by asserting positively that he could eliminate none of the twelve and stay sober.

He said AA had taught him to think. Where he had lived a life of irresponsibility, careless of the opinions and needs of others, he was now conscious of his responsibilities as a citizen and a neighbor.

It had taught his *humility*. Brought up in a fine Christian atmosphere, he misused his family's station in the community. He laughed at discipline and made his own laws. AA taught him to respect law and the rights of others.

It brought him *self respect* and with that the respect of others.

It taught him *honesty*. White lies and small deceits grew into mammoth proportions from which he could not and, finally would not extricate himself. They led to the inevitable loss of friends and trust of his family.

It taught him *gratitude*. His ego-centric self never permitted this except as a pose. He had never been really sincere.

It taught him *tolerance*. Quick to anger and resentment over any attempt at discipline or a curbing of his anti-social pursuits made him intolerant to any suggestions. Pity or compassion was alien to his nature.

It taught him *rectitude*. Good moral conduct in others always irritated him. The people who practiced it were hypocrites-church paraders. He has now learned to obey his conscience.

It brought him *peace of mind*. Gone are the sleepless nights, the tears and phobias of an alcoholic-diseased mind. Gone are the worries about making amends, or the nerve-racking planning over how to avoid making them. With peace of mind naturally came tranquillity and happiness which never had been his lot during and before his drinking days.

It brought him *faith*. Distrust and disbelief in all that was good — in God and man — in ideals and standards and motives. This resurrected faith, beautiful to feel, made life worthwhile.

It brought *friendship*. Hundreds of acquaintances, whom he had once considered friends, and who couldn't understand him finally left him to go his willful way. He had used them selfishly and then abused them. In AA he found that by associating with people who spoke "his language" and by daily applying their principles he could find friends — and keep them.

It gave him a *job*. Always shirking responsibilities and being generally opinionated and rebellious to the discipline of business, he lost many jobs. So many, that he stopped working entirely. He has now found the key to abundant living — giving the best he has, honestly and sincerely — all the time.

(Continued OR page three)

### CONVICTION OF FAITH

Whoso has felt  
the Spirit of the Highest  
Cannot confound,  
nor doubt Him, nor deny;  
Yea, with one voice,  
O world, though thou deniest,  
Stand thou on that side,  
for on this am I!

## HISTORY OFFERS GUIDANCE

Is AA getting too much "good" publicity for its own good? Is the attention that the nation's press is showering upon the movement likely to make us — as an organization and as individuals — over-confident? Are we riding the crest of a wave of popularity that is in danger of crashing on unseen rocks ahead? Can AA, as a movement, stand success and prosperity any better than some of us could, as individuals, in our drinking days?

These questions suggest themselves after reading "History Offers Good Lessons for AA," by C. H. K., of Lansing, Mich., in the current Grapevine. The entire article is too long for reproduction here, but we are pleased to acknowledge indebtedness to that source for the following digest of its facts and conclusions.

In 1840, the Washington Temperance Society was formed in Baltimore by a band of "reformed drunkards" who set about "reforming" other drunkards. Within three years, the society was claiming 100,000 pledged members. A mass meeting, held in New York City, attracted more than 4,000 listeners and 1,800 new members came into the fold.

"Older temperance organizations had to stand aside — or climb on the bandwagon," C. H. K. writes. "There were triumphal parades in Boston — where historic Faneuil Hall was jammed to the doors to hear the speaker — and in other eastern cities. Speakers toured the West and South.

"The press of the day gave the society uncounted columns of publicity. The society's unusual methods were NEWS. (Sound familiar?)

"And then — in less than ten years — the society petered out.

C. H. K. believes that the politicians of the day contributed to the society's downfall by using its popularity to advance themselves and line up votes from within. Also, the Abolition movement was gaining strength and there was division within groups of the society as members took their stand on slavery. In other words, a side issue — important though it was, but a side issue to the society's main purpose — was allowed to come between the members.

Factions sprang up. Different localities began to "do things differently." Some groups grew rich and dipped into their treasures to finance various projects. Others split on whether beer and wine should be included in the ban or only spiritous liquor.

As the movement continued to snowball, its zeal increased and bigness became important to it. To continue getting new members at a dizzy pace, many new members who were not true alcoholics were pledged.

"Nevertheless, the Washingtonian movement might have survived," C. H. K. believes, "except for one fatal omission. Its organizers believed they could get along without a Higher Power. They were not atheists; it just didn't occur to them that God as we understand Him could help them to stay sober. In fact, some believed that if God were invited into their councils, sectarianism also would push its way in, and their movement would be taken over by one or the other of the churches."

They were undoubtedly right in regarding sectarianism as a potentially fatal danger, but how wrong in not recognizing it, simply, as one of those side issues which the lesson of history teaches us must be avoided at all cost! We know that the only issue — insofar as the spiritual side of our program is concerned — is faith in God as we understand Him. And God grant that our recognition of it will make it impossible for history to repeat the sorry story of the Washingtonians rise and fall with us in the cast of characters.

D. O'N

## THE EMPTY JUG

The Chattanooga, Tenn. Group publishes a monthly bulletin for its members, and are attempting to increase their subscription list. We found their June issue very interesting and we are reprinting a piece which appeared in their November '44 Jug. **Subscription price** is one dollar per year. Mail subscription to The Empty Jug, 204 James Bldg., Chattanooga 2, Tenn.

## STILL AN AA

We were reading in a Chicago newspaper the other day a story about the trials of a teetotaler in China, where it is considered an offense to sit at an official dinner and not take part in the many toasts. The writer fortunately was well armed. He had a letter from a Chinese bishop he had met in San Francisco. The letter so impressed the Chinese general the writer was dining with that the general bestowed upon him a great honor. He placed upon the writer's plate the part of the chicken that was considered the greatest delicacy, the head. Quick-witted, the writer pleaded that he was not worthy of so signal an honor, that only the general was worthy of that honor. So, he returned the chicken head to the general's plate. The general ate it, like a gum drop.

We looked up to the top of the article. There were the smiling countenance and the name of Ed. L. a Chicago member of our order. Through success in dealing with his problem in AA he had been assigned first to cover the San Francisco conference of the United Nations and then had been given a trip around the world, to tell of conditions in all the warring countries. In China, far from any AA organization, he still was an AA.

## THE TWELFTH STEP

A story was told by an able Pittsburgher, Jake H., fittingly describing the principles embodied in the Twelfth Step, and it bears repetition.

A certain fellow had a dream in which he found himself transported to hell and looking around he found many familiar faces, but all cadaverous and terribly distorted with pain, anger, malice and hate.

In the center of hell was a large table, sumptuously laden with fine, tempting food.

He noticed that each snarling, swearing inhabitant had his left arm tied to his back and that in the right hand each had a long fork which enabled him to reach to the table to help himself. But the fork was so long, he couldn't get the food to his mouth. That was hell.

Of a sudden, the scene changed and he found himself in heaven. There he also found familiar faces, but each was transfigured with joy and happiness and each looked healthy and contented.

There too was a large table sumptuously laden with fine food.

And they too had their left hands tied to their backs and in their right hands they too had the long forks, with which to partake of the food. They too found the forks too long to get the food to their mouths.

But they found the answer — they fed each other.

Stick and play — it's bound to pay  
If you follow the twelve steps in AA.

## WE VISIT SAN FRANCISCO

AAs attending the San Francisco conference on United Nations organization for world peace (there were three in the newspaper correspondents' corps) found our organization thriving on the west coast. Nearly every town in the Bay area has a group. The San Francisco group, which has just opened its new clubhouse, has more than 175 active members, some of them the most enthusiastic twelfth steppers we have met.

Meetings in the Bay area differ somewhat in routine from those in the Cleveland region. Meetings start promptly at 8 o'clock (!) and last two hours. There are four speakers, besides the chairman. The first speaker usually is a fairly new man. The last is an old hand who can be counted upon to leave the group with an inspiring thought.

Bay area groups are a little more formal about membership than we. They have a three months' probationary period before one can become a "voting member." A year's successful membership is required before one can be eligible to membership on the executive committee.

In Berkeley, AA is at work in the Kaiser shin yards. It has three beds in the Kaiser hospital and so far has saved the Kaiser yards 154,000 man hours of work through reclaimed alcoholics. This AA effort is in the hands of the secretary of the Berkeley group.

## WHICH STEP SHALL WE OMIT?

(Continued from page one)

"AA", he remarked, "has brought out in men the innate character he possesses."

Truly, this was an impressive meeting. It was a searching, honest moral inventory.

Have you tried one lately?

## WORRY

Astronomers tell an old story about a simple farmer who once visited a famous observatory. Looking through the enormous telescope he was told how many trillions of miles away the stars were. After a moment's pause he remarked, "Well, I guess it doesn't matter so much whether William Jennings Bryan is elected president or not."

In the vernacular "the old fellow had something there".

We are a great lot to worry about trifles, prone to exaggerate the importance of details — and in doing so lose sight of the fact that there is more to the universe than just our little world.

Before we accepted the AA program the world revolved about our own smug little selves. Our first, last, and only thought was ME — never the other fellow — Now, in this new way of life we must strive to overcome this tendency and put others first—John Jones' problem looks just as large to him as yours looks to you—maybe his problem is greater. Did you ever try helping him and thereby minimizing your own trouble? Try it, it works.

Have you ever stopped to think how many times you worry about things which either never happen or when they do happen are never half as terrible as we imagined them to be? How many mountainous worries did you have last year? Can you remember any one of them right now?

I read a story of a man who had married himself to a state where he was sick mentally and physically. He consulted a famous psychiatrist who advised him to go home, secure a bag of marbles and each time one of these horrible worries or events really happened, he was to drop one of the marbles in a vase on the mantel. At the end of a year he was to empty the vase, count the marbles and then recall on what occasion he dropped it in.

You guessed it—he couldn't remember a single one.

Sybil F.

## ANONYMITY

A normal healthy enthusiasm for AA frequently ensues when we sense our "own victory over alcoholism. Such ardor is of great value when controlled and employed with discretion. Often, however, we are imbued with such ardent zeal that anonymity is lightly regarded or even abandoned. When this happens we may alienate some alcoholics whom we might otherwise help.

In my old prodigious battles with alcohol one of the chief reasons for continuing to drink was that I knew some who drank like gentlemen and if they could, by the gods, Z could and would. The drinking abilities of John Doe, George Jones and Bill Smith were constantly my goal.

I finally wound up in a hospital bed and one of my first visitors was John Doe, my drinking hero—the champion of gentlemanly drinkers. As he related his story I literally fell out of bed. Before noon of the next day, the other three perfect drinkers, overwhelmed me with tales of their alcoholic experiences. My surrender was unconditional. I knew I too; was an alcoholic, and never again would I attempt to emulate my heroes.

Now for the point of my story: Anonymity was vastly important in this case, for had I previously known my heroes were AA's or the method of AA operations, their stories would have been ineffective. Surely the powerful and persuasive surprise could not have occurred.

We owe a real duty to our fellows—never to disclose their membership, for new members are deprived of the compelling effect of experiences like mine if we do not remain anonymous. Our founding fathers possessed the know-how.

J. N. W.

## BENDER'S

No, we're not writing an article on how to go on or get off a bender but just to apologize to Bender's Nursing Home for giving the home a Lakewood telephone number. The number is Melrose 1636. Sorry.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 3, 1945

Dewey S., the Moderator for the ensuing 6 months, opened the meeting with a prayer. 18 groups answered roll call. The minutes of the June meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurers report for the past six months was read and accented without comment.

The Hospital Committee reported; Howard B. will take Dewey S.'s place on the committee. The women's panel of the committee reported a new Women's Hospital, managed by Catherine K. to be opened July 8, at the corner of Triskett and Gramatan Road. Two members of the Mayfield Preyer Wednesday night group sat in on the committee meeting to help in any way they could if their assistance was needed.

Consolidated meeting report was made by Bill O'R. in the absence of the Chairman Howard B. The series of consolidated meetings just ended showed a modest profit of \$25.00. It was suggested a questionnaire be circulated among the groups to find out consensus of opinion as to the time, place, type of meeting or if further meetings of this kind are desirable to all.

A report by the member appointed to report on the invitation to sit on the Alcoholic Committee of Cleveland Welfare Committee revealed that the invitation was not official and therefore required no action. However a report by Paul J. sitting on the committee stated there are four AA on the Alcoholic Committee in other capacities who are well qualified to advise Central Committee of any action affecting AA.

Under New Business it was suggested a consolidated picnic for all AA's in Cleveland be held. The discussion brought out the information that such a project had been considered before but had not been acted upon because of the multiplicity of problems involved in putting it on, particularly the gas rationing. Shelved for future consideration.

Ricardo P. offered the suggestion of a summer camp for children of AA members. Realizing the magnitude of such a project a committee was appointed to investigate the possibilities. The committee is composed of Harry S. chairman, Ricardo P., George D. and Richard M.

The meeting as usual was closed with a prayer.

## WEST SIDE WOMEN MOVE

The West Side Women's Group (Lakewood) are now permanently located in their new headquarters, the First Ward Republican Club at 8701 Detroit Ave. The meeting night has been changed from Wednesday to Monday. They are planning an Open House soon, to which all the groups will be invited. Watch for the date in the next Bulletin.

## GORDON SQUARE

Gordon Square promises a worth-while evening to visitors who help them celebrate their third anniversary on Friday, the 27th of July. The doors open at 7:30, with the meeting which begins promptly at 8:30, closing at 10 o'clock. Then refreshments will be served and you who have attended Gordon Square's Anniversary parties in the past, will know what to expect.. Those who haven't attended—let us open your eyes.

## GIVE HOSPITALS A BREAK

A plea comes from Sonhie Farauharson, in behalf of all nursing homes that visitors time—their visits so they can leave by 10:00 P. M.

Most hospitals and nursing homes have visiting hours, but lately visitors have come as late as 11:30 P. M., and have been admitted. This has meant readjustment of treatment, and in these days of help shortage, it has worked quite a hardship on the help. After medication, baths and readowns it has been two o'clock before the patients and attendants get to sleep.

Maybe a little shuteye will do you some good too. G'wan home!

To the extent that you practice the principles embodied in the four absolutes—Honesty, Love, Purity and Unselfishness—you reach the heights of decency and respect. And as much as you ignore them you sink to your own mediocrity.

SOUTH EAST GROUP

A beautiful, sincere open letter to the group from their former Secretary, Frank W. who is bedridden in Sunny Acres Sanitarium was submitted to us for publication. We regret that space does not permit publishing it in its entirety.

Opening with a passage from Matthew 5, verses 13-16, he admonished the group to hold high their goal and to keep the faith, and to so "let their light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Frank has been at Sunny Acres for almost four months, suffering with tuberculosis. His progress has been slow but sure. Lying in bed twenty-four hours a day has given him much opportunity to think. He is particularly grateful that he found the new way of life for thii has heartened him completel Y.

He would appreciate visits and contact with the many friends he has in AA.

Keep up the fine cheery spirit, Frank.

MT. PLEASANT GROUP

A new group, called the Mt. Pleasant Group, with Bill H., former secretary of the Union Group as its secretary holds its first meeting on Tuesday, July 17th at 8:30 o'clock. Their meetings will be held in St. Cecilia's Church, E. 152nd and Kinsman Road.

All visitors are of course welcome. Good territory.

DOAN DATA

Ed H.'s long contact with AA's gave him an opportunity to do a fine job as chairman for June. He chose as his speakers those that had impressed him most and kept him dry. We consequently benefited. The speakers were Johnny K., Vince P. (who incidentally celebrated his second anniversary), good old reliable Charley E. and Chester S., whose oratorical efforts now last forty minutes compared to his maiden effort of a brave five minutes.

Mark H. and his bride are now established in Cleveland. . . Paul J. started an extra-curricular course at Yale. . . We are still receiving complimentary letters from Tenth Anniversary visitors.

Our Sunday afternoon training meetings are open to all groups. Bring your newest member for "breaking in".

Leo K. did a swell job at the workhouse chapel. He talked their language and with fine conviction The AA crowd was short. How about making up for this dereliction by coming to the next session on Thursday, August 2. The meetings are on the first Thursday of each month from 7 to 8 P. M.

LEFT-OVERS

I had a little laughter left.
I shared it with my neighbors.
It made the longest hour seem short,
And lightened all our labors.

I had some courage I could spare,
So up the street I hurried,
To give some to a person who
I knew was badly worried.

I had some joy that I could share.
I knew a place where sadness
Had entered in, and so I went
And gave them of my gladness.

I gave a lot of hopeful words
To people who were fearful,
To bring them smiles instead of frowns,
And leave them feeling cheerful.

But oh, the more I gave away,
The more I had for giving!
For these things hoarded, quickly die,
But shared, they go on living.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

Table listing Monday meetings: RORTON-13931 Euclid Ave., GLENVILLE WOMEN'S-10421 St. Clair Ave., LAKEWOOD-Townsend Hall, 16903 Detroit Ave., LAKEWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton and Detroit, LAKE SHORE-Lake Shore Hotel, Dinner at 7.80, Meeting at 8.30, LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road, LORAIN AVE.-Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain, PEARL-Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd., UNION AVENUE-12907 Union Ave., S H A K E R HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church, 3451 Warrensville Center Rd., SOUTH EAST GROUP-10203 Miles Ave., WEST 25TH ST-Marvel Hall, 2868 W. 26th St., WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O., WOMEN%-West Side, 8701 Detroit Ave.

TUESDAY

Table listing Tuesday meetings: BROOKLYN-PARMA-4427 Pearl Rd., EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle, EUCLID-WADE-Emmanuel Church (Rear), 8614 Euclid, MT. PLEASANT-St. Cecilia's Church, E. 152nd & Kinsman, PUBLIC SQUARE-Hotel Cleveland (See Bulletin Board), WEST SIDE MEN'S-St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 88th, YOUNG PEOPLE'S-Detroit Meth. Church, Detroit & Winchester, LORAIN, O.-Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts.

