

BOOK REVIEW

M. M. Baden,¹ M.D.

A Review of "Narcotics and Drug Dependence"

REFERENCE: Williams, John B., *Narcotics and Drug Dependence*, Glencoe Press, Beverly Hills, 1974, 442 pages, \$7.15.

Narcotics and Drug Dependence by John B. Williams is a compendium of articles from many and varied sources, together with discussions and opinions by the author developed during a career as a teacher of political science.

The writer's stated objective is to enable the reader to recognize and assist someone who is "using drugs." Although he falls short of achieving this goal, Professor Williams does provide some interesting, if not new, material. However, extensive inclusion of outside sources—reports of congressional committees, scientific papers, legal statutes, newspaper and magazine articles—uncritically presented, at times, provides repetitive and conflicting information.

The first portion of the book discusses dimensions of the drug abuse problem, citing many reports as to the extent of drug use among teenagers, college students, soldiers, veterans, Black Panthers, etc. International, national, and local laws and controls relative to drug use and drug trafficking are presented with emphasis upon California legislation. Discussion of treatment and rehabilitation of drug users is relatively brief and superficial.

The second and longer portion of the book discusses the common drugs of abuse individually. Much attention is given to the detection of marijuana and marijuana users, reflecting the importance the author feels this substance deserves consonant with his views as to its association with criminality. Marijuana and cocaine are often referred to as narcotic drugs without explanation of the medical and legal difference in such classification.

Chapters are also devoted to narcotics, stimulants, sedatives, hallucinogens, and deleriants (glues and solvents), with inclusion of instructive historical information and "how to spot..." charts of uneven accuracy.

This book would be of value to law enforcement personnel who wish to acquire a general appreciation of many aspects of the problems of drug abuse quickly.

¹ 520 First Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.