



## **Hazelden and Chestnut Health Systems' Digital Archive of the Journal of Inebriety (1876-1914)**

Hazelden figures prominently in the past six decades of addiction treatment in America, and now the pioneering organization is helping to preserve an important period of the industry's earlier history.

Working with prominent historian William White, Hazelden recently finished locating and digitizing all 141 issues of the *Journal of Inebriety*, which, from 1876 to 1914, documented the earliest stages of addiction medicine in the United States.

"All of the issues can now be accessed electronically, making it easy to look for specific topics within the 35-volume collection," said Hazelden Library Manager Barbara Weiner, who spearheaded the project along with Mr. White.

Anyone can now access content from the *Journal of Inebriety* for free by searching the [Hazelden Library Online Catalog](#) or Mr. White's catalog at [www.williamwhitepapers.com](http://www.williamwhitepapers.com). Nowhere else in the world is the full collection archived and readable online.

"We actually started this project in 2000, and it took almost five years of working with a number of libraries throughout the nation to track down copies of every page in every issue," Ms. Weiner said. "We then spent a couple of years analyzing the content, and, for the past three years, we've been digitizing and indexing the journal's rich content as time permitted. We'll continue improving the readability of individual files, but for now, it feels great to finally get them all out there."

In addition to the digital records, physical photocopies of each issue now reside at Hazelden in Center City, Minn., as part of the Hazelden-Pittman Alcohol Archive. On-call Hazelden librarian Becky Rowe and Hazelden volunteer Ron Kellestine played integral roles in cleaning up poor-quality scans and completing the very arduous process of digitization.

"T.D. Crothers is my new best friend," said Ms. Rowe, referring light-heartedly to the doctor who edited the *Journal of Inebriety* throughout its existence.

Crothers' journal was the official publication of the American Association for the Study and Cure of Inebriety. Over 38 years, it featured 801 major articles or papers and almost 5,000 minor papers focused mostly on the medical treatment of alcohol and opiate addiction, primarily as practiced in a growing number of inebriate homes and asylums.

Topics included patterns of substance use, health complications related to addiction, use of medications in treatment, treatment techniques, treatment for women, addiction education for

doctors, and the need for institutional aftercare, among others. The journal assessed a wide variety of so-called miracle cures as well as therapies such as hypnosis, electronic stimulation and hot air baths. It ran advertisements for 78 different treatment institutions and notably banned ads by “Gold Cure Institutes.”

“Twenty-first-century readers of the JI will be struck by such oddities as the recommendation for bee stings and syphilis as treatment for inebriety, but ... will also be amazed at the parallels with contemporary interests and debates within the addiction field,” Ms. Weiner and Mr. White wrote in a [2007 article published by the Society for the Study of Addiction](#).

In its focus on the science of addiction as a disease, the journal was met with strong criticism, opposition and condemnation from many religious leaders and others. Ultimately, its influence and publication faded just as the country’s focus shifted from treatment to prohibition. Several decades passed before the field of addiction medicine was renewed.

“The *Journal of Inebriety*, as the nation’s first scientific addiction journal, remains an important resource for us today, in terms of setting contemporary issues in historical context,” said Mr. White, emeritus senior research consultant for Chestnut Health Systems. “I’m proud that we’ve been able to make it readily and comprehensively available to the public. It has been a real pleasure working with Barb and her team at Hazelden.”

For students and researchers interested in using the *Journal of Inebriety* archive in pursuit of an academic study, scholarship funds are available via the [Hazelden-Heckman Endowment Fund](#), Ms. Weiner added.

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### **About Hazelden**

Hazelden, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1949, helps people reclaim their lives from the disease of addiction. Built on decades of knowledge and experience, Hazelden offers a comprehensive approach to addiction that addresses the full range of patient, family and professional needs, including substance abuse treatment and continuing care for youth and adults; research; higher education; public education and advocacy; and publishing. Learn more at [www.hazelden.org](http://www.hazelden.org).

### **About William White and Chestnut**

William (Bill) White is an emeritus senior research consultant at Chestnut Health Systems. He has a master's degree in addiction studies and has worked in the addictions field since 1969. He has authored or co-authored more than 350 articles and monographs and 15 books, including *Slaying the Dragon: The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America*. A library of Bill’s writings can be found at [www.williamwhitepapers.com](http://www.williamwhitepapers.com).

Since 1973, Chestnut Health Systems has been providing behavioral health care in Illinois. Chestnut has approximately 600 committed, compassionate employees providing care out of multiple chemical dependency and mental health treatment centers in Central and Southern Illinois. It has been continuously accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) since 1975. Learn more at [www.chestnut.org](http://www.chestnut.org).

The *Journal of Inebriety* archive at Hazelden is available digitally via the [Hazelden Library Online Catalog](#) or William White's catalog at [www.williamwhitepapers.com](http://www.williamwhitepapers.com).



Hazelden Library Manager Barbara Weiner showcases the *Journal of Inebriety* archive at Hazelden in Center City, Minn.



The *Journal of Inebriety* archive includes all 35 volumes and 141 issues published from 1876 to 1914.