

DRUGS AND SOCIETY

**THE
OPIATE
OF THE
PEOPLE**

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A FRIEND of mine from Singapore, aged eighteen, came to Britain on a scholarship. I met him this summer. He was brilliant, jumpy, easily agitated, unreliable. It turned out that he was taking drugs which affected his personality. In addition he was running drugs for a syndicate which had connections in London, Rochester, Stratford-on-Avon and the south coast.

We were able to give this young man a programme for his life and absolute moral standards, and a genuine concern for what he was going to do with his future and how he could be used in the life of his country. He broke with drugs and with the ring. The syndicate threatened him. They said, "Unless you break your relationship with Moral Re-Armament within seven days, look out."

It was no idle threat. The other day two young men before a judge were asked from whom they had obtained the drug. They said they would rather be sent to gaol than give the name, for if they did they would likely end up with a knife in their backs.

This young man took a further step. He got honest with his college head for having lied about his age when he obtained his scholarship. He might well have been sent back to Singapore. The head of the college was so startled by his honesty that he has put him in another college for a year until he is old enough to resume his studies.

I know an English girl who comes from a wealthy family. She is imaginative, a potential leader of some force. This summer she began to change. We put up to her to take time every day for two weeks to listen in the quietness of her own heart for orders on how she should live and what she should do. At the end of that time certain family relationships had been

restored. She had found purpose in her life. I was still puzzled by her personality till one day she told me she had taken LSD, a psychedelic drug. This drug has a nasty quality called reappearace. When under strain a person may show again signs of LSD intoxication even weeks and months after the original dose. Evidently this drug produces a permanent change in the central nervous system. This girl is now taking relevant action to bring a new spirit to Britain.

For general purposes of discussion there are four classes of drugs being taken by increasing numbers in Britain.

HARD DRUGS

First, there are the hard drugs, the narcotics—heroin, morphine, cocaine. These are the drugs on which people become dependent. If the present rate of increase is maintained, it is estimated that by 1970 there will be 10,000 addicts in London alone.

At first the person takes a hard drug for pleasure and escape. Finally he takes the drug to avoid the torture of not taking it, because withdrawal symptoms are so severe. Then he finds he has to take increasing amounts to get the same effect. Usually these people end in suicide from overdose. There are about six doctors in London who prescribe freely. The addict sells what he does not need and then buys more. More than one-seventh of the hard drugs prescribed in the whole world are prescribed in London, and now the hard drug racket is moving into Birmingham and Newcastle. An increasing number of pushers are found coming from Glasgow to collect the drug.

Once addicted it is very, very difficult to break a man of his dependence. The police say if they could free only one young person a year hooked on heroin they would feel it was worth twelve months' effort.

PEP PILLS AND TRANQUILLISERS

The second classification of drugs are the pep pills and the tranquillisers, including the barbiturates. These are poisonous to the nervous system and a number of them are habit-forming. In fact it may be harder to break a person addicted to bar-

biturates than heroin. These drugs have an effect like alcohol with the dullness, the clumsiness, the carelessness and the degeneration of character that we know so well. Vast quantities of these drugs are sold and used. In America alone last year £257,000,000 of tranquillisers and pep pills were purchased by the public.

MIND-STRETCHERS

The third group of drugs are the psychedelic drugs or the mind-stretchers: LSD and now STP which is ten times stronger than LSD. There will soon be available fifty new hallucinogenic drugs—synthetically prepared by underground chemists. STP, for example, was developed by the Dow Chemical Company for bacteriological warfare. The initials stand for Scientifically Treated Petroleum.

Timothy Leary, the high priest of the LSD religion says STP stands for Sanity, Tranquility and Peace. He believes that it will replace LSD as “a spiritual avenue towards enlightenment”. Alan Ginsberg, the poet and prophet of the LSD age, was in Toronto recently and advocated universal use of LSD by everyone over fourteen, beginning with President Johnson and Mr McNamara.

