

Dr. ANNIS. And a moment ago, I mentioned the committees, councils and commissions of the AMA. There is one whose responsibilities are most pertinent to this presentation. It is the council on drugs. I would like to take a few moments to describe some of its functions and achievements.

THE COUNCIL ON DRUGS

In 1847—the year of its founding—the AMA House of Delegates passed a resolution calling for regulation of pharmaceutical matters and patent medicines.

In 1905, the board of trustees of the AMA established the council of pharmacy and chemistry to consider medicinal preparations offered to physicians for use in the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of disease.

The primary purpose of the council has been to encourage the practice of what physicians call “rational therapeutics,” which simply means prescribing drugs on the basis of knowledge of the disease and knowledge of the actions of the proposed remedy.

Since its beginning, the council has engaged in programs of drug evaluation leading to the publication of authoritative, unbiased information on drugs and drug therapy. And as the scope of drug therapy has changed, the council has enlarged and revised the scope of its evaluation programs.

In 1957, after the use of single-entity drugs had become dominant and individually compounded prescriptions had declined, the council changed its name to the council on drugs.

As you can see, the AMA's drug evaluation program is the result of more than 60 years of experience and has taken many forms, of which I shall mention only a few.

From 1907 through 1957, the association published an annual book—this is the one that I received when I was in medical school—“New and Nonofficial Remedies.” That was followed from 1958 until 1964 by “New and Nonofficial Drugs,” which reflected the need for more clinically oriented information.

An improved annual book first appeared in 1965, called “New Drugs.” It provided, for the daily use of the physician, authoritative information on single-entity drugs introduced during the previous 10 years, plus comparative reviews of older drugs in a particular therapeutic group.

A roster of the members of the Council on Drugs is included in this statement as exhibit B. I request that it be made a part of the record at this point.

Senator NELSON. It will be made part of the record.

Dr. ANNIS. Thank you.

(The exhibit referred to follows:)