WEDNESDAY

Table listing Wednesday meetings: BROOKLYN-K. of P. Hall, Broadview and Pearl Rd., COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave., DENISON-St. Phillips Hull, 3290 Denison Ave., DOAN MEN'S-2028 E. 106th St., LEE ROAD-Mayfield and Preyer, Heights Presbyterian Church, BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave., ELYRIA, O.-105 Middle Ave., "On the Square" (3d Floor).

THURSDAY

Table listing Thursday meetings: ARCADE-601 The Arcade (Superior Entrance), BEREA, O.-Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 doors east of Eastland, GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair, LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road, LORAIN AVE.-Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th St. at Lorain, WARRENSVILLE, Workhouse Chapel-w Thurs. each mo., 7 :00 P.M., PAINESVILLE, O.-33 N. State St., Third Floor, LORAIN, O.-Antlers Hotel

FRIDAY

Table listing Friday meetings: CEDAR-Salvation Army, 2181 E. 56th St., GORDON SQUARE-St. Helena's Church Hall, 1867 W. 65th St., LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road, ROCKY RIVER-St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview off Detroit Rd., NORTHEAST-2028 E. 106th St., AVON LAKE-1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O., BEREA-Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church Sts., EUCLID, O.-St. Paul's Church E. 200th St. off Clair.

SATURDAY

Table listing Saturday meetings: CARNEGIE HALL-902 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Road., GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair, W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road.

SUNDAY

Table listing Sunday meetings: COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue, DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 106th St., PARKWOOD-Glenville AA Hall, 10421 St. Clair Ave., SPONSORSHIP MEETING-Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave.

1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

Table listing 1st Tuesday meeting: CENTRAL COMMITTEE-Hanna Building Room 370.

MORNING MEETINGS

Monday Mornings

Table listing Monday morning meeting: BOLTON SQUARE-2028 E. 105th St., 10:00 A. M.

Wednesday Mornings

Table listing Wednesday morning meeting: COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave., 10:00 A. M.

Thursday Mornings

Table listing Thursday morning meeting: WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave., 10:00 A. M.

Friday Mornings

Table listing Friday morning meeting: SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair, Breakfast 8 :00 A. X-Meeting 9 :00 A. M.

LIST OF APPROVED AA HOSPITALS AS OF JULY 16, 1946

Table listing approved AA hospitals: Bender's (Melrose 1636), Charity Hospital (Main 9400), Deaconess Evangelical Hospital (Florida 0070), East Cleveland Clinic (Glenville 3244), Emergency Clinic (Glenville 4400), Farquharson's (Shadyside 8374), Kath. Kilbane's Nursing Home (Women) (CL. 6969) 14401 Gramatan Ave., Martha Irwin's, Mento r O., P.O. Box 122, Nottingham Hospital (Ivanhoe 0133), Betty Smith's (Shadyside 4692), Webster's (Express 0180), W. 89th St. Nursing Home (Woodbine 4870).



# CENTRAL BUSINESS HONESTY PURITY LOVE AA BULLETIN

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## Editorial—The Wars are Over

Our nation's two great wars, against Germany and against Japan, have ended. The twelve thousand or more AAs in this country may look with great satisfaction on the work they have done in the years since the war began, some in the armed services, many in the war factories and many in essential civilian activities.

A fairly conservative estimate would indicate that since the war emergency first began in 1939, AA has enabled alcoholics to provide more than thirty million man hours of labor that otherwise would have been lost. If we could check every member in this country, we might find that the total was in excess of 40 million man hours.

In a time of great need this indeed has been a major contribution. We as individuals may take satisfaction in the fact that in this time of great need we have been able to do our full part, instead of being incapacitated at least part of the time if not all the time while others labored to save our country.

We have received many rewards, not the least of which has been the satisfaction of being able to do our part. There have been material rewards, too. Some of our members have been getting the best incomes of their lives, and most of them have been doing better than they were before they dried up.

As the war ends, we face a period of readjustment while the nation shifts from wartime to ordinary peacetime activities. The days of easy employment have ended. Some soon will be out of work temporarily. For those who continue to be at work, the days of overtime pay have passed. AAs will not be as flush as they were.

This is the time, then, to take personal stock.

How have we regarded these months of our sobriety? Have we thought of our rewards chiefly in terms of income, in terms of our better jobs, our ability to buy things we couldn't buy before and in terms of our savings?

Or, have we found our greatest satisfaction in the moral and spiritual factors of our regeneration?

The difference between the two is the difference between building a house on the sand and, building upon a rock. In the one case we will be at the mercy of the winds of adversity; in the other we have a sure foundation and can withstand all blows.

Let us examine our consciences. Let us see what AA has enabled us to get besides money and position. Let us see whether we have learned to have faith in the Supreme Power and have learned to do things for others.

Those who really have grasped the principles of AA, should come through any period of readjustment stronger than they were before. Those who have put too much store in material things may discover that they still have lessons to learn.

The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them. —Robert Frost.

Any fool can criticize—most fools do.

## We Refuse to Grow Up

Following is a talk given by Ed K., Waterloo, Iowa, at one of their recent meetings. We like it and we think it is worth passing on.

In a recent issue of Look Magazine, there is shown in illustrated pictures the ordeal that most of us had to go through in lesser or more severe form, in order to attain the first step in sobriety.

It wasn't the pictures that made the biggest impression on me, for after all most of us either experienced or have seen the same routine. Instead, it was one short sentence that read as follows: "Psychiatrists say the alcoholic is an individual who, at some stage of his development, refused to grow up."

This struck home to me, and I often wonder if it isn't the same with the most of us. It has been stated elsewhere that the average age of the male alcoholic is about 44. If that's the case then the saying "Life Begins at 40" seems to hit us right between the eyes.

If we were to trace back the history of most alcoholics it would probably run something like this: 1. Age 16 to 20. Somewhere between these ages we probably took our first drink on a dare or because we wanted to feel grown up like the rest of our gang.

2. Between 20 and 30 we really enjoyed our drinking. It livened up the various kinds of parties we attended, and up until the time most of us married somewhere in this age range, we had little or no responsibility other than to take care of ourselves.

3. Then between 30 and 40 our family responsibilities began to take hold on us and the thought came

that it was time we were getting pretty firmly established for our later years.

But along in this bracket somewhere we probably began to feel a little resentment that we didn't have quite the zip that we did ten years before—our drives weren't quite so long on the golf course; our runs on the pool tables weren't quite so high; our dancing began to slow down and probably we weren't quite the life of every party that we used to be. Then, too, our families began to grow up and we begrudged the amount of time that they took from our former activities. After an ordinary Saturday night party, we'd feel much more like spending most of the day Sunday sleeping instead of giving over the one day in the week that we could be home, to our family.

All of these things were resented because we just didn't want to grow up and meet the responsibilities that increase with our age. By taking a few drinks for almost every occasion that required a little special energy, we kidded ourselves for a few short hours that we were just as good as we were ten years before—and then paid for it the next day, which we found was pretty tough to get through without a few bracers.

To my mind, that marks the beginning of the end. Some of us begin to crack up a few years before 10—others a

(Continued on page two)

### THE LARGER PRAYER

At first I prayed for Light;  
Could I but see the way,  
How gladly, swiftly would I walk,  
To everlasting day!

And next I prayed for Strength,  
That I might tread the road  
With firm unflinching feet, and win  
The heavens' serene abode.

And then I asked for Faith:  
Could I but trust my God,  
I'd live enfolded in his peace,  
Though foes were all abroad.

But now I pray for Love:  
Deep love to God and man;  
A living love that will not fail,  
However dark his plan;

And Light and Strength and Faith  
Are opening everywhere!  
God only waited for me till  
I prayed the larger prayer.

## "WE REFUSE TO GROW UP"

(Continued from page one)

little over 40. Some had jobs and families which enabled them to stretch it a little further, but on the average for those who accept AA "Life *Beg&s* at 40" and for those unfortunates who did not come in contact with AA, Life in most cases, at least theoretically, *Ends* at 40.

I like to think of the time from 20 to 40 as our period of education. Every specialist must spend a certain period under excellent instructors before he is ready to go forth to do the work that God has set aside for him. A doctor of medicine must spend 6 to 8 years, a minister or priest all the way from 4 to 12 years, and a lawyer or chemist a minimum of 4 years.

But none of these have **effectively** been able to consistently arrest alcoholism. God seems to have given that job to us AA's, but first He requires the longest course of education among all the specialists, for it takes most of us 15 to 25 years of drinking to properly prepare ourselves for the work He wishes us to do—that of leading others out of the fog and back to the path of clear thinking and happy living.

Sometimes I think we are inclined to feel that we are among the few unfortunates that cannot live normally among 130 million people in this country, but I feel that we should try to steer our thinking into another **channel**—along the lines that, except in a few isolated cases, we AA's are the individuals chosen by God to learn all the symptoms of the disease so that we have the personal knowledge to successfully apply the remedy for the many thousands who will need our assistance in the future.

It's been a long and tough course, and it all will have been worth while only if we go forth to apply its principles, just as the doctor, the lawyer, the minister or the priest would do in his own field. "Who does God's work will **get** God's pay."

### THE NEW MEMBER

Too often we oldsters in AA forget the fear and trembling with which a new recruit approaches his **first** meeting. This applies especially to the woman, perhaps sponsored by a man, making her initial bow alone in a woman's group. We have forgotten our feelings of a few short years ago. To the new person we are the "initiated." We have a year, two years, four or five behind *us*. She is **only standing** on the threshold—we're in. Our years of sobriety, to her, represent an infinity.

There is no seniority in AA—the program itself is ageless. We are dry only twenty-four hours at a time.

Our only advantage over our newest recruit is a more complete understanding of the program, garnered from our experience, and a wider acquaintanceship among our fellow members—plus, of course, our actual working experience in the field.

This article was prompted by a new member attending her first meeting in the Women's Group a week ago. As she was leaving, she said, "You'll never know what a terrific impression that speaker made on **me—it** was just what I needed at my first meeting." And then, "I've never met so many friendly girls in **my** life; can't believe they ever took a drink. Everyone likes everyone else—you have such fun! Why didn't I know this **years** ago? I never had any friends like that—wish you met **twice** a week!"

Well, let's analyze her remarks. She was impressed by the speaker; he apparently directed a few home truths that night. She enjoyed the spirit of friendliness in the group; drinking companions are never real friends when either of you are sober—indicating her lack of companionship until now. That we have fun is amply attested by our laughter over the coffee cups.

So let's all of us AA's take heed to a bit of spontaneous applause—make the new member feel as though he's wanted. Don't see a new man enter and take a chair without someone speaking to him. Make him want to come back. Make him feel he's a part of the organization. He is, you know. Sybil F.

### ANNIVERSARY SONG AVAILABLE

The author of the song, *Thankful Are We*, which was composed and written especially for the 10th Anniversary Meeting, has published it and it is now available. Price 50 cents per copy. Fine souvenir.

## FAITH

When things run smoothly and life encounters no obstacles it is easy to have faith in God and in man. But it's when troubles assail us, when bitter disappointments, loss of dear ones, loss of jobs or loss of fortune and sickness and debts strike us, that's when our faith is tested and we are measured for the depths our faith has attained.

We recite the Lord's Prayer and in it sometimes too glibly we repeat "Thy will be done" without sensing its portent. In uttering them, do we honestly mean them?

God's ways are inscrutable. In the course of our day we take many things for granted. From habit we exact certain demands. We have become so accustomed to receiving our daily bread—our pay check, our job, our loved ones, our prized possessions, our station in life—all these things we have **earned by ourselves.** (?) Our health, our limbs, our eyes and our **senses**—we take them as a matter of **course**—they're our rightful heritage. (?)

Take any of these away from us. What would our attitude be? Will we revile God or our luck? Will we finally question whether there *is* a God? Many have.

His ways are indeed inscrutable! We must always be prepared to remember this. He brought us close to Himself when He gave us this wonderful second chance through the medium of AA. Read over the Third Step and realize what you offered to do to gain sobriety and learn the new way of life.

We need *Tomorrow* to understand *Today*.

### BEREA THURSDAY

Your editor has attended several meetings of this newly established **group**. Their **beautifully** appointed hall makes an ideal **meeting** place.

At a recent meeting the speaker, Malcolm G., a returned serviceman who had been in AA about four months before he was called to **service**, gave a sterling picture of his life for the past four years! most of it in the army. He told how unstable his **convictions** were and how perilously close he was to returning to his old ways. How he stayed away from drink just to prove to the skeptics that he would not drink as soon as he was on his own, away from AA **influences**. How he finally found real proximity to God in his first foxhole in Normandy, and how this experience finally stayed his courage throughout the next three years. How he learned to obey orders—and how this paid off when he refused to join some of his pals in climbing a rail fence to help themselves to tempting tomatoes in the adjacent farm. How he felt when one of his buddies took the very tomato which his longing eyes had claimed for his own. How that very tomato turned out to be a booby trap planted by the Germans. How, when on a mission, he was urged by his jeep driver to share the tempting bottle of liquor which was handed him by "friendly" natives. How he held to his trust and how grateful he was to his God that He gave him the strength to resist the temptation when he learned later that the liquor was poisoned.

He's back in civilian dress now and anxious to show his appreciation to AA for having shown him the way of life.

### A SMALL WORLD

In the tall corn of Iowa, three Clevelanders on their respective bents of business found themselves registered in the **Tallcorn** Hotel, in Marshalltown, Iowa, in early August.

'Twas indeed a happy **reunion**. The three were well-known Clarence S., Irving M., and W. Roy W.

Clarence and Irwin are **selling** a business course, and Roy was trying to keep people **from** buying too **much** of his limited paper products.

'Tis indeed a small world. Irving and Clarence led the Marshalltown meeting, and in the Camel Club Chronicle (Marshalltown) we read the following comment: "Each talker was sincere—you could see sincerity sticking out all over them."

### AA IN THE PACIFIC

We have been receiving splendid reports about the activity of Bill Shannon in the Pacific jungles, where he has been accomplishing wonders with the AA leaflets and in the meetings he has been conducting in that primitive clime.

One of the returned **servicemen** came to Cleveland, settled here and joined the **group** which Shannon belonged to before entering the **service**. He's waiting for Bill's discharge and is anticipating Bill's facial expression when he comes back to Cleveland.

### CONSOLIDATED MEETINGS

The Committee on Consolidated Meetings is anxious to have the following questions discussed at group meetings, and delegates to Central Committee should come prepared to vote according to their group's instructions.

1. Should Consolidated meetings be continued?
2. Should they be held in afternoon or evening?
3. What time is preferred?
4. How often should they be held-monthly, every other month, quarterly, twice a year or once a year?
5. Should they be held on Sunday?
6. Is the present location satisfactory?
7. Can we count on full support?

The Central Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 4th.

### AA BOWLING LEAGUE

Thirty-two teams will bowl in the 1945-46 AA Bowling League this year, and the gang is looking forward to great fun. Sixteen bowl on Thursday and sixteen on Friday nights. The league starts on September 20th and 21st. Bowling on Franklin Alleys, 1775 W. 26th St.

### SANDUSKY HOSPITAL

Providence Hospital of Sandusky, Ohio, has provided a ward for the treatment of alcoholics only. This was made available on August 15th.

### LAKWOOD

The old "Orchard Grove" group has finally established itself in its new quarters, in the Lakewood Community Center Bldg., corner Detroit Ave. and St. Charles.

Regular meetings will be held in the spacious and comfortable Lounge, but should the crowd develop beyond the capacity of this room, the ballroom is always available.

The first meeting in the new quarters was held August 6th, with a formal opening being held on August 13th. A panel of four speakers held forth on that night.

This group is the mother group of the West Side, and the members feel sure that the new location will spur them on to greater effort.

### GORDON SQUARE

They came from far and near, Clevelanders and out-of-towners, to attend the third anniversary celebration of this live and active group on July 27. 275 were on hand to enjoy the fine meeting and the sumptuous food that followed.

Nearly all of the original members took part. Earl A. was master of ceremonies and was at his usual best, while his side-kick, Howard B., really gave the crowd an impressive talk on the 12th step.

Gordon Square sure "puts out" grand parties.

### COLLINWOOD

The new roster of this large and active group has just been printed, and on the active list are 137 members. Many others are associate members.

Instead of being printed in alphabetical order, the members are listed according to their seniority. Heading the list are Frank McN. and A. T., who joined on July 15, 1941. Others who joined in 1941 are Tom H., J. W., Clara McT., Ace E., Joe D., Peter P., C. P. S., Margie R. and Bob P. The seniority is highly prized, for if anyone has any trouble with the program (has a drink) he is immediately toppled down to the bottom of the list.

Collinwood members have made a considerable contribution to AA's success.

### BORTON

One of our active members, Tom McManus, who has been a faithful member since August, 1940, has just passed away. We are sure his many friends in AA circles will be joining us in grieving his departure.

### BEREA FRIDAY

On Friday, August 24th, the Berea Friday Group will celebrate its fifth anniversary with a meeting in Berea Congregational Church and a banquet.

Warren C., of Mt. Vernon, O., will be master of ceremonies, and the guest speakers will be Wally G. and Bill D., of Akron, O., Bill S., of Newark, O., and Ted W., of Columbus, O. Each will speak for 15 minutes.

This should be a grand occasion.

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Twenty-five Groups answered roll call. Harry S, Chairman, reported for the Summer Camp Committee that this is a very big undertaking. The Committee discussed the problems of age limit of children, competent camp counselors, trained personnel, i. e., dietician, number of children involved, etc. They also discussed the possibilities of the availability of established camp facilities. The Committee will remain open.

Under new business, there was an open discussion of the control, if any, that Central Committee has over anonymity of the AA membership. It was agreed that no roster of AA or any part of it be made available for mailing purposes except by the Secretary of the Group for intergroup-communication, without the consent and approval of Central Committee. It was further agreed that all intragroup communication be made in sealed, plain envelopes.

