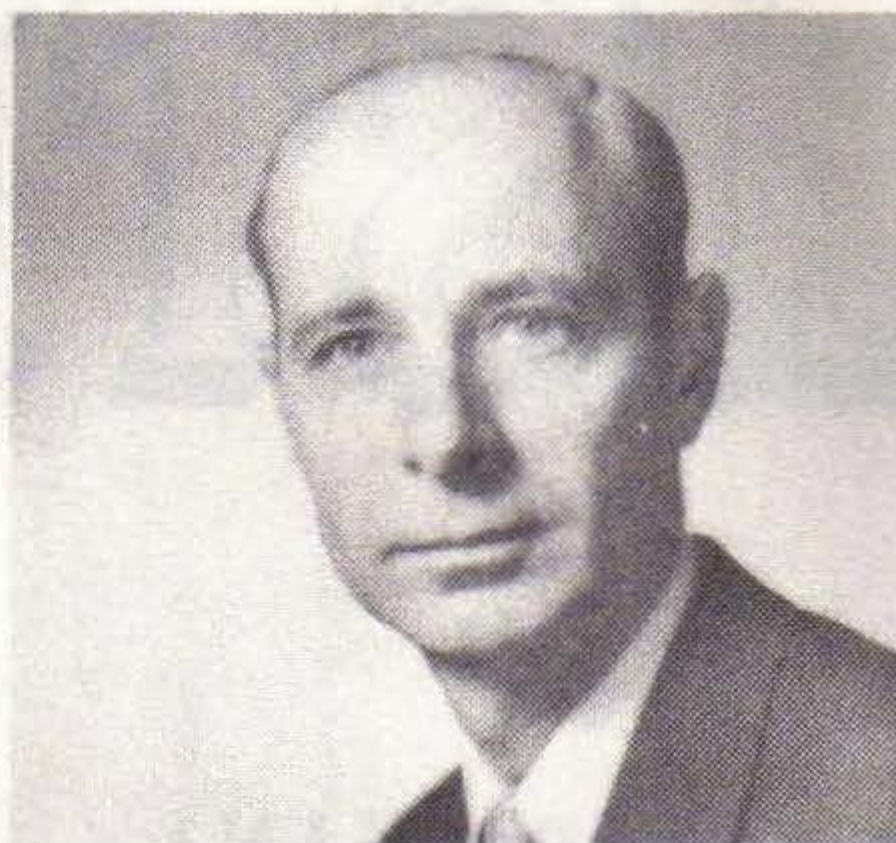## "The Author"

DANIEL CARLSEN, born in Puerto Rico of Danish and Spanish parents and orphaned at the age of three, was adopted by a woman doctor in the U.S. Public Health Service and brought to the United States.

His foster mother was on the staff of the hospital in Saint Joseph, Missouri, where Danny also decided to become a doctor.

One day he developed an abscessed eardrum, and morphine was administered to ease the pain. Soon thereafter he began to steal the drug from the hospital dispensary because he liked the way it made him feel.

There followed twenty-five years of addiction—tortured, haunted years in which he struggled ceaselessly for relief. Many times he took the "cure" for this greatest of man's curses, only to revert in a short time again to taking drugs.

In 1948, during an enforced abstinence from drugs, he tried to take his own life. After emergency treatment in a metropolitan hospital he was sent to Lexington, where he had been many times before for the "cure." This time there was a difference: He was not fighting to live any more, or looking for a way out.

For the first time he made an honest prayer. Day and night he prayed to God to let him die, but out of the experience was born the new Danny.

Studying the program for rehabilitation of addicts in effect at Lexington, and adapting it into a broadened, vigorous plan, he founded Narcotics Anonymous the latter part of 1949 in New York City. Later he organized the National Advisory Council on Narcotics, or NACON, made up of civic-minded citizens whose aim it is to stamp out drug addiction in this country. Danny, the only ex-addict in NACON, was elected executive director.

This untiring public servant has spoken to hundreds of civic, religious, social, medical, student, fraternal, patriotic, veterans', and other groups. He has appeared at staff conferences in hospitals and at symposiums in universities, as guest on radio and television programs—all in the fight for what he considers one of the most important of freedoms: freedom from drug addiction.