

*F. Lerner*

August 17, 1977

Dear Mark,

I have not had much experience with drugs that inhibit libido outside the ones described in the third page of the report. I, too, have had patients with schizophrenia treated with antipsychotic drugs who complained that they were less interested in going home than we thought they should be. A discussion showed that impotence was a factor.

I have had more experience with sexual stimulating drugs. In my work with opiates (also sexual downers and heroin was regularly associated with impotence), I used the narcotic antagonists cyclazocine and naloxone. We found that patients on cyclazocine showed increased libido, aggressiveness to nurses, and even priapism. We were not sure at first whether it was a direct result of cyclazocine or the blockade of the negative effects of heroin. In an experiment in depressed patients, cyclazocine also stimulated libido, but here, also, we could not be sure it was a direct result of cyclazocine or a result of the relief of depression. When we tried the effects of naloxone, the findings were never clear. These data were reported by Alfred Freedman about 1972-73.

In my studies of chronic hashish users in Athens, of 47 long-term users, more than 2/3 insisted that hashish use improved libido, performance, and potency. We checked with the wives, and in social worker interviews, 2/3 favored intercourse with their husbands on hashish. Again, we could not be sure it was a direct effect of hashish or the absence of the irritability these men showed during withdrawal from hashish. The data can be found in the volume : Hashish- Studies of Long-Term Use, edited by C. Stefanis, R. Dornbush and M. Fink, Raven Press, New York, 1977.

I trust these comments are helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.