It was suggested a list be compiled by the secretaries of each group, those members in his group who would be willing to be blood donors in case of an emergency. Where possible, the type of blood should be indicated. This list to be placed in the hands of the secretary of the Cleveland AA office, where it would be available when an emergency arose.

### HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Lou F. has replaced Jack S. on the West Side Hospital Committee. Jack did an excellent and faithful job.

The women members of the committee held a separate session and arrived at a sensible and sane method of hospital procedure. Splendid unity.

All East Side, hospitals were prompt with full reports. Could have better cooperation from the West Side hospitals.

### CARNEGIE HALL

Carnegie Hall Group will have a new and permanent meeting hall, on or about Sent. 1st. We wish to thank the folks who have been patiently attending our meetings each Saturday in the present hall. It was all we could get until our new hall was finished. We can promise you a very pleasant location and atmosphere in our new home. The room number will be 914.

It is our hope to start the fall season with a bevy of outstanding speakers. We again extend our heartiest welcome to all AA's. And, by the way, we are glad to report that C. H. will be represented in the Bowling League this fall.

### DOAN DATA

Bill O'R., the enterprising, ever-smiling and hard-working West Sider, was chairman for July. His enthusiastic and persistent demands for greater interest in the Sunday Training meetings brought wonderful results. All meetings were well attended. Discussions were tops-thorough, varied, educational. The Wednesday meeting speakers were top calibre. They were Tom F., Luther M., Bob S. and Al S. . . . Bill M. is back in circulation again . . . He led two meetings in his first four days home . . . Nice vacation tans on plenty faces . . .

Workhouse visitors are increasing in number . . . fine! There's new interest and new enthusiasm . . . 150 inmates listened to Jim B. of the Eagle and Cedar groups do an outstanding job. Talked straight from the shoulder in language they understood. He was a resident there on three occasions.

### EUCLID-WADE

On August 7th and 14th, Euclid-Wade was privileged to hear two outstanding speakers, Bill D., of Akron, and Warren C., of Mt. Vernon. A large audience benefited from both of these stellar meetings.

### DORCHESTER, MASS., ANNIVERSARY

The first anniversary of the Dorchester, Mass., Group will be celebrated on Thursday, August 30th. Cleveland receives a special invitation.

The principal speaker will be His Excellency, the Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of the Boston Diocese.

For further information write Dorchester AA, P. O. Box 85, Dorchester 24, Boston, Mass.

### MT. PLEASANT MOVES

The newest group in the Cleveland area has moved to a new and more satisfactory location. They have a beautiful spot with all modern conveniences, clean as a pin, speakers' platform, and a fine kitchen.

They're anxious to show you their new quarters. Come out.

### PUBLIC SQUARE GROUP

Circumstances beyond the control of the sponsors of the Public Square Group have caused the temporary closing of this fine group. It was with deep regret that this move had to be made.

Located in Hotel Cleveland, it was host to quite a few out-of-town visitors. Since it was the custom of its sponsors to feed its newest recruits into groups near their own homes, a sizable membership was scarcely possible. When it was even difficult for the sponsors to attend regularly due to other important commitments, it was decided to discontinue the meetings for the time being.

### WOOSTER REORGANIZES

Wooster, Ohio, will hold a reorganization meeting on Thursday, Aug. 23, with the peripatetic and inexhaustible team of Howard B. and Earl A. doing their excellent job of bell-ringing.

### DENISON GROUP MOVES

The meeting place of the Denison Group has been changed to 7403 Denison. They effected this change on August 22.

### A 'WIFE'S SOLILOQUY

Reprinted by many requests.

I'm not an alcoholic, but I'm thankful in my own simple way That God sent a drunkard for me to love, and he made me his bride one day.

God does things in his own strange way, and it's hard to understand

Until you have come to know him and given him your hand. I wish I could tell the whole story, but words could never impart

The emotions I feel within me or the gratitude in my heart. I have known all the hell and heartaches that a drunkard's wife can know,

But I loved him as you would an invalid child, and I couldn't let him go.

I wasn't resentful or bitter but I really thought it unfair That a person as good as I had been should have such a burden to bear.

I thought that I was doing all right, it was only he that was off the beam,

It's strange how we sometimes waken to find that things are not what they seem.

One day along came an ex-drunkard-of course, his name I can't tell.

And he said if my husband would listen, he could tell him how to get well.

The plan was eagerly accepted, and followed almost to a T. I thought it was wonderful what it did for him, but stunned by what it did for me.

How little I dreamed as I followed, down the pathway they laid for him

That my life had been so narrow, and the light of my life so dim.

I thank God for all these ex-drunkards, for they showed me a way of life,

And I'll be eternally grateful that I'm an ex-drunkard's wife.

Yes, God sent a drunkard to love me, and now I realize That what I thought was my burden was my blessing in disguise.

Contributed by Lorain-Avon Group.

We've just heard the silly story about the maniac whose trouble was a cat in his tummy. The feline, he told asylum attendants, tore around inside and clawed him something fierce. One day the poor fellow got a pain—a bad appendix. They operated, and the surgeon figured maybe this was the chance to cure the patient completely. He sent out for a cat—a black one—and when the fellow came out of the ether the doctor held up the animal and said: "You're all right now. Look what we got!" . . . The patient took one look, grabbed his tummy and howled, "You got the wrong cat! The one that's been bothering me is a gray one!"

## CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

### MONDAY

BORTON—13931 Euclid Ave. . . . .	a.45
EAST SIDE WOMEN'S-10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . .	9:00
LAKE WOOD—Community Center Bldg., Detroit Ave. & St. Charles	8:30
LAKE WOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton and Detroit	8:30
LAKE SHORE—Lake Shore Hotel, Dinner at 7.30. Meeting at . . . . .	8:30
LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road . . . . .	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex. W. 120th at Lorain . . . . .	8:30
PEARL—Good Counsel Hall. 4427 Pearl Rd. . . . .	8:30
UNION AVENUE-12907 Union Ave. . . . .	8:30
SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episcopal Church. 8461 Warrensville Center Rd. . . . .	8:30
SOUTH EAST GROUP-10203 Miles Ave. . . . .	8:30
WEST 25TH ST.—Marvel Hall. 2868 W. 26th St. . . . .	8:30
WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church. Willoughby, O. . . . .	8:30
WOMEN'S—West Side, 8701 Detroit Ave. . . . .	8:30

### TUESDAY

BROOKLYN-PARMA- Pearl Rd. . . . .	8:30
EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle. . . . .	8:30
EUCLID-WADE-Emmanuel Church (Rear). 8614 Euclid. . . . .	8:30
MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church. 16615 Kinsman Rd. . . . .	8:30
WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall. Bridge Ave. near W. 33rd	8:30
YOUNG PEOPLE'S-Trouit Meth. Church, Detroit & Winchester	8:30
LORAIN, O.-Community Hall. 23rd and Beech Sts. . . . .	8:00

### WEDNESDAY

BROOKLYN-K. of P. Hall. Broadview and Pearl Rd. . . . .	8:30
COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave. . . . .	8:30
DENISON -7403 Denison Ave. . . . .	8:30
WAN MEN'S—2023 E. 106th St., 2nd floor, side entrance. . . . .	8:45
LEE ROAD—Mayfield and Preyer, Heights Presbyterian Church. . . . .	8:30
BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A. Tarbell Ave. . . . .	8:30
ELYRIA, O.—108 Middle Ave. "On the Square" (3d Floor). . . . .	8:30

### THURSDAY

ARCADE-601 The Arcade (Superior Entrance). . . . .	8:30
BEREA, O.-Fine Arts Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 doors east of Eastland	8:30
GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair. . . . .	8:30
LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Rd. . . . .	8:30
LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex. W. 120th St. at Lorain. . . . .	8:30
WARRENSVILLE. Workhouse Chapel-1st Thurs. each mu. . . . .	7:00 P.M.
AINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor. . . . .	8:30
LORAIN, O.-Antlers Hotel . . . . .	8:30

### FRIDAY

CEDAR-Salvation Army, 2181 E. 66th St. . . . .	7:30
GORDON SQUARE-People's Meth. Church. W. 66th & Bridge Ave.	8:30
LEE ROAD—1637 Lee Road . . . . .	8:30
ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview off Detroit Rd.	8:30
NORTHEAST-2028 E. 105th St. . . . .	8:30
AVON LAKE-1112 W. Erie St. Lorain, O. . . . .	8:30
BEREA—Social room of Berea Cong. Church, Seminary and Church Sta. . . . .	8:30
EUCLID, O.-St. Paul's Church E. 200th St. off Clair. . . . .	8:00

### SATURDAY

CARNEGIE HALL—914 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Rd. . . . .	8:45
GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair. . . . .	8:30
W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road . . . . .	8:00

### SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue . . . . .	7:80
DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 106th St. . . . .	3:00
PARKWOOD-Glenville AA Hall. 10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . .	9:00
SPONSORSHIP MEETING-Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . .	2:00

### 1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building Room 370. . . . .	8:30
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### MORNING MEETINGS

Monday Mornings	
BOLTON SQUARE-2028 E. 106th St. . . . .	10:00 A. M.
Wednesday Mornings	
COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave. . . . .	10:00 A. M.
Thursday Mornings	
WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave. . . . .	10:00 A. M.
Friday Mornings	
SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair. . . . .	8:00 A. M.
Breakfast 8:00 A. M.—Meeting 9:00 A. M.	

### LIST OF APPROVED AA HOSPITALS

Bender's (Meirose 1635) . . . . .	8023 Detroit Ave.
Charity Hospital (Main 9400) . . . . .	Central & E. 22nd St.
Deaconess Evangelical Hospital (Florida 0070) . . . . .	4233 Pearl Road
East Cleveland Clinic (Glenville 3244) . . . . .	13240 Euclid Ave.
Emergency Clinic (Glenville 4400) . . . . .	928 E. 162nd St.
Farquharson's (Shadyside 8374) . . . . .	6037 Pearl Road
Kath. Kilbane's Nursing Home (Women) (CL. 6969) 14401 Gramatan Ave.	
Martha Irwin's . . . . .	Mentor 0. P.O. Box 122
Nottingham Hospital (Ivanhoe 0133) . . . . .	18920 Nottingham Road
Betty Smith's (Shadyside 4692) . . . . .	3480 Scranton Road
Webster's (Express 0180) . . . . .	3730 Euclid Ave.
W. 89th St. Nursing Home (Woodbine 4870) . . . . .	2240 W. 89th St.

# CENTRAL BULLETIN

UNSELFISHNESS • HONESTY  
PURITY • LOVE  
A.A.

VOL. III-No. 12

435 WILLIAMSON BLDG., CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

September, 1945

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## Editorial—The Returned Soldier

Alcoholics among the returned soldiers remind us that the army doesn't know how to deal with alcoholism. The army doesn't care particularly about that. It can get enough men without bothering with personnel headaches.

Alcoholics among returned soldiers also remind us that alcoholics are alcoholics in war or in peace but that alcoholics in war are likely to have aggravated symptoms of self pity and childish egotism. They want us to understand how they have suffered, and how little they have been appreciated.

War is tough, particularly the shooting part of war. And among soldiers, grousing is part of the life. But most soldiers, called upon to play the part of men, are men, both in action and out of action, in the army and out of the army. They have done what the situation demanded of them, which was to be better men than the enemy, and they know that their services have been fully appreciated. They are prepared to re-enter civil life as men, expecting no special sympathy? no special consideration, no kowtowmg. They do not believe that the world owes them a living without effort nor that their experiences repeals all the rules of conduct in civilized society.

Some, of course, fall short. Some never became men. Some never learned to be co-operative, or to help others.

And some of these cases of arrested development have taken flight in alcohol in a permanent crying jag.

There may be an occasional exception among such alcoholics, some who were men and still became alcoholic. But those exceptions will also prove exceptions in the particulars of self pity. They will not be whining for sympathy because of their military experience.

It may be well for sponsors dealing with soldier alcoholics to dry their tears and get down to realities. Treatment of such alcoholics may differ from the treatment of others in this respect, that it needs to be firmer, and needs to strike right at the heart of self pity.

Since most soldier alcoholics are young, and have gained in the army the notion that anything that they can "promote" is legitimate, sponsors may find themselves with many a "headache" case.

### THE BULLETIN

This issue, belated though it is in coming to you, completes its third year of publication. Little did we realize when we started this humble little sheet that it would grow into the proportions that it has assumed.

The editors are conscious of their deep responsibility in holding a definite course in the editorial and news policy. We try to avoid any thing controversial, we grind no axes, wash no dirty linen and try each month to present a paper truly representative of all AA.

We thank our subscribers for their support. We're still in the hole financially, but a hundred or more subscribers will solve that.

## Are We Being Regimented?

A lot of silly rumors are being heard here and there about AA being absorbed and regimented by welfare organizations, the Yale Foundation, the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol, the W. C. T. U., the Anti-Saloon League, and many groups are being rabble-roused to their own detriment by having a herring passed under their noses that these organizations are endeavoring to take us over and exploit us.

Now we hold no brief for these organizations. Each have their purpose and let us be honest and charitable and be-

lieve their purposes to be to help find the answer to the age-old problem of the causes and prevention of alcoholism. We should know *All* about them before we jump to erroneous conclusions and go into a tizzy and elaborate on our fears at meetings, start rumors and generally disturb our placid setup.

We ourselves wonder why so many members of AA are spending so much time in trying to find out *why* they are alcoholics. Why we become so could and should be analyzed only so as to forestall any recurrence of slothful habits, careless disregard of common-sense thinking and living.

I stay sober because I *know* I'm an alcoholic and if I spend too much time in analyzing how I became one, I might begin thinking that if I avoided certain haunts and controlled my desires and being fortified with a complete knowledge of myself—thanks to AA—I could "graduate" and maybe become a social drinker again.

We've seen that happen so often that it is necessary to mention it time and time again. Don't compare your capacity with that astounding character who drank twice or three times what you did, and feel a glow of self-righteousness that you weren't the louse he was.

Remember, that when you joined AA, you were licked by alcohol. You were powerless over it. Your life had become unmanageable. AA had the answer for you and so long as you live you cannot take another drink. Know that—believe it with all your heart—and you'll stay sober.

So, getting back to what prompted this article. Respect the work these agencies are doing for society. Certainly they can't do any harm. They can't help us stay sober. During our drinking career they existed and we still got drunk.

They need our advice and counsel. Our duty is to stand ready with our experience and our advice to aid those who come to them for help. They know we have the answer. We are past receiving help from them and it's our Christian duty to give them the benefit of our therapy—if they want it. Some do.

Seems, to us that those AA's who are ever suspicious of the motives of the above mentioned organizations and their ilk, are acting contrary to their own teaching. Having found the answer, we must share it. We have no patent rights.

Troubles are like babies—the more you nurse them, the larger they grow.

### THOSE WE LOVE

They say the world is round and yet  
I often think it square,

So many little hurts we get

From corners here and there;  
But there's one truth in life I've  
found

While journeying East and West,  
The only folks we really wound  
Are those we love the best.

We flatter those we scarcely know,  
We please the fleeting guest,  
And deal full many a thoughtless  
blow

To those we love the best.

CONSOLIDATED MASS MEETING . . 4 P. M., SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st

BALL ROOM OF CLEVELAND HOTEL — PAUL S. of Akron, Speaker

Meetings every third Sunday in the month until June—Warren C. of Mt. Vernon, speaker, Nov. 18th

## "LET THEM HAVE CAKE"

These dramatic words were spoken selfishly, and I hope unthinkingly, by the vain, pretentious Marie Antoinette, Queen of France-spoken when the cold, hungry hordes of Parisians clamored at the gates of the palace crying for bread to fill their empty stomachs.

For years we too, clamored at the gates of human society begging but a sup, to fill our inner needs. And we remained empty until the crust of AA was thrown to us. How avidly we reached for it, what a great need it filled.

After we were, immediate appetite was sated, some of us still looked longingly at the cake, so gratuitously offered. Our immediate needs fulfilled, we hungered for that sweet. We forgot the staff of life which had nurtured us, and longed for the delicacies so temptingly within our reach.

Why did we yearn for the cake instead of the plain, sustaining fare?

Our systems were whole and well again-our children no longer hungry. Now the inner man could be pampered. Perhaps he had been fed too long on a plain diet. Now, was the time to give ourselves that extra treat our bodies craved. So we ate of the cake.

Yes, and the extra treat no longer satisfied us. We wanted that, and more, which had we begged at the palace gate and a glimpse into the fabulous courtyard and palace beyond. The headiness of the wine-filled cake permeated our brains, we lost control of our reason and fled with the mob into the palace. It had always been a holy of holies. Now we were bent on wrecking and tearing everything within our reach. When the cold dawn showed the gutted, empty rooms, sanity returned and we shamefacedly made our way into the empty streets. We looked back on the dim gray palace-monument of our fondest dreams which by torchlight had been a thing of priceless beauty. We looked back-should we march on drunken and despondent pillaging and looting? Or should we call in the greatest Artist of all time to make it live and breathe again?

Sybil F. ,

## WHEN GOD GOES ALONG

*"Have Z not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord, thy God, is with thee whithersoever thou goest."*  
Joshua 1:9.

What more could a man want than that? From God's own lips to receive assurance that He will walk along beside us on the way, that is more than we have any right to expect. Heavy responsibilities had been placed upon the shoulders of Joshua, the successor to Moses as the leader of the chosen people, as they stood on the border of the land of promise. As a warrior leader, Joshua knew that there were difficult, hard, testing days ahead for him and his people. But God gave him the gracious promise that He would go along.

