Lettvin presents LSD view

Wednesday, May 3, Dr. Timmothy Leary will present his views on LSD. To shed light on the hallucinogenic drug from a different point of view will be MIT's Dr. Jerome Lettvin, Professor of Biology and Electrical Engineering.

Lettvin feels that LSD has tremendous potential for bringing people closer to life and for helping a person come to know himself better. Further, he thinks that there should be immediate and very extended exploration of the drug's possibilities. That it's presently against the law to use or to sell LSD is a result of our conservative "middle-aged" middle class authority, he feels. Professor Lettvin approaches LSD from a physiological point of view. His position is much more cautious than Leary's. It is a fact, he says, that LSD alters the structure of the brain. Exactly how this happens or what if any permanent damage results, he does not know. But because of the present uncertainty about deleterious effects of the drug, he does not recommend its use.

In reference to the very tentative report by psychiatrist Shalom J. Cohen, University of New York at Buffalo, that LSD damages chromosomes (June, March 31, 1967), Professor Lettvin said that almost any drug will do this. Thus, these findings are perhaps not significant.