

Dope—The Handmaiden of Hell



(A. T. Palmer photo from Black Starr.)
Vice and opium go hand in hand on old Ship street, in the red light district of Hongkong.

respiration, and lessening all bodily secretions except that of the skin. Taken in larger doses, it causes unconquerable drowsiness, passing into deep sleep. Taken in quantity by one unaccustomed to its use, it is apt to result in death, the immediate cause being failure of the respiration. But if opium is administered carefully, under expert supervision, the body can stand it almost indefinitely, and in times of severe pain or intense nervous strain it is a great blessing.

The distinguishing characteristic of opium and its derivatives, as Josephine soon learned, is the fact that they are habit-forming. The cause of this is in the reaction of the central nervous system to the drug. Opium tends to slow up the speed of impulses passing through the nerves. This has the effect of dulling pain and calming the mind. But the nervous system is highly adaptable if given time, and as larger quantities of opium are consumed the nerve fibers adapt themselves to the retarding influence of the drug by developing in effect easier and



(International photo.)
Object lessons in China's drive against use of opium. Making addiction punishable by death, China utilizes its public execution system to convince opium users that the cure is desirable.

TABLE OF THE COMMON DOPES

Name of Dope	What It Is	How Generally Taken	Effects
OPIMUM	Coagulated juice of the poppy plant.	Smoked or eaten.	It is quickly habit-forming. In small doses it produces mental excitement followed by drowsiness. In larger doses it weakens heart and lungs, finally resulting in death.
MORPHINE	Active constituent of opium.	By injection, or eaten or snuffed as a powder.	These two drugs are the most viciously habit-forming of all. They quickly deaden all sexual power. Their victims are in such agony when deprived of the dope that they will commit murder if need be to obtain it and can never get rid of the horrible thought of impending torture should they ever be caught short. Early death is their usual end.
HEROIN	The diacetic acid ester of morphine.	By injection, or eaten or snuffed as a powder.	Early death is their usual end.
And other opiates such as narceine, laudanum (opium wine), dilaudid, etc.			
COCAINE	An alkaloid extracted from the leaves of an Andean shrub called coca.	Snuffed as a powder, eaten, or injected (usually mixed with morphine or heroin.)	This is called the most horrible of all the dopes. At first stimulating and afterward depressing, its habit results in insomnia, decay of moral and intellectual power, emaciation, progressive insanity, and death.
MARIJUANA	The dried top leaves of the hemp plant (cannabis indica), though in America "loco weed" leaves are often substituted.	Smoked or chewed and sometimes made into a drink.	It is habit-forming. As the victim continues his indulgence it produces intoxication, recklessness, and a feeling of double consciousness, until finally the mind is weakened to the point of insanity and, if no relief comes, death.

Also might be included as dopes such as anesthetics as ether and chloroform, which grip a few indulgers with a vicious habit. Veronal or barbital, a common form of barbiturate, should be included as a habit-forming hypnotic. And there are such liquors as absinthe (made from wine and wormwood), which is narcotic in effect, and peyote or mescal (distilled from pulque), which is a spirit capable of producing hallucinations. Still another not so common variety of habit-forming dope is chloral hydrate, known as "chloral," which is powerfully hypnotic and anesthetic in effect.

Above are listed the kinds of dope most frequently indulged in by addicts. Morphine, heroin, and cocaine also, of course, have their medical usefulness when carefully administered by a competent physician. This is explained further in the accompanying article.

Addicts Are Often Victims of Own Innocence

(Continued from page one.)
know, anyway. It can't be so bad if all the other people in the show are taking the same stuff." And she lost no time in getting hold of her pipe for a smoke to relieve her writhing nerves.

After that she smoked regularly three and four times a day with the other smokers in her show. Smoking opium was cheap and easy in those days before the federal narcotic law went into effect in 1914. Opium at that time was generally delivered to wholesale drug companies by the hoghead. You could buy a good-sized can of it for \$12, an amount which today would cost an addict around \$200. Josephine and her husband generally got their supply from opium dealers in Chinatown, and when their show was on the road they would send to New York for it.

