

this. He said, "It might be of interest to know that Parke, Davis is now detailing this drug in this area. One was here in the past month, and I told him of your experience with the drug, and he denied that anything such as that was happening in the country."

Senator NELSON. What year was that?

Dr. WATKINS. This was in 1952. But this was long after all this broke, all this news broke, because my trouble happened in May, and they were forced to admit this trouble in June, I think, or July of that year. This was in December.

Senator NELSON. I take it from your testimony on page 5 that you believe that this drug should only be administered in a hospital. Do I understand you correctly?

Dr. WATKINS. It is my opinion anyone sick enough to take Chloromycetin is certainly sick enough to be in the hospital.

Senator NELSON. We have had testimony by previous medical experts here suggesting that it should be administered only in hospitals, and Dr. Gilman makes the same contention in his book on therapeutics, Goodman and Gilman, "The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics."

Would you suggest, then, that the FDA or somebody be authorized to require that this drug be confined to hospital use?

Dr. WATKINS. Absolutely, without any qualifications.

Senator NELSON. It has been suggested by some that this would be inconvenient, because some people are out in rural areas away from hospitals, and so forth. How do you evaluate that?

Dr. WATKINS. I would say that if, as they recommend, they have a blood count, if it is that rural, if it is that behind the times, they probably don't even have a means of taking a blood count of a patient. So I would feel today—this is America, and I think there are enough hospitals, I don't think there is any place where it would be impossible to get them into a hospital. I think it should be confined to them.

Senator NELSON. I notice that Goodman and Gilman say on page 1246, among other things, that chloramphenicol should not be used on an outpatient basis unless the physician and patient arrange and adhere to a definite followup schedule with visits at least every other day.

Dr. WATKINS. I agree with that. But there again, what is he going to do when he sees them, if he takes a blood count?

Here is a letter from the Mayo Clinic I would like to submit for the record but will read the last paragraph:

"The point that seems most important to me is the matter of sensitivity that develops to the drug and consequently the inability of following blood counts in order to avoid disaster in case the patient happens to be one of the sensitive individuals."

(The letter referred to follows:)

MAYO CLINIC,
Rochester, Minn., June 7, 1952.

ALBE M. WATKINS, M.D.,
La Canada Medical Center,
La Canada, Calif.

MY DEAR DR. WATKINS: Your recent letter to me has been held until I returned from a short vacation, consequently the delay in answering. I can certainly sympathize with you and know that any words we might offer are of little solace in view of the loss of your son.

I am quite sure that steps are being taken to both recognize and publicize the effect of Chloromycetin on the bone marrow and that in due time it will take its