

BOOK REVIEW

DRUGS AND THE CANADIAN SCENE

By Sheila Gormely. Toronto: Pagurian Press Limited, 1970, pp. xvi + 186. \$5.95.

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"Drugs and the Canadian Scene" is not a scientific study of the drug situation in Canada; it is a collection of facts, descriptions, quotations from authorities both Canadian and American, reports on Conferences, and ideas expressed by interested and concerned individuals. Sheila Gormely, a newspaper reporter for the Toronto Telegram, has written one of the first informative books on the Canadian drug situation. The material gathered for this book was based on activities which mainly occurred in and around Toronto.

Each chapter deals with a particular aspect of the drug situation. Some of the areas dealt with are: Yorkville, the public hearings on drugs in Canada, dope dealers, the LeDain Commission, an evaluation of drug properties and effects (based on Dr. J. R. Unwin's evaluation prepared for the Canadian Medical Association), and a final chapter summarizing the views of noted Canadian and American psychologists, sociologists and other authorities on drugs in our society today.

The author describes the individuals who live in the Yorkville community and the methods used by some of the concerned adults, the hospitals and other organizations in dealing with the problems which arose in this community.

Many people have read the LeDain Commission's preliminary report which was published recently. Sessions held while the Commission was on the road are reported and the reader is able to gain some insight into this and other committee inquiries on drugs.

Marijuana, L.S.D. and Speed are given detailed coverage and the author has succeeded in presenting the many sides of the controversial marijuana issue. If "Speed kills" why do so many teenagers turn to Speed? The kids as well as the professionals' ideas are presented.

Many institutions and people have tried various ways to effectively help the teenagers who become involved in the drug scene. Some of the most effective ones are described in this book. Counsellors, parents, teachers and students will all find a great deal of information which will give a greater insight into the drug situation as it is in Canada.