

# Bad Medicine

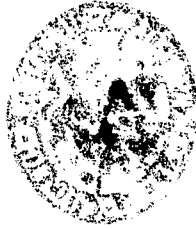
---

## THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG INDUSTRY IN THE THIRD WORLD

Milton Silverman

Mia Lydecker

Philip R. Lee



STANFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 1992

# CONTENTS

---

*Preface* ix

*A Note About the Authors* xv

1. THE PATIENTS: HEALTH FOR ALL BY—WHEN? 1

Disaster in the 1980s, 3 An Excess of Illness, 6

2. DRUG LABELING: HOW SAFE? HOW DEADLY? 9

The Latest Round, 10 Drugs Against Fever and Pain, 13  
Antiarthritics Drugs, 16 Antidiarrhea Agents, 20 Anti-  
bacterials, 26 Appetite Stimulants, 31 Cardiovascular  
Agents, 32 Cerebral Vasodilators, 33 Major Tranquil-  
izers, 36 Minor Tranquilizers, 37 Antidepressants, 38  
Anabolic Steroid, 39 Female Sex Hormones, 40 "Sex  
Tonics," 40 Trouble in Africa—Again, 41 An Evident  
Change, 42

3. THE COMPANIES: HEROES OR VILLAINS? 43

Anatomy of the Drug Industry, 43 End of the Glory  
Days, 45 Essential Drugs Lists, 47 Patent Infringe-  
ment, 50 Storm over Mr. Medawar, 54 An Alternative  
Voice from the Industry, 57

4. THE GREAT GENERICS CONTROVERSY 63

The Antigenerics Rumors, 66 Generics Overseas, 70  
The Generic Drugs Scandal, 72 The Dingell Committee  
Drug Hearings, 73 Shortcut to Drug Approval, 76  
A Search for the Culprit, 78 Generics in the  
Philippines, 83

5. THE DIPYRONE AFFAIR 86

The Curious Case of Paracetamol, 88 The Entrance of  
Dipyrone, 90 The Matter of Merital, 97 The Thailand  
Debacle, 100

6. THE CASE OF THE DEADLY PREGNANCY TEST 107
  - The Campaign Against High-Dosage Products, 110
  - The Public Hearings, 115 The Party Lines, 120
  - Finally, the Verdict, 123
7. BANGLADESH AND THE NOBLE EXPERIMENT 125
  - The Experiment Is Launched, 129 The Experiment Explodes, 131 The Experiment Pays Off, 136
8. THE DRUG SWINDLERS 145
  - Deceit in Indonesia, 146 Incident in India, 151 Drug Fraud Brasileiro Style, 154
9. SO SHINES A GOOD DEED 160
  - A Better Drug Chain, 162 The Essential Generics War, 165 The Tropicare Project, 170 The Damn Fly and Its Worms, 172
10. AMMUNITION FOR THE CONSUMERS 176
  - The Task Force Reports, 177 The "Drugging" Books, 179 The Marketing Codes, 180 The Consumerist Campaigns, 183 The HAI Proposals, 186
11. CONSUMER POWER: THE HANSSON/CIBA-GEIGY CONNECTION 190
  - The Appearance of SMON, 192 Start of the Damage Suits, 194 The Tanabe and Takeda Apologies, 196 Hansson and the Press, 198 Threat of a Boycott, 199 The Ciba-Geigy Meetings, 200 The Butazone Confrontation, 204 Problems with Mr. Knop, 205 Failed Mission, But—, 208
12. THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF GOVERNMENT 209
  - Regulation in the United States, 209 The Dreadful Drug Lag, 211 Regulation by Persuasion, 213 The Nairobi Nonconfrontation, 218 Export of Unapproved Drugs, 221
13. HARD CHOICES 228
  - Problems Related to the Crisis, 230 The Silverman, Lydecker, and Lee Studies, 232 The Work of Many, 234

The Problems at Hand, 235    The Matter of Quality Assurance, 236    Essential Drugs Lists: Some Progress, 237  
The Matter of Bribery, 238    Domestic Drug Industries: Some Hard Choices, 240    External Vigilance, Unending Consultation, 242

*Appendix: Tables of Product Indications,  
Contraindications, and Warnings*    247

*References*    319

*Index*    341