

physician to make sound judgments under these quite confusing conditions is now a matter of serious concern to leading clinicians, scientists, and medical educators. A distinguished pharmacologist, for example, has stated that lack of knowledge and sophistication in the proper use of drugs is perhaps the greatest deficiency of the average physician today. Other medical leaders have pointed to the wide discrepancy in the prescribing habits of the average physician as compared to the prescribing methods recommended by panels of medical experts. Still others have commented on the continued use by the average physician of products which have been found unnecessary or unacceptable by specially qualified therapeutics committees in hospitals and clinics.

We note that the most widely used source of prescribing information is essentially a compilation of the most widely advertised drugs.

The responsibility for these and other deficiencies has been placed on various factors:

--Inadequate training in the clinical application of drug knowledge during the undergraduate medical curriculum.