

specific drug and there may be a writeup on some of the clinical tests made of it including the adverse reactions that have been received—but that is not to say that every drug is listed or is written up in each of the journals or in any of the journals, as a matter of fact. There is some information in the journals that is relied upon and that is the information that was passed along to us.

Senator NELSON. Well, quite obviously, of course, if you select a therapeutics committee—if it is a good therapeutics committee—you have professional men on the committee who come to it with expertise in their field.

Mr. CROWTHER. Right.

Senator NELSON. So you could have a good formulary based upon the knowledge of the distinguished group of experts who study the literature and have the latest information available on drugs.

Mr. CROWTHER. That is correct.

Senator NELSON. This sentence, though, says that most of the information on specific drugs which is made available to members of the P and T Committees in their consideration of changes to the station formulary comes from two sources, professional journals and the drug manufacturers. In the drug manufacturers' case I assume from the next sentence that the persuasive factor there is the detail man? Is that correct?

Mr. CROWTHER. Yes.

Senator NELSON. So, when you "refer to changes in the station formulary," what precisely are you talking about? Are you talking about additions to the formulary or selection of a particular drug from a class of drugs available for a specific purpose? Is that what we are talking about?

Mr. CROWTHER. Well, essentially, it means additions to or deletions from the formulary.

Senator NELSON. But within the formulary there may be several compounds that treat the same problem or there may be the same compounds under 25 names that treat the same problem. Somebody has to select one or two of those out of the 25, do they not?

Mr. CROWTHER. Yes, sir, they do.

Senator NELSON. So, are we not talking about the process of adding to the formulary or selecting the particular brand or whatever that will be in the formulary?

Mr. CROWTHER. Well, the selection of the particular brand that is in the formulary is quite comprehensive. Many of these formularies include literally hundreds of drugs in various dosages and strengths, and various combinations. They are not restrictive in many senses. The P and T Committees of both the Defense Department and the Veterans' Administration are making efforts to be more careful about the drugs that are included on the formularies, but up until now the formularies have been very comprehensive with a long list of drugs that are made available.

So to say that the formulary itself is the selection process between specific drugs may be a little misleading because the individual physicians themselves, of course, reserve the right to make these selections and in the event that a drug is not in the formulary, physicians still reserve their right to prescribe any drug.