

Aid of Narcotics Anonymous Asked by Judge as Result of Times Series

A Times series on narcotics addiction has prompted a Superior Court judge to seek the aid of Narcotics Anonymous to help him determine the need for hospital treatment among addicts seeking voluntary petitions for commitment to State hospitals.

Judge Lloyd Nix, who conducts Department 54 at the Psychiatric Clinic of General Hospital, said yesterday that NA, an organization of former addicts, could serve the court because its members

have the trust and confidence of other addicts.

The Times series told how NA, which operates on principles originated by Alcoholics Anonymous, can help in the rehabilitation of addicts by giving them the understanding and sympathy they now lack from society.

Judge Nix said that as a result of the articles he expected an upsurge of addicts seeking voluntary commitment to State hospitals, but that the increase has not been forthcoming. One in-

stalment expressed the desire of the court to help the addict rather than punish him.

It was theorized that addicts still have a fear of the official attitude toward addiction and are reluctant to admit having the habit. Judge Nix and his staff feel that NA can help overcome this feeling and also serve as experienced advisers to the court in determining whether certain patients could profit by hospital treatment.

A treatment program by

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NARCOTICS SERIES

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Dr. Stuart C. Knox, chairman of the County Medical Association's committee on alcoholics and narcotics, to set up out-patient clinics around Los Angeles has met with difficulty due to a State law which apparently forbids such establishments.

Withdrawal Treatment

As detailed in The Times series, Dr. Knox would make use of the clinics to administer two enzyme-like chemicals which diminish withdrawal reactions. The Knox program also includes psychiatric treatment and participation by Narcotics Anonymous.

Hinging upon a clarification of the State law by the Attorney General are offers by at least two hospitals to provide space for the clinics. And the employees of a large aircraft concern have expressed interest in contributing money for the clinics if the Attorney General's ruling is favorable.

Doctor Tells Need

Dr. Homer O. Stilson, medical director of the White Memorial Clinic, expressed a desire to co-operate in the Knox program by offering the clinic's facilities.

"We have a daily need for the type of treatment that Dr. Knox proposes, but all I can do is tell the patient we are nearly able to supply the need but can't at this time," Dr. Stilson said.

The law in question was enacted to prohibit out-patient clinics which make use of narcotics in their treatments. Dr. Knox's treatment does not employ the use of narcotics.

Dr. Knox reports that since

the articles appeared he has been "swamped" with people who want help.

The articles were commended by laymen, law officers and jurists, including Presiding Judge Louis H. Burke of the Superior Court, who stated the series served to enlighten the public upon the many facets of this problem and the need for a carefully planned program if we are to cope with it successfully."