

drug manufacturers represented in Washington by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. Informed observers say that the industry is uneasy about the possibility that nonbarbiturate sedatives (the tranquilizers), for which a vast market has developed since the early 1950's, will be classed with barbiturates and amphetamines as psychotoxic drugs.

In a letter to Senator Hill printed in the hearings, PMA said that the abuse problem with barbiturates and amphetamines is related to their "thrill use" by those seeking anti-social effects" or by those seeking to avoid the onset of fatigue. Such use does not create a "compulsive desire" for the drugs, said PMA, in arguing that the "available evidence would indicate that the social abuse of both classes of drugs is not related to any habituating qualities they might possess."

In a letter to House Commerce Committee chairman Oren Harris (D-Ark.), written after passage of the Dodd bill in the Senate, PMA president Austin Smith wrote:

"It is one of industry's most strongly held views that only those drugs should be subject to the controls of this bill which are actually being abused and which are a threat to the public health and safety when used illicitly because of their stimulant or depressant effect on the central nervous system. However, as S. 2628 passed the Senate last Saturday, August 15, it would permit a drug to be designated by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare if it merely has a potential for abuse, and no actual abuse has been shown. A standard of such sweeping generality as this one has little meaning. As a consequence, virtually all drugs can be designated as 'psychotoxic drugs,' since all drugs have a potential for abuse. Hence, the standard should be an actual showing of abuse which results in a threat to the public health and safety, rather than merely a declaration of potential abuse."

Below the surface, then, runs the question about tranquilizers and other drugs which may be classed as psychotoxic. In reply to a question from Senator Ralph Yarborough as to whether tranquilizer drugs are being taken in overdoses, Larrick replied, "Yes, sir. In the study made by the President's Commission on Narcotic and Drug Abuse, some of the doctors who were participants pointed to cases

where people had become addicted or had acquired the habit of taking these tranquilizers excessively outside of good medical care.

"This LSD₂₅ [lysergic acid diethylamide] is an example of a type of drug that causes a mental change that is not now used very extensively for medical purposes, but is used quite extensively for non-medical purposes. But the big problem with tranquilizers at the moment, as I see it, is that they do have capabilities of satisfying a non-medical urge."

In the brief hearing session some of the parties who are presumably most interested in the bill did not appear. No representative of the President's Commission testified, and both the AMA and the PMA submitted letters but did not send witnesses.

Certain questions of interpretation have been raised and not answered, as, for example, on the regulation of investigative use of psychotoxic drugs. An exception from certain control features of the bill is provided for "persons who use psychotoxic drugs in research, teaching, or chemical analysis and not for sale." It has been suggested that this restriction is not as stringent as similar ones in other sections of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and might vitiate FDA control.

In August, Harris and his Commerce Committee put the quietus on the bill for the present when they decided it was too late in the session to organize adequate hearings. Harris has said, however, that if the bill is reintroduced and if he returns to Congress as chairman of his committee, he will schedule hearings early in the next session.

The Dodd bill is in the odd position of being widely approved in principle but of drawing criticism from some friends for going too far and from others for not going far enough.

Dodd's resolute campaign in favor of legislation on psychotoxic drugs has had the praiseworthy effect of drawing attention to the booming bootleg trade in barbiturates and amphetamines. But by focusing on sleepy truck drivers and juveniles in quest of kicks it has, so far, not led to discussion of the full implications of the greatly increased use and abuse of psychotoxic drugs in general brought about by the drug explosion and the eagerness of the American people to seek peace of mind through chemistry.

—JOHN WALSH

Announcements

The National Science Foundation has announced the reorganization of its Division of Biological and Medical Sciences and the appointment of section heads and program directors. The four new sections, each composed of two programs, and their leaders are:

Molecular biology section, made up of a biochemistry and a biophysics program. Walter Koltun, formerly in the NSF office of science resources planning, is director of the biochemistry program; a section head and program director for biophysics have yet to be named.

Environmental and systematic biology section, composed of an environmental biology program and a systematic biology program. Walter Hodge, section head, will also continue as program director for systematic biology; a director for the environmental biology program has not yet been appointed.

Physiological processes section, made up of a program in metabolic biology and in regulatory biology. David B. Tyler is section head and program director for regulatory biology. John Ward, formerly professor of biology at Temple University, has been named program director for metabolic biology.

Cellular section, made up of a program in developmental biology and one in genetic biology. Philip Grant is program director for developmental biology; Herman Lewis, director for genetic biology; a section head has not yet been named.

