

Dr. FARMAN. They advocated in the early fifties some 28 diseases for which the drug could be used safely. This list has been reduced by pressure from the AMA and the FDA to about three, I mean typhoid fever and certain types of dysentery and meningitis. But very subtly Parke, Davis & Co. advertised its use for respiratory infection. Now, to my mind, this accounts for the great sale in the United States, because there are a lot of colds and other respiratory infections.

Well-known authors state that the administration of chloramphenicol always produces change in the bone marrow, some degree of anemia or blood dyscrasia such as aplastic anemia.

There are still being reported unfavorable reactions and deaths following the administration of Chloromycetin. One questions why this should be. It would seem the answer lies in the effect of advertising—to which not only the lay public but also the medical public is susceptible.

I know of no more tortuous death—as Mr. Elfstrom has brought out, and also Dr. Watkins—especially in children, than that of blood dyscrasias following the administration of this drug, Chloromycetin. It would seem this company should long ago have removed from the market voluntarily the manufacturing of this synthetic chemical agent.

If a physician desires to give Chloromycetin, it should be done under the most controlled condition of hospital administration and then only if the patient or his guardian is in full understanding and agreement. This is not taking the practice of medicine away from the doctor, it is only laying down the ground rules for good medical practice, protecting both the doctor, the patient, and the drug manufacturer.

I have another little statement. I could enter it now or later. It is a suggestion from a doctor as to the matter of control.

Senator NELSON. Go ahead right now. You are making a suggestion as to how the administration of this drug should be controlled?

Dr. FARMAN. Well, it deals with the cost of drugs, and brings it out; it is very short.

Senator NELSON. Sure. Go ahead.

Dr. FARMAN. The cost of prescription drugs sold over the counter could be reduced by limiting the profit—now, I know this is very difficult—of the manufacturer to a reasonable rate of return. It is my understanding that these manufacturers make a thousand percent, frequently, in the manufacture of drugs sold.

The manufacturer could lower overhead and pass the benefit on to the consumer of prescription drugs, and in the treatment of sick people.

Three, promotional activities and extravagant advertising should be eliminated as a means of the distribution of prescription drugs.

Four, in a sense, the large pharmaceutical firms have usurped the teaching of therapeutics after the doctor graduates from medical school.

Five, new products should be introduced through the State universities, or possibly State medical societies. The Council on Drugs of the American Medical Association has been helpful to the doctor.

Six, the so-called detail man should be restricted in his activities, or eliminated from the doctor's office. There is a better way to obtain reliable drug information.