

Thus the use of model psychoses to direct research does not depend on the sterile requirement that we provide any further "demonstration that the psychotomimetic drugs induce 'model psychoses'". Progress in this field should be aided by finding out more about the mode of action of known agents that produce conditions resembling psychosis, by basing working hypotheses on these data and then testing them in the clinical setting—that is, by applying the method of scientific logic.

In conclusion, this book succeeds admirably in its main task and provides the necessary but erst-while missing textbook for workers in all the many disciplines concerned in psychopharmacology.

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#### REFERENCES

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**The Problems and Prospects of LSD.** Edited by J. THOMAS UNGERLEIDER. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1968. Pp. 109. Price \$5.00.

None can fail to be alarmed at the phenomenon of "LSD hysteria" in the United States, described in this book. This phrase refers collectively to the emotionally toned, distorted statements, beliefs, rumours and outcries against the effects of LSD and the purposes for which it is being used. The authors' aim is to show clearly the nature of this phenomenon and the dangers associated with its perpetuation.

Among lay opinions contributing to "LSD hysteria" quoted are that LSD is the greatest threat to national security since the axis powers during the war, or that it is the last chance for world peace. One view-point states that within hours of taking the drug all consumers are transformed into murderers or permanent psychotics, whereas others believe that the transformation is in the direction of creative genius and eternal happiness.

Against this backcloth, the five authors, all of whom are experienced in work with LSD, give professional views. The first chapter is devoted to definitions of basic concepts and to difficulties associated with the study of a problem which is now changing in nature and expanding. Attention is drawn to the confused attitudes of some official bodies towards the use of drugs, particularly their failure to contrast cannabis with LSD. The inclusion of a brief history of man's use of mind-altering

drugs gives perspective, while several sweeping administrative changes, and reform in society are recommended to solve the problem of drug abuse.

The second chapter is a useful review of the scientific findings, and the author points out that research has stopped short of the discovery of the way in which this remarkable drug produces its effects. A possible analogy is suggested between the decline of hypnosis as a medical therapeutic technique after it was popularized on the stage, and the present decline of research into LSD. Succeeding chapters are devoted to the use of LSD in psychotherapy and to the acute and chronic side effects. Later, each author in turn gives his view of the prospects for LSD, and here too there is disparity. Most agree, however, on the need for further research into the possible therapeutic value of the drug and its remote and toxic effects.

In portraying the scene of LSD hysteria the authors have been successful. They are all familiar with the scene, and no exaggeration is needed in writing of this stultifying situation. Further research may help scientists to understand this drug, but surely it requires a vastly different project to understand those who need the drug, and to explain its increasing, simultaneous use in many countries. The authors are, appropriately, more concerned with describing the scene than with discussing solutions, and not all accept the whole matter as pessimistically as one who writes: "None of this should be surprising in a world perhaps on the eve of destruction."

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#### GENERAL PSYCHIATRY

**Fundamentals of Psychiatry.** By IAN GREGORY. Second edition. London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1968. Pp. 647. Price £5 10s. 6d.

This is the second edition of a text which originally appeared in 1961. The book was written for medical students and for general physicians, and the author originally set himself forbidding targets: "to be concise yet comprehensive, scientific and systematic, descriptive and dynamic; to include directive-organic and analytic-psychological approaches to treatment and to integrate biological and psycho-socio-cultural research on aetiology". Not surprisingly these high ideals were not all reached by the first edition, valuable as much of its contents proved to be. This second edition is larger, has been written with the help of five other psychiatrists who have contributed special sections, and sets out with more modest aims. It provides a stimulating, although to English eyes a somewhat unbalanced, textbook.