

you have had for a long time, you have slept well and awake refreshed, it is fine. You may like to know what you have taken, but you are satisfied with that particular pill, and as long as you can purchase it, all is well and good, and moreover, if you really get relief, you care very little about the price. And I think that is an important point also.

You continue to take the drug and other drugs, and then after a year or two you develop numbness and tingling in your hands and legs, which we call polyneuritis. You can't sleep and you take more sleeping tablets. You take the best sleeping tablet you have had before, namely, the one you took some years ago, and it is quite a long time before you or your doctor realize that the nervous trouble you are suffering from is caused by the long continued use of this sleeping tablet, as other sleeping tablets have not been known to cause such trouble.

Then the problem arises to know what other medicines contain that ingredient. It is particularly bad when you get a bad ingredient in something like a sleeping tablet, because sleep brings relief to many ills, and a great many conditions, perhaps a majority of illnesses, are helped by sleep.

Thus, if you have a headache or arthritis, a pill which relieves the pain, and when combined with one which will give you sleep, is very beneficial. The same is true of a gastrointestinal upset, or an attack of asthma, or a migraine headache.

Alas, even the morning nausea of early pregnancy is relieved by a tranquilizer. Most sleeping tablets, when given in small doses act as tranquilizers. Hence thalidomide was combined with many other drugs, and each combination was given a new name.

The drug was so good that the pharmaceutical rights for manufacture were sold to many other drug firms in many other countries, and as I told you, the accepted practice is that each firm which manufactures the drug has the permission to use a brand name of its own choosing.

And so when the danger of thalidomide was recognized, it was found that the drug was masquerading under at least 50, if not 100 or more different names. I have given you a list in the appendix of the different names I verified as containing thalidomide.³

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Taussig, did any of these have the generic name on them?

Dr. TAUSSIG. Not that I know of. I looked up most of these and I had to struggle to find out what company produced them, and then I had to write to the company and I asked them whether the drug contained thalidomide, if so how much, when was it marketed and when was it withdrawn, and it was only when I got a definite statement from the company yes, it did contain thalidomide that I put them on this list.

Senator NELSON. Did all the companies respond to your inquiry?

Dr. TAUSSIG. These that I listed here did. Some others I didn't get any response from. A few of them responded late. The preparations at the bottom which came from South America, I didn't check. Earlier I had been told that the drug was not sold in South America, and then in August 1962, after the last, or virtually the last case had been seen in Germany—because it was 8 months from the time the woman took

³ See p. 1521, *infra*.