

SIR,—In my letter on lysergic acid (18 June, p. 1539) I suggested that it should be available to the profession, not to each and every doctor; I refer patients only to therapists with analytic training and long experience of using this drug. As a practitioner in a working-class area L.S.D. therapy is the only form of psychotherapy I consider financially possible for my patients, and access to it is now becoming difficult because no one seems to know where in fact legitimate supplies can be obtained.

Some patients being treated with lysergic acid are, in fact, fighting for their lives; treatment has already been stopped of patients who were responding very well to lysergic acid after all possible forms of physical therapy had failed. It would, in my opinion, have been more ethical to attempt to negotiate a suitable control system before cutting off supplies.

I would suggest to Sandoz that it would be a generous and more characteristic gesture for them to restore L.S.D. supplies while adequate controls are being worked out.

What seems to me an extraordinary state of affairs is that any doctor can (and some still do) prescribe amphetamines, the use of which is therapeutically unjustifiable because of the danger of addiction and psychosis, while a potentially life-saving drug is withdrawn.—I am, etc.,

Hornchurch.

S. E. BROWNE.