

Social Sciences Notes

DRUG ABUSE

Campus Drug Use

Tentative efforts to determine the prevalence of illicit drug usage on campus produced two different figures at last week's meeting of American Orthopsychiatrists in Washington. Both figures were low compared to popular estimates of usage of marijuana, barbiturates, amphetamines, LSD and the like. There are no national figures as a base for comparison.

Dr. Samuel Pearlman of Brooklyn College (enrollment 11,000) in New York, conducted a study including opiates as well. In the 1965 graduating class, Dr. Pearlman found chronic drug users—those who had taken drugs 50 times or more without medical approval—to be only 0.9 percent of the total. In all, 6.3 percent had taken a drug illegally at one time or another during their college years. Experiments with marijuana were the most popular.

Somewhat higher was the estimate reported by Julian F. Janowitz of the University of Massachusetts. He interviewed 26 representatives of various student subcultures at an unnamed eastern state university (enrollment 13,000). "Consistent users"—mostly of marijuana—numbered about 200 to 300 students or two percent of the undergraduates, he reported. These were the alienated, emotionally troubled students, said Janowitz. In addition, about 10 percent of the graduates had experimented with hallucinogens like LSD at least once.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Peruvian Poor House Themselves

Thousands of poor people in Lima, Peru, have housed themselves without financial help from government or business, and sometimes in the face of active government opposition, anthropologist William Mangin of Syracuse University reported.

Dr. Mangin said that at least 250,000 and possibly 400,000 people in Lima have accomplished this feat.

They are poor in a way not known in the United States, said Dr. Mangin, and for 20 years lower class housing needs have been critical.

Despite this, the people built their communities and organized them politically and socially, almost without outside intervention. Houses were usually of the square-block, cement or brick variety.

Dr. Mangin who reported his study to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers meeting in New York, said he first thought the operation would have been cheaper and more efficient if some government or welfare help had been available. But after 10 years of studying the phenomenon, he believes the Peruvian squatter settlements (barriadas) "have been successful in large part because these things were not present."

PSYCHIATRY

Widows Prone to Breakdowns

An Australian professor of psychiatry has reported that widows run an unusual risk of breaking down mentally and physically.

Dr. D. C. Maddison of Sydney University said that women widowed in youth or middle-age are more prone to physical breakdowns, and this ill health is usually related to mental breakdown. He has been studying

bereaved women in Sydney and Boston, Mass., for three years.

Of the women he studied, one in five had a physical or mental breakdown. And "the younger the woman, the worse the outcome," possibly because of a more intense bond between younger people, said Dr. Maddison.

Financial troubles could not explain the distress of the younger women, since wealthy widows also suffered.

KINESTHETICS

Body Senses Space

Twenty Londoners peering from a wide attic window and imagining themselves crawling across distant buildings have demonstrated a curious capacity of the human body: that it has a much better sense of distance and space than the eyes.

None of the observers knew the dimensions of their bodies, as for instance, the length of their arms extended, from fingertip to fingertip. But they could judge with accuracy whether they could grip the edges of a chimney nine and a half feet wide and 130 yards away, and if not, by how much they would miss—a hand, a forearm or an arm.

When asked to simply estimate the chimney's width visually, the observers were far less accurate, reported psychologist A. Zajackowska of the University College, London, in the British journal, *NATURE*, March 25.

The same kinesthetic sensitivity held throughout several different tests, reported Zajackowska, and, as expected, was better in some observers than others.

EDUCATION

Negro Colleges Face Bleak Future

The more than 100 Negro colleges and universities in the United States can look forward to a bleak future, according to two well-known social critics: David Riesman, author of "The Lonely Crowd" and Christopher Jencks of the Institute for Policy Studies.

White-financed and white-controlled, these institutions have traditionally prepared students for life in the segregated South. They are not likely to get the talented Negro student because of broadening opportunities at the integrated institutions, report Riesman and Jencks in the *Harvard Education Review*.

A few elite colleges—Fisk, Howard, Tuskegee—should be able to attain the highest academic standards, though not an integrated student body. For the others, Riesman and Jencks suggest they become community colleges.

URBANIZATION

Three Supercities to Come

The rush to megalopolis is so strong that by 2,000 A.D. 60 percent of the mainland United States population will live in three urban zones.

That is the projection of Dr. Jerome P. Pickard, research director of the Urban Land Institute, in a study financed by the Ford Foundation.

Dr. Pickard lumps the Atlantic Seaboard with the lower Great Lakes area as the "Metropolitan Belt." The other two megalopolitan areas will be in California and Florida, he predicts.