the liver cannot handle in the same way. Wood alcohol, for example, can be broken down by the liver but the process takes much longer than for ethyl alcohol. In the meantime the poisons build up in the blood stream and cause severe illness, possible blindness and/or death. Perhaps every barracks, warehouse, motor pool and dispensary should have large signs: WARNING—THE LIVER IS PARTICULAR!

To be sure, there is more alcohol, that is, a greater concentration of alcohol in some beverages than others. In distilled spirits the alcohol content is expressed as "proof" which is twice the alcohol content. Thus, a 100 proof whiskey is 50 percent alcohol and 80 proof beverage is 40 percent alcohol. To put it another way, one ounce of 86 proof whiskey contains .43 ounce of alcohol. Table wines usually consist of 11 to 13 percent alcohol whereas the reinforced or dessert wines contain from 17 to 21 percent. Most American beers contain about four percent alcohol whereas many of the foreign beers contain more. A bit of simple arithmetic reveals that the person who drinks eight 12-ounce cans of beer actually consumes about 3.8 ounces of alcohol, slightly more than the 3.4 ounces in the half pint of whiskey consumed by his drinking buddy; yes, there is more alcohol in a can of beer than in one ounce of whiskey, gin, brandy or rum.

To put it in a different setting, it means that the matron standing with the five ounce glass of sherry in her hand has no cause to regard the young newcomer to the club as a "hard drinker" because she is sipping on a martini. Chances are that the glass of sherry has as much alcohol in it as the martini.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ALCOHOL?

Alcohol is unique. It is not digested but enters the blood stream through the walls of the stomach and small intestine as alcohol. Furthermore, alcohol is a drug and does not have an effect until it reaches the brain where it acts as an anesthetic on the central nervous system.

Absorption from the alimentary canal into the blood begins immediately after one starts drinking. Although the flow of alcohol through the stomach wall is quite rapid at first, it soon slows down and most of the alcohol must pass through the pyloric valve, or pylorus, into the small intestine from which it is rapidly absorbed into the blood stream. This absorption process varies from one individual to another and is more rapid for small amounts of alcohol than for large quantities. It is important to remember that absorption may continue to take place for 45 minutes to an hour—and—a—half after one stops drinking. In other words, one continues to become more intoxicated for some time after he had his last drink.

---The pylorospasm:

The pylorus is the culprit at the bottom of a very common