

The statements which follow were made under the heading "approaches to be used in detailing the drug."

These are not taken as they might appear out of text. They are actually quotes of entire paragraphs within the text of these suggested details.

Intensive investigation by the Food and Drug Administration, carried on with the assistance of a special committee of eminent specialists appointed by the National Research Council, resulted in unqualified sanction of continued use of Chloromycetin for all conditions in which it had previously been used.

Senator NELSON. That, of course, is not an accurate statement, is it?

Dr. WESTON. Absolutely not.

Senator NELSON. Because the sanction for continued use given by the Council was very qualified.

Dr. WESTON. It was very qualified and the warning was elaborated on even more in the second warning.

A sensible caution against indiscriminate use, which we have incorporated into our advertising and labeling, is a welcome addition to our literature and to the label on Chloromycetin products, and in our opinion, would be appropriate in those on any potent chemotherapeutic agent. Actually, such caution is an assurance that the full benefits of well-tolerated Chloromycetin will be available and free from misuse.

Here again, it implies that Parke-Davis themselves were responsible for putting this on, and again it equates the toxicity of Chloromycetin with some of the other antibiotics.

Quote No. 3:

Are the broad-spectrum antibiotics important factors in the incidence of blood dyscrasias? Of course, it is logical to use Chloromycetin as an example, because it has been the subject of intensive and thorough investigation.

This is quite a while after first reports of some blood dyscrasias with some of the other antibiotics which had not been investigated as intensively, but in which the incidence was of a much smaller magnitude than this drug.

We ask for open-mindedness in approaching this subject (of drug induced blood dyscrasias). We assure you that Parke-Davis will take every means possible and exhaust every possibility in attempting to get at the solution of this baffling problem of modern therapeutics, involving, obviously, not only Chloromycetin, but many other potent chemotherapeutic agents as well.

Again an equation with other antibiotics.

Before terminating this interview may I re-emphasize a fact which has not changed with the developments of the past year? Chloromycetin continues to be the outstanding wide-spectrum antibiotic because of its well-tolerated nature and its high degree of effectiveness.

Your efforts (those of sales representatives) should all be directed in a positive direction designed to provide facts which will induce physicians to use Chloromycetin in the wide range of infections in which it is effective.

Senator NELSON. As I understand it, it is effective in a wide range of infections, is it fair to say that?

Dr. WESTON. Yes; I think it is fair to say that Chloromycetin is probably as or more effective in a wider spectrum of infectious diseases than any other antibiotic available at this time.

Senator NELSON. So the apparent intent here is to persuade doctors to use it in a wide variety of infections including conditions for which, in fact, it should not be used at all, or when there is a substitute drug that may be as effective but less toxic as this one?