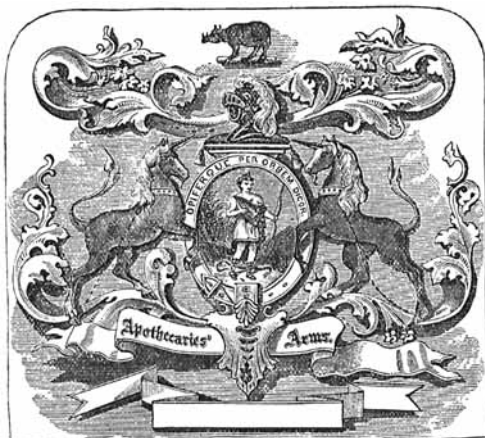


## NARCOTIC ADDICTION ON DECREASE.

THE U. S. Public Health Service, on the basis of investigations conducted by this department during the past two years, announces that there is a material decrease in the number of narcotic habitués in the United States as compared with former years. The report states that there is no absolutely authentic information obtainable as to the exact number of addicts, but as a result of the research the estimate is made that there are considerably less than 200,000 habitués at the present time, which is a considerable decrease from that of twelve years ago, and in marked contrast with estimates made by other agencies placing the number of addicts at a million or more. The report further states that many of those who used narcotics before the passage of the Harrison law have died or are dying off, with the result that the total is being greatly diminished.

One of the points brought out in the research is that 86 per cent of all cases of narcotic addicts examined discloses that they suffered with some form of nervous instability before they became addicts, and a large number of the remainder had taken the narcotics because of suffering from various ailments.

From a study of the intelligence of a hundred addicts, the conclusion is drawn that the low native intelligence is not of itself a cause of addiction, but that defective intelligence bears the same relation to narcotic addiction that it does to functional and nervous disorders. Efficiency of the law enforcement and general observance by pharmacists and physicians is indicated by the report.—E. G. E.



“OPIFERQUE PER ORBEM DICOR.”

“And I am called a ‘bringer of help’ throughout the world.”—Motto from English Apothecaries’ Coat of Arms.

According to “Burke’s Encyclopedia of Heraldry,” the apothecaries’ coat of arms is described as follows:

“In shield, Apollo, the inventor of physics, with his head radiant, holding in his left hand a bow, and in his right an arrow, supplanting a serpent. About the shield a helm, thereupon a mantle, and for a crest, upon a wreath of their colors a rhinoceros supported by two unicorns armed and unguled. Upon a compartment, to make the achievement complete, this motto, ‘opiferque per orbem dicor.’”—See PROCEEDINGS, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, vol. 16, p. 420 (1868).