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L.S.D. 25 (Stoll, 1947) was administered by mouth in doses of 15–100µg to twelve male and three female volunteers, and particular attention was paid to the effects of rhythmic photic stimulation (effected by an electronic stroboscope at 4–24 c/s) on the symptoms of intoxication. The subjective sensations, including the illusions of form, colour and movement experienced under these conditions, were sound-recorded for each frequency. An e.e.g. record was then taken and photic stimulation repeated during the recording. The drug was then administered. Symptoms generally appeared within 20–30 min and, with three exceptions, were quite apparent within the hour. The stroboscope run was then repeated, first without, then with the e.e.g. electrodes in place. As before, all verbal material was recorded.

Broadly the symptoms observed were those described by Stoll; depersonalization, heightened awareness, and fluctuating, incongruous affect were the most common symptoms. Eight subjects experienced visual symptoms, and seven distortion of body image. Mild dysarthria was seen in eleven, and thought blocking in six subjects. Rhythmic photic stimulation enhanced the symptoms in twelve out of fifteen subjects, and in three out of these twelve, symptoms were brought out where no symptoms of any kind had been experienced before. An incommunicative trance-like state during photic stimulation following L.S.D. 25 was experienced by six subjects; and in three there was a slight, transient but quite definite alteration in muscle tone (not unlike that seen in catatonia) which persisted for up to 20 min after photic stimulation had ceased.

Of the thirteen subjects in whom e.e.g. records were taken, two belonged to the micro-alpha, five to the responsive alpha and six to the persistent alpha group (Golla, Hutton & Walter, 1943). Following L.S.D. 25 the micro-alpha subjects showed little change in the resting record. One responsive subject showed micro-alpha activity, and the four others became more responsive. Five of the six persistent alpha subjects became completely responsive, and one remained persistent. Changes in the response to photic stimulation were also observed.

REFERENCES


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