

# Psychiatric Advancements May Close Mental Hospitals

**ANN ARBOR**—Mental hospitals may close their doors for good within the next 20 years if

**Develop New Alloy For Teeth**

**SAN FRANCISCO**—A new alloy has been developed by a University of Michigan dentist to help people who wear partial dentures.

Dr. Kamal Asgar worked on the project five years before finding a soft, cobalt-niobium alloy which makes a "marked improvement" in the clasps which hold the dentures in place.

He said the new substance may more than double the service life of the clasps.

**THE KEY** to the metal's usefulness is its softness and flexibility. According to Dr. Asgar, other researchers had tried to develop a harder and stronger alloy to solve the breakage problem, thinking such an alloy would last longer.

His study showed the exact opposite. The softness of the new alloy will also cause less wear on a patient's natural or artificial teeth that touch it in chewing.

Partial dentures may cost more than \$300 and at present may last about two years. Although their breakage causes discomfort, patients are often unwilling to replace them that often because of the expense.

The new clasps may last as long as five years. The less frequent replacement will mean substantial savings for denture wearers over the years.

**DENTISTS WILL** benefit by the new alloy, too, since they will be able to adjust the partial dentures to individual bites more easily and quickly.

Tests are still being run to see if the alloy resists corrosion. Dr. Asgar is optimistic about the results. Any alloy with over 20 per cent chromium is usually corrosion resistant. The new alloy has over 26 per cent.

Dr. Asgar's research is being supported by the National Institute of Dental Research, a branch of the U.S. Public Health Service.

## Burroughs Gets \$13.8 Million Swiss Loan

Burroughs Corporation announced the borrowing of 60 million Swiss francs (\$13.8 million) which was underwritten by a syndicate of Swiss banks led by the Union Bank of Switzerland.

The 15-year 5-1/2 per cent debentures were offered to the public at par and were fully subscribed.

The loan is in the name of a subsidiary, Burroughs International Company of Wilmington, Delaware. Proceeds will be used to finance expansion programs of subsidiary companies of Burroughs Corporation outside the United States.

behavioral therapy becomes the accepted form of psychiatric treatment.

This is the view of University of Michigan psychology Prof. James V. McConnell.

"Behavioral therapy is the only form of treatment which has been proved to work," McConnell said, "There is no reputable scientific evidence to suggest that analytic or eclectic therapies ever cured anyone of anything."

"Behavioral therapy works because it is based on scientific evidence. You punish or reward patients according to their behavior. If you can't cure the mind, you can cure the behavior; in fact, maybe the behavior is all there is to cure."

"Perhaps the trouble with crazy people is not that they are crazy, but that they act crazy. So you reward them for acting sane and punish them for acting insane."

**Name Gershenson To MSU Hotel Advisory Board**

**EAST LANSING**—Samuel N. Gershenson, Detroit business and civic leader, has been elected to the Advisory Board of the Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management, Michigan State University.

Gershenson's election to a three-year term on the Advisory Board was announced by Henry Ogden Barbour, director of the school.

The Advisory Board, which is made up of 32 nationally known hotel and restaurant industry leaders, assists the University in their educational efforts.

Gershenson is president of the Gold Key Inns, a chain of eight motor inns in Michigan and Florida, and an owner of the Hotel Pontchartrain in Detroit. He is also president of the Michigan Hotel and Motor Hotel Association.

McCONNELL DESCRIBED one case, treated by behavioral therapy, in which a young, severely withdrawn boy was placed on an electric grid and given mild shocks until he took a step toward the psychiatrist. By waiting until the boy approached successively closer before administering the shocks, the psychiatrist managed to finally teach to child to embrace him and subsequently other adults also.

"Although such treatment is often described as 'the kindness of cruelty,'" McConnell continued, "it has proved to be both effective and quick as a cure."

What about the other psychotherapeutic techniques now being practiced? "Most of them not only fail to cure the patient, but may even harm him," McConnell warned.

"THE PSYCHIATRIST is really more of an artist than a

scientist," he explained. "The psychiatrist is really more interested in helping and understanding his patient than in curing him."

Although psychoanalysis is still the dominant theory in America today, McConnell predicted that it will soon be "finished and dead" as a form of treatment.

"The only reason analysis has endured this long," McConnell said, "is that the medical

profession is very conservative and reluctant to accept any kind of change, and until lately there have been no alternatives."

Other forms of treatment such as the heroic therapies, psychosurgery and eclectic therapies are equally ineffective, McConnell added. He described heroic therapies, which use convulsive electric shocks to treat the patient, as "irreversibly physically damaging...the

patient probably gets well just to avoid further treatment."

With regard to psycho-surgery, McConnell said, "you can't cure mental illness simply by scooping out large portions of the brain."

And eclectic therapy, which lets the patient do all the work in the hope that, having gained insight into his problem, he will then cure himself, "has never been proven to help anybody."

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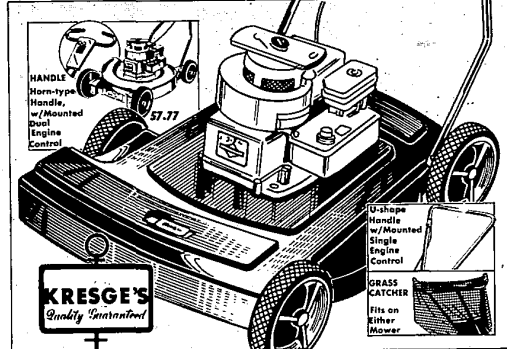
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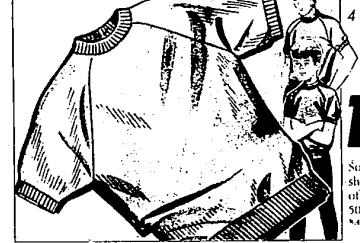
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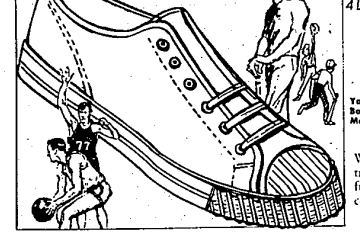
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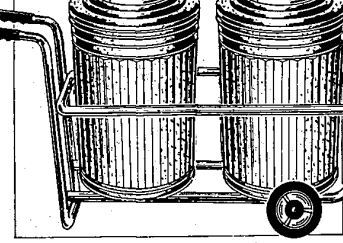
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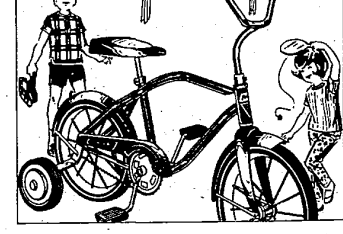
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