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--For 4 products, the companies have elected to solve the problem by the expedient of not publishing any promotional material about the drugs in the 1976 edition.

Perhaps the most striking change involves Parke-Davis' chloramphenicol, an important antibiotic marketed under the name of Chloromycetin. In the United States, the company has told physicians that its use should be restricted to a limited number of serious or life-threatening diseases, such as typhoid fever, in which practically no other and safer product is as effective. It should not be used in "trivial infections." Physicians are warned that its demonstrated hazards include the possibility of producing a highly lethal aplastic anemia or other blood dyscrasia.

In the Central American countries and elsewhere in Latin America, however, the description of Chloromycetin in 1973 included recommendations for its use in tonsillitis, pharyngitis, eye and ear infections, pneumonia, and abscesses. In the 1973 Central American reference volume, not one contraindication, warning, or potential adverse reaction was disclosed.

In the 1976 Central American edition, however, Parke-Davis said Chloromycetin should be used only in serious conditions and never for "trivial infections." There is virtually complete disclosure of contraindications and dangers, including the possible appearance of aplastic anemia.

Although much remains to be accomplished, I trust you will share in our gratification that some changes have come about. It is conceivable that some lives will be saved.

I trust also that you are aware that my colleagues and I are grateful to you personally and to other members of your Subcommittee for the constant and courageous support you have given us over the past years, and to Mr. Benjamin Gordon for his unfailing assistance. Without such help, much of our work would have been impossible.

Cordially yours,

Milton Silverman, Ph.D.

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