

CENTRAL BULLETIN

UNSELFISHNESS — HONESTY — TRUTH — LOVE

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Editorial . .

The Founder called it "a Miracle of Transformation."

So it was. There were doctors, lawyers and mechanics, business executives and clerks: men of many stations of life and of many creeds.

Not so long ago they were chained almost inescapably to an obsession that defied determination and willpower, that progressively destroyed their usefulness to themselves, their families and to society

They and their wives, numbering nearly 1000 persons, filled the great Rainbow Room of Hotel Carter. They were there to pay tribute to the Founder. Yet the Founder's inspiring message was overshadowed by the audience itself. There were many hundred personal triumphs, and many hundred triumphs of missionary zeal.

The Founder himself saw this great audience as a miracle. He paid tribute to the work of the members of Greater Cleveland, who had shown how ordinary men, with Divine inspiration, could succeed in an effort that would be accounted too great for professionals.

The Founder led a meeting. He told us about his personal problem. He told us how, after he had received the inspiration that led to the development of the method, his problem still remained. It remained as long as resentment, intolerance and self pity remained. He put strong emphasis on the destroying effect of resentment.

He met his crisis as most of the rest of us have learned to meet our crises: by acceptance of the guiding hand of the Creator, and by working with others.

He spoke of humility and patience and love and honesty and unselfishness. But particularly, he spoke of the destructive effects of resentment, intolerance and self pity.

There were two other speakers. The guest of honor of last year's dinner meeting spoke of the necessity of passing the work on to others, of correcting our thinking, of finding a new plan for living, and of making use of the opportunity to gain happiness.

The other speaker was a Clevelander, a member for five years. He spoke on the individual nature of the problem and the individual's own responsibility for its solution.

Members from 20 other cities were present: Lorain, Akron, Uhrichsville, Ashtabula, Youngstown, Dayton, Columbus, Geneva, Mountainview, Kent, Canton, Cuyahoga Falls, Mount Vernon, Belleview, Mansfield, Berea and Toledo in Ohio; Erie, Pa., Pittsburgh, Pa., and Jackson, Mich.

ABSOLUTE HONESTY—One of the four absolutes of A. A. means that we **MUST** be honest with ourselves first, last and always if we are to succeed in this New Way Of Life.

Responsibility of Sponsors

The greatest responsibility any man or woman assumes as a member of A. A. is the treatment or sponsorship of the new prospect.

Upon how thoroughly and conscientiously this job is done by us depends the future happiness and security of the individual concerned.

It is, therefore, important that we assume this responsibility in its entirety, not only for the benefit of the prospect, but for our own protection as well. Our own safety and security depends upon how unselfishly we give of ourselves to others.

It is our duty to be certain beyond the shadow of a doubt that the prospect once left on his own has such a complete understanding of the principles and practices of this movement that he will know what to do under any and all conditions.

This is accomplished only by painstaking effort on our part to the extent that we must be sure that the prospect has received the proper instructions from a great number of contacts, thru the reading of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and by our showing the way properly to make a contact with others. All this having been done, it is important that we impress upon the prospect the fact that he must then do this job himself for his own security.

All these things are vitally necessary and it is the sponsor's responsibility to follow thru on

this to the point where the prospect is able honestly to recognize the fact that regardless of what the condition or circumstance with which he is confronted a drink is never the solution to his problem.

SUNDAY EVENING MEETINGS

At a round table discussion meeting it was suggested that a Sunday evening group be started and that it preferably meet regularly downtown or within easy reach of all districts of Cleveland. We suggest that the secretaries bring this up for discussion at regular meetings, and if sufficient interest is aroused, steps will be taken to create a new group.

BULLETIN RETAINS NAME

In the first Bulletin it was suggested that everyone put his thinking cap on and submit a name for the subsequent Bulletins. Only one other name was suggested and the delegates to Central Committee expressed a preference for the original name, so the name stands. A new masthead is being drawn by one of our artist members, so for the Christmas issue you may see us with a different "dress" on. 1

Dr. Tunk's Tribute to Mrs. Smith.

June 3, 1949

We have come here today with a keen sense of personal loss, but with gratitude for a life that has served well the high purposes of God. A fine mother and wife, a devoted friend to whom countless people owe more than they can ever repay. Anne Smith found abiding happiness in the kind and thoughtful things she was always doing for others.

What deep satisfactions were hers! She was the silent partner in an enterprise whose influence has extended around the world. It was her wisdom and patient helpfulness that was the real motive power of Alcoholics Anonymous in the early days when its policies were being formulated. To her husband she gave never failing loyalty and understanding when problems had to be faced, thought through and conquered. One lighted candle can lend its flame to countless others. With the contagious desire to help others, this devoted wife worked from behind the scenes in behalf of what has proved to be one of the most redemptive forces of our times. She must have rejoiced as she saw the gathering power of A. A. liberating men and women from slavery to alcohol, restoring them to the high road of self respect and usefulness to their fellowman. Such miracles are not wrought by human power alone. I have heard learned theologians discuss the power and majesty of God. But I am much more impressed when I go to an A. A. meeting and hear men and women talk about God, not from hearsay, but from their own vital experience of His redemptive power. In deep humility they know that they have walked through difficult places only because His sustaining hand has given them strength greater than their own.