

a member of the same church organization we are members of, she had just recently learned of our tragedy, and she wrote to tell us what she had been doing about Chloromycetin.

We were very much interested in what she had to say and we believe you will be also. In part, she wrote:

During my undergraduate studies at the University of Colorado, I worked in a hospital laboratory. At this time, I witnessed the very needless deaths of several people—especially young people—because of this unreliable drug. Realizing the dangers of Chloromycetin, I decided to thoroughly research the drug and its actions for my thesis when I entered graduate school.

During the past 12 months, I have worked with organ cultures of all types of blood marrow, including human marrow obtained from pathologists. I have used many different dosages of Chloromycetin on the cultures—have worked with rats, monkeys, and humans (in vitro—to the extent of using human blood marrow). Countless numbers of blood slides have been made and much work has been done with electron microscopy to determine changes within the various systems of the body.

We feel at this time that we are on the verge of understanding the mechanisms of chloramphenicol that causes the blood marrow to cease its function. We are quite certain that it is caused by the extra radical compound that chloramphenicol has that other antibiotics do not.

* * * Our next step is to prove that Chloromycetin is much more harmful than helpful and is grossly overused.

The Congressional Record appendix of January 30, 1961, page A583, contains this statement by Dr. John M. Adams, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at UCLA:

Contrary to the belief of many doctors, Chloromycetin has an effect which is harmful in varying degrees to the bone marrow of all persons who take it. This effect, which can become manifest as a lethal disease called aplastic anemia, is not limited to certain susceptible individuals but is a universal effect.

The time is long past due when the medical profession should be stopped from playing "Russian roulette" with this potent drug. And it is dedicated men like you, Senator, who can bring this about.

May God bless you, richly.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Elfstrom.

Mr. Gordon?

Mr. GORDON. I have just one question to ask you. How do they handle the use of chloramphenicol in the Los Angeles Hospital?

Mr. ELFSTROM. I understand in the General Hospital that each prescription for Chloromycetin that is written by the doctor in the hospital has to be countersigned and OK'd by the head of the services.

Mr. GORDON. They do have restrictions?

Mr. ELFSTROM. Even in the hospital.

Mr. GORDON. Even in the hospital.

Senator NELSON. Are either of you doctors personally familiar with the practice in the Los Angeles Hospital on the use of chloramphenicol?

Dr. FARMAN. I used to be on the staff, but I am not at the moment.

Senator NELSON. Our next witness will be Dr. Albe Watkins, of La Canada, Calif.

Mr. ELFSTROM. Excuse me; for the record, I would like to submit the original of that advertisement. And this is a photocopy of that doctor's letter.

Senator NELSON. They will be included in the record.

(The material referred to follows:)