

S P E E C H

B Y

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M E E T I N G

O F

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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psychiatrist. We changed it around in four or five days. We took out the musts and put in the word suggest. Then we took the God. This is about the only thing I have given to this thing. I said, "Bill, I am agnostic." We had quite a tussle. I had been staying sober. So had Hank. After a time we decided to put in there "as you see it", which in my estimation is right because you are not putting the pressure on them. It was the only way I could do it. I was awfully badly muddled. I think taking out the musts and making it a suggestive program has made the book completely over. Of course Bill came out of it. He was broken hearted for a while but he now realizes that it was the greatest thing that ever happened. If the book had come out before the drunks all over the country would have heaved it against the wall, and we enlarged the fellowship.

At this time we felt that there was no time to start groups. We decided we were going to do it by mail order. We thought they would read the book and get sober the next morning. Nobody in the country had stressed alcoholism. If you were looking at medical books previous to the last five years you would find they just skipped alcoholism. They said, "An alcoholic is a man with a narcotic obsession." There was nothing to be done about it. That is the way the text books ran.

Then the book was finished with these few changes and we were broke. We had a book that was a million dollars worth and we didn't have a nickel. We made a multilith copy of it. That is a mimeograph really. We put a couple of pasteboard covers on it and we started sending those around to doctors. We made 200 copies and we thought we might get the down payment for the first run of books.

We had them placed. We had gotten enough money out of the \$3000 to buy the plates. We had the plates and we couldn't print, and we had the book and we were all broke. The multilith copies came out with a little note attached to it, "If you will buy this copy for three dollars, if you don't like, bring it back in five days and we will give you your money back." They were all sent out on a five day trail. We still have that on books. We had the multilith copy on a five day trial, and if you bought this lithograph copy you got the original book if and when it was published. So we didn't sell too many of those. If and when looked too far off. Luckily one of these copies hit out here in California. We don't know where. I think this is rather interesting. It hit some psychopathic hospital out here and some guy read the book and he was way up there. He had hit halleluah. The wind had gone through him and everything was "hotsy totsy." That was the last story in the book, "Lone Endeavor". We said, "See already. We put out a couple of hundred copies and we have saved a guy in California." We started corresponding. Wires went backwards and forward from this fellow in California. He wanted to come up there and be an example for us but he had no dough. We passed the hat and some way or another we got enough money to get him up to New York.

In the meantime he had already sent a story and we had printed it and made the plates for it. When he came up there we all went down to see this remarkable recovery from 3000 miles away. We all wanted to touch him. He was doing all this alone. We went down and he was stone drunk. Incidentally, he has been drunk ever since.