

produced phocomelia in the rat by an enormous dose of thalidomide given intraperitoneally to a pregnant animal.

Certainly new drugs, which are of use to persons of all ages and which enter the blood stream, should be screened for possible teratogenic action. Furthermore, young women must learn that nothing is foolproof and new drugs should not be taken unless absolutely necessary, as the damage often occurs before the woman knows she is pregnant.

This drug shows how serious the side effects of drugs may be and it also opens up a new avenue to the study of the etiology of malformations.

GENERIC AND TRADE NAMES OF DRUGS

Thalidomide—*Contergan* (West Germany), *Distaval* (British Commonwealth), *Softenon* (Portugal), *Kevadon* (United States and Canada), *Talimol* (Canada). Thalidomide is also a constituent of the following drugs: algosediv, peracon, expectorans, grippex, polygripan (West Germany); Valgis, Tensival, Valgraine, Asmaval (British Commonwealth).

Glutethimide—*Doriden*.

Bemegride—*Megimide*.

Chlorthalidone—*Hygroton*.

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THE THALIDOMIDE SYNDROME

A MILD AND SUPPOSEDLY SAFE SEDATIVE TAKEN BY PREGNANT WOMEN HAS DEFORMED THE LIMBS AND OTHER ORGANS OF SEVERAL THOUSAND INFANTS IN WEST GERMANY ENGLAND, CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

(By Helen B. Taussig)

Two grossly deformed infants were the subject of an exhibit at the annual meeting of the pediatricians of the Federal Republic of Germany held in October, 1960, in the city of Kassel. Photographs and X-ray pictures showed that the