God wants to go along with us on our way. He isn't only a God for the day when the rain falls and the sky is dark, nor a God who wants to walk beside us only when the sun is shining and flowers blooming along the way. He wants to be with us wherever we are and whithersoever we might go. And there is something deep down inside all of us which calls for such assurance. We want to know that He is near to bless us with His love and to carry us in His strong arm. It makes all the difference in the world as far as our attitudes, hopes, ideals, conduct, and way of life are concerned to know that, come what may, God always stands beside, before, above, and around us. If He could go to such inexhaustible limits to show His love to us by sending His Son to be our great Savior, then there are no limits to the things which He can and will do for us as we walk along life's way.

## LIST OF APPROVED AA HOSPITALS

Bender's (Melrose 1636) .....	8023 Detroit Ave.
Charity Hospital (Main 9406).....	Central & E. 22nd St.
Deaconess Evangelical Hospital (Florida 0070).....	4233 Pearl Road
East Cleveland Clinic (Glenville 3244).....	13240 Euclid Ave.
Emergency Clinic (Glenville 4400).....	928 E. 152nd St.
Farquharson's (Shadyside 8374).....	6037 Pearl Road
Kath. Kilbane's Nursing Home (Women) (OR. 1281) 14401	Gramatan Ave.
Martha Irwin's.....	Mentor O., P.O. Box 122
Nottingham Hospital (Ivanhoe 0133).....	18920 Nottingham Road
Betty Smith's (Shadyside 4692).....	3480 Scranton Road
Webster's (Express 0180).....	3730 Euclid Ave.
W. 89th St. Nursing Home (Woodbine 4870).....	2240 W. 89th St.
West Park Home (Clearwater 9057).....	15150 Lorain Ave.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Twenty-six groups answered roll call at the September 4th meeting of Central Committee.

The Hospital Committee made a plea for stricter observance of hospitalization procedure. There have been too many non-AA visitors-too many personal telephone calls-visitors staying too long. The hospital agencies are embarrassed in asking people to leave. Sponsors lax in informing relatives of the 5-day isolation.

The 10th Anniversary Committee reported the accorded discourses given at the 10th anniversary meeting were being edited and compiled for distribution. More definite information will be given at the October meeting.

The Consolidated Meetings Committee reported that it was the consensus of opinion that the meetings should be continued at the time and place to which we have been accustomed. Referred to groups for final action.

## SANDUSKY

On the evening of September 26th the newly formed Sandusky Group held its first meeting under the most favorable of auspices. Everyones fondest hopes were exceeded when a capacity crowd of 200 or more gathered in the beautiful Assembly Room at Providence Hospital.

Representatives from many groups were present, the largest being a band of 50 or more who arrived from Toledo in a chartered bus. The gasoline strike didn't deter them. Other groups represented were Berea, Lakewood, Cleveland, Bellevue, Norwalk, Vermilion, Oberlin, Lorain. The ever-sharp Jack S. of the Lakewood Men's Group led the meeting.

The Erie County sheriff was an invited guest and be-moaned the fact that he was probably losing a lot of customers. A copy of the "big book" was given to the Sister Superior of the hospital with the admonition that she was to read it not for her own good but for the good of others whom she will doubtless help. A lovely bouquet was a gift from Vern B. who came with his bodyguards, Howard B. and Earl A.

Much credit is due Providence Hospital for their generous co-operation in launching this new group and the help and inspiration of the Bellevue, Norwalk and Toledo groups. Orchids are in order for "Chuck" C., the energetic and enthusiastic secretary of this new group. He is a tireless worker and despite his newness in the movement, no one exceeds him in ardor.

Of course there was a splendid feed served by the surprised ladies who didn't expect such a large gathernig. As usual at all A.A. meetings there was plenty for all.

Good luck, Sandusky. We'll be seeing you.

## DORCHESTER ANNIVERSARY

The Boston newspapers gave the first anniversary meeting of this group considerable publicity. Several hundred attended and heard Archbishop Cushing of the Boston Diocese give a stirring address in which he recalled the example of Matt Talbot who although a confirmed alcoholic at the age of 12 had abstained totally for 40 years prior to his death in Dublin, Ireland, in 1925. He cured himself of the habit by applying the principles which AA espouses.

We liked the following excerpt from the newspaper account appearing in the Boston Post:

"A worker in a powder factory cannot risk a single smoke without exposing the plant and the lives of all the workers to the imminent peril of destruction. Like a powder magazine ready to explode at the slightest provocation is the appetite which we are seeking to tame in setting up a habit of total abstinence which ; uns counter to the gratification previously allowed.

"The importance of guarding against the slightest exception is in proportion to the violence of our craving. If we have submitted to excess in the past, then it becomes doubly important for us to spurn a compromise and to declare war to the finish. Deeply grained in our nervous system, the habit can be dislodged from its tyrannical throne only by complete and unconditional rebellion. Every slip can deepen its control, dissipate the effort to resist, and engender a sense of hopelessness in prolonging the futile struggle."

A beautifully printed booklet was issued containing the Archbishop's address. It is indeed a credit to the AA's of Boston.

## NEW GROUPS IN CLEVELAND

A surprisingly large crowd turned out to officially open the Broadway-55th Group at Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall, at Broadway and E. 55th Sts. The group meets every Thursday. Ed. V. is secretary.

A new group, titled the Newburgh Group, held its first meeting, Friday, August 24th, in Church of Nativity of Blessed Virgin, located at 9619 Aetna Rd. Bill McC., John F. and James M., are the original charter members of the group which now comprises twelve. Bill M. was the first leader and wowed a crowd of 80 people which attended the opening. Good territory and able and willing workers. Easily-accessible.

The Chagrin Falls Group opened recently and meets on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 in the American Legion Hall on East Orange St. Joe W., is secretary.

## PUBLIC SQUARE RE-OPENS

It took two months to prove that the suspension of activities of Public Square Group was a mistake.

Always a popular group, composed of AA's who were members of neighborhood groups, it needed only a guiding hand. This guiding hand is quite a fistful, He's Doc C. C. H., the noted optician.

The reopening of the group will be held on Tuesday, October 2nd, with the inimitable and doughty Harry R. as speaker.

There is a definite need for this downtown group which has been the mecca for many out of town visitors staying at hotels. Lots of success to you, Doc.

## CLEVELANDER ADDRESSES BIRMINGHAM

Three hundred and fifty people of Birmingham, Alabama, came at hand last month to hear Jim C., the eminent candidate for judgeship, give a non-political talk. From what we hear he did himself proud. Even the mayor of the town attended.

He and his sponsor were provided with airplane transportation by the Birmingham AA enthusiasts, some of whom attended the Tenth Anniversary celebration in Cleveland and heard Jim lead at the Glenville Group.

## BEREA FRIDAY

'Twas a grand celebration that Berea had on August 24th at its fifth anniversary meeting.

The festivities started with a fine supper, prepared by the Berea Methodist Orphan's (or Children's) Home staff. The food was delicious and there was plenty for everyone.

There were a few short talks and such a fine spirit pervaded the room that plans are now being considered for having bi-monthly affairs of a similar nature in the future.

The anniversary meeting was held in the Congregational Church, Seminary and Church Sts. at 8:30 P. M.

Speakers were Bill D. and Wally G. of Akron, Bob B. of Mansfield, and Ted W. of Columbus. Harry R. was master of ceremonies. It was indeed a pleasurable occasion.

## BORTON GROUP

One hundred people attended the annual breakfast of the Borton Group, in Welsh Woods, which is a part of the Metropolitan Park System on Sunday, August 26th. Breakfast was served at 9:00 o'clock and for the late risers was continued to one o'clock. Melon, eggs and bacon comprised the menu and of course, the inevitable AA steaming good coffee.

Felix R. was officially in charge, but we notice that his good wife did the actual work. "The coat and pants do all the work and the vest gets all the gravy" is an old adage, and most certainly applies here. But Felix did buy the materials and cart them out.

Two games of baseball were played. Tremendous competition. Jack D., professional of Euclid-Wade, was specially imported by one of the sides to play centerfield, but only lasted one game. Incidentally he might as well have eaten his breakfast at home.

## WEST SIDE WOMEN INVITE

An open meeting will be held by the West Side Women's Group on Monday, October 22nd at 8:30 P. M., at the Republican Club, 8701 Detroit Avenue.

A feature of this meeting will be a round-table discussion with a panel of four outstanding Cleveland women AA's.

All men AA's and their wives are urged to attend.

## DOAN DATA

Tom D., long an active member of our group (2% years) was chairman for August and held up the excellent standard established in the past months. Many members of other groups have brought their new men to our meetings, probably in order for them to get the feel of things. We encourage this. It ties in with our Sunday Training idea. The speakers for August were James B., Howard B., and Roy W. (who twin-billed on their 3rd anniversaries), Bill T., Earl S. and Jack D. incidentally, Jack D. attracted an audience of 165.

Our quarter were open on unofficial V-J day and the day after (August 14 and 15) and many expressed gratitude that this haven was available when the local populace lowered its standards of propriety in celebrating the momentous day.

The September meeting ended two years of highly successful operation of the Warrensville Workhouse experiment. That it has been successful can be attested to by the goodly number who have learned their lesson and have not made a return trip-completely rehabilitated and good citizens. Other benefits have been gained by the regular devotees to this work who have broadened their outlook and who have cemented their hold on the AA program mainly through their work at the workhouse. Incidentally, throughout the two years there wasn't a single instance of rowdyism or disrespect at any of the many meetings. Felix R. was the September speaker, and was accompanied by 30 AA's, 140 inmates. hot and crowded-but they attended and listened.

## EUCLID-WADE

Cleveland will lose one of its most colorful characters and one of its most popular leaders when Dick S. leaves to take up his work in Chicago. Cleveland's loss is Chicago's gain.

Dick will speak at the Euclid-Wade regular meeting on Tuesday, October 16th at 8:30 P. M., and a capacity crowd is expected to bid him farewell. Doc S., of Akron, will preside.

An indefatigable worker with sound AA principles, he has contributed greatly to Cleveland's success. He was chairman of the 10th Anniversary meeting, held on June 10th, and the smoothness of its operation attested to his ability.

Euclid-Wade invites all groups to come to the meeting.

## LAKWOOD MEN'S GROUP

Lakewood Men's Group celebrated its second anniversary with an elaborate banquet, and lowered its ban on women (or should we say; lifted?) by "permitting" the wives to participate. The goodly crowd were treated to an outstanding talk by the gracious Doc T. who never gave a better talk on AA than this one.

The extremely active secretary and co-founder of this sharp group, Jack S., was presented with a monetary gift. Whether this affected him or not is not known, but in the next meeting he asked to be relieved from his duties. He was, with extreme reluctance and capable Bill B. was named secretary and is now functioning well. (That colorful B. does not stand for Blue or Black.)

## LAKWOOD WOMEN

The Lakewood Women's Group wish to announce that due to the illness of Mrs. Irene Hirsch, who has for the past 4% years operated the Hirsch's Rest Home for AA women, will be closed until further notice. We all pray for a speedy recovery for her.

The group will continue to meet at the home 12214 Detroit Ave., for their Wednesday meetings. Starting the first of September, the first meeting of the month will be an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## HOWARD GALLAGHER

The many friends of Howard Gallagher, associate member of the Lee Road Wednesday Group, were saddened to hear of his death on August 23rd.

Possessing an angelic disposition, as one member put it, he attended AA meetings, worked on AA Committees and was a good moral force in many cases. Not an alcoholic, he nevertheless lived the AA program and advocated it wherever he went. He'll be sorely missed.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

MONDAY

Table listing meetings for Monday in Cleveland, including BORTON-13981 Euclid Ave., EAST SIDE WOMEN'S-10421 St. Clair Ave., LAKEWOOD-Community Center Bldg., etc.

TUESDAY

Table listing meetings for Tuesday in Cleveland, including BROOKLYN-PARXA-4427 Pearl Rd., EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle, etc.

WEDNESDAY

Table listing meetings for Wednesday in Cleveland, including BROOKLYN-K. of P. Hall, Broadway and Pearl Rd., COLLINGWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave., DWISON-7403 Denison Ave., etc.

THURSDAY

Table listing meetings for Thursday in Cleveland, including ARCADE-901 The Arcade (Superior Entrance), BEREAA-O.Fine AM Club, E. Bagley Rd., etc.

FRIDAY

Table listing meetings for Friday in Cleveland, including CEDAR-Salvation Army, 2131 E. 66th St., GORDON SQUARE-People's Meth. Church, W. 66th & Bridge Ave., etc.

SATURDAY

Table listing meetings for Saturday in Cleveland, including CARNEGIE HALL-914 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Rd., GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair, etc.

SUNDAY

Table listing meetings for Sunday in Cleveland, including COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue, DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 105th St., etc.

1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTE

Table listing meetings for 1st Tuesday Every Month, including CENTRAL COMMITTEE-Hanna Building Room 370.

MORNING MEETINGS

Table listing morning meetings, including BOLTON SQUARE-2028 E. 106th St., COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave., WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave., etc.

OUT OF TOWN MEETINGS

MONDAY

Table listing meetings out of town for Monday, including AKRON, O.-Men's Group, N. Main St., ASHTABULA, O.-Linne Hall, 8403 Station Ave., etc.

TUESDAY

Table listing meetings out of town for Tuesday, including AKRON, O., Morning, 897 E. Market St., AKRON, O., St. Vincent High School Auditorium, etc.

WEDNESDAY

Table listing meetings out of town for Wednesday, including AKRON GROUP NO. I-King School, W. Tallmadge at Aqueduct Street, BEAVER PA., Beaver Valley Group, etc.

THURSDAY

Table listing meetings out of town for Thursday, including BUFFALO, N. Y.-Johnson Park Group, 95 Johnson Park., BUFFALO, N. Y.-Tonawanda Group, 116 Tremont St., etc.

FRIDAY

Table listing meetings out of town for Friday, including AKRON, O., Night Group, Firestone Local Hall, AKRON, O., Noon Group, De Luca's Bismark Cafe, etc.

SATURDAY

Table listing meetings out of town for Saturday, including CINCINNATI, O.-626 Broadway, Room 230, CUYAHOGA FALLS-2160 Front Street, etc.

SUNDAY

Table listing meetings out of town for Sunday, including AKRON, O.-N. Main St., Opp. St. Thomas Hospital, ASHTABULA, O.-Linne Hall, 8403 Station Ave., etc.



# CENTRAL BULLETIN



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## Editorial—The Check Up

We came into AA as wrecks in self management! We had rebelled against society, sometimes with cause enough to make us want to rebel; we had given ourselves free rein, with no check upon our desires. Most of us never found what we were looking for and the maddening frustration made us even more rebellious. We flung ourselves blindly along the broad, downward path, and we wound up in a heap, helpless, and hopeless.

Sometimes we tried. Even though we rebelled, we knew the responsibilities that adult human beings have in life, and while we resented bitterly the condemnation of others, we knew in our hearts that the blame was merited.

But our wills had been on a binge, too. Our wills were very sick. We could not make decisions and enforce them. Our alcohol-hungry nerves carried us where our minds said we would not go. Trial and failure unnerved us even more. Of all human experiences, frustration can be the worst. When it involves the vital concerns of life, when the mind can find no solutions, when the will cannot function, we reach a state of collapse.

Those around us condemned us for not using our wills but once we had reached the state where others were beginning to condemn us, we no longer could use our wills and the, harder we tried the worse we got.

AA offered us a hand. We needed just one act of the will, to grasp that hand. Others had said, "You must do so and so", and they frequently said so in obvious annoyance. AA tells a story. Then it says, "We have found a way; you can walk along with us, if you like".

In the time of our collapse when our wills can do nothing, AA shows us the things to do, in the collective experiences and acts of its members. The individual finds his help in the group. Here we learn to stand and to walk again, to have confidence in ourselves in a new way, to gain self respect.

Groups of people are not necessarily good. They can be gathered for bad purposes. They can be of divided aims and full of frustrations. They can meet solely for pleasure.

Our groups meet for mutual help in the solution of personal problems. We seek what is good, and we look upward to the Source of what is good. Having flouted the rules of conduct that have kept men out of trouble for centuries, we strive to observe those rules. The group strives to observe the rules and asks help from the source of those rules.

Thus, the group has a confession of faith. Our help is in the Supreme Power. We do not ask the individual making his initial contact with the group to stand before us and make a confession of faith. Most alcoholics at the time they are ready for the help of AA have rejected the Supreme Power, for a variety of reasons. We simply say, we have help, you are welcome to walk with us.

(Continued on page two)

## The Ladies Have It!

We are humbly admitting in this column that we were guilty of grossly underestimating the ability of the women AA's of Cleveland insofar as their comprehension of the program was concerned.

We attended the annual open meeting of the West Side Women's Group which was held on Monday, October 22nd at the Republican Club, 8701 Detroit Avenue, which is the regular meeting place of this group.

A mixed crowd of possibly 100 people listened to a panel of four women give their answers to 30 questions submitted by members of the audience—and these women scintillated! There was a fine mixture of humor and good solid AA philosophy which held the interest of everyone there. And the answers were sound and to the point.

We wish we could report all of the questions and all of the answers but space does not permit. We did absorb enough material to prepare three or four editorials in future issues.

For instance the question, "Is it more difficult for a woman to become a successful AA than for a man"? One of the women answered that it was her belief that most men received 100% cooperation at home—that the families of men alcoholics were more inclined to forgive—that women were inclined to lose more self-respect than men and therefore faced a less tolerant world.

On the question "How many meetings a week should a woman attend", the answer applied, we believe, to men also. The speaker said, that after having analyzed herself and her life, she realized that she had to secure a *balanced life* in her home, her work and in AA. To secure peace of mind she dared not neglect any of these three which were vital to her. Over indulgence in any of them was wrong and disturbing, so she quietly and sanely put her house in order and enjoyed all three, not being excessive in any.

On the question "Which are more important—the Twelve Steps or the Four Absolutes", the very sensible answer was "The Four Absolutes are our goal. Perfection never will be attained by anyone. The Twelve Steps are sign posts on the way of attaining the Four Absolutes."

