

DIAZEPAM FOR L.S.D. INTOXICATION

SIR,—It has been customary in our locality to treat certain cases of L.S.D. intoxication with tranquillising drugs. I wish to draw attention to some observations on the use of diazepam ('Valium') in panic states arising from L.S.D. My preliminary work suggests that diazepam behaves like a specific antidote to the psychedelic effects of L.S.D. Administration of 10–30 mg. orally to persons under the influence of L.S.D. (whether they are enjoying the drug or suffering from it) results in complete cessation of L.S.D. effects in about half an hour; hallucinations cease, euphoria wanes, any panic or terror disappears, and (according to patients so treated) the L.S.D. experience comes to a halt while the sedation produced encourages them to seek the sleep that most such patients desire.

The effect of diazepam on the L.S.D. state seems to go far beyond what would be expected of the drug from its effects as a tranquilliser. Chlorpromazine, in my hands, has not produced comparable results. In our community the antidote properties of diazepam have become so widely recognised by L.S.D.-users that it can be bartered for L.S.D.; very few local L.S.D.-users wish to be without a supply of diazepam when they indulge in psychedelics. Apparently diazepam also acts as an antidote to mescaline, a psychedelic to which L.S.D.-users have a cross-tolerance. Further pharmacological research will perhaps discover the reason for this dramatic therapeutic effect.

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