

Editorial

Why Flog a Dead Horse?

In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association released a report prepared by Dr. Morris Lipton for its Task Force Number 7 on "Megavitamin and Orthomolecular Therapy in Psychiatry." Dr. Osmond and I rebutted this report in a publication released by the Canadian Schizophrenia Foundation in 1976.¹ There is no need to repeat our criticism of this thoroughly inadequate, biased and harmful Task Force report. Orthomolecular medicine was set back and thousands of patients were damaged. What was even more damaging was the inability of the profession to read the literature in its original form and to draw their own conclusions. Official psychiatry, trusting the good faith and scientific ethics of this committee accepted their conclusions *holus bolus*. But this is ancient history. Orthomolecular therapy is flourishing and thousands of patients are being helped. Why continue to attack such a dead issue? Basically it is not dead, for the official view of governments, state agencies, superintendents of mental hospitals, etc., has been obtained from this report.² It still suppresses the incorporation of Orthomolecular principles into medicine. Patients who might become healthy and productive members of society are doomed to a lifetime of invalidism.

Leslie Louis was one of the chronic patients but was able to escape from this fate by Orthomolecular treatment. Her account is very important, not only because it highlights the opposition of psychiatry, but also raises a number of very serious questions which are assiduously

avoided by the American Psychiatric Association. To this day, the APA has not recognized it has a duty to present accurate information to the public. Perhaps more accounts such as this will drive them slowly to an increased awareness of their responsibility.

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1. **MEGAVITAMIN THERAPY** — In Reply to the American Psychiatric Association Task Force Report on Megavitamins and Orthomolecular Therapy in Psychiatry, available from the Canadian Schizophrenia Foundation, 2229 Broad Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4P 1Y7.
2. In a letter to the editor of Schizophrenia Fellowship Newsletter, Australia, Dr. Joan M. Lawrence, President-Elect, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, refers to the APA report as the final authority. Obviously she has not read anything more recent including our Reply. The "...carefully controlled scientific studies.." she referred to used chronic schizophrenics who did not respond to one vitamin only. These studies confirmed our earlier report published in *Diseases of the Nervous System* that this group was not helped. They did not test acute and subacute patients which had been the class of schizophrenics for whom we had found Vitamin B-3 to be so helpful. An experiment may be scientifically controlled, but if it is irrelevant it does not contribute to any scientific debate.

Editor's Note

In the article by Dr. Abram Ber, Volume 12, No. 4, 1983, page 283, there is a statement on page 287 about Vitamin C. It was there stated that Vitamin C is one of the phenolics. This is an error that escaped both Dr. Ber, the author of the article, and myself as the editor. Vitamin C, of course, is not a phenolic, although it is true that with any synthetic product it is possible to have trace quantities of other materials present arising from the manufacturing process which might cause allergic reactions.

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