

## MISCELLANY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, AND WELFAREFood and Drug Administration  
Washington 25, D.C.

April 4, 1956

PUBLIC WARNING AGAINST  
HOXSEY CANCER TREATMENT

SUFFERERS from cancer, their families, physicians, and all concerned with the care of cancer patients are hereby advised and warned that the so-called Hoxsey treatment for internal cancer has been found by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, on the basis of evidence presented by the Food and Drug Administration, to be a worthless treatment.<sup>1</sup>

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act authorizes dissemination of information regarding drugs in situations involving imminent danger to health or gross deception of the consumer.<sup>2</sup>

The Hoxsey treatment for internal cancer involves such drugs. Its sale represents a gross deception to the consumer. It is imminently dangerous to rely upon it in neglect of competent and rational treatment.

The Hoxsey treatment costs the patient \$400 plus \$60 in additional fees; expenditures which will yield nothing of any value in the care of cancer. It begins with a superficial and inadequate examination of the patient at the Hoxsey Cancer Clinic, Dallas, Texas, or Portage, Pennsylvania. The patient at Dallas is then supplied with one of the following "cancer" medicines: Black pills, red pills, a brownish-black liquid, or a light red liquid. The black pills and the brownish-black liquid contain: potassium iodide, licorice, red clover blossoms, burdock root, Stillingia root, berberis root, poke root, cascara sagrada, prickly ash bark, and buckthorn powder. The red pills contain potassium iodide, red clover, Stillingia root, poke root, buckthorn, and pepsin. At Portage the patient is given the same "cancer" medication although the colors of the pills are different. The light red liquid medicine is potassium iodide in elixir of lactated pepsin. There is evidence that potassium iodide accelerates the growth of some cancers.

The Food and Drug Administration has conducted a thorough and long-continuing investigation of Hoxsey's treatment. His claimed cures have been extensively studied and the Food and Drug Administration has not found a single verified cure of internal cancer effected by the Hoxsey treatment. In addition, the National Cancer Institute of the United States Public Health Service has reviewed case histories submitted by Hoxsey and advised him that the cases provided no scientific evidence that the Hoxsey treatment has any value in the treatment of internal cancer.

On October 26, 1953, Harry M. Hoxsey, the Clinic, and all persons in active concert with him were enjoined by the United States District Court at Dallas, Texas, from shipping their worthless cancer medicines in interstate commerce with labeling representing, suggesting, or implying that the products are effective in the treatment of any type of internal cancer. While the Government intends to prosecute violations of the injunction, this warning is necessary for the immediate protection of cancer victims who may be planning to take the Hoxsey treatment.

Those afflicted with cancer are warned not to be misled by the false promise that the Hoxsey cancer treatment will cure or alleviate their condition. Cancer can be cured only through surgery or radiation. Death from cancer is inevitable when cancer patients fail to obtain proper medical treatment because of the lure of a painless cure "without the use of surgery, x-ray, or radium" as claimed by Hoxsey.

(Sgd.) GEO. P. LARRICK,

Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

DERMATITIS FROM  
CHLORPROMAZINE

In a letter to the editor of *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, November 12, 1955, p. 463, H. Lewty (chief pharmacist at the Lancaster Moor Hospital) reports 14 cases of severe contact dermatitis from chlorpromazine. One occurred in a pharmacist, the others in medical attendants. Areas involved usually were the eyes, neck and fingers. Once sensitization has occurred, complete avoidance of the drug is essential. A minute amount of the drug will cause a recurrence in those previously sensitized: for example, contact with perspiration, droplets of saliva or vomitus of a patient taking a drug. Patch testing for sensitivity can be quite dangerous. He recommends a "no touch" technique for all those who handle chlorpromazine.

(1) The court decisions can be found in Volume 198, Federal Reporter, Second Series, page 273, and Volume 207, Federal Reporter, Second Series, page 567.

(2) 21 U.S.C. 375 (b) This authority has been delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, 20 Federal Register 1998.