

Med. Profession Deems Marijuana As a Potentially Dangerous Drug

A lot of words have been said lately in the press to the effect that marijuana is

not dangerous.

Proof, of course, is difficult to come by—either to prove that it is NOT dangerous or to prove that it IS dangerous. However, no doctor will ever recommend the use of marijuana because its reaction cannot be fully predicted.

No one can say that a person using marijuana will eventually step up to Heroin—but this has happened often enough:

"There is full agreement that the use of marijuana is not to be condoned if for no other reason that its propensity to lead its victims into more serious types of addiction," said Dr. Edward

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Marijuana Potentially Dangerous . .

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Podolsky in his book, Management of Addiction.

Dr. Podolsky is the psychiatrist at the Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.

A Dr. Bouquet has warned that hemp drugs (those derived from Hemp cannabis, including hashish, bhang and marijuana) are a "reasonably proved cause of insanity."

He does not say that EVERYONE using marijuana becomes insane—but there are enough cases of insanity and other problems to cause alarm over marijuana's use.

"The prolonged use of marijuana among addicts of the United States is exceptional," said Dr. Podolsky. "In the majority of instances marijuana serves in some parts of the country as the introductory step to heroin or morphine addiction, particularly in the case of juveniles.

"Actually these differences of opinion are chiefly academic. There is full agreement that the use of marijuana is not to be condoned if for no other reason than its propensity to lead its victims into more serious types of addiction.

"Many law enforcement officials and scientific investigators, principally foreign countries, are fully convinced that the use of marijuana is an evil practice dangerous to the individual as well as society.

"At the least, it deprives the individual of good judgment, leading him to commit various antisocial acts.

"At its worst, it drives him to orgiastic sexuality, brutal assault, murder and eventually insanity."

Referring to a report from the Menninger Clinic, Podolsky says marijuana "is of clinical importance because it may lead to the more serious addictions to opiate-like drugs."

"Most youthful addicts start taking a drug out of curiosity about the rumored 'thrill' it produces," he continued. "The very nature of adolescence with adventuresomeness and courage already offers some degree of susceptibility to drug addiction and if they take it to satisfy their curiosity for some time and associate with addicts they develop addiction very soon."

The Medical Letter, an independent professional newsletter, reported last year that reports of seriou

adverse reactions to marijuana are increasing.

"Panic, gross confusion, impulsive and aggressive behavior, depersonalization, depression and paranoid behavior have been reported, especially when marijuana is combined with other drugs," the Newsletter said.

"Indolence and neglect of personal hygiene may follow prolonged heavy use and intellectual functions and memory may be impaired."

The publication also quoted the American Medical Association:

"...Continuous use may be associated with the development of psychiatric illness."

The 1965 edition of the Encyclopedia Americana had the following to say about marijuana:

"Hemp (marijuana) formerly used for medical purposes 'in the manufacture of certain narcotic drugs...however there is general agreement in the medical profession that such preparations often have unpredictable effects on the patient and consequently are not to be recommended for general practice..."

The Encyclopedia Britannica in its 1962 edition declared:

"Marijuana, an intoxicating excitant drug, used illegally in the United States and elsewhere usually in cigarette form... Abusive use of it is a serious medical and social problem in various countries..."

"Marijuana intoxication may be accompanied by such physical and psychic manifestations as thirst, hunger, craving for sweet foods, nausea, dizziness, abdominal pains, drowsiness, irritability, delusions of grandeur or persecution, uncontrollable hilarity, talkativeness, mental confusion, apprehension, prostration, depression, inarticulate speech and delirium."

"Mental dullness ordinarily increases with continued use of marijuana and psychoses may develop. Some persons have suffered most disagreeable effects a short time after smoking one marijuana cigarette."

"Withdrawal of marijuana causes no physical abstinence symptoms as opiate withdrawal does. Addiction to heroin or morphine occasionally follows use of marijuana especially in young persons."

Science News pointed out:

"Marijuana has no known medical use...so scientists have little reason to study the drug."