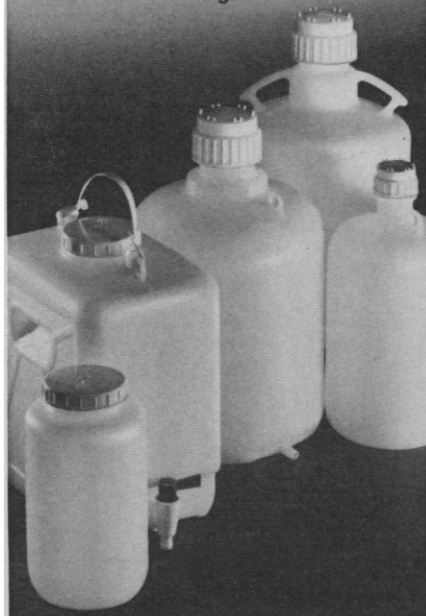


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the point of approval with recommendations for funding. I have been told by NIH administrators that in any normal year at least two of my three pending applications would probably have received an award.

Countless man-hours have been expended in routing and reviewing these now moribund proposals, and, in addition, many applicants have been hosts to site-visit teams.

All this effort will have been lost as of 30 June, when applications will be administratively withdrawn. I propose that, in the interest of saving the government the time and expense of receiving and reviewing new submissions and to save the precious time of research investigators, study sections, and site-visit teams, all approved applications for fiscal year 1973 remain in competition during fiscal year 1974 and a moratorium be instituted on all new grant applications until the approved applications have received appropriate awards or are withdrawn by either party for other reasons.

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Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge the following omission in our report "Tremor and involuntary movement in monkeys: Effect of L-dopa and of a dopamine receptor stimulating agent" (23 Feb., p. 816). The involuntary movements in normal monkeys were described by Sassin *et al.* (1). We have used their terminology in part to describe involuntary movement in monkeys with ventromedial tegmental lesions.

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Acupuncture, Hypnotism, and Magic

Tsung O. Cheng's letter (9 Feb., p. 521) does not clarify the *modus operandi* of acupuncture analgesia (the correct term). I have performed numerous painless major and minor sur-

gical procedures including obstetrical deliveries—many *without* analgesia or anesthesia. For want of a better term, I called the method "hypnosis" (1).

Acupunctural analgesia, a praiseworthy method, can best be understood within the paradigm of contemporary conditioning theory (2). Scientists here and in China have not stressed the effect of shaping and modifying behavior of the masses by the sociopolitical reward inducements referred to in Mao Tse-tung's *New Thought Directives*. This is a kind of operant conditioning that readily brings about compliant behavior without overt cooperation being necessary. Such compliance accounts for the broad spectrum of psychobiologic experiences leading to well-known placebo responses.

Also not fully recognized is that no one knows where suggestibility ends and hypnotizability begins. Contrary to Cheng's statements, animals can be hypnotized, or more correctly develop tonic immobility, when held in restraint (3). This is referred to as the "still reaction" or the "immobility reflex." The immobility reflex is also induced by fear, which leads to catalepsy and subsequent anesthesia. Therefore the argument that animals are unable to read Mao's Little Red Book or that they are not susceptible to placebos is invalid.

My explanation for acupunctural analgesia is that the Chinese have rediscovered the effectiveness of preconditioning, autogenic training, yoga breathing exercises, and a form of "suggestion in slow motion—hypnotism" (2). These methods allay the fear and apprehension of selected patients and raise the pain threshold. In the environment in which acupunctural analgesia is used, it is obviously the method of choice.

James Esdaile (4) performed many formidable surgical procedures in India at the turn of the last century with mesmeric anesthesia. It now appears that magnetism, the precursor of hypnotism, has been replaced by "needleism."

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