

HOME FOR ADDICTS FOSTERS SELF-AID

Normal Social Contacts Are Blended With Work on S. I.

At 6:30 yesterday morning a stocky, dark-haired youth named Frank entered the kitchen of **Daytop Lodge** on Staten Island and began mopping the floor in preparation for the open house last night.

"Some of these people tonight will expect to find men with two heads and a tail," he said. "But they'll see that we're human, that we have faults and that we're sensitive. That's what we want to show them."

Frank is one of 18 narcotics addicts living at Daytop Lodge, a three-story mansion overlooking Raritan Bay. The 20-room house has been leased by the Probation Department of the Kings County Supreme Court for a five-year addict rehabilitation project under a \$390,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

'Trying to Help Ourselves'

Since the start of this month the lodge has opened its doors on Saturday night to students, teachers, sociologists and local residents. "A lot of them see that we could be their sons or brothers," said Frank, who turned to narcotics at 14. "They see that we're trying to help ourselves, that we're sick of the life we had and that we want to get out of it."

The open house also helps the youthful addicts make a

hesitant, rehabilitative step into what they call the "square" world."

"When you're on drugs you forget how to act," said John, a slight 23-year-old who became an addict at 19. "You're so busy chasing the bag [heroin] that you don't have time to socialize. Now, for the first time in my life, I'm really talking to people."

On a recent Saturday night about two dozen persons attended the open house. A number of the addicts, with crew cuts, freshly pressed black chino slacks and button-down sports shirts, resembled freshmen at an Ivy League college. One woman entered hesitantly and whispered to one of the youths: "Where are the addicts?"

Disarming Candor

The young men mingled with the guests and spoke with disarming candor about narcotics addiction. "I had a good family," said one short, stocky youth. "I went to good Catholic schools. But then I lost my job, I had to move to a new neighborhood. I was pressed, I was nervous. Most of my friends were taking it [narcotics], so I thought 'why not me?' That was it."

"That feeling is there, that feeling is real pronounced," said 30-year-old Abe. "It's like when you meet a beautiful girl. You say, 'She's for me.' I said, 'that's for me.' That feeling was for me. I knew it."

Dean Colcord, resident manager of Daytop Lodge, a Korean war veteran and former alcoholic, explained that the experimental program on Staten Island is patterned after the methods of the Synanon Foundation, which operates rehabilitation centers in California, Nevada and Westport, Conn. **The Synanon program** is reported to be about 80 per cent successful, he said, whereas the

failure rates in Federal and state programs is almost total.

Six days a week at the lodge the addicts rise at 6:30 A.M., work the soil outdoors, attend classes, eat large meals and watch television or listen to jazz in the evening. This regimen continues for one year, after which the youths return home and remain on probation two years.

Group Therapy Stressed

"This is the first time I've ever had a desire to stop," said one youth. "I was in Central Islip [State Hospital] for three months, and all I thought about was getting out and buying drugs."

The youths take part in group therapy sessions three times weekly. Seated around a table with cigarettes and coffee, the young men start vaguely, but then slowly engage in brutally frank personal exchanges.

"I've been on 'horse' [heroin] since the end of '58," said one

20-year-old addict at a recent session.

"Why did you do it? Do you know why?" asked an older youth.

"The bigger guys were taking it," came the reply.

"What about your parents, did you tell them?"

"I wouldn't tell my mother anything. When she married my stepfather, I wanted to hurt her. I'd do anything to hurt her. I used to tell her, 'I hate your guts.'" She married him when I was 8, but the feeling I had, I stayed with. I wanted revenge on mother so bad."

The sessions are conducted in groups of seven or eight, with one of the older youths or supervisors playing the role of psychiatrist, sometimes prodding and needling participants.

"We can't throw the bull at the group therapy sessions," said 32-year-old Sidney, an addict for 14 years. "By tearing a guy down, he finds his problems, and by bringing out his problems, he finds himself."