

THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

BOX 658

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CHURCH STREET ANNEX

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NEW YORK CITY

#3

A.A. BULLETIN

6/30/41

Much water has gone over the dam since our bulletin of last January mailed just previous to the appearance of the Saturday Evening Post article. The necessity of answering all inquiries as promptly as possible has delayed this bulletin considerably and although some direct Post inquiries are still received daily in addition to other mail, it is now possible to keep the situation in hand.

To date, your central office has received 2325 SEP inquiries - with an additional 2075 during the same period from various other sources - making a total of 4400 letters answered from this office since March 1st, 1941. Approximately 50% of these letters were immediately referred to A.A. groups for personal co-operation, but the balance were so located as to make it virtually impossible to arrange personal contact, therefore it was necessary to lend encouragement and assistance by mail. Many of these facetiously called "mail order prospects" are making the grade remarkably well, some of them successfully working with others in their own particular localities.

Correspondence is also maintained with each of the 116 groups on the attached list - 62 White Star Groups, 24 Red Star Groups, and 30 Green Star. Sometimes a great many letters are exchanged, sometimes only a few, all depending upon the need and desire of the particular group or individual.

All inquiries received are kept in such order that it is a comparatively simple procedure to get together a list of interested people in one vicinity for any A.A. member who travels and wishes to continue A.A. work en route. There are now several such men who have accomplished some amazing results along these lines, because it sometimes takes only a little understanding friendship, an opportunity to talk with someone else who has "gone through the mill", to get a fellow started on the right track - particularly when he has read the literature and has some idea of what A.A. is all about.

One of our Chicago travelers had an interesting experience which seems well worth relating in view of the promised happy ending. He was sitting in his hotel lobby one evening when a celebrant sitting close by confided to him in a loud stage whisper, "I'm drunk". On a hunch our A.A. friend asked whether he ever read the SEP. To the vast amusement of the people assembled in the lobby, the drunk laughed uproariously and answered, "You mean that A.A. article? Hell, I wrote it". Nevertheless it was the beginning of an understanding friendship and several weeks later the man of the hotel lobby was getting along all right and rarin' to go. He will know when he reads this that we are all with him 100%.

One of our New York members clipped the following from the personal column of a New York paper, and since it seems to "hit the spot", here it is:

" GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE,
COURAGE TO CHANGE THINGS I CAN, AND WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE".

So - until the next bulletin -

Regards,

Ruth Hock
Secretary.