Harvard University Medical Services have a different evaluation of LSD: “We know now that long-term subtle psychological damage may result from LSD. Such damage may be glossed over by the pleasure and enthusiasm engendered by the substance, but we have seen too many cases of psychic breakdown to doubt the serious dangers of the drug. It is even possible that the brain is structurally damaged. There is recent evidence that LSD attacks hereditary genes. In short, our professional medical opinion is that playing with LSD is a desperately dangerous form of drug roulette. The medical evidence is clear. Any person taking LSD runs the clear risk of psychotic breakdown and long run physiological damage.”

LSD can precipitate mental disorder. LSD users comprise thirty per cent of patients in some mental hospitals in the United States. Furthermore it can cause chromosome breaks. These chromosome breaks are associated with ageing, with

cancer and certain blood diseases, and with the production of thalidomide-type babies. We do not know yet, but we suspect that this chromosome break can be passed on to the third and fourth generation of the LSD-taker.

I was in Stockholm this summer where I was told that when an outstanding member of one of the best known pop groups in Britain said that he had had a religious experience through LSD, the young people in Sweden started dropping their pep pills and tranquillisers and began using LSD. They had even been to the churches suggesting that they should be turned over to them for this religious experience.

In India, the hippies from Britain, France and Denmark, claiming to seek spiritual freedom have been invading the Indian temples. The priests complain that what it means in practise is that they are bringing in drugs, women and liquor.

LSD is easily manufactured. There are two chemists in London who make it in big quantities. A Lord's son was recently arrested at London Airport with £60,000 worth in his baggage for sale in America.

MARIJUANA—OR POT

The fourth type of drug is marijuana, hashish, cannabis indica, more commonly known as pot. One who smokes it is known as a tea head. The plant is easily grown, and in large quantities in Pakistan. It is brought in and sold here. A cigarette of marijuana may fetch five shillings, or it can be prepared as a tincture in which an ordinary cigarette is dipped and then smoked.

At the moment we are in considerable controversy in Britain over a campaign to have pot legalised so that anyone can buy it, in spite of the fact that the World Health Organisation, the United Nations and a great many countries have made its buying and selling and use illegal. It is claimed that in Britain half a million smoke pot. It is said to be not habit-forming and no more, or perhaps less, harmful than alcohol. According to pop singers it has the effect of relaxing them and increasing their perception. Those who advocate legalising it claim that it would keep it off the black market and would not

expose its users so much to the syndicates who push hard drugs.

According to the Harvard Medical Services, "Marijuana does not produce physical addiction but it does produce significant dependence to a serious degree. This is a fact well-known to doctors working with college students. The social influences surrounding the use of marijuana also encourages experimentation with other drugs, notably LSD, and of course may lead to narcotic addiction."

In Birmingham of seventy registered drug addicts, sixty-nine started on pot, and the police estimate that behind every registered addict there are three who are supplied by him.

The Times of London recently accepted and published a full page signed by a number of men and women in Britain advocating that pot be legalised. Mr Quintin Hogg publicly criticised *The Times* for publishing this page. *The Times* replied editorially to this criticism. The Editor claimed it was the duty of the Press to allow minority groups to communicate their views to the public. Further in his defence the Editor claims that the page was supported by authorities in the field of psychology, naming Dr David Stafford Clark and Dr Anthony Storr.

There is evidence that a man under the influence of pot loses his sense of speed and time. He thinks he is going much more slowly than he is. This is why some drummers in pop bands use it. They speed up their drumming to what they think is normal when in fact they are going much faster than normal. When driving a car it becomes of real social significance. A man under the influence of marijuana may think he is going at a slow speed when in fact he is going at a very high rate of speed. Furthermore, it impairs the judgement of distance. The user may think he is two hundred yards away from an object when actually he is only twenty yards away. In addition, marijuana destroys the muscle sense so that the driver of a car who may feel his foot is being held at a certain angle on the accelerator may in fact have his foot flat on the floor.

