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Drug Addicts' Plight

The Pacific war has dealt a severe, if unpublicized, blow to U.S. drug addicts. With all supply lines to the Orient cut, illicit drugs have been extremely scarce, and gangs trading in them are desperate. So far, prices have not been greatly increased, but the purity of peddled narcotics has been sharply reduced. For instance, morphine, once sold 85% pure, is now adulterated down to 2 or 3%. This forces the addict to use much more to get the same effect. Searching around for a new supply source, U.S. dope peddlers are turning to newly started poppy plantations in isolated regions of Mexico. Small quantities of this Mexican-grown opium are said to be already trickling across the border.

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