

Dr. BRILL. I think that this will appear in the immediately following sentences, and perhaps to avoid repeating myself, I will say something about it after I have finished the paragraph.

The specific data on individual drugs would be presented in the context of the newest developments in the basic sciences such as physiology, pharmacology, and pharmacological chemistry, and it would be low in cost or free. A major start in this type of educational program applied to a variety of topics has already been made by a number of governmental and private agencies, but it has not as yet received sufficient support to comprise an overall and comprehensive operation.

To answer your question, Senator, I think that there are various mechanisms that could be set in motion. Perhaps the simplest would be some central agency which would have the responsibility to see that there is a comprehensive program and which could make use of voluntary agencies and Government agencies to increase the flow of the kind of information which I have in mind.

Now, it might seem unworthy to call attention to this, but I have seen some of the material available from the Communist countries. They have moved in this direction, of course, far less effectively than our commercial interests. But the trend for providing adequate and easily available information of this type I think is worldwide. It just hasn't gained a great deal of momentum. The British have done quite a bit along this line. But all advance is held back by a simple lack of funds.

I would particularly urge that good writing and good format are extremely important in this sort of thing.

Senator NELSON. What about the role of the medical journals and publications in the field?

Dr. BRILL. The medical journals present to a large extent materials and scientific papers that have been written on specific topics. I have in mind a type of review, a type of digest of the material appearing in the current medical journals. The New York Academy of Science publishes a little brochure every month which features articles of this type. And if you like, I can send that on to you so that you can have an idea. There are a number of publications. But there is no comprehensive program. And this is the sort of thing that I think might very well compete with any commercial flooding of the market.

Senator NELSON. Perhaps both of you may wish to comment on this. I have been looking at the medical publications, but I haven't made what might be called an exhaustive examination. I believe it is generally conceded that the most comprehensive survey ever done by a distinguished group of scientists is the National Academy of Science Council of Research's evaluation of drug efficacy of all the drugs in the marketplace.

I haven't looked at all medical publications, so I have to hedge a bit. However, except for the New England Journal of Medicine, those that I have looked at have not made a substantial, or at least what I would consider a substantial, presentation of the conclusions of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, particularly with regard to their recommendation on the fixed combination antibiotics. The Journal of the American Medical Association and several other medical publications, which I have examined, have given sub-