

therapy. At last count, there were well over two thousand patients under clinical study with MER/29; and to the best of my present knowledge, and certainly in terms of reports we have received, yours are the only patients who have offered this complaint. This certainly is not to say that the complaint must necessarily be unrelated to MER/29 therapy. In fact, patients I.W. and A.C. suggest a very definite relationship in that discontinuation and restarting of the drug resulted, first, in clearing of the conjunctivitis and then in its reappearance. It is true that we have had reports, amounting to perhaps 2% of all patients, suggesting that MER/29 is capable of producing an allergic type dermatitis. This has been variously reported as simple pruritus to actual urticaria or dryness or scaliness of the skin. It is not inconceivable, therefore, that the conjunctive could become a shock tissue.

I shall look forward to hearing from you again from time to time and will keep you posted as new developments occur which may be of interest to you also.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. McMASTER, M.D.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., May 15, 1960.

The WM. S. MERRELL Co.,
Cincinnati, Ohio

DEAR DR. McMASTER: I have just received very good news. My cholesterol count just taken is 200 Mg.%. That is excellent! My count was 220 to 325 Mg.% and never under 220 before I started on Mer 29.

I have had some reports back from the different people in 50's age bracket, who are taking 1-250 mg. Mer 29 per day and after 2 to 3 months they have had itching eyelids, little (crusts) in inner corner of eyes. Also one had a 20- vision and says that he is getting a slightly blurred vision which clears up and then re-establishes itself when the drug is discontinued and then resumed.

I have a lady acquaintance who took it for 5 months and who had always had a good firm head of hair. However it began to fall out quite heavily and upon discontinuance of MER 29 it became firmly embedded and healthy.

In your research, have you had any experiences like these? I have $\frac{2}{3}$ of a bottle of MER 29 left. If you would kindly send us enough for balance of year would greatly appreciate it. I was one a day plus a few extras each month in case I was invited out to dinner or clubs where I cannot control my diet.

I trust your family is well and enjoying life.

I shall be writing up to Butte, Montana for some more Tamales shortly. If you enjoyed these I will send you some more or if you can think of anything else I should enjoy sending it.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. R. J. McNAUL.

[Inter-Department Memo, May 17, 1960]

From: Marion W. Smith.

To: Dr. R. T. Stormont.

Subject: Policy Re Licensing MER-29 Analog and Analogs Generally.

I talked to Frank Getman this morning and we agreed as to the policy and procedure we should follow in connection with the question of licensing our MER-29 analog.

The facts seem to be that the animal work performed to date indicates some questions as to the toxicity of the analog in the lower animals (just as MER-29 itself does), but the work with monkeys indicates it may even be better than MER-29. Although a lot more animal work would have to be done to tie down better the question of toxicity, action of the product, etc., before marketing it, this could be done simultaneously with the clinical work. In view of the tremendous importance of MER-29 and this analog, it probably will be decided that Merrell should follow through with the additional animal work and the clinical work on this analog in order to prove out its relative inferiority or superiority and thus have it available as a substitute in the event MER-29 gets into trouble, or perhaps introduced later as an improved product.

In the past, our policy with respect to the licensing of the analog of a successful