After completing the dotting test, the subject tried to reproduce related words of the list from memory. As a mean of three sets of observations, one subject made 42 errors in the dotting test and 7 errors in the words; but ½ hour after a dose of 20 c.c. of alcohol, the dotting errors rose to 130 and the word errors to 31. This considerable effect could not have been due to suggestion, as the alcohol was taken in the form of a disguised mixture.

General Conclusions.

The results of the observations described above, and of numerous other investigations described elsewhere,* indicate that alcohol is a sedative and narcotic drug, which acts chiefly upon the nervous system. Indeed, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Central Control Board concluded that it is very doubtful if alcohol ever exerts even a small initial stimulating action, as has sometimes been maintained. They consider that "the direct effect of alcohol upon the nervous system is in all stages and upon all parts of the system, to depress or suspend its functions; that it is, in short, from first to last, a narcotic drug."

Alcohol appears to attack the highest nerve centres first, and thereby it releases the inhibition which these centres exert on the lower centres. The subject loses his reticence, self-criticism, deliberation, and judgment, and becomes self-confident and more free of speech. This is most clearly seen when he is in company with his fellows, but if he remains solitary in

* *Cf.* "Alcohol: Its Action on the Human Organism," and E. H. Starling, "The Action of Alcohol on Man."