

Handmaiden of Hell



(European photo.)

THE TRUTH ABOUT DOPE: WAGES OF IGNORANCE

By GUY MURCHIE JR.

THIS is the true story of Josephine B——, a strip-tease dope fiend. When she was 15 years old Josephine ran away from her comfortable home in a suburb of New York City. Being adventuresome and not afraid of life in the raw, she became a chorus girl in a burlesque show. Six months later she was adept at the spicy art of strip-teasing, then in its infancy, and had married a middle-aged comedian who had a leading part in her show. He was a juggler and piano player, and several times a day he would steal off by himself to take what he told her was lung medicine.

● They had been married about three months when one day Josephine caught a cold. Her husband at once urged her to try some of his "lung medicine," and she trustingly complied. She found that the medicine had to be smoked. Her husband prepared it in the form of pills that looked like pieces of hard molasses, and these were heated over an oil lamp and inserted into the bowl of a bamboo pipe for smoking.

● On sucking the smoke from the sizzling pills through the pipe and into her lungs, Josephine soon had a feeling of dizziness and a slight nausea, but there was also a soothing contentment about smoking the stuff and a pleasant sense of exhilaration. It made her feel "like lying around telling stories," and it also made her "just a little bit passionate."

● The second night Josephine again joined her husband in smoking, and got to doing it regularly, even in the morning

Foreword *What is the truth about dope? Few people know more than the vaguest facts about the subject. Even dope users themselves are often abysmally ignorant of the forces with which they are dealing.*

In Chicago today there are approximately 20,000 dope addicts, according to an average of narcotic agents' guesses. And only about 7,000 of them have any known criminal trait, which is generally petty thievery for the purpose of obtaining money to buy more dope. A few addicts (principally cocaine sniffers and marijuana smokers) have a tendency toward crimes such as murder and rape.

Perhaps a thousand of Chicago's criminal addicts had police records before contracting the habit from their underworld contacts. But the majority of addicts are average respectable citizens in business or professional life, who got started on dope through curiosity, gullibility, and general ignorance.

The story of dope addiction is best told by actual cases. In preparing the article which begins on this page the writer sought out an actual case and personally investigated it from beginning to end.

woman friend of hers, an actress named Irene. And suddenly she was taken ill, while in Irene's room, and began to ache all over. The whole world began swimming around her and she thought she was going to die, but Irene comforted her. She told her she knew she would be all right, because she knew just what was causing her trouble.

● "Tell me, Irene, for heaven's sake tell me what it is," screamed Josephine.

● "All right, dearie," said Irene. "It's high time you knew. It's that stuff you've been smoking. That stuff's not lung medicine. Do you know what it really is? It's opium. It's hop. Yes, dear, you got the habit, an' you got it bad. You're hooked. Bob's got you hooked."

● So Josephine was a dope fiend and didn't know it. "Well," she thought, "I'm glad I (Continued on page four.)

before rehearsal. And she found that many of the other show people smoked the stuff, too, and often she and her husband would lie around with the others over the evening smoke. They always would lie down while smoking, for, as her husband said, the smoke took more effect that way. It "had something to do with pressing against some nerve in your neck, which couldn't be done while sitting up."

● After Josephine had been taking "lung medicine" regularly with her husband for nearly a year, one day she got into an argument with him. It was over another man in the show whom he suspected of paying too much attention to her. The result was that she stayed away from him that evening and spent the night with an older

Argot of the Dope Fiend

All lit up—Full of dope.
Artillery—A hypodermic outfit.
Bang in the arm—A dope injection.
Bangster—A dope addict.
Bernice or burnese—Crystalized cocaine for inhaling.
Bing room—A dope den.
Blow the coke—To snuff cocaine.
Boot—A pleasant sensation.
Broker—A dope peddler.
C.—Cocaine.
Candy—Cocaine.
Caught in a snowstorm—Drugged with cocaine.
Charge—A shot of dope.
Chef or cook—An opium cooker.
Coke—Cocaine.
Cokie or cookie—A cocaine addict.
Cook a pill—To prepare opium for smoking.
Cotton—Cloth for straining dope.
Courage pills—Heroin tablets.
Dope stick—A stick for dipping powdered dope.
Down to the cotton—Out of dope except for what's in the strainer.
Dreams—Opium.
Emergency gun—A homemade dope injector.
Fill a blanket—To roll a cigaret.
Finger—A police informer.
From Mount Shasta—A dope addict.
Gazer—A government narcotic agent.
Gee rag—A rag to seal the joint between an opium pipe stem and bowl.
Geezed up—Doped up.
Gold dust—Cocaine.
Gong—An opium pipe.
Go on a sleigh ride—To snuff crystalized cocaine.
Gow—Dope in general.
Gun—Hypodermic needle.
H.—Heroin.
Happy dust—Any powdered dope.
Have a yen on—To crave dope.
High—Well doped up.
Hit the gonger—To smoke an opium pipe.
Hokus—Dope in general.
Hop—Opium.
Hophead—An opium addict.
Hop joint—An opium den.
Hopped up—Doped up.

Hyp—A charge of dope by hypodermic.
Hyp stick—A hypodermic needle.
Ice tong doctor—A quack doctor who sells drugs.
Jabber—A hypodermic needle.
Joy powder—Morphine.
Joy rider—An occasional indulger in dope.
Junk—Dope in general.
Kicking the gong—Doped up.
Kick it out—To get over dope addiction by being locked up and deprived of it.
Kick the habit—To try to break the dope habit.
Knockout drops—Dope in general.
Load—A charge of dope.
M.—Morphine.
Main line—The median vein in the arm.
Maud C.—A mixture of morphine and cocaine.
Nose candy—Cocaine.
O.—Opium.
Pen yen—Opium.
Pinhead—A dope addict.
Pin shot—A dope injection made with an eye dropper and a safety pin.
Pipe smoker—An opium addict.
Plant—An opium joint.
Prison junker—A prisoner who takes dope.
Reefer—Cigaret doped with marijuana.
Ride a wave—To be doped up.
Roll a pill—To prepare opium for smoking.
Shot in the arm—An injection of dope.
Smeck—Dope in general.
Sniffer—A cocaine addict.
Snow—Cocaine or any powdered dope.
Snowbird—Cocaine addict.
Speedball—A dope injection consisting of morphine mixed with cocaine.
Stem—An opium pipe.
Suck the bamboo—To smoke opium.
Toy—Horn-shaped box for keeping opium moist until smoking time.
Uncle—A federal narcotic agent.
Whiskers—A federal narcotic agent.
White stuff—Cocaine.
Wings—Cocaine.
Yen—A craving for dope.
Yen hok—An instrument for transferring an opium pill to the pipe.
Yen shee—Residue left in an opium pipe after smoking.