

To the Editor

Amphetamine plateau

Sir:

I read with interest your article "Curing the Obese; diuretics questioned" (SN: 10/14), since I myself have found them to be totally useless in any sort of long-term dieting regime.

However, I must take issue with the statement that "Amphetamines . . . are well tolerated by the body so that, over a period of time, larger and larger doses are needed."

I took my first amphetamine pill (Dexamyl) at the age of 14, fourteen years ago, at which time I was 50 pounds overweight. Several years later I switched to Desoxyn for appetite appeasement, in 5mg doses, one pill to be taken before breakfast, one around lunchtime. True, my requirements grew yearly, until some 14 years later I am taking two 15mg Desoxyn pills (not capsules or liquid) every morning. I have been doing this for nine years, and while I am indeed "addicted" to them, I do not foresee my ever having to increase the dosage. It appears, then, that if not 100 percent of the time, perhaps in a majority of cases, the body is capable of arriving at an "amphetamine plateau," whereby no larger doses are required to deliver the desired effect . . . which in my case is a constant weight level of 113.

Anne E. Carr
New York, N.Y.

Critical of Pugwash

Sir:

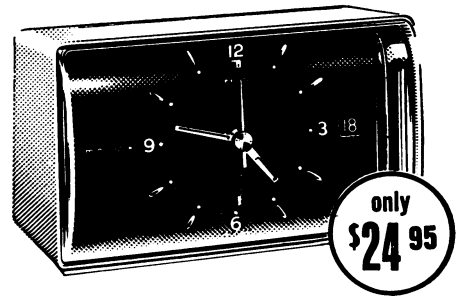
Over the years your publication has been of great value in highlighting scientific discoveries on a totally non-political basis.

However, your "Pugwash Fights Atrophy" article (SN: 10/7) gives the impression of spreading propaganda. After promoting the controversial Pugwash group as a good thing for international cooperation the article states that the annual Pugwash Conference called for "ending the bombing of North Vietnam."

Who is to say that scientists from the U.S.S.R., a closed society, are not "briefed" by the Soviet authorities?

Thomas K. Spencer
Crofton, Md.

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