

Drug Death Brought No Halt to Tests

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

Less than a year after a patient died in an Army-sponsored experiment with an hallucinogenic drug at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, the Army gave the institute another contract for nearly \$143,000 to continue experimenting on humans for four more years, an Army spokesman disclosed yesterday.

Responding to questions, the spokesman indicated that the Army took no action when midway through the contract a state judge ruled that the death had resulted from negligence, but he said the service later extended the experiments for two more years.

The Army spokesman said the largest of the two contracts began in December, 1953, and as it expired in September, 1957, the second one for \$25,000 went into effect, running until September, 1959.

Earlier this week as a House Armed Services subcommittee began hearings on the military's drug experiments, Representative Thomas J. Downey, a Suffolk Democrat, charged that the Army's supervision of research that it sponsored in

civilian institutions had been "totally inadequate" and said that one of the officers in charge of the experiments on humans had "conceded that there may well have been deaths or serious injuries at these outside experimentation sites about which the Army has yet to hear."

Patients at Institute

During the study in which the death of Harold Blauer, a 42-year-old professional tennis player, occurred, the subjects were patients at the institute and the drugs administered were derivatives of mescaline, the Army said.

But Dr. Sidney Malitz, the acting director of the institute at 722 W. 168th Street and the person listed as the "responsible investigator" on both of the subsequent contracts, said that the later research was with LSD and that all of the subjects were paid volunteers rather than patients.

The Army spokesman said he was unable to provide an immediate explanation of why the institute was given additional contracts after the death of Mr. Blauer and the court ruling of negligence.

Dr. Malitz, who was serving as an Army captain doing research at Walter Reed Army Hospital when the death occurred in January, 1953, said the fact that the Army continued to finance experiments "might be an indication that they didn't lose their confidence" in the institute.

In his Court of Claims judgment in June, 1955, Judge Fred A. Young, who died two years ago, said in part that the "chemical therapy" that Mr. Blauer had undergone at the institute had not been "in accordance with the generally established routine followed under the circumstances."

Dr. Malitz said he interpreted this as a reference to "research conditions" and said that if that were true "it would put every researcher at risk," adding that "all research, of necessity, would have to stop."

Dr. Malitz said that while his name was on the contracts he had never seen either of them or any of the actual money. He said Army investigators were in his office before he had been interviewed and that he had asked them "to try to find out who got the money and where it went."