Selected Bibliography on Marijuana and LSD-type Drugs

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INTRODUCTION

Daily papers, weekly magazines, and, increasingly, scientific literature proclaim the advent of marijuana and LSD-type drug use, warning of extreme hazards on the one hand and heralding remarkable benefits on the other. The evangelistic zeal of drug use proponents is rivaled only by the fervor of drug use suppressors. A nonexpert is hard put to evaluate available evidence intelligently because the psychological and scientific competence as well as the fanaticism is equal on both sides.

Although the effect of drug use should be objectively determinable, it stubbornly remains a matter of controversy. Its persistence as an open question must result not from the limits of scientific inquiry but from unintentional, or at least unconscious, bias at emotional, intellectual, and even perceptual levels. How else can one reconcile opposing conclusions reached by respectable and competent analysts on such matters as whether LSD causes chromosome breakage? New York and Oregon cytogenetic groups, for example, say it does, while the Donner Laboratory and University of California Medical Center in San Francisco find no evidence of such breakage in their studies of LSD use.¹ Since the statistics on both sides seem airtight, it seems probable that in some way chromosome breaks at a raw data, observational level were unintentionally but mistakenly projected to be higher than or at control levels.

In some instances, however, the techniques of persuasion employed by a drug use advocate or opponent undermines the speaker's claimed objectivity. For example, an attorney advisor for the United States Bureau of Narcotics addressing the National Student Association's First National Conference on Student Drug Involvement on August 16, 1967, handed out an issues paper² containing a subtle but significantly misleading reference.

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¹ Compare Irwin & Egozcue, 157 SCIENCE 313 (1967), and Cohen, Marinello & Back, 155 SCIENCE 1417 (1967), with Loughman, Sargent & Israelstam, 158 SCIENCE 508 (1967), and Petrakis, Paper (University of California Medical Center; in preparation).

² G. Haislip, Current Issues in the Prevention and Control of Marihuana Abuse (paper presented to the First National Conference on Student Drug Involvement, sponsored by the United States National Student Association, at the University of Maryland, August 16, 1967, on file with the author) [heremafter cited as Haislip Paper].

The paper quotes the Egyptian government—citing to the highly respected pharmacology text by Goodman and Gilman³—as saying:

... the prepared product of [the] cannabis sativa plant, while having very little medical use, is capable of profoundly disturbing the brain cells and of inducing acts of violence, even murder; that it is in fact a thoroughly vicious and dangerous thing of no value whatever to humamity and deserving of nothing but the odium and contempt of civilized people.⁴

In fact the above quotation from the Goodman and Gilman book is prefaced by these remarks of the authors: "Almost everyone in the United States is agreed that marijuana is a nuisance and that trafficking in it should be strictly suppressed by the adequately stringent laws now in force, but few in this country would entirely agree with the conclusion of the Central Narcotic Intelligence Bureau of the Egyptian Government that 'the prepared product...' "5 Young people may well come to doubt the word of an organization whose representatives employ such techniques. They may understandably say, "If we have been misled about the harmful effects of marijuana, how do we know we aren't being misled about LSD, methodrine, and heroin? We'll have to try them ourselves and see."

On the other hand, drug use proponents often imply that use of marijuana and LSD never leads to expressions of violence. Such a position unreasonably fails to recognize that drug use may trigger acts of violence by those predisposed to such behavior.⁶

Because few who study the use of marijuana and LSD-type drugs are unbiased, very little of the literature they have produced is genuinely im-

³ L. GOODMAN & A. GILMAN, THE PHARMACOLOGICAL BASIS OF THERAPEUTICS (3d ed. 1965). The paper cited the book with a date of 1960 and without identifying the edition; the second edition was published in 1958 and contains the quotation referred to at the page (174) indicated by the paper. Haislip Paper, supra note 1, at 22 n.29.

^{4 1944} EGYPTIAN GGVERNMENT, CENTRAL NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE BUREAU, ANN. REP. ch. VIII, quoted in L. Goodman & A. Gilman, The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics 174 (2d ed. 1958), as quoted in Haislip Paper, supra note 1, at 22.

⁵ L. GOODMAN & A. GILMAN, THE PHARMACOLOGICAL BASIS OF THERAPEUTICS 174 (2d ed. 1958) (emphasis added).

^{6 &}quot;The influence of marihuana on the intellectual functions . . . was studied in users and nonusers of the drug by Halpern (1944). . . . Employing modern psychiatric technics, an examination was made of the effects of marihuana on the emotional reactions and general personality structure in an adequately large group The findings were as follows: The basic personality structure of the individual is not changed by marihuana but some of the inore superficial aspects of his behavior may show alteration. . . . Thoughts or emotions totally alien to the individual are not aroused by the drug." Id. at 173, referring to articles by Florence Halpern entitled Psychological Aspects: Intellectual Functioning and Psychological Aspects: Emotional Reactions and General Personality Structure, both in Mayor's Committee on Marihuana, The Marihuana Problem in the City of New York: Sociological, Medical Psychological, and Pharmacological Studies 81, 107 (1944). See also L. Goodman & A. Gilman, supra note 4, at 173, 176.

partial. The following selected bibliography, drawn largely from bibliographies compiled by The Bureau of Drug Abuse Control⁷ and the Director of Drug Studies of the National Student Association,⁸ contains both prodrug use and antidrug use materials. Books and articles which appear in one bibliography but not in the other are designated accordingly.⁹

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⁷ U.S. Bureau of Drug Abuse Control, Food & Drug Administration, Dep't of Health, Education, and Welfare, Hallucinogens—A Select Bibliography, May 1967 (Fact Sheet 8), and Bibliography of Selected Popular References on Hallucinogenic Drugs, May 1967 (Fact Sheet 9).

⁸ BACKGROUND PAPERS ON STUDENT DRUG INVOLVEMENT 159 (C. Hollander ed. 1967).

⁹ Materials appearing in the Hollander bibliography, supra note 7, but not in the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control's Fact Sheets, supra note 6, are designated by a single asterisk (*), while those appearing in the Fact Sheets but not in the Hollander bibliography are designated by a double asterisk (**). Materials appearing in both bibliographies or in neither are not marked.

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