

Chris was given four or five platelet transfusions and four or five pints of blood. She died exactly 2 weeks to the day we entered Rochester, from an overwhelming infection on November 3, 1967.

In other words, when your antibodies are gone—these are the disease-fighting particles of your blood—and when they are gone, any infection can take over.

We allowed an autopsy hoping it might help some other victim. In a letter from Dr. Bayrd he termed her death "a monumental disaster and a great tragedy," and stated the drug should be used very sparingly.

We flew back home that evening; the doctor telephoned me; I asked him how many capsules of Chloromycetin he gave her. He reported 12 capsules and said "I'm sure that it didn't cause aplastic anemia," and that he was going to continue to use it. I have documented evidence that he prescribed 52 capsules.

Incidentally, there is a case in California of a six and a half year old girl that died from aplastic anemia at the City of Hope Hospital which you have all heard of. And when the father began to check into the reason for it, he asked the doctor what he had given here. He had changed on his record the name of the antibiotic to TAO. But the father had been smart enough to get to the pharmacy first, and he found out that she had had two prescriptions of Chloromycetin. I will go on with the letter:

I would like to ask the president of Parke, Davis several questions:

(a) If he or his wife watched one of their children die a little bit each day for 11 weeks with a disease that struck our daughter like rat poison, if he could still take pride in his promotional prowess?

(b) How would he or his wife answer this question from a 15-year-old daughter "Mommy what is happening to me," and "why is God doing this to me," on the day that she passed away?

(c) Could he go back to his office and watch the sales soar after watching his wife collapse on the hospital corridor floor?

(d) How would he go home and tell an 11-year-old son he no longer has a sister who never did one thing wrong in her life but trust doctors?

(e) Could he watch his wife turn from a happy, beautiful woman of 123 pounds deteriorate to 87 pounds and go back and step up the production of Chloromycetin?

(f) Could he spend 24 hours a day for 2 weeks with his daughter at Rochester, and return to the factory to see how sales are coming along?

My wife had to resign from teaching school this year. I taught school and was a superintendent of schools for 12 years. My point is that we are fairly well educated and yet allowed our daughter to die needlessly.

I did not intend for this to be so lengthy. Again thank you for your information and please give me the privilege of helping you, if you think I could. I am enclosing a picture of my daughter; perhaps the Parke, Davis president would like to study it for a while.

I want to show it to you.

(The photograph was displayed.)

Mr. ELFSTROM. I want to keep the photograph, but she is the picture of perfect health.

I will proceed with my statement.

Since 1961, there have been a number of bills introduced in the California Legislature designed to control the indiscriminate use of Chloromycetin. Several called for a warning on the label going to the patient, with different wording, and one restricted use of the drug to hospital administration. None of them passed, even though doctors and dedicated men of medicine testified in their favor, due to the vigorous opposition of Parke, Davis, the Association of Pharmacists, and the California Medical Association.

Following failure of the bills, resolutions were passed calling for hearings by committees from both the senate and the assembly, and