We must here insert the observation that Kate N. sagely made: "We're all queer, but some of us show it more than others."

On the difficulty that some have in holding on to the program Kate N. gave her conception of the AA program. She compared the program to a jigsaw puzzle. The many pieces come in a box which shows the completed picture. By spending the necessary time you can fit all the pieces together and get a complete picture. If you neglect to insert any pieces or toss some aside or lose some or lose interest in the puzzle you don't complete the picture. As in AA, if you don't accept all of the Twelve Steps and fall down on

(Continued on page two)

CONSOLIDATED MASS MEETING. . 4 P. M., SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18  
BALL ROOM OF CLEVELAND HOTEL -Warren C. of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Speaker  
Meetings every third Sunday in the month until June -No meeting will be held in December

## EDITORIAL—THE CHECKUP

(Continued from page one)

A great and learned saint (Thomas Aquinas) said that the Supreme Power does three things for us. First, he corrects us; next, he instructs us; and finally, he takes us unto himself.

Our first contact with AA is the stage of correction, and at this stage it usually is true that the only help a man recognizes is the help of these other alcoholics. Instruction follows quickly, and here we learn that older members of the group have turned their hearts and minds to the higher Source of help. They follow an old teaching and talk with the Supreme Power in secret. The individual can do as he chooses, but he observes that those who have made the most progress, who have attained the greatest peace of mind, who are most generous in their attitude toward others are those who have placed themselves in the hands of the Supreme Power. When he turns to the Supreme Power in secret, to talk over his faults and to ask for help, he experiences relief and knows that he has received help.

### EVIL IS SELF-DESTRUCTIVE

Life becomes tangled up if one tries to act in some other way than the right way.

Evil tangles every situation, for evil is against the nature of reality. Therefore, to try to straighten out a situation by an evil is only to entangle it the more. Therefore, evil is not only evil — it is stupid. Somebody has suggested that the word "evil" is the word "live" spelled backward. It is. Evil is the will to live put into reverse; it is life turning against itself. Man's nature is allergic to evil. Evil is the way man's nature is not made to work. In evil, life desires to gain freedom, but gains only the freedom to destroy itself. It runs away from salvation! It revolts against life!

Some school boys were allowed to take a slot machine apart to study its inner workings. They found that the machine in its inner constitution was made to yield up only one dime in ten to the players. The players might fuss and fume and call on Lady Luck, but in the end there would be but one result — and only one result — one dime in ten was the average. Luck wasn't against them — it was the machine. So every morning the machine would be empty and every night it would be full. Men had figured it out scientifically by the law of averages and had built that knowledge into the machine. Anyone who tries to beat that machine is not merely bad — he's just a fool!

Every sinner therefore turns out to be one thing and one thing alone — a problem to himself and others. God has us hooked — we cannot revolt against Him without revolting against ourselves. If you clash with God, you clash with yourself. The attempt to disprove this statement has filled the world with human wreckage.

Every man who tries it, thinks that he will be an exception.

There are no exceptions.

—E. Stanley Jones in *Abundant Living*.

### FAREWELL TO DICK

Representatives from virtually all groups in Ohio, some from Indiana and fellows from each of the Cleveland Groups gathered Tuesday night, October 16th, in tribute to Dick S., at Euclid-Wade's farewell party in his honor in Emmanuel church, 8614 Euclid. More than 500 attended.

Bill M. was chairman. The introductory message was delivered by Doc S., of Akron, who eulogized Dick for his untiring efforts in rehabilitation and in furthering the aims of the organization.

Dick, who transferred to Chicago, praised the Cleveland organization's progress and compared it favorably with the Akron and New York groups, in both of which he had been active before coming to Cleveland.

At the close of the honor guest's address, he was presented with a watch and scroll in appreciation of his work in AA.

### BUFFALO CELEBRATES

Buffalo celebrated its fourth anniversary on Sunday, September 23rd, with a banquet at 5:00 P. M. in the ballroom of Buffalo Hotel. We're sorry the Bulletin was unable to announce this event so more Clevelanders could have attended.

## THE LADIES HAVE IT

(Continued from page one)

the Absolutes you're not making the successful AA picture for yourself.

"What do you do when your interest begins to wane?" The answers-were-attend-twice as many meetings, listen with an open mind, keep yourself active, take someone you trust into your confidence, work. There is no monotony if you follow the 24-hour plan.

There were other questions and other fine answers.

The panel consisted of Kate N., Katherine R., Billy O'D, and Elizabeth B., with Billy P. as M.C. Evelyn P. presided as secretary. As we stated in our opening paragraph we have been guilty of grossly underestimating the ability of women speakers. We men thought we knew all the answers. We humbly apologize, ladies.

### UNFAITHFUL IN SPIRIT

Sad to relate, we find at the time of this writing that the word UNFAITHFULNESS, when applied to marital relationship, has come to mean an out-of-bounds love affair. Should we approach a wife or husband and accuse them of being unfaithful, they would immediately bridle and deny it with righteous indignation. Perhaps they have violated no laws, but they have been unfaithful, just the same. Unfaithful in SPIRIT. Either party may "be the alcoholic, or perhaps both. Yet, one or the other may not be willing to make the necessary sacrifices for him or her to maintain sobriety. A secret grudge or a withering attitude can take the substance out of life; providing, of course, that mutual love and affection still exist, without rancor, without resentment, without pain.

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The meeting of October 2, found sixteen groups answering the roll call. It was reported that Roger C. would fill the place left vacant on the committee by Harry D., who was forced to resign due to other pressing business.

St. Alexis Hospital now accepts AA patients on the usual basis. The AA room of Charity Hospital is again functioning. First timers only, will be admitted to the West Park Home.

The West 89th St. Nursing Home has been granted hospitalization recognition by the state.

Consolidated meetings will be held the third Sunday of each month at 4:00 o'clock at Hotel Cleveland. Consolidated meeting committee will serve for one year.

Suggestions and literature are to be forwarded to the Beaumont, Texas Group, at their request, to aid in the establishment of their new Group. The progress of AA in Cleveland has appealed to this assemblage.

### CEDAR GROUP DINNER

Organized just a year ago on November 10th, the Cedar Group has grown from a mere handful of less than 10 persons to the respectable total of 73. 26 of whom live at the Salvation Army Home. The enthusiasm of this group is great and they attribute a great deal of this to the interest evidenced in them by the many AA's in other Cleveland groups who have helped them with advice and energy.

On Saturday, November 10th a Turkey Dinner will be served at Masonic Temple, E. 36th and Euclid at 6:30 p. m. Cost is \$2.00 per plate. An interesting program has been prepared with several outstanding speakers.

The group has had four deaths among its membership during the past year. They were Jos. Zumac, John H. Jones, Wm. Davis and James McArthur. May their souls rest in peace. Thank God that they found a measure of happiness before they passed to their reward.

Another member, Jos. Scanlan is confined at City Hospital with tuberculosis. We ask the AA's of Cleveland to visit him.

### NEW NURSING HOME

Another nursing home has been opened on the West Side on September 9th. Owned and operated by Bill Morris under the name of West Park Home, it is located at 15150 Lorain Ave. Accommodations for men only.

## COLUMBUS TREK

The combined Columbus AA groups are holding their Fourth Annual Founders Day Meeting and Banquet on Sunday, November 11, 1945, in the Mam Ballroom of the Deshler-Wallick Hotel.

Following the custom adopted last year the meeting will be held promptly at 3:30 p. m. with Jack D. of Cleveland as our speaker. There will be a short intermission after the meeting and the banquet will be served at 5:30 p. m. It is not necessary to attend the banquet in order to participate in the rest of the program. The tickets for the banquet will be \$2.25 each including sales tax, tips, etc.

This annual meeting has become a gala affair in Central Ohio and we cordially extend an invitation to our many Cleveland friends to join us this day.

The meeting is for AA members, their families, and invited guests. Reservations for the banquet must be made by November 5, 1945.

## LORAIN AVE.-MONDAY

Attendance figures have jumped sharply at recent meetings due in the greater part, to the appearance of a gratifying number of new faces.

An attractive program has been arranged for the annual Hallowe'en Party to be held at the Group Hall, Monday evening, October 29. Come one, come all!

## 8005 GROUP

A new mixed group which meets on Saturday evenings at 8:30 p. m., has been formed. They meet at 8005 Lorain Avenue. Refreshments are served, of course. AA's are welcome.

## HALLOWE'EN PARTY

The old witch on her broom, the hob-goblins and the jack-o'-lanterns will be honored guests Saturday night, October 27th, at the third annual Hallowe'en party of the Euclid-Wade group in the recreation room of Emmanuel church, 8614 Euclid.

Music, dancing, games and entertainment are promised by the committee, which has worked hard to make this event as successful as its previous parties. Topping the list of door prizes is a beautiful, fluorescent desk lamp. The party will be capped with a supper which will feature steak-burgers, pumpkin pie and sweet (?) cider.

## AA GROUPS OF LORAIN COUNTY

Our Annual Hallowe'en Party will be held on Wednesday evening, October 31st, at 8 p. m. There will be fun for all including dancing with Jackson's Orchestra, entertainment, prizes for costumes, etc. Masking is optional.

A short meeting will precede festivities.

Our monthly Lorain County Joint Meeting for November will be held at 7 p. m. on Sunday, November 4th. Our speaker will be Mr. Fred Stenz, Foreign Editor, Cleveland Press.

Both of above events will be held in Elyria Hall, 108 Middle Avenue, (on the Square), Elyria, Ohio.

## NUMBER 45

Monday, October 22, marks the opening of the Wyandotte Men's Group. Jack S., Secretary, advises us the group will meet in the Parkwood Congregational Church at Parkwood and Madison Avenue, one block east of Bunts. The time of the meeting is 8:30 p. m. The best of luck to our "new arrival".

## AND YET ANOTHER

The American Legion opens the doors of its hall, located on East Orange Street, to usher in the new Chagrin Falls Group on Wednesday, October 24th. Joe W., secretary, advises us the meeting will start at 8:30 p. m. Good sailing!

## SPONSORSHIP

We notice that the generally accepted "rule" that a patient be isolated from family and business contact during his AA hospitalization, is broken all too often.

When a person is hospitalized for alcoholism and is there to absorb AA, outside influences distract him and effective results are more difficult to achieve.

When you put a man in the hospital be sure to acquaint him with the fact that he's to be incommunicado for five days-and be firm. The hospitals will cooperate.

## CONSOLIDATED MEETING

Revival of the Consolidated meetings in downtown Cleveland, Sunday afternoon, October 21st, was sparked by an outstanding address of Paul S., of Akron, one of the original members of the Fellowship. A large representative gathering attested to the need of these get-togethers.

The history of the organization, from its earliest disappointments and poverty, was outlined by the Akron speaker. His talk abounded with fine philosophy of life which was gleaned from his regular attendance at meetings. He claimed that he knew of no individual who was truly nonest in his desire to stop drinking to fail in AA. And he insisted that regular attendance at meetings with an open mind was a prime essential. Our screams of desire were only in our thinking.

Howard B., chairman of the meeting, announced an imposing array of leaders for forthcoming Consolidated meetings, which are held on the third Sunday of each month at the same place. The November meeting will be held on November 18th. The speaker will be Warren C., of Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

## LAKESIDE CELEBRATES SIXTH

The mother group of the Westside will hold its sixth anniversary celebration in its new quarters, in Community Center, Detroit and St. Charles on Monday, November 19th.

The newly elected secretary, Stanton McD., has received the consent of Warren C. of Mt. Vernon, O., and Abb. G. of Cleveland, as two of the speakers for the gala celebration.

## DOAN DATA

We had an unusual number of out-of-town visitors during the past several months. Seems as though our 10th Anniversary souvenir dance program did a lot of advertising. When Mike G. returned to Chicago from a visit to Cleveland, we are informed he devoted a goodly portion of his lead at the Tuesday consolidated meeting there, on the Cleveland setup. He attended three of our meetings and many others in the city. He claims he found here what he was looking for.

Johnny M.'s humor and wit enlivened the meetings in which he presided during September. The speakers were Jim P., Harry S. (5th anniversary)! Win W. and Fred B. Capacity crowds. Wise AA's are coming early to be assured of a seat. Capacity 165. Meetings start sharply at 9 o'clock.

Earl A. was Workhouse meeting leader and hit them right between the eyes with his straight from the shoulder (or is it hip) talk. Meetings start promptly at 7:00 P. M. We MUST tie out at 7:45.

Details relative to Workhouse activity will be handled by Mat C. Very capable. W. Roy W. did an outstanding job during the past two years.

## CHARLESTON, W. VA.

We have received several issues of Charleston's Toss Pot, a lively mimeographed bulletin put out by this progressive group. Got a lot of meat in it. Ice cream, too.

AA travelers in the Charleston area can get information desired by contacting the club's permanent quarters at 1116 Kanawha Blvd., East. The Friday night Central meeting is an open meeting for AA members and their guests. All other meetings are closed for AA members only.

## PUBLIC SQUARE DEAL

Doc H., that portly paragon of jovial jest, welcomes all comers to the parlor floor of the Hotel Cleveland, each and every Tuesday evening. The glad hand is particularly extended to women AA's as well as the male of the species. The door is open to first timers, those having had trouble and visitors from far and near. Let's keep up the good attendance.

## GLENVILLE RENOVATES

The ghosts and goblins cavorting about the newly laid floor embracing an area of over 1000 square feet, had best beware lest they come afool of popular Secretary Tony S.'s recently installed amusement devices. The all new player piano juke box, radio and bingo table should certainly prove to be a boon, and not a bane to the merry celebrants attending the Hallowe'en party on Saturday the 27th, marking the fourth anniversary of this Eastside Group. Congratulations are in order.

### CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
 RORTON-13931 Euclid Ave. . . . . 8:45  
 EAST SIDE WOMEN'S-10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 9:00  
 LAKEWOOD-Community Center Bldg., Detroit Ave. & St. Charles 8:30  
 LAKEWOOD MEN'S-St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton and Detroit. 8:30  
 LAKE SHORE-Lake Shore Hotel. Dinner at 7.80. Meeting at. 8:30  
 LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road . . . . . 8:30  
 LORAIN AVE.-Banater Hall Annex. W. 120th at Lorain. . . . . 8:30  
 PEARL-Good Counsel Hall. 4427 Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 UNION AVENUE-12907 Union Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 SHAKER HEIGHTS-Christ Episcopal Church. 3461 Warrensville Center Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 SOUTH EAST GROUP-10203 Miles Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 WEST 25TH ST.-Marvel Hall, 2363 W. 26th St. . . . . 8:30  
 WILLOUGHBY-Presbyterian Church. Willoughby, 0. . . . . 8:30  
 WOMEN'S-West Side. 8701 Detroit Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 WYANDOTTE MEN'S-Parkwood Cong'l Church, Parkwood and Madison . . . . . 8:30

**TUESDAY**  
 BROOKLYN-PARMA- Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 EAGLE TRAINING-Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle. . . . . 8:00  
 EUCLID-WADE-Emmanuel Church (Rear). 8614 Euclid. . . . . 8:30  
 MT. PLEASANT-E&view Cong. Church. 16615 Kinsman Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 PUBLIC SQUARE-Hotel Cleveland (See Bulletin Board). . . . . 8:30  
 WEST SIDE MEN'S-St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th.S 8:30  
 LORAIN, O.-Community Hall. 23rd and Beech Sts. . . . . 8:00

**WEDNESDAY**  
 BROOKLYN-K. of P. Hall. Broadview and Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 CHAGRIN FALLS, O.-American Legion. E. Orange St. . . . . 8:30  
 COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 DENISON-7403 Denison Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 DOAN MEN'S-2028 E 106th St. 2nd floor, side entrance. . . . . 8:45  
 LAKEWOOD WOMEN'S-12214 Detroit Avenue. . . . . 8:30  
 LEE ROAD-Mayfield and Preyer, Heights Presbyterian Church. . . . . 8:30  
 BEDFORD, O.-Y. M. C. A. Tarbell Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 ELYRIA, O.-108 Middle Ave. "On the Square" (2d floor) . . . . . 8:30  
 SANDUSKY, O.-Assembly Hall Providence Hospital. . . . . 8:00

**THURSDAY**  
 ARCADE-601 The Arcade (Superior Entrance). . . . . 8:30  
 BEREA, O.-Fine AN Club, E. Bagley Rd., 3 doors east of Eastland 8:30  
 BROADWAY-55TH-Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall- E. 55th and Broadway. . . . . 8:30  
 GLENVILLE-10421 St. Clair. . . . . 8:30  
 LEE ROAD-1637 Lee Road. . . . . 8:30  
 LORAIN AVE.-Banater Hall Annex. W. 120th St. at Lorain. . . . . 8:30  
 WARRENSVILLE, Workhouse Chapel-1st Thurs. each mo. 7:00 P.M.  
 PAINESVILLE, O.-33 N. State St., Third Floor. . . . . 8:30  
 LORAIN, O.-Antlers Hotel . . . . . 8:30

**FRIDAY**  
 CEDAR-Salvation Army, 2181 E. 66th St. . . . . 7:30  
 GORDON SQUARE-People's Meth. Church. W. 66th & Bridge Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 LKE ROAD-1637 Lee Road. . . . . 8:30  
 ROCKY RIVER-St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview of Detroit Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 NEWBURGH-Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, 9610 Aetna Road . . . . . 8:30  
 NORTHEAST-2028 E 105th St. . . . . 8:30  
 AVON LAKE-1112 W. Erie St. Lorain, 0. . . . . 8:30  
 BEREA-Social room of Berea Cong. Church. Seminary and Church Sts. . . . . 8:30  
 EUCLID, O.-St. Paul's Church E. 200th St. off St. Clair. . . . . 8:30

**SATURDAY**  
 CARNEGIE HALL-914 Carnegie Hall, 1220 Huron Rd. . . . . 8:45  
 GLENVILLE-10421 Clair. . . . . 8:30  
 W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road . . . . . 8:00  
 8005 GROUP-8006 Lorain Ave. . . . . 8:30

**SUNDAY**  
 COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue. . . . . 7:30  
 DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING-2028 E. 105th St. . . . . 3:00  
 PARKWOOD-Glenville AA Hall, 10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 9:00  
 SPONSORSHIP MEETING-Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 2:00  
 CENTRAL COMMITTEE-Hanna Building Room 270. . . . . 8:30

**MORNING MEETINGS**  
 Monday Mornings  
 BOLTON SQUARE-2928 E. 105th St. . . . . 10:00 A. M.  
 Wednesday Mornings  
 COLLINWOOD-14702 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 10:00 A. M.  
 Thursday Mornings  
 WEST SIDE-7403 Denison Ave. . . . . 10:00 A. M.  
 Friday Mornings  
 SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair. Breakfast 8:00 A. M.-Meeting 9:00 A. M.

