

ready done so, to be sure that the drug was really indicated in the case for which he was prescribing it?

Dr. DAMESHEK. I would think it would conceivably act as a brake on the practicing physician. I could conceive that. If, in addition, the physician were asked to put down on the prescription blank the name of the disease, that might help even more. The two together, that is.

Senator NELSON. I am just exploring this extemporaneously here. You mentioned that a doctor might be reluctant to write the diagnosis out so that the patient would see it. Is this something that a physician might be concerned about sometimes?

Dr. DAMESHEK. No. I do not see how a doctor can be reluctant about putting the disease down if it is typhoid fever or a severe infection. The only time I suppose he might be reluctant would be in the case of acute leukemia where infection, serious infection, may develop due to one cause or another. He might not like to put the diagnosis of acute leukemia down, but on the other hand, he could put down serious infection, I suppose.

Senator NELSON. If the doctor followed the same procedure as he would with morphine so that pharmacists would also know that it was a special case, and at the time the pharmacist would make a specific record on a form as to the diagnosis, do you think that would be helpful?

Dr. DAMESHEK. Yes. I think it would reduce—certainly it would stop, I would think, the use of the drug for cases of acne, colds, grippe, influenza, and minor infections in general. It seems to me it would.

Now, the question of the mechanics of this I am not so sure about. I do not want to try to make any exact recommendations. That is not in my line really.

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Dameshek, if the doctor would under ordinary conditions prescribe this drug, say, for a cold, why would writing it down on a prescription blank discourage him from doing what he had intended to do or would have done in the first place?

Dr. DAMESHEK. Because I would think if the doctor knows that he should not be giving this drug for a cold, and, therefore, if he puts down a cold and the patient happens to be one of these rare birds that develops aplastic anemia, this prescription and the cold might be held against him in future times.

Mr. GORDON. Well, are you saying, Dr. Dameshek, that the doctor frequently knows he should not be prescribing Chloromycetin for a particular illness and yet he still does so?

Dr. DAMESHEK. I dislike to say anything against the medical profession, being a member of that august profession myself. I doubt that the doctor is ignorant of all the statements that have been made over the years about Chloromycetin. So that this is what I base my statement on.

Senator NELSON. Might he not have been influenced by the advertising which is designed in such a way as to indicate that it is a marvelous antibiotic and has over the years covered up the side effects to some extent? Unless the drug company wasted its money, then the advertising must have some influence.