

exhibited very significant inhibition, facts which support our previous experience (Juszkiewicz & Rakalska, 1963).

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### Mathematical treatment for oral sustained release drug formulations

SIR,—Recently a detailed mathematical treatment of drug release from oral sustained release dosage forms was presented by Rowland & Beckett (1964), who made a direct criticism of an equation presented by me to calculate the maintenance dose for sustained release (Nelson, 1957). These authors argued that the earlier presentation did not take into account the amount of drug that might be released from the maintenance portion of the dose during the time the initial dose was being absorbed. It should be pointed out that sustained release forms do exist from which only insignificant amounts of the maintenance portion of drug are released until the initial dose is absorbed (for example, Spansule and repeat action tablets). Therefore, the treatment presented by Rowland & Beckett (1964) applies only to the special case where release from the "free form" and "maintenance form" begins at the same time.

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