

dent to help arthritis. It was prescribed for arthritis only to find that, though it is great for arthritis, if it is taken over a period of time, it begins to affect your ability to see.

This is the progress of medicine.

If you look backward, you can find many errors that we have made. But they are not errors that have come because of failure on the part of our researchers, our scientists, our drug manufacturers, to whom we owe so much, or the physicians who use the drugs. These are the human failures.

Admittedly, criticism highlights our appraisal of these facts. If, from a hearing of this kind, some of the criticisms can redirect our efforts toward a closer scrutiny, toward a more effective scrutiny, I can assure you that this will be one of the side effects, at least, that will make our appearance a justifiable one and a good investment of time.

Senator DOLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have to go to another meeting.

Senator NELSON. I would just like to say, Doctor, though, on this question of acquiring new knowledge about a drug, the indications for using chloramphenicol, have been quite limited, according to the testimony before the committee.

Dr. ANNIS. According to our publications. We agree with you, Senator.

Senator NELSON. For 15 years.

Dr. ANNIS. Correct.

Senator NELSON. And then along has come tetracyclines, and that reduced again its indications. But they have been quite limited. And the point here is that the profession was not successful in that 15 years.

I am not going to go through all that again. But let me refer to something.

The committee has a stack of letters. This is the kind of thing that is so dramatic and so important.

Dr. ANNIS. Our medical literature will have a bigger pile than that, Senator.

Senator NELSON (reading). "Our eight-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Judy Dianne, was given intermittent doses of Chloromycetin from August 1964"—that is recent—"through February 1966 for reasons varying from minor ear infections, respiratory infections, and an abscessed tooth."

Now, we have lots of them like this. Here is one from a doctor saying that just recently, "A lady came into my office"—this is a doctor from Florida—no; I beg your pardon, these are attorneys. I guess there will be a lawsuit. "A lady came into my office stating that this drug had been prescribed for her only child for acne."

Here is one for a common cold.

When I raised the issue with Dr. Goddard and others who have been here, that since the failure to convince the profession has been so complete, why should we not do as Dr. Dameshek recommended, and several others—I would have to check the record to be sure that was his recommendation. This was a year ago. But I believe he was the one who recommended that the FDA simply require that the drug be prescribed only in a hospital.

Dr. ANNIS. I think that was Dr. Dameshek.

Senator NELSON. Subsequently we have had others say the same thing.