

demonstrated, the more likely he was to be aggressive, hyperkinetic, and intractable."⁴⁵ Research indicates that such anomalies are frequently related to deviant behaviour in children and may reflect minor developmental defects of the central nervous system.⁴⁶

27. The danger from heavy alcohol consumption during pregnancy is therefore clear. But in order to be dangerous to the fetus the consumption of alcohol need not be extravagant, nor the mother an alcoholic.

28. As in the case of alcohol, other drugs taken during pregnancy may pass through the placenta to the fetus with the risk of a damaging effect. Drug abuse by the mother may produce chromosomal flaws in the unborn child. After birth such an infant may experience withdrawal symptoms. In the extreme case, a woman addicted to narcotics may give birth to a baby who is also dependent on narcotics. If the case is severe and not treated the infant may die.⁴⁷

29. A great number of legal drugs, such as nausea remedies, diuretics and appetite suppressants, are commonly prescribed for pregnant women. "Prescribed drugs may improve maternal and fetal health in selected pregnancies, but there has been an increasing concern that some drugs may act to produce human congenital malformation and other fetal and neonatal problems."⁴⁸ In most cases, it is simply not known how they will affect the mental and neurological development of the unborn child. Recent research indicates "there is no drug, whether prescription drug or over-the-counter remedy, which has been proven safe for the unborn child."⁴⁹

30. The danger is not limited to the effect of drugs taken by a woman after she is aware she is pregnant. A woman may be unaware that she is pregnant for several weeks, and it is at this early stage of pregnancy that the fetus may be most sensitive to toxic chemicals. Therefore a life style involving undue reliance on pills or drugs represents a danger to future children in the case of any woman who may become pregnant.

31. Most research data deal with obvious defects at birth. Drugs may also have subtle effects on the child's nervous system. These may not be physically evident at the time of birth but may cause behaviour disorders later.⁵⁰ "Evidence is available that behavior can be permanently altered by exposure to certain drugs late in the fetal development."⁵¹

32. It may well be that intra-uterine abuse such as that presented by smoking, alcohol or other drugs, begins a cruel cycle of problem behaviour stretching from generation to generation. There is evidence that a baby born prematurely or with malformation is more likely to develop behaviour problems.

33. There is also evidence that behaviour problems precede drug abuse. In a recent study of adolescent amphetamine abusers, it was