**LIST OF APPROVED AA HOSPITALS**  
 Bender's (Melrose 1636) . . . . . 8023 Detroit Ave.  
 Charity Hospital (Main 9400) . . . . . Central & E. 22nd St.  
 Deaconess Evangelical Hospital (Florida 0070). . . . . 4233 Pearl Road  
 East Cleveland Clinic (Glenville 3244) . . . . . 13240 Euclid Ave.  
 Emergency Clinic (Glenville 4400) . . . . . 928 E. 152nd St.  
 Farquharson's (Shadyside 8374) . . . . . 603 7 Pearl Road  
 Kath. Kilbane's Nursing Home (Women) (OR. 1281) 14401 Gramatan Ave.  
 Martha Irwin's . . . . . Mentor O., P.O. Box 122  
 Nottingham Hospital (Ivanhoe 0133) . . . . . 18920 Nottingham Road  
 St. Alexis Hospital (Michigan 1415). . . . . Broadway & McBride  
 Betty Smith's (Shadyside 4692) . . . . . 348 0 Scranton Road  
 Webster's (Express 0180) . . . . . 3730 Euclid Ave.  
 W. 89th St. Nursing Home (Woodbine 4870) . . . . . 2240 W. 89th St.  
 West Park Home (CLeaverwater 9067) . . . . . 1515 0 Lorain Ave.  
 Providence Hospital (Main 465). . . . . Hayes Rd., Sandusky, O.

### OUT OF TOWN VISITORS

The downtown office reports many out-of-town visitors from all sections of the country. They come to study our Cleveland set-up, ask a lot of questions, take along all our literature, attend meetings and visit the hospitals. It is gratifying to see such interest, and we're glad to share our knowledge and give the benefits of our experiences and experiments.

### HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

If the Bible is new to you, or if you have read it only casually, there are many places at which to start. Probably the best are the Gospel of St. Luke and the Book of the Acts. Here are the events and the Person that mark the turning point of human history. Throughout all generations since then they have set countless men and women and youth free from fear and shame and sin, and brought them to a radiant and abundant life. To the light from these chapters the rest of the Bible contributes, and in their light it and all life are illumined. Whatever ground you traverse, this will be the peak from which you will get your bearings.

Follow with the other Gospels and some of the shorter letters of St. Paul. Then extend your acquaintance: search out the riches of the Psalms, read the early chapters of Genesis, the story of David, the pithy wisdom of Proverbs, some of the ringing messages of the Prophets, and more of the New Testament. By this time you can find your way about in this library of sixty-six books. But do not try too soon to master the whole of it; in reading the Bible, you are not cramming for an examination, but living with a friend.

Store up the fruits of your reading. Why keep in the storehouse of your mind only the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Twenty-third Psalm, learned perhaps when you were only six or eight? Add Job 38, Psalms 19, 24, 46, 91, 103, and 104, 1 Corinthians 13, the Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Last Judgment, the Good Samaritan, and the Prodigal Son, and St. John's Gospel, chapters 14, 18, 19, 20. There are no finer riches for the mind.

Worth-while Ways of Reading the Bible  
 (American Bible Society).

Isn't it funny that princes and kings  
 And clowns that caper in sawdust rings—  
 And common folk like you and me  
 Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools  
 A shapeless mass, a book of rules;  
 But each must make ere life has flown  
 A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

The light which we shed for others will depend upon the intensity of the flame which we create for ourselves. The ability to help others to see, comes from the clearness of our own vision. The greatest service that we can possibly perform for the world is to perfect our own moral progress.  
 -Calvin Coolidge.

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# CENTRAL BULLETIN



Vol. IV-No. 2

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## Editorial—True Unselfishness

Thomas Aquinas said in his sermon on Saint Martin some seven centuries ago that in conversion God does three things: first, He corrects a man; second, He instructs him; third, He takes him unto Himself.

Thus we may see that correction, which limits itself to not doing things that are wrong, is but a first step. Correction is a big job for most of us, and this writer, who has been in AA four years, realizes that he still has much to do in that field. But still it is just a first step, and if we limit our efforts to the task of not doing evil we may finally arrive at the point of stagnation.

Good is not merely the absence of evil. Rather, evil is the absence of Good, or an imperfection of Good. Thus, while we need correction to cast out evil, we also need instruction to learn to grow in what is good.

Learning about Good is a lifetime job; yet, it is not really a hard job, if we work at it regularly.

It is well to recognize that all things are good in their right use. Knowing that helps us not to set impossible, puritanical goals for ourselves or for others. Human impulses are good in their right use; in their wrong use they become greed and lust.

We need to learn about constructive acts of Good, such as unselfishness.

Unselfishness is not merely not being greedy, not merely not thinking of ourselves first. On the constructive side, unselfishness means giving something of ourselves for others, helping others.

If we have any money to spare, we can learn about unselfishness by giving away money. Naturally we have to look after our families and pay our debts. But now that we no longer are throwing away money on whiskey, many of us are inclined to hoard.

We should support the downtown AA office, because in that way we are giving help to many others who have an alcoholic problem, people that most of us wouldn't know about. Then, if we wish, we can give something to the New York office, which helps people all over the country, many of whom would have no other way of getting into contact with AA. As citizens of this community, we should give something to the Community Fund. If we belong to churches, we should give to the church and to its foreign missions.

(If we say we don't like any of these things, or the way they are run, we might examine our consciences to see whether there really is any objection to them or whether we're just objecting because we're selfish and don't want to part with our money.)

Giving money isn't all there is to being unselfish, but it is a good way to start in changing an attitude. Unselfishness also means personal acts that help others, and such acts should not be limited to Twelfth Step work in AA. It means also that in any situation we should do more than is asked of us.

There is more to Good than unselfishness. But learning about unselfishness is a big step ahead and a good way to keep from stagnating.

I'm living this way because I'm sober-No! I'm sober because I'm living this way.

## Gossip

Back in 1943, the Bulletin printed an editorial on Gossip, which received much favorable comment and some malicious and vindictive talk, provoked by some local domestic difficulty which involved a prominent couple in AA, was quelled.

During the past several months it seems that gossip—dirty, mean, malicious gossip is rampant again and many AA's who have been distressed at hearing so much of it have turned to us with the plea that we reprint the article. We agree—it's about time. Some have blamed the newer members who have joined in the past two years, but we notice that the guilt lies with many "oldsters" also. The article appeared in the March 1943 Bulletin.

The average person's conception of the four major attributes of AA—Love, Honesty, Unselfishness and Purity—is rather limited, and the necessity of checking oneself constantly is apparent particularly when self-satisfaction appears.

Gossip, be it just ordinary apparently harmless gossip, or vindictive and malicious, has been a habit which almost seems inborn in everyone. This sounds like a strong statement, but the writer believes an honest self-analysis will be alarmingly accusative.

There is a peculiar perversity of the human heart which sometimes makes us wish that the very worst is true. We hear the slander of a careless tongue, the gossip of an idle mind, and seize upon the cruel revelation with relish and delight. We believe the worst because we hope the

worst is true. We are prone to question the motives of those that are doing good and impute selfish motives to their zeal.

Love, or charity, as we should practice it in our newfound way of life discourages and certainly does not peddle hurtful rumors emanating from idle tongues. True love for the person whose name is being bandied about—regardless of person—should stop these rumors in their tracks. We should train ourselves and it means real discipline—to find an excuse for the "neighbor", be ready to defend him, speak well of him, and put the best possible construction on his motives.

Even though our faith and loyalty is besieged again and again and even though the worst is TRUE, if we will follow the true conception of AA basic principles we should still do the neighborly act in helping him overcome his difficulty with the spirit of brotherly love ever-present.

Certainly there shouldn't be any delight in the quiet whispers which are aimed like poisoned darts at their good names.

So stop those rumors as they come. Practice true charity and love by refusing to believe the gossip that comes to your ears! Think of the opportunity we have to truly help our "neighbor" by refusing to be a medium to spread gossip, and instead, being a medium to kill it at its source.

A match produced in 1882 was known as the "Drunkard's Match," because the holding end of the splint was treated with a fireproofing chemical which prevented burning beyond mid-point, thus saving some scorched fingers. Some of us believe their manufacture should be revived,

### APROPOS

Wouldn't this old world be better  
If the folks we meet would say:  
"I know something good about you"  
-And then treat us that way?

Wouldn't life be much sweeter  
If we praised the good we see?  
For there is such a lot of goodness  
In plain folks like you and me.

Wouldn't it be nice to practise  
This fine way of thinking too?  
You know something good about me  
-I know something good about you.

Contributed by Marshall W. Sr.  
Lorain, O. Antlers Group

## POSTWAR PLANNING

It is with an increasing feeling of alarm that we view current statements in the press, as well as articles, lectures and symposiums on the rehabilitation of the returning veteran. Why? Because there is little or no reference to alcoholism. In official circles the term "alcoholic" is taboo. We were told by a representative of the Veteran's Administration, that alcoholism is classified under misconduct; and that neither have any provisions been made for the care of alcoholics, nor is there any legislation allowing disability pensions for those unfortunates whose case history includes a reference to alcohol.

This official disregard of the problem is the more striking because one of the common remarks heard in everyday conversation is that a great increase in inebrity may be expected after demobilization. Thus, it would seem that a spread of alcoholism is regarded as a danger, but that no steps are being taken to counteract this danger within the scope of postwar planning. This is also evidence that the modern medical conception of alcoholism as a disease, or symptom of a disease, has not become as yet, part and parcel of medical thinking. Also, the social involvements of inebrity are even greater than its role as a public health problem. Yet sociologists, as a profession, are no more alive to the situation than medical circles. In view of these facts, it seems that the alcoholic veteran, unless he happens to suffer from some other well defined disability as well, will not be considered for rehabilitation.

Investigation has shown that, among the many factors which exclude the alcoholic from protective measures enjoyed by veterans in general, there is here two facts which are extremely important. First, the veteran who has acquired his alcoholism while in the service most likely has no honorable discharge because official quarters have not taken cognizance of the disease nature of alcoholism and consider it very lightly as a personality disorder.

Second, the veteran who develops his alcoholism after demobilization, perhaps years later, will not be seen as a war casualty. It will be difficult to realize the late development of alcoholism as a "solution" of problems originating in stresses set up many years before—during war service.

Inasmuch as the scope of this subject is almost limitless, we would merely be scratching the surface if we attempted to cover the problem in one article. Our Board of Strategy has therefore decided to serialize its efforts; and in future articles will attempt to show you what now is being done, and what part each one of us can play in the rehabilitation of the alcoholic veteran.

## BULLETIN LIST

The editors of AA Central Bulletin wish to correct an impression regarding the use of the stencils or mailing list of Central Bulletin.

The stencils were used once to announce the opening of a new Women's AA Hospital. At the time the only available women's hospital was closed and it seemed logical that most Clevelanders should need be apprised of this fact so as to be able to hospitalize a woman in need of treatment. Ordinarily an item in the Bulletin would have sufficed, in our estimation, but the Bulletin had just been mailed and it seemed to us that this information was of enough vital interest to all AA's within reach of Cleveland.

To quiet any fears of the subscribers of Central Bulletin, we will not permit the use of the stencils except on the express orders of Central Committee.

We're sorry to have aroused so much disturbance.

## ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

Our roving reporter informs us that an impressive crowd of 1300 AA's banqueted at the Commodore Hotel in New York City on the evening of November 7th, to celebrate Bill W.'s eleventh anniversary.

A luncheon was also arranged for the out-of-town visitors. About 70 attended. There were four speakers—a lady from Jersey, a former Cleveland man, now associated with the Seamen's Group, a member of the clergy from Connecticut, who was the guest speaker and Bill W., who wound up the splendid affair in his inimitable fashion.

Our friends from Boston, "Judas" P. and his cohorts, were very much in evidence. Swell reunion.

## APPRECIATION

As AA's we are fully aware, or should be, that the program minimizes to a certain extent the need for material success and the consequent possessions that this success will bring. However, we are in many instances lacking in our appreciation for these goods, whether they be great or small.

Wealth may purchase many things, but it most certainly does not enable its purchaser to have a true or adequate estimation of value. Appreciation and we use it here in the spiritual sense as applied to the material, must be living in the heart. We cannot thing appreciation, we must feel it.

Appreciation can work miracles. It can make the saddest happy, and to the discoverer it can bring unlimited hope. We know that all things in this world are transient. We may be the normal owners of life's possessions for a little time, but soon all things pass away.

Thus, to live a more full and happier life, let us learn to appreciate. Let us strive to gain appreciation. The longest hours of service become short if appreciation is at the end. No matter how long our life may be, it will indeed be a success; if at its close all its efforts have blossomed forth in the sunshine of appreciation.

## CONSOLIDATED MEETING

A fine crowd of over 500 attended the Consolidated meeting at Cleveland Hotel, Sunday, November 18th, to hear Warren C., of Mt. Vernon, give a masterful and compelling talk on the fundamentals of AA.

To him, AA represents the choice between life and death, and that working at the program zealously, constantly, was the only way to achieve success.

The importance of attending meetings with an open mind was also stressed by him. He cited a conversation with a constant repeater at the nursing home. He asked his opinion about a recent meeting the patient attended and the man answered, "Oh, the speaker just handed out the regular old stuff." He predicted that this fellow would continue to have trouble until he went to the meeting with an open and receptive mind.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The meeting of November 6th, found 28 groups answering the roll call. It was reported that three women, Katherine M., Billy P. and Helen O'M., attended the regular hospital committee meeting as indicative of the interest the weaker sex (?) had in their own hospitalizing situation.

The consolidated meetings will continue as scheduled, the third Sunday of each month (except December) at 4:00 o'clock in the Cleveland Hotel. The committee requested and was given permission to use the Central Bulletin mailing list to remind the membership of the meeting each month. It was, however, stipulated that the secretary of each group notify Harry D., of the Bulletin, of any member of his group preferring not to have his name included in this notification. The Bulletin list was to be used for "this purpose only".

Action on the Summer Camp Plan is desired and all groups are requested to come to some decision on the question. If a Camp is deemed inadvisable, would a day's outing at Euclid Beach or a similar park be considered? Will the groups act on this and report at the next meeting?

Election of officers will be held at the December meeting; and all groups are urged to attend.

It was suggested under the head of New Business, that the June Consolidated meeting be devoted to celebrating the 11th Anniversary of AA.

It was suggested that all surplus monies from the 10th Anniversary meeting be donated to the Downtown Office Fund. Most of the groups favored this action.

Remember! No Consolidated meeting in December. The first meeting of 1946 will be held on January 20th.

## OPEN HOUSE

On Monday, November 26, four women will conduct a panel discussion before a mixed group at the Eastside women's get together at 10416 St. Clair Avenue. The women members of the panel are representative of both the East and West Sides. No doubt the girls will acquit themselves nobly, if the recent open meeting of the West Side women is, any criterion. Be there at 8:30 P. M.

## SECOND STORY MAN

Although busy with the glue pot and rule we were striving to make a decision. Was Elmer L., sneaking in or out that second story window when he fell? To settle this mental conflict, we had our leg man contact the gracious Grace, who put us straight with the information that Elmer was attempting to hang a storm window, and losing his balance, fell to the ground, sustaining a broken shoulder and multiple contusions and bruises about the legs and body. The patient is now resting at home and is expected to be back in circulation at an early date.

Invalid or no invalid, Elmer, as the indispensable secretary of the Lake Shore Group, has asked us to dispense the following information to all the "Brethern and Sistern".

Lake Shore Group has cancelled it's meeting dates for Christmas eve and New Year's eve. A new time schedule is also announced. The fellowship dinner is now held at 7:00 P. M., followed by the regular meeting at 8:00 P. M. Remember this!

999

A new roundhouse appeared in Cleveland the evening of Friday, November 9, when a group of railroad men and their wives met in St. Mary's Parish Hall, located in the Collinwood section of the city.

Ed K., secretary, provided a fine leader in Jack D., and the forty-five odd-present, benefited greatly by his words. Following the discussion period refreshments were served, affording those attending an opportunity to become acquainted and evidencing the good fellowship present at all AA gatherings.

The "999" Group will meet each Friday at 8:30 P. M., at St. Mary's R. C. Church Hall, located at 15519 Holmes Avenue. Let's help keep them on the right track!

## ROTUND RASCAL RETIRES

It took but a quick glance at the Public Square Group's secretarial armchair a few weeks ago to note the absence of that overweight optometrist, Doc. H. Having deserted the sacred precincts of the West Side in favor of the elm-lined streets of Berea, adjacent to the hallowed halls of learning, Doc found the added burden of an office in his home, together with his duties as secretary, too great a load to carry.

Man Mountain Dean not being available, no one man could be found to fill Doc's shoes. As a result the Group now has two secretaries, one being the popular Cliff B., and the other, the well known and liked John T. These two amiable gents handle the meetings on alternate Tuesdays and to date have done a very fine job. We know that a continued increase in attendance will prove a boon to the new secretaries.

