

I am so glad you are carrying on this fight. I think my old friend Dr. Meyer's suggestion of using certain drugs only on hospital patients is a good one. I plan to have another column on the subject which is stimulated by your good work.

I have received many sad letters from people who have told me of the death of a child or relative—due to the unwise use of Chloromycetin—often for a mild illness.

From Dr. Daniel Liebowitz, prominent bay area internist who was asked to testify at the San Francisco hearing:

You will have been of service to medicine if you can continue to spur legislation that will guarantee an adequate warning to patient, pharmacist and physician.

From the deputy director of our California Department of Public Health:

We do appreciate your deep interest in this matter and the highly effective manner in which you are exerting leadership in an effort to bring about an adequate solution.

From Dr. Karl F. Meyer, of the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, whose reputation is worldwide:

We (referring to Dr. Maxwell Finland of Harvard University) both sincerely hope that you continue your efforts along the lines you have so auspiciously initiated.

Others included Dr. Chauncey Leake, professor of pharmacology of the University of California, San Francisco, who came to Sacramento in behalf of legislation to control use of the drug.

Another man of medicine whom we admire is Dr. Philip Condit, head of the division of infectious diseases for the California State Department of Public Health. He headed the Chloromycetin study for the department and he and his staff deserve much commendation for their painstaking devotion to seeking the truth.

In the California Senate hearing in Los Angeles he said:

Chloromycetin, an antibiotic recommended for use only in very serious infections, is killing people to whom it need never have been given.

In the current—February 1968—issue of the Reader's Digest, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association has inserted an eight-page advertisement headed: "Medicines and Your Family's Health" which extols U.S. Patent 2,483,885, Chloromycetin. It states, in part: "The new drug, which was to prove effective against dozens of diseases, also caused occasional, and sometimes serious, side effects in some patients," minimizing its potential danger and saying nothing about the deaths that have resulted from its indiscriminate use.

It has been our understanding that since the passage of the Kefauver-Harris amendment to the Food and Drug Act, advertisements for prescription drugs must carry at least a summary of any warning required by FDA regulations. Here is a case in point where such a requirement obviously has been ignored. It is a full-page advertisement in the February 1968 issue of the Bulletin, a publication of our Orange County Medical Association, which states above a picture of a physician sitting at a hospital desk, simply "A Name You Can Count On When It Counts—Chloromycetin (chloroamphenicol)—Parke Davis"—and in small print "Complete information for usage available to physicians upon request."

Earlier this month Mrs. Elfstrom received a letter from a graduate student in biochemistry at one of our midwestern universities. Being