After 1914, however, the opium habit became increasingly difficult and expensive. Josephine's husband was dead by this time, but she herself would still smoke morning and evening with the rest of their old "hop fiend" cronies. There was quite an elaborate formality and tradition about it.

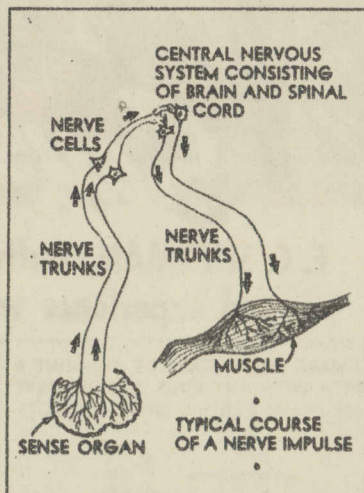
The various instruments for cooking and preparing the opium had their names, all Chinese, such as the yen hok (a sort of long pin for manipulating the opium pills), the yen shee gou (a scraper for gouging out an opium pipe after smoking), the gee rag (to make air-tight the joint between the bowl and the pipe stem), etc. As the smokers met in their locked room for the evening smoke they always went through the customary procedure of cooking the opium—the cooker always brewed it up in a special brass kettle and smoked the first pipeful himself "for good luck."

By this time, of course, the others were already lying about on their couches or on the floor, having removed all their clothing but underwear. This was always done as a safety measure, for opium smoke has such a strong and distinctive odor that it saturates everything in the room, and unless the smokers' clothes were either left outside or placed in an air-tight box they would be a dead give-away for days afterward. As a further precaution wet sheets were always hung up over transoms and doors to prevent the telltale smell from seeping out through cracks and attracting attention; and onions, garlic, and strong spices were usually cooked after

the opium as a sort of odoriferous smoke screen.

Opium is the first and most familiar of the many kinds of dope. Actually it is the gum or coagulated juice of a species of poppy plant, obtained by slit the unripe seed capsules and collecting the juice as it exudes. Opium poppies were first known in the vicinity of Asia Minor, in Persia, India, and probably Egypt. In the Old Testament opium is called "rosh."

Early Greek physicians were the first to use opium in medicine, and it was publicly sold in the streets of Rome as a cure for stomach and bowel troubles. It was shipped in large round balls, black and sticky, and swallowed by the sick in pill or powdered form. Its odor was aromatic and musty, a little like licorice or molasses. Much later it was



Illustrating how dope affects the nervous system. Impulses ordinarily travel through nerves at the speed of light. Dope in the system slows certain internal secretions, which in turn slows the transmission speed. As the nerves adapt themselves to this "drug" they produce a desire for more dope, building up the habit.

introduced into China, where it is now grown in large quantities, and its first known importation into the United States was in 1868 by a man named Clendenyn, who started the fad of opium smoking in California among gamblers and prostitutes.

Opium has from the earliest times been a useful drug to doctors through its power to reduce pain and calm the nerves. It was the most important element in the old-fashioned paregoric, or "soothing remedy," commonly given to children to help their stomach aches and quiet them. It is still used in certain kinds of suppositories, but for the most part has been replaced in medicine by its derivatives, such as morphine, heroin, narcotine, codein, thebaine, dilaudid, and others.

Opium acts as a narcotic, producing a slower pulse, slower

easier transmission—so that sensations still get through to the brain on nearly normal schedule. Thus the body becomes so adjusted to the dope that it can survive a dose big enough to kill five uninitiated men.

But the body also has become greatly dependent on continued consumption of dope. In fact, the nerve filaments have loosened up so much in transmitting impulses that if the sluggish influence of the dope is suddenly stopped they begin to transmit impulses with much greater than normal speed—speed great enough to throw the body into indescribable agony, violent illness, and (in extreme cases) to cause death.

The case of a 34-year-old actor is a good illustration of what is in store for one who tries simply to stop taking opium, and the following confession (written a number of years ago) vividly pictures what the unfortunate Josephine was up against.

Wrote the actor: "While playing in San Francisco I was importuned by a friend to accompany him to a den in Chinatown where he was accustomed to smoke. To my sorrow I went, found several men and women there smoking, was persuaded to try a few pipes, and from that day to this, with the exception of five months, have smoked steadily, usually twice a day.