So whatever reason these two doctors had for giving a facade of medical authority to this advertisement, they did not do it on a basis of either science or sense.

The *British Medical Journal*, in a recent article, states that: "While the effects of prolonged exposure to cannabis remain speculative it is irresponsible to encourage a more permissive attitude to the drug. Cannabis," says the article, "has no known therapeutic value and the World Health Organisation has defined a state of drug dependence of the cannabis type. It has been said that individuals dependent on cannabis might suffer from inertia, lethargy, self-neglect, feelings of increased capability with consequent failure and precipitation of psychotic episodes."

Egypt outlawed pot in 1925. Jamaica has done likewise as have several other nations. I sincerely hope that the British Government will keep this drug off the market. To get around this restriction one doctor in London has started to prescribe marijuana for his patients. On the prescription pad he writes, "Flower power".

I was glad to see three thousand Glasgow youths this summer sign a petition giving a firm "no" to the taking of pot and LSD. Their slogan was, "Don't let Glasgow go to pot and keep LSD in the bank."

THE MEANING OF DRUG TAKING

Now what is the meaning of this drug-taking? In the last fifteen years we have made more technological advances and crossed more new frontiers of knowledge than in all our previous history. For today's generation life is becoming automated, computerized, full of sudden changes and overshadowed by the ever-present possibility of total disaster. In front of this we feel fearful, anxious, inadequate and helpless to influence the course of events. In fact, many today feel they cannot be noticed unless they protest, wear strange clothes and do strange things. Furthermore, today's generation is faced with an older generation which has produced this condition, a generation which pretends to certain moral values and faith which it does not live, loyalty to a God which it does not obey, and a generation which by and large tolerates what is wrong. Marriage vows, taken before God and the community, are regularly violated. Men elevated to high positions of respon-

sibility have broken their oaths of office and betrayed their nation's security to foreign powers. Others of the older generation have rejected God and His aims and standards.

When Dr Edmund Leach, the 1967 Reith lecturer, affirmed that men had become like gods and it was about time they understood their divinity, he was only giving credence to a suspicion many wives have had for some time about their husbands' opinion of themselves! Even theologians claim God is dead and moral standards are entirely relative to conditions, place and time, and above all by what you want.

But there is a hunger in man for the absolute which cannot be denied. He will seek to satisfy it in one way or another. Rejection of the hypocrisy of an older generation has meant also a rejection of the absolute beliefs to which this generation gives lip service. Today's generation have thrown out the baby with the bath water.

People seek to satisfy the hunger for the absolute not by substituting a new system of values, but by absolute experience, the experience of protest and violence, sex and the hallucinations brought on by drugs. The tragedy is that these experiences with drugs, sex and violence only deepen the sense of futility and frustration and meaninglessness. There is a black depression at the very heart of an age flashing with technological wonders. It's the feeling that history is out of control and that our society no longer works. Therefore, argue some, to expect disaster and to desert the sinking ship is not an act of irresponsibility and futility. Dropping out and going it alone may allow for a new development. With no great national purpose being articulated other than to get more for less and to take what you want, individuals seek their own sense of direction. They find themselves on a stormy sea with rocks ahead, without stars or compass. There is a lack of communication between husband and wife, between government and people, between management and labour, between parents and children.

THE STORY OF LINDA

The *New York Times* had a full page story last month on a

girl named Linda. Linda's father was a wealthy spice importer living in the richest city in America, Greenwich, Connecticut. Mother's and father's picture of their 18-year-old daughter, Linda, was of a young, talented girl overly impatient to taste the joys of life, happy, well adjusted. She had spent the summer with them in Bermuda, swimming, painting, at beach parties and shopping. In August she went to New York from time to time for a quick trip in and out, just for the day. But the friends whom she saw in New York had a different story. Linda told them she had been taking LSD and smoking marijuana many times during her stay in Bermuda. And on these so-called quick innocent trips to New York, according to her friends, this is what happened.

