

Dr. BRIEN: The thing we are thinking about there above all else is in the main a review relative to dosage in children; a consideration in view of the development of cancer in some people where it has been wondered whether drugs played a role or not; the field of congenital malformation where the multiple effects of drugs would appear to be just one factor; and whether this was a very good time, first and foremost, to settle the problem with respect to drug dosage in children; secondly, to look at the drug over the whole spectrum, particularly paying attention to the ones which have been suspected by groups which have been suspicious, particularly from the standpoint of the relationship to cancer and malformation, and perhaps also to disturbances of the blood forming organs and so on. That is what we had in mind.

Mr. HADASZ: Did you run across any complaints about the side effects of penicillin lozenges? Has that ever been brought to your attention? In my practice I have seen reaction to them and I have read and heard that they actually do more harm than good, yet they have been allowed to remain on the market.

The CHAIRMAN: When you found side effects, was there any machinery under which the general directorate could govern the manufacture or quality, especially with respect to side effects? Was this done specifically in your case?

Mr. HADASZ: This matter was also brought to the attention of the annual convention of the Canadian medical association, and they have made statements about penicillin lozenges, yet the food and drug directorate apparently have allowed them to remain on the market.

Dr. BRIEN: Penicillin mouth was the name given to what we are talking about. In 1943, I made some home-made lozenges by taking agar and cutting it up and putting penicillin in it. It looked like fudge, and I gave it to the soldiers who had had acute streptococcal and other bacterial infections in their mouths during the war, and it proved to be remarkably beneficial and effective in a fair proportion of cases. It did not taste very appetizing I am sure, but it produced results. Occasionally we began to get some of the persisting effects that you are talking about. So this has been known, but interest in it has waxed and waned.

The last time I really took up the cudgels over this was with the minister of health of this province, not of this country. At that time I did not get very far. My main objection to it was not the side reactions you are talking about. The side effects came along, it is true; but it sensitized people so that when they had something that really mattered and you wanted to give them penicillin, it was not an impossibility but it increased the hazards of penicillin therapy a great deal. At one time I tried to get some local legislation passed, but did not get very far I am afraid.

Mr. HADASZ: Apparently penicillin lozenges now can be sold over the counter without a doctor's prescription.

Dr. BRIEN: Up to 3,000 units.

Mr. HARLEY: This is the worst kind.

Mr. VALADE: I am told that in the United States they are not allowed to sell over the counter ointments or lozenges that contain 1,000 units. Is that right?

Dr. BRIEN: I do not know. If you had 10 it would be just as bad.

Mr. VALADE: Perhaps Dr. Morrell would know.

Dr. MORRELL: They have on the market in the United States—because I bought them—some antibiotic lozenges. I do not know about penicillin lozenges, if you are speaking specifically of penicillin. I am not aware whether or not they have a prohibition against the sale of penicillin lozenges.