



THE BLACK VAULT

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We recently obtained a small supply of an interesting substance in the cannabiniol series which appears to be extremely potent. I have now given 11 subjects doses of 1 to 2.5 mg. of this drug. The first two patients promptly identified the effects as being like those of marihuana and, naturally, all patients since the first two have expected marihuana-like effects. Patients begin to report the subjective effects within 2 to 4 hours. Effects appear to be most prominent 6 to 8 hours after the drug is administered and are still present 24 to 36 hours later; and in some cases even longer. Description of the subjective effects is very vague, except that the subjects are very positive they resemble those of marihuana. They say the effects of 1 mg. are equal to one or two cigarettes of the best marihuana, except that they appear slowly and persist for a very long period of time. They are described as consisting of a sensation of mental relaxation accompanied, however, by "physical" tension, increased appreciation of music, jokes, and other things. The characteristic behavior observed in marihuana smokers (giggling, silliness) has not been seen, but the experimental situation has not been conducive to the appearance of such behavior. No hallucinations, perceptual distortion, etc., have been reported.

With larger doses (2 to 2.5 mg.) the symptoms became quite unpleasant in 6 of the 11 subjects 6 to 8 hours after administration. The unpleasant symptoms included dizziness, feeling of great weakness, marked drowsiness, nausea and vomiting. Weakness has persisted for 48 to 72 hours after administration of the drug. One patient fainted on going to the bathroom the morning after having received a 2-mg. dose.

Neurological examination in these patients so far has been negative with the dose used. However, gait could not be tested in some patients who became so weak they refused to get out of bed. There is a very definite tendency for the pulse rate to become rapid and a tendency for the blood pressure to fall. The results suggest that some cardiovascular disturbance, possibly postural hypotension, may occur. I hope to investigate this in the immediate future. Because of the appearance of these toxic reactions, I am not planning to increase the dose beyond 2.6 mg., in the immediate future.

It is noteworthy that the patients show the characteristic marihuana facies, which consist chiefly of marked conjunctival reddening and pseudoptosis.