"Linda showed up one evening with a guy named Pidgeon. She just bought Pidgeon some acid—LSD. They liked each other and they came back a few nights later with a kid from Boston. She turned him on too—that is gave him LSD. She was always doing that. She'd come into the city on weekends with thirty or forty dollars and would buy acid for people who needed some."

David Robinson, a young man with a black beard, recalled how she had turned him on.

"On August 22nd we went to this guy who sold us three capsules for ten dollars apiece. She put one away to send to the guy in Bermuda, gave me one and took one herself. She was always getting burned—that is purchasing fake LSD—and that night she kept saying, "God I hope this is good." We were out in the square and we dropped it—that is swallowed it—right there. Forty-five minutes later, around midnight, we were off. We walked over to a pad on 11th Street just feeling the surge, then over to the park, then to the square. Well, we had a very good discussion with a drunk. By then we were really flying. She was very, very groovy. At 8 a.m. I came back to the pad to sleep and Linda took the subway up to Grand Central and caught a train to Greenwich. She must still have been flying when she got home."

The finale to this story appeared a few weeks ago: "The nude bodies of Linda and a hippy man were found stretched out on

a dusty floor of a New York Greenwich Village cellar with their heads bashed in by bricks."

GROWING GAP OF SILENCE

There are millions of homes today where although the ending is not so tragic the lack of communication is just as deep. Lack of communication is simply a polite word for lack of honesty. It happened in my home. When I went to college and university there was a growing gap of silence about things that really mattered between my parents and myself. I felt that they would scarcely understand the subjects I was studying and understand only too well the things that I was up to when I was not studying. But five minutes of honesty with my parents about what I was like when I was not at home revolutionised our family life. My mother said to me, after pondering the point, "I see now what has happened. We were never really honest with you when things went wrong with us, so how could we ever expect you to be honest when things were wrong with you?" People who do not appear to be too wise or too good and who are simply honest can communicate with anyone, young or old, rich or poor, black, white, brown or yellow.

There is a basic flaw in our home life. Children are being born into our families but not reborn. So there is no great adventure for us. We see no great star as a nation to follow. Nihilism has overtaken us.

There is a lack of trust in any party or any politician. A lack of trust in churchmen, in trade union leaders, in employers. A lack of faith in the nation itself and its role in the future. Nihilism is born and motivated not first by denial of God but by the deification of man. Today some scientists with their pronouncements, and even Expo '67, say to us that man is completely self-sufficient and needs no God—in fact he is God. There is no power, wisdom or direction beyond his brain and his computer. Armed with education and electronics we will build our new world. We overlook the fact that people may move into a splendid new house but without a new factor in their lives they can still get irritated with each other.

We may now know what goes on in Venus, but without honesty we don't know what goes on in our own children's hearts and minds.

We have the capacity to meet the needs of the hungry of the earth, the homeless, those without education, deprived of opportunity to develop normally, short of hope and faith. But we lack the will, we lack the grace to care enough and share enough so everyone has enough. No brain or computer can provide that love and responsible concern in the human heart and in the cabinets of the nations necessary to do the job. It takes radical, revolutionary change.

I was with a member of a leading political family of Vietnam recently. He has spent the last three years in gaol following the assassination of President Diem. He heard President Diem's brother shot in the courtyard of the prison. Not only President Diem and his brother, but a whole generation of leadership was eliminated at that time. Before Diem died he had closed the brothels of Saigon and shut the bars at eleven o'clock at night for the sake of the soldiers at the front. He believed that a soldier's morale cannot be maintained at the front if his wife and daughters are subject to prostitution at home. Today, said my friend, Saigon is a Sodom and Gomorrah. It can only be cleansed by fire. The people of Vietnam, he said, feel they are being asked to choose between rule by Communism or rule by corruption. So, he asked, what is there left to fight for? When the war ends, he said, we shall need a new regime made up of honest men with clean minds, hearts and hands, whom people will respect and follow. "Will you come with a massive force of Moral Re-Armament and create those men?" I thought about it. Who will we send from Britain? Who would you send from your city, from your home to do that job?

