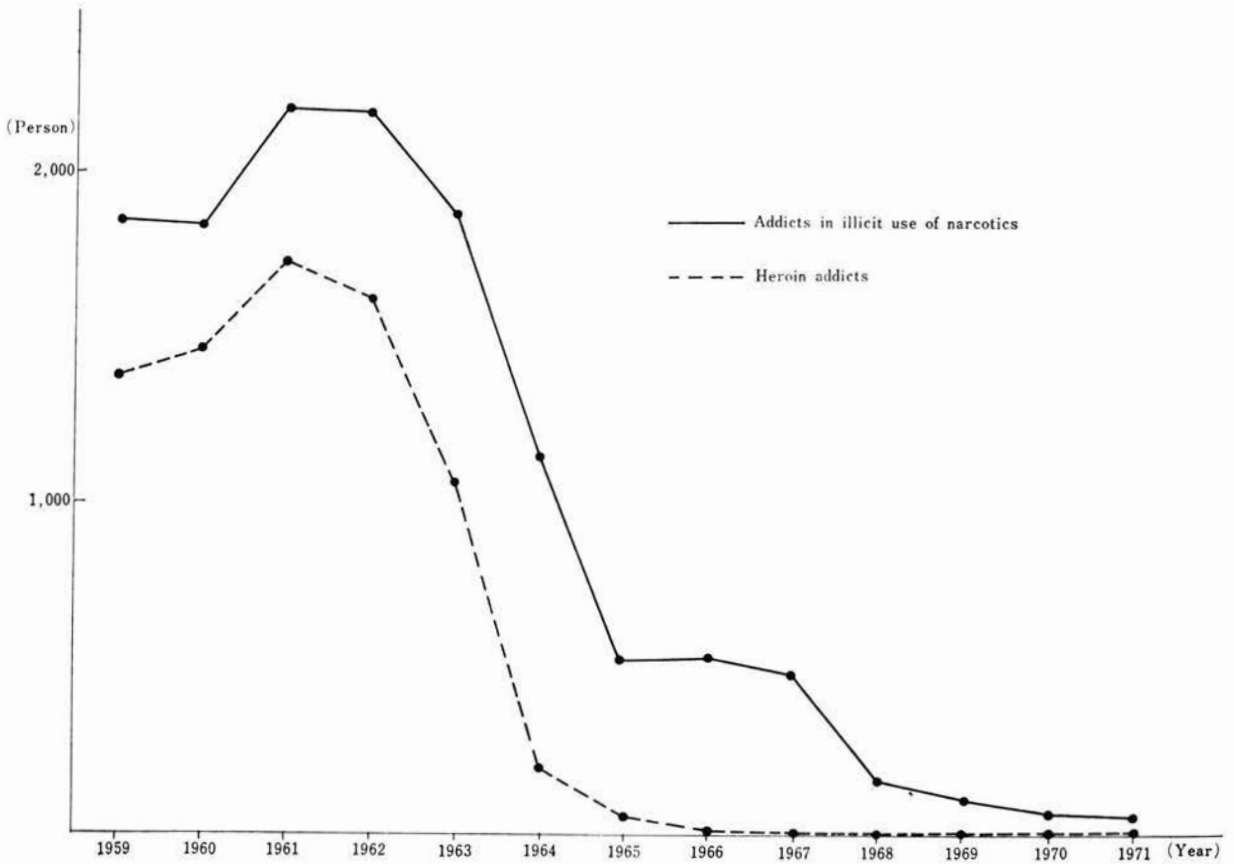


FIG. 4. ADDICTS REPORTED ANNUALLY



Discussion

PROFESSOR A.A. SANDOSHAM (Malaysia) said that curiosity obviously played a big part in initiating the drug-taking habit among the adolescents, especially in the trying out of pep pills. In those circumstances, he asked if we were adopting a wise policy in publicising information on the use and abuse of drugs in Secondary Schools.

PROFESSOR TAN ENG SEONG (Malaysia) replied that we should neither over dramatize nor underplay

the abuse of drugs in schools.

DR. PETER LEE (Hong Kong) said that in Hong Kong sex education was introduced in schools and books on narcotics and their dangers (maximal and minimal effects) were distributed widely in all schools.

DR. CHEAH OON SIEW (Malaysia) said that he was the Secretary of a Committee set up by the Malaysian Medical Association to study the problem of drug

addiction in Malaysia. They found that police records in Penang of offences charged under the Dangerous Drug Act showed an increasing trend and that there was a corresponding pattern of increasing numbers in the Penang General Hospital medical record of patients admitted with a diagnosis of drug addiction. Personal experiences in treating drug addicts suggested that official figures were only the tip of the iceberg. A pilot project using drug questionnaire survey in Penang secondary schools did give rise to concern about the growing extent of the problem in schools. Pressure groups by joining bad company could be a factor. However, most of the young addicts were in their twenties. Teachers and youth leaders could help in tackling this problem.

Dr. Cheah said he would, in consultation with his colleague, submit a draft resolution for the consideration of the CMAAO Congress.

This draft was referred to the Resolutions Subcommittee composed of Datuk (Dr.) K.A. Menon, Drs. Peter Lee and N. Muroya and was rejected as the recommendations would not be applicable to several other countries represented in the CMAAO.

DR LIM KEE JIN (Malaysia) said that any resolution on this subject should be taken in conjunction with social and other problems that drives people to take to drugs.

DR. K.H. LEE (Hong Kong) said that drug addiction was a growing problem in Hong Kong. Notification is necessary by law. There were three points which were directly related to the clinician. (1) Notification: whether notification of drug addicts is desirable or practicable is debatable. However, notification does give a better and more accurate idea of the volume of

the problem. (2) Methodone substitution therapy: Two separate schemes are under trial in Hong Kong to treat heroin addicts by methodone maintenance. (3) Treatment by acupuncture: A neurosurgeon in Hong Kong has discovered a breakthrough in the treatment of heroin addicts. Acupuncture has been found effective in controlling withdrawal symptoms. A much more extensive study is being carried out. The preliminary results will soon be published.

DR. PRIMITIVO D. CHUA (Philippines)

Our country has not been spared the problem of "Drug Addiction", particularly among the youth of our population. The problem has reached alarming proportions so that the Government enacted the "Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972" (R.A. 6425), providing the creation of the Dangerous Drugs Board, which promulgated rules and regulations and the penalties of violations thereof, are now being implemented. Physicians prescribing (1) Prohibited and/or (2) Regulated Drugs (as listed by the Drug Board) have to use an approved Prescription Form consisting of 3 copies (each to be retained by (1) the dispensing drugstore, (2) the prescribing physician and (3) the patient).

As a point of information, under the current Martial Law, the President of our Republic, after a fair trial, ordered the execution by firing squad of a Chinese citizen who was proven actively engaged in the traffic and manufacture of Prohibited Drugs. These, no doubt, will be an effective control for the illegal uses of Dangerous Drugs. It has been noted that, after the full implementation of our "Dangerous Drugs Act," drug addiction in our country is now very much minimized, if not totally eradicated.