

lot of things from advertising. Word of mouth, the idea that everything responds nowadays to miracle drugs, that this has captured the public fancy and naturally people want something for an illness. The doctor who goes away from a patient without prescribing a drug is often thought to be a little bit unusual. The patient might then go to a doctor who does prescribe a drug.

I think it is a rather complex, perhaps philosophical story.

Well, I was talking about restrictions and we will take that up towards the end of my statement. What these restrictions might be, who is to do the restricting, can undoubtedly be worked out.

Chloramphenicol, like most, if not all of the active medications we use in medicine, is associated with unwanted reactions particularly to cell systems which normally grow rapidly, as in the bone marrow. This drug, namely chloramphenicol, however, has particular value in serious or severe infections in which good, available antibiotics are hard to find. I should say in certain serious or severe infections. And one of them is typhoid fever, another is sudden severe septicemias in which interstitial organisms come out into the blood. This might occur in shock or when the blood count is low. And in certain resistant severe urinary infections.

Senator NELSON. Is chloramphenicol always indicated in every case of typhoid fever or would it depend upon the diagnosis of the condition of the particular patient?

Dr. DAMESHEK. I think we must say chloramphenicol is the best one for typhoid fever, although Ampicillin, a fairly recently introduced antibiotic related to penicillin, seems to be almost as effective and without the reactions of Chloromycetin.

Senator NELSON. What I was getting at is whether typhoid fever is always so serious a disease that a drug of some kind is always indicated?

Dr. DAMESHEK. Yes. That is a serious disease and it does not respond to the ordinary tetracyclines or the sulfa drugs, et cetera, and Chloromycetin seems to have a particular ability in controlling typhoid fever.

Senator NELSON. Does the medical profession have any good educated guesses as to how many cases of typhoid fever occur in this country annually?

Dr. DAMESHEK. Well, I would say it is a rare disease in this country. Something in the neighborhood maybe of a few hundred cases occur a year. It is a rare disease now.

Chloramphenicol is not indicated for colds, acne, that is pimples, grippe, influenza, and other common infections that are self-limited and in which either no treatment or such relatively harmless drugs as penicillin and the tetracycline drugs can be used.

Senator NELSON. Is it indicated for any of the upper respiratory infections?

Dr. DAMESHEK. I would say it is not indicated.

Senator NELSON. Not indicated?

Dr. DAMESHEK. Not indicated. Either the upper respiratory infections will get better themselves, which they do by and large, or else there are plenty of drugs around that could be used that do not have the effects on the blood-building machinery that this drug has.