

IV

RECENT ACUTE CLINICAL STUDIES

*To the detriment of readability and style, there has been a **shift from** the old school **of** "Let's try it on ourselves and the gang at the lab" to today's "controlled studies." As the plethora **of** instruments and laboratory tests grew, statistical evaluation methods were developed to deal with this rising flood **of** information. Coupled with avoidance **of** the use **of** the first person in a quasi-rationalistic anonymous stance, the writing somehow lacks the color and flavor **of** the old studies.*

*Allentuck et al. were chiefly concerned with physiologic changes and the mental effects in inmates **of** a prison hospital. Individual case descriptions and acute mental symptoms observed in this setting compare unfavorably with experiences described in previous chapters **for excessive** morbid content.*

*Ames repeats Allentuck's physiologic tests and adds a **few of** her own. Both report minimal physiologic effects and describe the psychological effects on subjects. Ames uses herself and eleven **eager** intern volunteers-very different from Allentuck's prisoners.*

*Weil and Crancer et al. are interested in the more subtle but practical contemporary question **of** psychomotor performance impairment at low, socially used doses **of** smoked marijuana. Crancer compares smoked marijuana with high doses **of** alcohol. The Crancer driving study was rejected **for** publication in the Journal of the American Medical Association, but published in Science, since the findings did not support the AMA's current official stance.*

Weil uses simple machines and complicated psychological tools. Crancer uses complex machines to evaluate specifically the effects on driving performance in comparing the two social 'highs. "

These recent studies are rather pale by comparison with the earlier personal experiences and speculations, but are vital to the more accurate description of the low-dose marijuana states of consciousness.