EVALUATING DRUGS FOR PHYSICIANS

A pharmaceutical laboratory develops a new drug. It is clinically tested and then approved by the federal government for marketing. It is available to patients on prescription through licensed pharmacists.

How does the physician find out that this new drug is available? Even more important, where can he get accurate, unbiased information on exactly what it will do; what possible side effects can it cause; what conditions within the patient forbid its use?

There are a number of sources of such vital information. An important one is AMA.

To provide timely drug information to practicing physicians, the *Journal of the AMA* carries periodic reports on new drugs based on an evaluation of the published literature plus unpublished information received from drug manufacturers—which includes pharmacology and toxicology studies in animals. Before publication, each report is reviewed by AMA and other experts in the field.

AMA's annual book, *New Drugs*, has been an outstanding source of drug information for practicing physicians. It contains information on, and evaluations of, new drugs made available during the previous decade.

Now in preparation is a new publication, to be called *AMA Drug Evaluations (ADE)*, which will include everything *New Drugs* contains plus data on commonly prescribed older drugs, both single entities and combinations. Expected the latter part of 1969, *ADE* initially will have more than 70 chapters covering as many as 1,400 drugs, with comprehensive indexes of names, pharmacologic actions, therapeutic uses and adverse reactions.

Staff services for the United States Adopted Names Council, which names new drugs, are provided by AMA, which also maintains a registry of adverse reactions to drugs and is developing methods for surveillance of drug usage in hospitals.