

student, was given this potent antibiotic, first for a sore throat by a general practitioner, and subsequently some months later for a minor urinary infection by a urologist which, expert medical advice has informed us, would have cleared up without medication if left alone.

She was given more than 100 capsules of the drug intermittently over a period of some 6 or 7 months, and was hospitalized with aplastic anemia some months after the medication was discontinued. She passed away after 3 weeks of such intense suffering that it is beyond description, a nightmare Mrs. Elfstrom and I shall never forget as long as we live.

We did not know the name of the antibiotic that had been prescribed for her, or anything about it, until just before her death when we set out to learn what had caused a youngster who had been the picture of health all her life to succumb so quickly.

Among other things, we learned she had never been given a blood study by any of the physicians who had treated her despite the fact the warning in effect then specifically called for such studies. In a meeting held with the grievance committee of our Orange County medical society, we heard these men say they did not know the meaning of "intermittent therapy" which the Food and Drug Administration said was especially dangerous.

We also heard the president of our medical society say local doctors knew so little about the drug that they had asked an official of Parke, Davis who was attending a meeting in San Francisco at the time, to come down to Orange County to tell a group of physicians about the drug. Incidentally, this official did not appear. He said he had to return to his office unexpectedly; the consensus here was that when Detroit found out about the proposed meeting they ordered him to return immediately.

After several such frustrations Mrs. Elfstrom and I decided we would dedicate ourselves to doing something about warning the public, the innocent public I hasten to add, of the hazards of this drug and about the way its indiscriminate use was being promoted. If our memory serves us correctly, one of the well-known men of medicine who testified during the hearing conducted by the late Estes Kefauver in this very room, said "its sale was being pushed like soap."

Our research has developed a mountain of material, so much in fact that it has more than filled a four-drawer legal-size file case. Included among the many medical articles and reprints that warn of the drug's potential danger are countless letters from distraught parents and relatives who have lost loved ones following Chloromycetin therapy for such minor infections as the common cold, sore throats and other upper respiratory ailments for which antibiotics are not effective, mosquito bite, acne, infected gums, sore fingers, mumps, earache, and so forth. Here are excerpts from just a few—

Senator NELSON. These are letters that you have received?

Mr. ELFSTROM. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. And you have copies of the letters?

Mr. ELFSTROM. Yes; they are in our files.

Please add our daughter's name, Susan Alma Staggs, age two and a half, to the statistics you are gathering. She received Chloromycetin in August, aplastic anemia was diagnosed in October, and she passed away in Children's Orthopedic Hospital on December 8. God speed you on to the success of this mission—from a Washington family.