

# CLINIC A NEW ARM IN NARCOTICS WAR

## Chicago Counseling Service, Stressing Follow-Up, Tries to Cut Relapse Rate

A new weapon in the war against narcotics addiction has been moved into the fight in Chicago.

It consists of two regional medical counseling clinics for more effective rehabilitation of addicts who have taken the withdrawal treatment. Its program is aimed at reducing the relapse rate, or the return to drug use.

The clinics, said to be the first approach of its kind in the country, were described here yesterday by Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, 48-year-old Chicago specialist in digestive diseases and the prime mover in their organization less than a year ago.

Dr. Berry participated in the second conference on drug addiction among adolescents, held two weeks ago at the New York Academy of Medicine, and has remained here since then to visit relatives in this city. The conference had been held under the auspices of the academy with the cooperation of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation.

One of the clinics, Dr. Berry said, is in the Neuropsychiatric Institute of the University of Illinois Hospital. The second is in Provident Hospital, on Chicago's South Side. They were opened last Nov. 30 with a state appropriation of \$90,000 for the first year and they are under the supervision of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

One important aspect of the clinic program, Dr. Berry said, is its approach and emphasis on follow-up care after the addict leaves the hospital or jail. In this connection, he described the work of two field social workers on the clinic staff who go into the local jails before the release of the addicts to "sell" the clinic idea. Similar close liaison, he said, is maintained with the Federal narcotics hospital at Lexington, Ky.

Another valuable phase of the clinic idea is its effort to get away from the stigma of the word "narcotic" in the name of the clinic and the rallying of all elements of the community to counteract the taboos associated with jail and a narcotics hospital.

The clinic is free and its staff includes a psychiatrist, a psychologist, an internist, a psychiatric social worker, two field social work-

ers and an occupational counselor. Dr. Berry said the community resources in the clinic area had been coordinated so that cooperation was available in obtaining employment, further education, occupational or recreational therapy or religious counseling.

Dr. Berry said that the police, in examining and questioning suspected addicts with tell-tale needle marks, had been cooperative and sympathetic with former addicts registered with the clinic.

Dr. Berry said one to two years of follow-up care were desirable to increase the number of the "redeemed." Special assistance, he added, has come from the Chicago Board of Education in case-finding as well as in the furtherance of the education of former narcotics addicts.

In addition to rehabilitation, the clinics also are concentrating on research and prevention. Plans are afoot, Dr. Berry said, to press not only psychiatric and sociological research, but physiological and pharmacological research as well. More than 100 former addicts

have begun visiting the clinics since they opened their doors, Dr. Berry said. He expects this number to rise sharply with greater understanding, more cooperation and successful sale of the clinic idea.

## Easter Seals Called Investment

The New York State Association for Crippled Children, Inc., 257 Fourth Avenue, reported yesterday that last year's receipts from the sale of Easter seals had served 8,600 crippled children and adults in this state. E. A. Stiles, executive director of the association, said public contributions to the group were "an investment in the economic future of the state's physically-handicapped."

## Chile to Sign Arms Aid Pact

SANTIAGO, Chile, March 29 (UP)—Negotiations have been successfully completed between the United States and Chile for a Mutual Military Aid Agreement, it was reported today. The agreement will be signed either Thursday or Friday, the report said.