

The Committee realized that the habitual chewing of khat had led, in some areas, to socio-economic phenomena detrimental to the individual and the community, such as loss of man hours and diversion of income, with malnutrition and aggravation of disease as consequences.

The Committee was of the opinion that the problems connected with khat and with the amphetamines¹ should be considered in the same light because of the similarity of their medical effects, even though there are quantitative differences and specific socio-economic features; this is all the more desirable since the problems with respect to khat are confined at present to a few countries in one region.

7. Abuse of Hallucinogenic Agents

The Committee took note of the increasingly frequent reports of poorly controlled clinical administration and non-medical use of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD-25). In spite of warnings, irregular use is reaching alarming proportions. The Committee was particularly disturbed by the publicity given to the uncontrolled use of this drug and the damage that the indiscriminate use of so powerful an agent has already produced. The problem is at present a local one. In the Committee's opinion, immediate measures with respect to distribution and availability are necessary.

Other instances of indiscriminate use of agents with related effects, such as peyotl (mescaline), *Piptadenia peregrina* (bufotenine), and *Rivea corymbosa* were noted. The misuse in these instances appears to be less widespread than in the case of LSD-25, but a watch should be kept and corrective measures taken where necessary.

8. Coded Information on Narcotics

As indicated in previous reports,²⁻⁵ the Committee maintains an interest in the availability of a centralized source of information on drug dependence in all its aspects, including the agents involved, with easy means of fast retrieval.

Coded data (about 8000 items) on a large part of the material accumulated, have now been transferred to an IBM card system, and the complete bibliographic material microfilmed. Co-operation with the American

¹ *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1956, 102, 12 (section 7); 1957, 116, 9 (section 7).

² *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1957, 116, 11 (section 11).

³ *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1958, 142, 11 (section 9).

⁴ *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1959, 160, 10 (section 7), 14 (Annex 2).

⁵ *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1962, 229, 12 (section 8).