

recorded on visual analogue scales, as described by Ashton *et al* (1978) (see figure). During this initial observation in a drug-free state, his symptoms and behaviour appeared to settle, and after two weeks he was given a period of leave. He returned after four days with a recurrence of his regularly recurring mood swings and he was started on lithium carbonate (Priadel) 800 mgms at night, which produced a serum lithium level of between 0.6 and 0.8 mmol/l. Three days after starting his medication he said he noticed a definite change, and he has had no further symptoms or objective evidence of depression or hypomania since that time. He has now been followed up for six months without any recurrence of his affective disorder.

On account of his psychometric test results, we are concerned that there may be an underlying organic brain disorder, but no further evidence of this has come to light.

DAVID J. KING
SHARAF A. M. SALEM
NASSER S. MEIMARY

Holywell Hospital,
60 Steeple Road,
Antrim BT41 2R7

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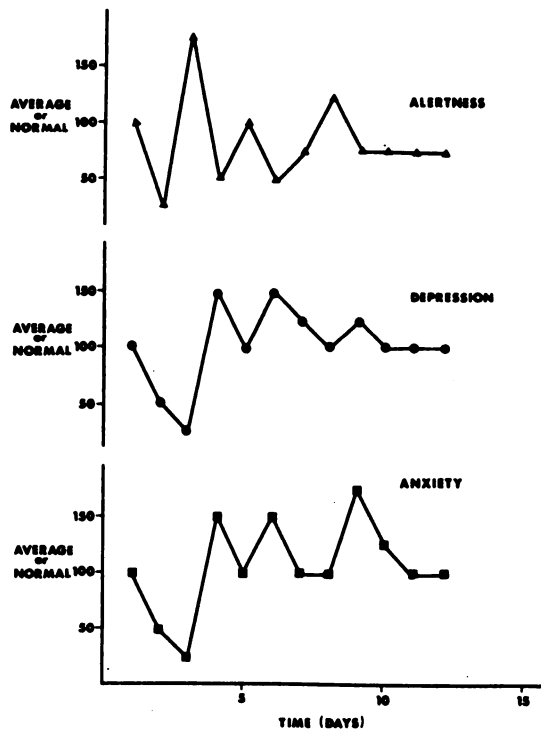


FIG.—Daily self-ratings of alertness, depression and anxiety on visual analogue scales. Average or 'normal' degree for each mood is rated as 100, and the range of the scale is from 'very much below average' (0) to 'very much above average' (200) on a 70 mm line.

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B. M. BARRACLOUGH
A. C. SMITH
(Editors)