Meeting Notes

The second Texas symposium on **relativistic astrophysics** will be held in Austin, 15–18 December. The major topics of discussion will be quasi-stellar sources, cosmic ray, gamma ray, x-ray, and neutrino astronomy, and their relevance to cosmology. (Mrs. Jane Wardlaw, Department of Physics, University of Texas, Austin 78712)

The sixth joint **automatic control** conference is scheduled next 22–25 June at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. Topics to be included are control theory, applications, components, and control reliability. The meeting will be sponsored

by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Instrument Society of America, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Deadline for receipt of papers: *15 November*. (Papers should be sent directly to the society of the author's choice, except for ASME papers, which go to J. L. Shearer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Pennsylvania State University, University Park)

About 800 persons are expected to attend the third international symposium on **bioastronautics and the exploration of space**, scheduled 16-18 November in San Antonio, Texas. It will be sponsored by the Aerospace Medical Division, Air Force Systems Command, at Brooks Air Force Base. Approximately 30 papers will be presented. (J. Harmon, Southwest Research Institute, Box 2296, San Antonio 6, Texas)

The 22nd annual meeting of the American **Psychosomatic Society** will be held 1-2 May in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Papers are invited for presentation at the meeting. Eleven copies of a 300-word abstract are required. Deadline for receipt of abstracts: *15 November*. (E. Meyer, 265 Nassau Road, Roosevelt, New York)

The Martin Company's Research Institute for Advanced Studies is planning an international conference on "**environment-sensitive mechanical behavior of materials**," 7-8 June at the new RIAS laboratory in Relay, near Baltimore. The emphasis of the meeting will be on metals; papers will also be presented on the effects of environment on noncrystalline and ionic-ceramic materials. (A. R. C. Westwood, RIAS, 7212 Bellona Avenue, Baltimore 21212)

A symposium on **microelectronics** and large systems, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research information systems branch, and the Univac division of Sperry Rand, will take place in Washington 17-18 November. It will emphasize the various approaches to the application of microcircuits to very large computing systems. The meeting is unclassified. (J. E. Kumpf, Univac Division, Sperry Rand, 2121 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D.C.)

Scientists in the News

Cornell University has named **Robert S. Morison** director of the newly established division of basic biology. He has been director of medical and natural sciences for the Rockefeller Foundation since 1959.

Anton Lang, biology professor and director of the Earhart Plant Research Laboratory of California Institute of Technology, has been named director of the Michigan State University-Atomic Energy Commission plant research laboratory at M.S.U. He will also be a professor of botany and plant pathology at the university, both appointments effective 1 January.

F. William Sunderman, Jr., formerly in the division of metabolic research at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, has become associate professor of pathology and director of clinical laboratories at the University of Florida. He succeeds **John B. Henry**, who has joined the college of medicine at the State University of New York, Syracuse.

The American Society of Parasitologists has presented the Henry B. Ward award to **Everett L. Schiller**, associate professor of pathobiology at Johns Hopkins University. The prize includes a medal and an honorarium of \$1000, for "outstanding parasitic research combined with inspiring teaching ability."

Kenneth W. Ford, chairman of the physics department at Brandeis University, has been appointed chairman of the physics department at the new University of California campus in Irvine.

E. Leigh Secrest, formerly chief scientist for General Dynamics, Fort Worth, Texas, has been appointed associate dean of engineering for graduate studies and research at the University of Oklahoma.

Carlos Eyzaguirre, physiology professor at the University of Utah, has been appointed head of the physiology department.

Gordon Williams Blackwell, president of Florida State University, will become president of Furman University 1 February.

Lloyd H. Smith, Jr., formerly of Harvard, has become professor and chairman of the department of medicine at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco.

William H. Adams, chairman of the biology department at Tennessee Wesleyan College, has been appointed dean of the school of arts and sciences at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute.

William G. Tift, formerly with the Lowell Observatory, has been named associate professor and associate astronomer at the University of Arizona.

Alfred J. Gianascol, formerly senior psychiatrist and chief of the children's service at Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute, San Francisco, has been named director of the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic and professor of child psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania's medical school.

Brookhaven National Laboratory has announced the appointment of **Panayotis G. Katsoyannis** as head of the division of biochemistry. He had been an associate professor in the biochemistry department at the University of Pittsburgh.

Baruch S. Blumberg, former chief of the geographic medicine and genetics section at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, NIH, has become associate director for clinical research and senior member of the Institute for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Paul H. Silverman, professor of zoology and of veterinary pathology and hygiene at the University of Illinois, has been appointed chairman of the zoology department at the university.

Carl David Good, formerly with Aerojet General Corporation, has been appointed senior research chemist at Rocket Research Corporation, Seattle, Washington.

The new president of the American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is **William J. Erdman, II**, chairman of the departments of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pennsylvania medical school.