"Finding that I was becoming more firmly bound to this habit day by day, cursing the accident that first led me to the pipe,

loathing the degradation of the thing, and being about to sail for Europe, I resolved to smoke for the last time. From 4 o'clock of the afternoon of the day I made that resolve I smoked until 1 o'clock the next day, and passed the gangplank of the steamer minus any opiate.

"The first day I did very well, felt bright and buoyant, congratulated myself upon my resolve, and felt like informing my fellow passengers what a bold dash I had made for the much-coveted freedom. I slept very well that night, but awoke at 4 a. m. sneezing, which came on in paroxysms and was so severe that it shook me from crown to sole. Then I began to yawn and shiver. Cold chills crept up my back and down into my limbs; flashes of heat alternated, seeming like fire by comparison. Nausea, accompanied by a dull, heavy headache, then came on. By 8 p. m. I was in a pitiable condition; the water was streaming from my burning eyes, extreme restlessness tormented me, and my whole body ached as if I had been beaten. During the night I saw the most horrible things. My valise, upon the floor, seemed to grow into the shape and size of an elephant; strange faces peered at me from the dark corners and in unexpected places. I smelled the most horrible odors. Had I been able to reach the deck I should have thrown myself overboard. As the days went on I mended somewhat and when we reached port was able, with assistance, to walk to a carriage. It was fully six weeks before I left my hotel.



(Tribune photo.)
A smuggler is caught. Customs agents at New York arrest one of a group on a British tramp steamer carrying a \$500,000 cargo of opium.

"After a stay of five months in England I was much improved in health and spirits—another man, in fact. I took the steamer for New York. Nearing the shores, the old longing came back upon me with full force, and when I had reached the dock I . . . made straight for a friendly 'joint' in Mott street. There the familiar faces, the old associations, the smell of the cooking opium, drove the memory of my struggle from my mind and I determined to try just one pipe. The one became many, and from that hour I was as firmly bound to my hideous idol as ever. . . . I am afraid that I can never again muster courage enough to break my bonds."

This was written before 1914, the year in which the federal narcotic law was passed prohibiting the importation and use of narcotics except by licensed physicians.

Needless to say, opium smoking after 1914 was a risky indulgence at best, for, with the preliminary cooking and all, it required at least an hour of absolute privacy two or three times

a day. In consequence Josephine and many of her companions who wanted to have a midday dose of "hop" would dissolve some of the stuff in a bottle of cod liver oil and take it that way in public on the pretext that they were "building themselves up." Although the opium was not as pleasant to take in solution, the idea was good, because most of the "hop fiends" were thin from having lost their appetites and therefore obviously really needed building up.

By this period of her life, when Josephine was in her middle twenties, she had become so thoroughly addicted to opium that she felt sure that there was no cure for her. All her addicted friends told her that there was no such thing as a cure, and she believed them. Opium was no joy now, except the negative joy of relief from a yen, which is the Chinese word for the craving an addict feels for his dope. She took it only because she had to—because an indescribable feeling of impending disaster and throbbing nerves and nausea came on whenever she delayed her customary doses. And she was terribly afraid of getting caught by the police, but could think of nothing to do to lessen the danger. And all the time the price of opium was going up and her money was running low, gradually driving the poor girl into a frenzy of despair.

In the year 1920, as Josephine remembers it, she was walking along 22d street in Chicago when a man came up to her. Although she did not know much about him, his face was familiar to her, for she had seen him frequently among her circle of dope addict friends.

"Josie, we're going to start a cure," he said. "You can get cured. They'll put you on a needle to cure you."

"How much will it cost?" she asked. She was intensely interested.

"Two and a half bucks." "I'm scared of getting the habit of the needle," she said, thinking of how other smokers had warned her against the horrors of dope injection.

"Pretty soon," said he, "you won't be able to get hop. On account of the law you only can get morphine. The needle is all right. It saves time and money and bother—and they never can catch you using it. Stick it in, and you're all fixed."

This man was a dope peddler, the most heartless type of criminal on this earth, but Josephine foolishly believed him.

NEXT WEEK: Josephine Passes Through a Dope Addict's Hell.