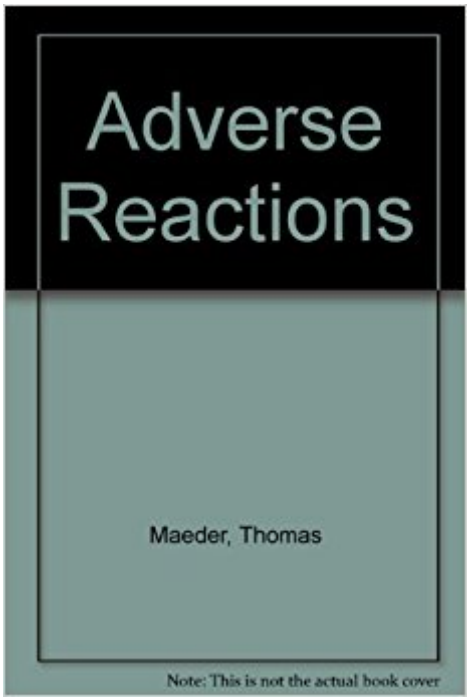
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Synopsis

A critical analysis of the relationship among doctors, patients, the pharmaceutical industry, and the government describes the development of Chloramphenicol, the controversy over its use and side effects, and the role of the FDA in drug control. 25,000 first printing.

Book Information

Hardcover: 480 pages

Publisher: William Morrow & Co; 1st edition (April 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688116825

ISBN-13: 978-0688116828

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds

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Customer Reviews

"No drug is completely safe," cautions medical writer Meader (Children of Psychiatrists) in introducing this involving, instructive "biography" of one still-controversial drug, Chloromycetin, a highly profitable "miracle" antibiotic released in 1949 and administered to some 40 million Americans in the 1950s for a wide spectrum of infections ranging from dysentery to mononucleosis. Within three years, it became clear that the drug caused aplastic anemia, often fatal, in a small proportion of those taking it, and an investigation was launched by the FDA. Meader pursues the story of the drug’s development, tracking its widely accepted efficacy and examining Parke-Davis’s marketing campaigns; he also interviewed physicians, medical researchers and personnel of drug manufacturers and federal agencies, along with the drug’s victims and their relatives. Congressional hearings about misleading promotions and inadequate warnings to physicians of the drug’s danger contributed to the passage in 1962 of the Kefauver-Harris Amendments instituting tighter drug regulation. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Chloramphenicol, a broad-spectrum antibiotic, was hailed as a miracle drug that saved thousands of

lives when first introduced in 1949. Unfortunately, a small number of people who took it also developed aplastic anemia, a devastating and usually fatal disease. For decades after this "adverse reaction" was discovered, chloramphenicol was still widely and inappropriately prescribed by physicians throughout the world. While chronicling this controversy, Maeder (Children of Psychiatrists , LJ 2/1/89) also provides some historical perspective on the relationships among the pharmaceutical industry, physicians, and the Food and Drug Administration, but he offers little discussion on how they should have handled the chloramphenicol situation or how how they could work together to evaluate the risks of a particular drug againsts its benefits. Recommended for historical medical or pharmacy collections only. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 12/93.- Kathleen McQuiston, Philadelphia Coll. of Pharmacy and ScienceCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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