## WEST PARK MIXES WITH POLICE

Beginning Wednesday, November 21st, the West Park Group will hold its regular meetings at the 17th Precinct Hall (above-not in-the police station) at Lorain Ave. and W. 157th St. This group started as a stag group, but simply could not get along without the ladies and from now on will be a mixed group.

## CORRECTION PLEASE

Jack S., the former secretary of The Lakewood Men's Group, wishes to correct the impression given in the last issue of The Bulletin that he is the present secretary of the recently formed Wyandotte Men's Group. There is no connection.

The present secretary and founder of The Wyandotte Group is a genial redhead who has a brother named Dave and his last name rhymes with "myth". Do you get it?

This business of maintaining anonymity sometimes leads to confusion as many of us have the same initials.

The bald-headed Jack S. is at present enjoying a sabbatical holiday free from secretarial worries. Thanx for listenin.

## HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

A plea has come from several nursing homes that the committee study ways and means to educate AA's to differentiate between alcoholics and drug addicts. Certainly the nursing homes are not capable of administering proper treatment for the "goof-ball" addicts and they shouldn't be censored for refusing to admit known cases. The AA's can probably learn to recognize these cases if they take the trouble to follow the thorough recommended investigating procedure in the Sponsorship booklet.

## DOAN DATA

Chas. S., the former sailor (who found it easier to stay dry on land than on the sea-no nun intended) was chairman for October. He reversed the-established procedure by having the newer men lead the regular Wednesday meetings and having the "oldsters" lead the Sunday Training sessions. There was exceptional attendance at all the meetings and the audience placed their stamp of approval on his plan. The Wednesday speakers were Al. F., Wilson B., Joe M., Joe S. and Oliver A.

Doe I. is back-he can sit down now. The Lancers Division sure wrecked him. Hank S. proved a capable guide for good old Frank L. on an all-Ohio tour. On the three meeting days that Frank was absent, things in the kitchen simply didn't click according to Frank's high standards. These were the only meetings Frank has missed since the group has started.

At the Workhouse, Bill M. led the meeting. Just a year ago he also led there. Made a powerful impression. Incidentally Bill took unto himself a bride on November 12th. What strides some men do make in AA!!!

## GLENVILLE

'Twas quite a celebration they had on Hallowe'en when the group celebrated the ever-popular, hardworking, friendly, loyal, unselfish, lovable Tony S.'s fourth anniversary in AA. The adjectives were supplied by a host of three-minute speakers who spouted praise of his indomitable spirit-and Tony wasn't there! All the speakers were at least three-and-one-half year men and most of them came from other Cleveland groups.

When an invitation was sent out to the audience by the chairman for testimony from one of the Glenville Group, a beautifully dressed lady, who had been sitting quietly in the midst of the crowd came forward and when she spoke—she was a HE! It was Tony! No one recognized the little rascal until he-she-he spoke. The Group presented him with a beautiful wrist watch.

## ROCKY RIVER

This social group, one of the best attended groups on the West Side, has found another means to keep their members entertained on Sundays. They formed a bowling league, of 12 teams, composed of members and their wives and take over the Harding Alleys every other Sunday evening, bowling in two shifts. Great rivalry exists and though the lowliest bowler averages only 43, the top bowler has 171.

They like it so well that they plan to bowl every Sunday next year.

## DICK IN- CHICAGO

Letters from Dick S. reveal his contentment in the Windy City and that he found himself perfectly at home there. Of course, he was no stranger in Chicago.

He arrived just in time to attend the sixth anniversary meeting of the Chicago setup and reports that about 800 attended who heard as fine talks on AA as it had ever been his privilege to hear.

He writ&, "I didn't know there were so many nice people in the world as I had met and known in Cleveland . . . and have been privileged to get acquainted with quite a number of Chicagoans too-and strange as it may seem, they are nice people too."

## MANSFIELD

The splendid group in Mansfield celebrated its fourth birthday with a grand dinner and meeting on November 14th in the recreation room of the Park Avenue Baptist Church. The speakers were R. Fox S., of Cleveland, and Warren C., of Mt. Vernon, and both were in top form. One hundred and eighty people were in attendance.

During the four years the group has been responsible for groups starting in Loudenville, Galion, Marion, another in Mansfield and the newest baby which started last month was Ashland.

## CARNEGIE HALL

Anne S., advises us that the women of the Carnegie Hall Group have laid down the rolling pin and picked-up the bowling ball. Let's hope their aim is as good in the alley as it is in the kitchen.

Russ O., provided a fine lead recently and upheld the fine standard of speakers appearing at this Group since September.

# CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

## MONDAY

BORTON—13981 Euclid Ave. . . . . 8:45  
 EAST SIDE WOMEN'S—10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 9:00  
 LAKEWOOD—Community Center Bldg., Detroit Ave. & St. Charles. 8:30  
 LAKEWOOD MEN'S—St. Peter's Episcopal, W. Clifton and Detroit. 8:30  
 LAKE SHORE—Lake Shore Hotel, Dinner at 7:00 P. M.—Meeting. 8:00  
 LEE ROAD—1637 Lee Road . . . . . 8:30  
 LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 120th at Lorain. . . . . 8:30  
 WADE PARK—1467 Addison Road (Side Entrance). . . . . 8:30  
 PEARL—Good Counsel Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 UNION AVENUE—12907 Union Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 SHAKER HEIGHTS—Christ Episcopal Church, 3451 Warrenville Center Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 SOUTH EAST GROUP—10203 Miles Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 WEST 25TH ST.—Marvel Hall, 2888 W. 25th St. . . . . 8:30  
 WILLOUGHBY—Presbyterian Church, Willoughby, O. . . . . 8:30  
 WOMEN'S—West Side, 8701 Detroit Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 WYANDOTTE MEN'S—Parkwood Cong'l Church, Parkwood and Madison . . . . . 8:30

## TUESDAY

BROOKLYN-PARMA—4427 Pearl . . . . . 8:30  
 EAGLE TRAINING—Salvation Army, E. 9th & Eagle . . . . . 8:00  
 EUCLID-WADE—Emmanuel Church (Rear), 8614 Euclid. . . . . 8:30  
 MT. PLEASANT—Eastview Cong. Church, 15615 Kinsman Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 PUBLIC SQUARE—Hotel Cleveland (See Bulletin Board). . . . . 8:30  
 WEST SIDE MEN'S—St. Patrick's Hall, Bridge Ave. near W. 38th. 8:30  
 LORAIN, O.—Community Hall, 23rd and Beech Sts. . . . . 8:00

## WEDNESDAY

BROOKLYN-K, of P. Hall, Broadview and Pearl Rd. . . . . 8:30  
 CHAGRIN FALLS, O.—American Legion, E. Orange St. . . . . 8:30  
 COLLINWOOD—14709 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 DENISON—1403 Denison Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 DOAN MEN'S—2028 E. 105th St., 2nd floor, side entrance . . . . . 8:45  
 LAKEWOOD WOMEN'S—12214 Detroit Avenue . . . . . 8:30  
 LEE ROAD—Mayfield and Preyer, Heights Presbyterian Church. 8:30  
 WEST PARK—17th Precinct Hall, W. 157th and Lorain (upstairs). 8:30  
 BEDFORD, O.—Y. M. C. A., Tarbell Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 ELYRIA, O.—108 Middle Ave., "On the Square" (3d Floor). . . . . 8:30  
 SANDUSKY, O.—Assembly Hall Providence Hospital. . . . . 8:00

## THURSDAY

ARCADE—601 The Arcade (Superior Entrance). . . . . 8:30  
 BERA, O.—Fine Arts Club, Bagley Rd., 3 doors east of Eastland 3:30  
 BROADWAY-55TH—Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall—E. 55th and Broadway. . . . . 8:30  
 GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair . . . . . 8:30  
 LEE ROAD—1637 Lee Road. . . . . 8:30  
 LORAIN AVE.—Banater Hall Annex, W. 129th St. at Lorain. . . . . 8:30  
 WARRENSVILLE, O.—Workhouse Chapel—1st Thurs. each mo. 7:00 P.M.  
 PAINESVILLE, O.—33 N. State St., Third Floor . . . . . 8:30  
 LORAIN, O.—Antlers Hotel . . . . . 8:30

## FRIDAY

CEDAR—Salvation Army, 2131 E. 55th St. . . . . 7:30  
 GORDON SQUARE—People's Met h. Church, W. 65th & Bridge Ave. . . . . 8:30  
 LEE ROAD—1637 Lee Road. . . . . 8:30  
 ROCKY RIVER—St. Christopher's Hall Lakeview off Detroit Rd. 8:30  
 NEWBURGH—Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, 9610 Aetna Road . . . . . 8:30  
 "999"—St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, 15619 Holmes . . . . . 8:30  
 NORTHEAST—2028 E. 105th St. . . . . 8:30  
 AVON LAKE—1112 W. Erie St., Lorain, O. . . . . 8:30  
 BERA—Social room o f Bera Cong. Church, Seminary and Church Sts. . . . . 8:30  
 EUCLID, O.—St. Paul's Church, 209th St. off St. Clair. . . . . 8:30

## SATURDAY

CARNEGIE HALL—Euclid Ave. Baptist Church, 1926 E. 18th St. . . . . 9:00  
 GLENVILLE—10421 St. Clair. . . . . 8:30  
 W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, 4427 Pearl Road. . . . . 8:00  
 8005 GROUP-8005 Lorain Ave. . . . . 8:30

## SUNDAY

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Avenue. . . . . 7:30  
 DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING—2028 E. 105th St. . . . . 8:00  
 SPONSORSHIP MEETING—Glenville Group, 10421 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 2:00

### 1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE—Hanna Building Room 370. . . . . 8:30

### HORNING MEETINGS

#### Monday Mornings

BOLTON SQUARE-2023 E. 105th St. . . . . 10:00 A. M.

#### Wednesday Mornings

COLLINWOOD-14709 St. Clair Ave. . . . . 10:00 A. M.

#### Thursday Mornings

WEST SIDE-7493 Denison Ave. . . . . 10:00 A. M.

#### Friday Mornings

SUNRISE BREAKFAST GROUP-10421 St. Clair. . . . .  
 Breakfast 3:00 A. Y.—Meeting 9:00 A. M.

### LIST OF APPROVED AA HOSPITALS

Bender's (Melrose 1635) . . . . . 302 3 Detroit Ave.  
 Charity Hospital (Main 9400) . . . . . Central & E. 22nd St.  
 Deaconess Evangelical Hospital (Florida 0070). . . . . 4233 Pearl Road  
 East Cleveland Clinic (Glenville 3244). . . . . 13240 Euclid Ave.  
 Emergency Clinic (Glenville 4400). . . . . 92 3 E. 152nd St.  
 Farquharson's (Shadyaide 3874). . . . . 6087 Pearl Road  
 Kath. Kilhane's Nursing Home (Women) (OR. 1231) 14401 Gramatan Ave.  
 Martha Irwin's. . . . . Mentor O., P.O. Box 122  
 Nottingham Hospital (Ivanhoe 0133) . . . . . 18920 Nottingham Road  
 St. Alexis Hospital (Michigan 1415) . . . . . Broadway & McBride  
 Betty Smith's (Shadyside 4692) . . . . . 348 0 Scranton Road  
 Webster's (Express 0180) . . . . . 3730 Euclid Ave.  
 W. 89th St. Nursing Home (Woodbine 4870). . . . . 2240 W. 39th St.  
 West Park Home (Clearwater 9057). . . . . 15150 Lorain Ave.  
 Providence Hospital (MAIN 465) . . . . . Hayes Rd., Sandusky, O.

## STAG ON THE LOOSE

The male of the species in the Lorain-Avon Group has put his foot down and decided that the little woman will stay home and knit the first Friday of each month. This will be his night in the future. However, the girls are welcome to the American Legion Hall in Lorain any other Friday. Have fun, fellows!

## NEW NAME- NEW PLACE

On and after November 5th, the old Parkwood Group, now known as the Wade Park Group, will meet each and every Monday night at 1467 Addison Road, four doors south of Wade Park Avenue. J. B., Secretary, asks us to be there at 8:30 P. M., and use the side entrance. Good diggin' in the diggin's, gang!

## AA BOWLING LEAGUE

Below are the standings of the Thursday and Friday AA Bowling Leagues. Of interest to everyone should be the fact that this activity brings together about 200 AA's each week for thirty weeks-and they stay sober.

The individual averages show that the leader averages 194 in the Thursday League with the lowest averaging only 102 (that used to buy a drink) and the Friday night leader averages 184 with the lowest a puny 88 (these are not duck pins).

A lot of friendly rivalry exists between the teams and the contests are worth watching. Come down and root on Thursdays or Fridays at Franklin Recreation Alleys, 1775 West 25th Street at 8:30 P. M. You'll enjoy the fun.

### AA BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 1945

Thursday League		Friday League	
	w L		w L
1 West Side Morning..	19 5	1 South East No. 2. . . . .	17 7
2 South East No. 1. . . . .	16 8	2 Euclid Wade Hearts. . .	16 8
3 North East . . . . .	16 8	3 Lorain Ave. Hawks. . . . .	15 9
4 Lakewood . . . . .	16 8	4 Glenville No. 1. . . . .	15 9
5 Brooklyn-Parma . . . . .	14 10	5 Glenville No. 2. . . . .	14 10
6 Doan Men's . . . . .	14 10	6 Lorain Ave. Thursday. . .	14 10
7 Euclid Wade Spades. . .	13 10	i Arcade . . . . .	14 10
8 Denison . . . . .	13 11	8 Union . . . . .	14 10
9 Gordon Square . . . . .	11 13	9 Mt. Pleasant . . . . .	13 10
10 W. 25th St. Champs. . . .	10 14	10 Carnegie Hall . . . . .	11 13
11 Collinwood . . . . .	10 14	11 Euclid Wade Diamonds. .	10 14
12 Corinthians . . . . .	9 15	12 Lorain Ave. Bears. . . . .	9 15
13 Lorain Ave. Yanks. . . . .	9 15	13 Pearl Road . . . . .	9 15
14 Lee Road Friday. . . . .	9 15	14 W. 25th St. Eagles. . . . .	8 16
15 Brooklyn . . . . .	8 16	15 Borton . . . . .	8 16
16 Berea . . . . .	5 19	16 West Side Morning. . . . .	1 17

Team High Single-Thursday-South East No. 1. 914 : West Side Morning, 884 : W. 25th St. Champs, 876.

Team High Three—Thursday—West Side Morning, 2600: South East No. 1, 2485: North East, 2461.

Team High Single—Friday—Lorain Ave. Hawks. 935: Union, 87X: South East No. 2, 873.

Team High Three-Friday—Union. 2503 : Euclid Wade Hearts, 2483 ; South East No. 2, 2465.

## WEST SIDE NEW YEAR PARTY

First to announce it's New Year plans is the West Side Social Club. They, represented by most clubs on the West Side, will hold their annual New Years eve party at Our Lady of Good Counsel Hall. There will be a twelve-piece orchestra, entertainment and buffet supper. Hours 8:30 to 1:30. cost \$1.50.

CARNEGIE GROUP announces change of hall December 1st Euclid Ave. Baptist Church, 1926 E. 18th St., Paul S., speaker; refreshments.

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Official Publication of A A in the Cleveland Area

### CENTRAL BULLETIN

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# CENTRAL BULLETIN

WISDOM • HONESTY • COURTESY • JOY  
A.A.

Vol. IV -No. 3

435 WILLIAMSON BLDG., CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

December, 1945

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## Editorial — Real Peace

The peace of God, which as Paul the Apostle put it in his letter to the Philippians, "surpasses all understanding," is a peace that comes to us through our directing our minds to the good that is in all life. Paul directed us to think of things that are true, honest, just, pure lovely, of good report, things in which there is virtue, things that merit praise.

This is the season of the year for thoughtful celebration. but it also is the season above all other: for joy, for giving something of ourselves for others, for expressing love. It is a time when we want to share ourselves with our families and friends, to show our good will and to find mutual happiness. If there is anything false about this happiness it is because we make it so.

Love is the highest of all expressions of good. Love is the outgoing of the soul to something that is worthy; it is deep affection which we owe not only to God but also to all mankind. It is an expression of our higher selves.

Love is unselfish, and we find happiness in love only when we give as well as receive. We may benefit temporarily from the love of others without giving anything in return, but our minds become fertile soil for evil growing out of justification, then out of resentment, suspicion and then out of ill will.

We have to work our way back out of all these expressions of evil and then turn our minds to expressions of good.

Love is not mere score-keeping, one good act done for one good act received. Unselfishness demands that we do generous things without any expectation of return. Charity demands that we think well of others even though they may not think well of us, that we do good to others even though they may not seem to appreciate it.

If we learn to think of things that are true, honest, just lovely, of good report, we will discover that more good than evil exists in many places that we thought of only as being evil. If we learn to think of these things, we will be inspired to act in these terms, to respond to the good in others, and to give something of our selves to others.

The highest expression of love we owe to the Creator, who made all things good. But we owe love not to God alone, but to His creatures as well. Indeed, without love for others, we cannot show love to God; nor can we receive His blessings.

Love is the road to peace, to the peace of mind and happiness that we all seek, to the rest from the weariness of the strife of our lives, to the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.

A happy Christmas to all! And with this greeting let us pray that we continue in the spirit of good will throughout all our days, that we learn each day to see and to do good, and that we grow in love for God and for all men.

## Easy Promises

During my adolescent years, I was given a beautiful, green, plus-covered autograph book as a Christmas present. Most of us kids had one and we exchanged them to inscribe some verse or pithy saying in it. I ran across mine the other day. Forty years have passed and I tried to visualize each personality and connect it with the greetings conveyed in the book. Some incongruities provoked many a chuckle and it was interesting to note that many of those who took pains to write selections which conveyed their faiths, I was able to recognize that they had developed simple faiths into convictions. There were jocular and silly ones as well as serious and religious ones.

