

had been sitting on for at least a year or a year and a half before receiving my letter. Their advertising during that period of time carried not one word of warning until they were forced to include this by both AMA and FDA.

This is the letter I wrote to Parke, Davis when I heard my son—they first thought he had leukemia, they had gone through the usual routine, many doctors diagnosed it as granulocytopenia-purpura or leukemia. And hematologists in those days were able to decide it was aplastic anemia.

This was the letter I wrote to Parke, Davis on May 5, 1952:

DEAR SIRs: This story is of the tragedy in one man's family due to his faith in a "reputable concern and the representatives thereof" concerning a product of theirs, a "harmless antibiotic." We know the drug is harmless because every few days we get a bulletin from the company which has plastered all over the outside envelope "No evidence of intolerance," "No untoward effects with these children," "No evidence of toxicity," "No clinical manifestations of toxic symptoms," etc. ad infinitum. We felt doubly sure that this drug was safe because we asked the salesman point blank about the gossip concerning its toxicity particularly from one prominent hospital—the Children's Hospital—I had heard two days before that there was some drug over there, and he wasn't quite sure, the man who told me, but he thought it might be Chloromycetin. But the salesman said no, it was not their drug, he didn't know anything about that.

And he denied that any criticism of his product existed. We now know that he was duly informed, as this drug house will know later.

We have—or had—by the time you receive this letter, four sons. Our third son unfortunately was born with a single kidney, and underwent plastic surgery 1 year ago on the ureter. He was getting along very well, watched his health like an adult, and participated in all usual activities of a ten year old. We were out of town for two days around the middle of February and unfortunately he developed a little Cystito-pyelo-nephritis, with a fever of 102 the day we returned. Being duly cautious of his health, I started to give him some penicillin, but thinking it was probably a gram negative infection decided sulpha or an antibiotic would be better. We decided not to give sulpha as it might depress his hemopoietic system (imagine) and we considered Terramycin or Aureomycin might cause gastroenteritis—but then the thought recurred that we had another antibiotic which was entirely harmless and very effective. I might have done better had I taken a gun and shot him—at least he wouldn't have suffered.

We, as parents are an M.D. of some 16 years practice. My wife, a graduate nurse of approximately 18 years, and our children being our only possessions of value, are well cared for. We noticed approximately 10 days after his 3-4 days of this harmless antibiotic, our son was very pale and a blood count revealed a depression of all components of 50 per cent. A repeat two days later was further depressed and petechial hemorrhages started. Our life from here on has been as near a hell on earth as you can imagine. Here, a very intelligent, handsome little ten year old, who is so conscientious about his health he can't rest night or day, wondering why he is suddenly so ill, and bleeding, necessitating eight transfusions in as many days. He has had over 150 shots of penicillin, streptom ACTH. Vitamins, etc. Imagine, I didn't want to give him one shot of penicillin for his 102 fever.

I would like to see the directors of this reputable company sit by this little fellow's bedside, see his worried expression and try to explain to him what happened. I would like for the learned scientist who developed this "harmless drug" give him every one of his 150 shots, as I've had to do—lay awake night after night, watching his every movement, wondering why it had to happen and praying asleep and awake finding it was a bad dream, and James is as healthy and fine as ever.

This reputable old established company now knows this drug isn't harmless—as they have known for some time—we appreciate the company's asking for, and being granted the permission to notify all doctors of toxicity—only about two years too late, and the climate is getting little too hot, the truth is finally out. Think of all the money that has been made by this product between the first reports of the toxicity and now. Can such a leading pharmaceutical house be