CHANGING MEN

Mahatma Gandhi believed nations could be changed and set out to do it. But he said, "I saw that nations, like individuals, could only be changed through the agony of the Cross."

Do we not need a radical difference in family life if we are to send out from our homes people who can go not only to

Vietnam, but to the other nations of the earth or even to Brixton and do this essential work of changing men? Here is the retraining and employment every family in Britain needs. It's really not difficult, for if you want to change your children, your husband, the neighbours next door, the difficult management or the difficult labour man, the best place to start is with yourself.

NEW REALM OF REALITY

Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of the Mahatma, wants this kind of help in India. But, he says, "Realistically it will mean a colossal revolution in the West if you are to be in a position to help us change. Otherwise we will make you poor before you make us rich." It is so natural.

At Jodrell Bank we have started to listen to the stars. We have created the instruments, turned them in a certain direction, committed them to the work of listening. Signals are received from space. We have found a new realm of reality which we had never suspected was there. If we will turn our hearts in quietness in the right direction signals will be received. There is only one condition. That we are ready to follow the instructions we get.

Signals from outer space received at Jodrell Bank are punched out on paper so they can be read. Write down the signals on paper that you get as you listen. You will find that there is adequate, accurate, definite information available from God's mind to your mind for the reconstruction of your family life and of our civilisation.

Frank Buchman, initiator of Moral Re-Armament, had the conviction, "Why not a hundred million listening to God?" and so give the world a new type of man, a new thinking, a new philosophy, a new life.

I was talking with a member of the Seamen's National Executive who said that there was one thing of which he was quite sure: that we reap what we sow. We have sown dishonesty in our homes and reaped lack of communication. We have sown man, money and sex worship and reaped nihilism. We have sown small aims and reaped a generation seeking escape from a meaningless round of daily life through drug addiction.

Those who will now sow honestly in the home, obedience to the voice of the Living God in daily life, and aims personal and national that are worthy of the sons and daughters of God, will reap the greatest revolution in history whereby transformed men will transform society.

Here is a programme in which everyone is needed. Actually the issue facing Britain is not one of drug addiction. The issue is whether we at this point in history undertake the task of revolutionising the human condition and undergo the character changes necessary to do the job. Superficial aims are the opiate of the people of Britain. The true function of the human brain is communication not hallucination. Why dull so fine an instrument as the brain with a drug? Why denude the brain of its potential by using it to escape from life instead of using it to lift the burden off the back of humanity?

PERMANENTLY INVOLVED

Here is a revolutionary purpose and way of life with a kick in it which goes far beyond anything cannabis, LSD or the hard stuff can produce. This radical change kicks the confusion, the apathy and the self-centredness out of modern living. This is the best possible age in which to be alive. For every man or woman can be immediately and permanently involved in the task of reshaping history and building a society that works. The truth for building a new society was given centuries ago:

“Don’t be under any illusion—neither the impure, the worshippers of man’s body or brain, the adulterer, the effeminate, the pervert, the thief, the swindler, the drunkard, the foul-mouthed or the rapacious shall have any share in the Kingdom of God. Such, remember, were some of you.” “But you have been made clean. Your torn hearts have been made whole. God has done for you what you could not do for yourselves.” People today, young and old, are not looking for understanding—they are looking for purpose and standards.

There was a woman in history who said, “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to Thy word.” That was what she lived and she gave the world a son who revolutionised the earth.

The homes of Britain with mothers and fathers so dedicated will not only have something to live for, they will write a new chapter in the history of man. "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord." And great shall be the programme, the passion and compassion and the peace of thy children.