



(1)

12/5  
1/5

The Strange Obsession

It was a hot night  
in the midsummer of 1934.  
I found myself at a  
address on Central Park West  
New York City. It was the Charles  
towns hospital for alcoholics  
alcoholics

Stepping out and staring  
out a fearful language  
I had address at  
explosions again. Now staring  
the doctor looked across  
his desk at my wife and

She was saying "Doctor,  
why can't he stop drinking?  
stop drinking. He always had  
great will power. Yet he has  
again, and still cannot  
stop. The more he struggles  
the worse he gets. I am  
scared, and death is coming  
and power is gone. He'd do  
any thing to stop anything at  
all to stop. Tell me, Doctor,  
why can't he stop?"

2

Louis was asking the same  
terrible question that uncounted  
women had asked before.  
This was a riddle - quite  
as old as man's first discovery  
that alcohol could be made  
from grapes and grains.

Again she said "Please  
tell me the truth, doctor. Why  
must I stop?"

In his long experience with  
sorrow-drinkers the good doctor had faced  
that heartbreaker a thousand  
times - by nature ~~both~~ <sup>both</sup> the  
~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~woman~~ <sup>woman</sup>  
failed to wince whenever a  
distracted wife husband or  
friend <sup>was</sup> suffering, preoccupied  
beyond the ancient riddle of  
alcoholism. Bill Bennett had  
suffered and runed <sup>run</sup>  
deeply - How could he even bring  
himself to tell Louis the truth

3

being, little doctors  
The face turned grave as  
began to speak. "When Bill  
Gris came to this hospital  
three years ago, I felt that  
he might be one of those  
rare cases who might recover  
~~a permanent recovery~~. I  
hoped that when he better  
understood himself and  
the nature of his illness,  
he might win, but in  
despite of a medical  
search and fees, since then  
I have gone on "hoping"  
for, as you say, he  
desperately wants to quit  
and his will to do so is  
very great. But now when  
I've managed to spread  
his going to be like nearly  
all the other alcoholics  
who come my way.

"Well Doctor" creditors  
just what do you mean  
by that. Won't he ever  
get better

(4)

~~Dear~~ ~~brother~~ ~~gentle~~ ~~son~~  
the doctor wrote me "As you  
already ~~know~~ your husband is a  
rich man. I think the  
doctors here to tell you  
you are about his illness  
and how really serious  
his condition now is.

Gentle, the doctor  
wrote me "What - said,  
you already know that your  
husband is a rich man,  
but I've never told you just  
how rich an able-bodied  
man he is, nor have I  
ever explained to you  
illness to you as I  
understand it from my  
long observation. There are  
a lot of theories about the  
underlying causes of  
compulsive drinking like  
Bell's. Of these I can  
take one just - but there  
are some solid facts, too,  
which no one who has  
watched many alcoholics  
could well dispute.

(5)

Fact one is that  
innumerable alcoholic  
men and women really  
want to ~~control~~ ~~their~~ ~~destructive~~  
drinking and then  
find, to their dismay,  
that they cannot. They  
cannot moderate their  
drinking as other people.  
Nor even when faced  
with the most terrible  
consequences, can they  
stop altogether, no matter  
how desperate their plight.  
Never do they even try  
to make for themselves ~~some~~  
~~justification~~ ~~for~~ ~~their~~ ~~self-destructive~~  
patterns of compulsive self-  
destruction. Their behavior  
becomes completely illogical  
and irrational - if really  
reason men could  
ever when they well  
understand ~~the~~ ~~status~~, they  
go on as before. Where  
alcohol is concerned,  
their minds no longer  
rule their emotions. The

6

A newspaper can be started upon the slightest express national alarm. And there is nothing but the provocations which are great they are almost great, but are always small when the evil destructive results are considered. Why life gives the average man a heavy burden, he does not, trust to his tool about, take out size a hammer and beat himself into useless help, unfit, that what the rich alcoholic does, try and win. All reason, all incubation, and even the greatest desire to stop, seems to be swamped when the struggle, for death takes hold.

Therefore the biggest fact is about alcoholism is its oppositional nature. It is one of the most subtle and most powerful compulsion

(7)

known. And once it's grip  
is firm, the chance for  
recovery is ~~very~~ ~~small~~ ~~slim~~  
How to help the alcoholic  
to rattle his obsession is  
the problem. But ~~attempts~~  
have had little success. I've  
seldom helped even once  
in a hundred.

"Now is the drinker's obsession  
the whole day; alcoholism is physical, <sup>in part</sup> too.  
~~The~~ ~~many~~ ~~all~~ ~~cases~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~  
bodies of problem drinkers  
become ~~to~~ painfully sensitive  
to alcohol. What in the early  
stages <sup>of the malady</sup> some alcoholics drink  
quantities of liquor without  
serious physical reaction. But  
continued excesses finally  
cause them to lose that ability  
; they seem to get allergic to  
the stuff; so much so that  
hangovers produce great <sup>and</sup> physical  
agony, <sup>and</sup> sometimes  
delirium tremens or convulsions  
to often follow by brain damage  
and mental deterioration that



⑧

Case be permanent,