

14870 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

frequently stop eating entirely and literally starve themselves to death. The effects in rats and monkeys are a little less extreme but still remarkable. None require diet programs, motivation, tender loving care or any of the other forms of psychological bolstering so important for humans.

Clearly, if we resembled our animal predecessors just a little more closely, amphetamines might be fine, reasonably safe drugs for treatment of obesity. True, they may produce numerous side effects such as anxiety, tenseness, restlessness, throbbing headaches, tremors, weakness, dizziness, and palpitations and, most important, difficulty in sleeping. But the side effects are usually controllable by dose reductions and tend to abate with continued use.

Surprisingly, the stress which amphetamines induce on the system does not appear to produce any appreciable harm with moderate doses during short periods, except possibly to individuals with advanced cardiovascular disease.

Rather the problem with the amphetamines as with many other drugs which affect the central nervous system relates to that intricate, mysterious, perverse tissue mass, the human brain; responsible for the indefinable human psyche. During a relatively short span of availability, amphetamines have emerged as major drugs of abuse.