

SYNANON FORCED TO RESTRICT AID

Lack of Funds Limits Care in Addict Colonies to 600

By RAYMOND DANIELL

A telephone rang in a room of a sedate town house at 2 East 78th Street yesterday morning. It was answered by a former narcotics addict who had been cured by a voluntary two-and-a-half-year stay at one of Synanon's colonies in California.

The call came from an addict who wanted to shake off the habit. He was told that Synanon, which now has about 600 addicts helping each other to cure themselves, had reached the limit of its resources and could accept no more applicants.

The East 78th Street house, which is staffed entirely by former addicts who have been cured, is the Eastern headquarters of Synanon. The group was founded in August, 1959, by Charles Dederich of California, a former member of Alcoholics Anonymous. It maintains an eastern reception center at 249 Greens Farms Road, Westport, Conn., and operates hostels for addicts in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Reno.

The Price of Addiction

The name of the organization has no meaning or connotation. It is said to have come from a befuddled drug addict trying to pronounce "seminar."

About 250 of the 600 now trying to cure themselves by complete withdrawal are from the New York City area. The group represents only one per cent of the estimated number of addicts in New York. Nevertheless, James R. Frankenberry, a vice president of an advertising agency, who is chairman of the national council of Synanon, said the 250 had stolen goods worth \$48 million to satisfy their craving for narcotics.

The organization pays the fares of addicts asking for help at one of its hostels in the west. After that, each person is on his own and is given a dollar a day "walking out money."

Perserverance Pays

Of those who stick it out for ninety days, Mr. Frankenberry said, 59 per cent are cured. Ninety-five per cent who stay for the full two and a half years that is regarded as necessary are cured, he said.

Two years after it was started Dr. Donald Cressey, University of California sociologist,

called Synanon "the most significant attempt to keep addicts off drugs that has ever been made."

At the Synanon colonies the addicts receive training in business administration and in trades. When an addict feels the desire for narcotics overwhelming him he is encouraged to enlist the help of others, who talk to him to try to strengthen his will power.

Synanon, according to Mr. Frankenberry, has lived "a hand to mouth existence" since its formation, despite the low

cost of \$3 a day for food, clothing and shelter of each resident.

The nonprofit organization is supported by voluntary contributions, most of them under \$50.