

Now I read to you from page 42 of the Medical Letter of June 2, 1967, and under the title "Prices" the Letter states:

The great price spread among tablets purchased from different pharmaceutical companies suggest the desirability of prescribing by generic name and specifying, at least for patients of limited means, that the prescription be filled with low priced prednisone tablets.

On page 41, it states:

None of the variations are outside Pharmacopeia limits—

That is of the 22 drugs they tested—

None of the variations are outside Pharmacopeia limits or of sufficient magnitude to have an adverse effect in the treatment of conditions requiring the use of corticosteroids. This disintegration test measures, only disintegration and not the rate of dissolution or physiological availability. There is nothing however, either in the reports of the clinical trials or in the experience of Medical Letter consultants to suggest that variations in formulations are causing any problems in the treatment of patients.

Do you have any evidence that would refute that statement?

Mr. BURROWS. On this product?

Senator NELSON. Yes.

Mr. BURROWS. No.

Senator NELSON. Are you aware of any clinical evidence from any source in medical literature or any source from the scientists within your company that would indicate there is any difference in the therapeutic efficacy or therapeutic equivalency of any of these 22 prednisone products that have been tested by the Medical Letter?

Mr. BURROWS. No, I am not aware of any such differences. But let me state again that I am not a scientist or a technician, and I am only in a position to stand behind the products that Parke, Davis makes and sells. We want to have our name associated with whatever we sell so that the doctor will continue to have the choice of prescribing a Parke, Davis product as such, be it a generic product or be it a specialty product with a brand name that includes directly or indirectly a reference to the Parke, Davis standards of quality that we have built into our drugs for so long.

By that statement let me say again that I am not intending to reflect on the quality capabilities or quality accomplishments of any other manufacturer. But we are in the business of advancing Parke, Davis as a company, advancing our products, and hopefully finding new products which we can introduce. That has been our business for 100 years. We have done it by building and maintaining a reputation for the name of Parke, Davis that the medical profession can rely on. They can rely on other names also. But we want the doctor and the pharmacist and the public to feel that they can rely on the Parke, Davis name and it is for this reason that we want to have our name associated with the products which we sell.

Senator NELSON. I think that the public and the medical profession certainly can rely upon the quality of the products that the drug companies produce, though all companies as you know may from time to time produce a product that represents a failure in quality control, as is inevitable. My question is aimed at the problem that is highlighted here by the Medical Letter.

Mr. BURROWS. I am not in a position to refute anything that is in the Medical Letter. I know of no evidence to the contrary.