

Mr. HAMMOND: All these firms actually may import if they so desire. But importation is limited to specialized firms which—well, they specialize in this field of activity.

Mr. McCLEAVE: Do you feel, Mr. Hammond, that most of the material which reaches the addict in the non-professional category comes from being smuggled into Canada, or is there a leak out of the regular market?

Mr. HAMMOND: The material that the criminal addict or the non-professional addict obtains is heroin, and it is definitely smuggled into the country.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. GRAFFTEY: Is some type of check applied at the manufacturing level? I am not sure if that has been explained.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): There is no manufacturing in Canada. It is all imported.

Mr. CATHERS: Is there anything the medical profession can do to use drugs that have not got this habit-forming characteristic, instead of bringing in, even legally, these things? Is there no such substitute that they can use medically that would not have habit-forming effects?

Dr. R. G. RATZ (*Principal Medical Officer*): I would say yes, to a certain extent. Narcotics are used usually for the relief of pain. Many medicinal substances will give that effect. Some of them have higher addiction properties than others. For instance, heroin is much more addictive in its effects than even morphine. Both have the same medicinal effect of relieving pain. That is one of the reasons why heroin has come into disrepute, because you can get the same effect from other drugs, so far as the relief of pain is concerned, without running the great risk of addiction which you get with heroin.

Now, you must use that information with great care, because there are variations in some of these newer synthetic narcotics or sedatives which are said to be less addicting in character than heroin or morphine. Just how much less addicting they are is still an uncertain question which has not yet been answered.

When the newer synthetic sedatives and narcotics first came out they were thought to be relatively safe from addiction, but some of them are proving to be almost as addictive in character as the more serious drugs such as heroin.

So it is very difficult to say that one drug or another drug is a perfectly safe drug. However, I think it is safe to say, that the pharmaceutical industry and the medical profession are constantly seeking for drugs that will give the necessary medicinal effect with a minimum of narcotic addiction property attached to it.

Mr. CATHERS: Do you think that a drink of good rye whisky would not be just as good to ease pain as would heroin?

Dr. RATZ: In some cases.

The CHAIRMAN: I am wondering whether Mr. Cathers is asking a question or giving evidence.

Mr. CATHERS: May I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare that question?

The CHAIRMAN: This does not present a new problem in connection with narcotic control, because we have it stated that raw narcotics are not produced in Canada. Yet we have synthetics that are manufactured in Canada to which you can develop addiction. Does this not present a problem?

Dr. RATZ: It definitely does present a problem, and I think Mr. Hammond will bear me out when I say that synthetic narcotics, if we may call them that,