

1950's at least, that chloramphenicol, then being marketed only as Chloromycetin, did have these serious side effects in a certain number of cases?

Dr. HEWITT. Oh, yes. The point I wished to make was that there was oftentimes a delay, the wide usage oftentimes was necessary to bring out rare instances of infection. And it was in this area particularly that the practicing physician who is alert, observant, but communicating his observations to the profession, can really contribute a valuable piece of scientific information.

With that in mind, then, on the other hand, critical, closely controlled, often double-blind studies are required to evaluate the effects of drugs upon common, sometimes self-limited diseases of brief duration where the effect of treatment must be compared to the natural course of the untreated or differently treated disease. The practicing physician has neither the training, time, or facilities to accomplish this. Furthermore, many physicians are truly experts in the administration and provision of community and individual medical care. Their methods and opinions in this important area and their experience should be listened to and carefully evaluated. Invidious comparisons should not be made between physician-scientists responsible for research and patient care in a medical center and physician-doctors responsible for the care of patients in a community setting. The special talents and competence of both must be recognized and their shortcomings in the alternative area accepted. Granted, this philosophy may be an ideal, and to an extent naive, but it appears to me it is the one which will promote the greatest development and exchange of knowledge for the advancement of medical practice and, consequently, human benefit.

The present state of affairs was well summarized by one of my former mentors and one of the greatest men in American medicine today in the following fashion:

It is only fair to say that they who have sown the wind must now reap the whirlwind. By they, I mean the FDA as well as the responsible drug manufacturers. All of them followed a bad leader and must suffer the consequence.

Senator NELSON. And who was that?

Dr. HEWITT. I asked permission from this man to quote him, and he said he would give me permission to quote him without indicating his name. But I might say that if you will read some of the editorials and articles on this subject it wouldn't be hard to conclude who might have said this.

I might add, and plagiarize one more literary than I, that men, and the medical organizations they represent, who stray from the paths defined by the principles of scientific inquiry, are not keeping pace with their more responsible companions. Although their words may be music to some, with good fortune their drumbeats may become sufficiently far away to fade to the point of bare audibility.

That is the end of my statement.

(The complete prepared statement and supplemental information submitted by Dr. Hewitt follow:)