One that struck me forty years ago as being just ordinary then was written by one of my teachers. In a beautiful spencerian hand, he wrote, "Promises are sacred. If you would hold the respect of friends and your own self-respect you will hold them sacred. Promises lightly made are easily and all too often broken. Hold your promises sacred."

Reading it again after these many years, I wonder if that teacher saw tendencies in my character which prompted him to indite that admonition to me. I tried to think back to when I began to find that I could break promises, make excuses and be forgiven. And I found that my sweet, trusting mother was the easiest to fool. The heartaches I had caused! Confidence and faith shattered, only to be rebuilt again-by a promise.

Since embracing AA nearly four years ago, I believe that the vicious habit of breaking promises was the hardest to overcome. Promises are so easy to make, when you want to defer action. Most of us are natural procrastinators, and instinctively we make a promise, if it isn't expedient or to our desire to take some action at the instant.

Many of our promises were sincere at the moment and we probably intended to keep them. But most of us were and are distracted by other interests-and we just forgot.

I forgot-please excuse me! How often we said it! I promise you never to take another drink in my life! We made this promise so often and probably meant it when the very thought of another drink nauseated us. But we met a returned soldier-an old boyfriend-we had to help celebrate an anniversary-a new baby-we had to go to a wake-our sinus was driving us crazy-and God knows how many other good sounding excuses we could find to break the promise so lightly given.

Let's practice holding promises sacred. Let's not make a promise during this forthcoming year unless we are sure we can keep it.

Let's remember that the more promises we keep we will develop our character and keep our self-respect.

Here's to an even grander New Year.

### GREETINGS!



There is nothing I can give you which you have not; but there is much, that, while I cannot give, you can take. No Heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. *Take Heaven.* No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant. *Take Peace.* The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within our reach, is joy. *Take Joy.* And so, at this Holiday Season, I greet you, with a prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

—Fra. Giovanni-1513 A.D.

# A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

## POSTWAR PLANNING

Our article of last month showed us the problem faced by the alcoholic veteran and the great struggle he must now enter in private life, so that his rehabilitation may be just as complete as that of his non-alcoholic brother-in-arms. The rehabilitation of the alcoholic veteran constitutes one of the least recognized but not least important factors in the complexities of the postwar world. And because of this fact we must acknowledge a "moral responsibility" and to extend it to the public in general. In order to become efficacious, the idea of public responsibility must be conveyed in specific forms to men and women engaged in particular activities, and there must be an endeavor to proceed from private initiative to legislative measures.

We have broken down this treatise into nine sections, and will give each separate treatment. Let us consider them as sub-titles, and by doing so eliminate the danger of making one section appear more important than another. Inasmuch as this series may well run into 1947, we cannot wait a year or more to begin alleviating the veteran's problem. So, let us begin right in our own back yard and see what Alcoholics Anonymous can do in handling a postwar emergency. Since we have made use of material compiled by Bill W., we beg his pardon for eliminating quotes and robbing him of a credit line.

We feel that the opinion which follows reflects what most members of Alcoholics Anonymous think they see coming. We ask, "What is the picture of alcoholism in the days ahead?" With the characteristic emphasis of true alcoholics the answer is, "It looks like hell to me". We ask why, "Practically the whole world has gone neurotic. Mankind is on an emotional jag. Nation against nation, class against class—all clamoring for security, all crying that if only other people were different how happy we would be. Hate, fear, envy, boredom, insecurity, acquisitiveness—all the negatives—running riot as never before, breeding neurotics as a malarial swamp does mosquitoes. Conflict—national, social, personal—conflict that gets nowhere, that never gets settled. This is our modern world. Under these appalling conditions what will sensitive, frustrated people do? Aren't hundreds of thousands of them going to go the route we once did? Aren't they going to drink and not for fun either? Aren't they going to use alcohol as an emotional pain killer? Yes, they will try to get away from themselves, and their problems, not for temporary release, but for keeps. Even as we once did, they will try to find release in alcohol. A great number of them will become alcoholics—we ought to know".

The question then arises: what can our 17,000 members do that will alleviate this picture? Although our contribution to recovery from alcoholism has been described as significant and encouraging, no one is more aware than we that what has been done is but a start. Our work so far is a mere beginning in helping to overcome an extensive disease to which the recent war gave fresh and ominous import.

The average member of AA does not suppose that we have a cure-all. What we do promise for the future, however, is that we shall offer unstinted aid to those alcoholics who wish to recover. We believe that we shall be able to handle almost any number of alcoholic cases—tens of thousands if necessary—which may be referred to us in the postwar period. Nor is this statement purely surmised. Today, some 500 groups comprising over 17,000 members are to be found in America. There are groups in nearly every state in the Union and in several Canadian Provinces. This means that most cases of alcoholism are within easy reach of AA groups.

Not only can we help other alcoholics directly, but we can help those working on alcohol problems who have not had our first-hand experience. We have an inside view of the alcoholic problem. One best seen by drinkers who have suffered from alcoholism. As Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick once said:

"Gothic cathedral windows are not the sole things which can be truly seen only from within. Alcoholism is another. All outside views are clouded and unsure".

With every rising sun, think of your life as just begun.  
The past has cancelled and buried deep all yesterdays.  
There let them sleep.

## YALE SCHOOL OF ALCOHOLIC STUDIES

It has been surprising to me to discover how many different ideas some AA's of this area have about the Yale Summer Session on Alcohol. In talking with members I have found many who would like to know more about the aims and objectives behind the formation of the School. Below are some of my impressions, after being enrolled there during the past summer.

First, Yale or anyone connected with the School has nothing to sell and no axe to grind. Dr. Haggard, who is the founder of the idea, disgusted with the emotionalized hit-or-miss manueverings of the professional wets and dries, began an intensive study of the physiology of alcohol in 1930. He soon concluded what we all know so well—that the physiological approach alone could not give an adequate answer. In 1939 he founded the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol. This is a magazine devoted entirely to the study of alcohol and its various problems from every approach.

In 1943, Yale started the Summer School on Alcoholic Studies, under the direction of Dr. E. M. Jellinek. Thus, Yale became the first university to publicly recognize alcoholism as a disease and not a moral problem. Their approach from the very beginning has been a scientific, fact-finding one. At the school they have called specialists from the fields of Physiology, Psychology, Religion, Economics, Sociology, Law, Psychiatry and Medicine. These men gave lectures based on facts and their extensive experience with the problems of alcohol. At no time did their course deviate from a scientific, unemotional treatment of the subject with the main objectives being educational. The feeling being that the more factual information they could pass out to many people, the more they could take the stigma off excessive drinking, and have the problem treated as a very complex social one with many ramifications, rather than a moral issue.

This was the third summer session and approximately 140 students were enrolled. This group was chosen from hundreds of applicants. More than 5000 people have applied for admission during the three years the school has been operating. Only about 400 could be enrolled in that time. They came from all walks of life and all fields of endeavor. Ministers, educators, lawyers, doctors, social workers, Salvation Army men, Temperance workers, W.C.T.U. members, and people connected with distilleries as well as, and beer and wine interests were present. Ten AA's were also in attendance but not as AA's. This group, of an average age about forty, came from 38 different states, and Canada, had only one common bond—a keen interest in alcohol and alcoholism. At the beginning most people were reticent and cautious. In a short time those with definite wet and dry leanings discovered that no attempt was made to indoctrinate anyone in anyway; attitudes changed, and all listened and talked and discussed the problems of alcohol from every angle.

As I mentioned before, AA was not officially represented, except that Bill W. gave one of the lectures. but AA and our successful plan of rehabilitation was referred to many times by different people's recovery than any other approach to alcoholism. The majority of the people attending had never heard of AA before arriving in New Haven, but all knew something about us and where to refer people with a drinking problem before they left.

Personally, I feel that my experience at the School was not only interesting, but most valuable and worth-while to me as an alcoholic and AA. I feel, also, that publicity of this kind is most helpful to our activity; any plan that brings this complicated problem out into the open and enables people to examine it objectively and unemotionally is to our-advantage.

P.B.J.

## HOLIDAY WARNING

During the coming holidays, when a lot of friends will try to force drinks on us—just to be sociable—remember that if you don't take that first drink you'll not have any regrets and you'll be thankful that AA has brought you back to sanity. You can't take one drink if you're an alcoholic. You're in the same fix as the lady who said she was only "a little bit pregnant".

## CENTRAL OFFICE

Several meetings have been held by representatives of all groups to discuss the financing of the Central A-4 Office in Cleveland for the forthcoming year.

The Central Office committee presented a budget for the sum of \$8000.00 which was deemed necessary to function properly.

The groups almost unanimously agreed that this amount was necessary and agreed to raise the sum through voluntary contributions. A goal of at least \$5.00 per active member was set by most groups.

At this writing quite a few of the groups have already met their quota and have sent their contribution to the office.

A final meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17th or 21st. Groups will be notified.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The meeting of December 4, found nineteen groups answering the roll call. The Hospital Committee reported that Nottingham Hospital and the West Park Home have closed. Roy W., retiring chairman of the Committee gave a detailed report of the Hospital situation, not only in Cleveland but New York and Chicago as well.

The representative of the Central Bulletin reported a subscription list of 973 and made a special plea that all groups interested, mail to them by the twelfth of each month details and happenings that they wish to appear in the Bulletin regarding their groups. To date, only a small number of groups have availed themselves of this opportunity. Since this is a publication to promote the inter-group interests the Bulletin would naturally like to have all groups participate. The secretary of each group was asked to appoint a committee to handle this matter.

The chairman of the Consolidated Meetings gave a full report on the November meeting. A very large crowd attended the meeting and he particularly thanked the Central Bulletin for their co-operation in mailing out the advance notice cards.

Following the disposition of new and old business, the election of officers for the next period took place. The new moderator is Dick M., vice-moderator, Bill O., and our good, old friend Harry S. will return to the office of treasurer. The new chairmen for the various committees will be appointed promptly, at which time a new secretary will also be appointed. Dewey S., the retiring moderator was given a fine round of applause which indicated the appreciation for the thorough and serious manner in which he carried out the affairs of Central Committee during his term in office.

Since the first Tuesday in January falls on New Year's Day, it was thought that many of the people would not want to attend a Central Committee Meeting on that day. It will therefore be necessary to find out what date the room where the meetings are held will be available and a post card will be mailed to the secretaries just as soon as the necessary information is available.

## EAST SIDE WOMEN SCORE

A crowd of about 100 attended and thoroughly enjoyed the panel discussion given by the East Side Women's group at Glenville Hall, Monday, Nov. 26th. The all-women panel gave intelligent and highly satisfactory answers to many questions submitted to them. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Jean K. and she nicely interspersed her natural wit as she assigned the questions to the speakers who were Mary D., Evelyn P., Billy O'D. and Agnes B. Helen O'M. is the able secretary of this hard-working group.

## LAKESIDE MEN'S

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Hall will echo hollowly on both Xmas and New Year's Eves as the Lakeside Men's Group has cancelled meeting dates on both these Monday nights.

## RATE RISE

Due to the rise in operating costs, including foodstuffs, hewn and medicines, the Farquharson Nursing Home regretfully announces that effective January 1st, the fee for the usual five-day period will be upped to \$65.00.

## WEST SIDE NEW YEAR PARTY

(Once again we remind you of the gala New Year's party sponsored by the West Side Social Club to be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Hall. The affair will find members of most west side groups dancing to the music of a twelve piece orchestra and enjoying a stellar floor show and buffet supper. Hours 8:30 to ?. And all for a buck and a half. Come one, come all.

## DOAN DATA

Paul J., popularly known as "The Professor", handled the November meetings in his customary scholarly manner. His speakers emphasized the Three R's of AA (who said there ain't no R's in AA)? These were ably presented by D. T., Henry S., Earl A. and Bert R. Bert, incidentally, has been an extraordinary worker at Doan. (He is assistant secretary also.) This was his first lead at Doan and it was a tough job to get him up there on the dais, but he proved Paul's confidence in him by giving an excellent lead. Another of our good members, Old Buck, after four years in Ax finally overcame his bashfulness, we hear, and is now on the Chautauqua circuit.

The group will have a New Year's Eve party with dancing, entertainment and good food. From 8:30 to ????

## BOLTON SQUARE

Reconversion lifted several regulars from the Bolton Square Group rolls when it necessitated their shift from night to day jobs, but a handful of confirmed night owls is carrying on, convinced that the group is filling a vital need.

November was a banner month, with a list of top flight leaders that included Roy W., Lou S., Frank B. and Tony S.

A dramatic incident that should form a trail blazing pattern for AA's who will find themselves shunted out of jobs by returning servicemen occurred at the Nov. 19 meeting.

Johnny M. entered the meeting late-during the discussion period. He took the floor and said:

"I've just lost the best job I ever had. About an hour ago, I was replaced by a soldier who had the job before I had it. I knew the best place for me was right here, so here I am."

There's a real lesson for tomorrow in his action. A lot of us are going to face the same thing in the months ahead. Let's pray that we all face it with the courage that Johnny did. And let's all follow the path he took. The safe path to a meeting.

George S.

## PAINESVILLE PATTERN

Doc M. H., the painless dentist of Painesville, advises us that the group now has a membership of over 50 and invites all AA's to join in their activities. Each Tuesday the stags gather at 8:00 o'clock and discuss the big book, chapter by chapter. Thursdays find the gang and their wives in an open meeting. Every Saturday Eve is social nite with all kinds of fun. Doc tells us that, "Surprise is the word" as far as the New Year's Eve party is concerned. George H. has been appointed Bulletin correspondent. We'll be hearing from you, George.

## CARNEGIE CAPERS

Anne S., secretary of the Carnegie group submits the following: "Yes, Carnegie Group's grand opening was a huge success, as evidenced by the 184 that gathered to hear Paul S. lead a fine meeting. After his talk the meeting was opened for questions from the floor. This will be the accepted procedure from now on at Carnegie group.

The chili was hot but good. The result: an empty pot. The Jones Boys interpretation of "Black Magic" climaxed a successful evening, and all went home quite happy about the whole thing.

The group wishes to extend a word of thanks to Ellis L. for his efforts in spreading the news of the opening. And thanks to the many friends who came to help us put it over successfully.

Frank M. kept things rolling smoothly in the kitchen in spite of the large number that had to be served. Orchids to a swell guy for a job well done.

P.S. Don't forget to attend Jack D.'s 8th anniversary meeting. He will speak Sat., Dec. 29th at 9:00 P.M."

EUCLID-WADE

Although cancelling their meeting date on Christmas Day the Euclid-Wade group believes in starting the New Year off right, and will hold a meeting on the first of the New Year. Same time, same place.

ON THE SQUARE

Fine leads and constructive discussions are keynoting Public Squares current gatherings, with the increasing number of out-of-town visitors providing spice and interest during the after lead period. Doc H., the ponderous pachyderm, returned to his old haunt in the role of leader on Dec. 6. Doc asks us to correct an impression that he has moved his office as well as his home to Berea. The spectacular spectacle service is still holding forth in the usual place.

GIFT EXCHANGE

Elmer L. the bird with one wing, advises us that the annual Lake Shore Christmas party will be held in conjunction with the regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 17. Following the discussion period the traditional exchange of two-bit gifts will take place. New Year's Eve will find the group members and their friends gathered at the Fairview Community Center with a supper dance in progress. Dress is optional. Remember! No meeting Xmas or New Year's Eve. First meeting of the New Year January 7.

CHANGE A LA NEWBURGH

Tony K., of the Newburgh group reports that a complete reformation has now taken place. The new quarters of the group formerly housed a local bistro and not a few of the present group were wont to hoist a glass or ten within the walls of 3684 E. 93rd St. The ground floor is used as a meeting place, and the basement handles the social groups. Due to the pressure of business Bill McG., was forced to resign the secretaryship. His shoes are being capably filled by John F.

NEW LISTING

Allen M., the beverage baron of Ashland asks us to announce the Wednesday gathering of the group at the G.A.R. Hall, located at 140 Arthur St. The time: 8:30 P.M.

ADDRESS CHANGES

When you move please notify the Bulletin of your change in address. For the past few months a great number of Bulletins have been returned to the office undelivered. This entails a great deal of expense, as well as time and effort in attempting to locate the removals. If you have moved or intend to move do not fail to let us know your new address. This is important!

COULD BE

The drunk sitting at his favorite bar was startled when a horse entered the establishment and in clear, understandable English ordered two Martinis with two olives in each.

After the bartender had mixed 'em up, flipped two olives in each cocktail glass and poured 'em out, the horse swallowed his drinks in quick succession, paid his bill, said "Good afternoon, gentlemen;" and walked out.

"Say," said the drunk, "isn't that a bit unusual?" "No," replied the bartender, "I frequently put two olives in a Martini."

Your temper improves the longer you keep it. You improve the longer you keep your temper.

AA BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 1945

Table with columns for Thursday League and Friday League, listing team names and scores.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETINGS

Monday meeting schedule listing groups like BORTON, EAST SIDE WOMEN'S, LAKEWOOD, etc. with times.

Tuesday meeting schedule listing groups like BROOKLYN-PARMA, EAGLE TRAINING, EUCLID-WADE, etc. with times.

Wednesday meeting schedule listing groups like BROOKLYN-K, CHAGRIN FALLS, COLLINWOOD, etc. with times.

Thursday meeting schedule listing groups like ARCADE, BEREA, BROADWAY-55TH, etc. with times.

Friday meeting schedule listing groups like CEDAR-Salvation Army, GORDON SQUARE, LEE ROAD, etc. with times.

Saturday meeting schedule listing groups like CARNEGIE, GLENVILLE, W. S. SOCIAL CLUB, etc. with times.

Sunday meeting schedule listing groups like COLLINWOOD, DOAN MEN'S TRAINING MEETING, etc. with times.

Morning Meetings section listing Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings with group names and times.

LIST OF APPROVED AA HOSPITALS

Table listing hospital names and addresses, such as Bender's (Melrose 1636), Charity Hospital, etc.