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The Editor comments

BUT WHERE WAS PHARMACY?

The Commission on Drug Safety—an eminent body of recognized medical scientists established through a grant from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association in the aftermath of the thalidomide incident—sponsored a *Conference of Professional and Scientific Societies* this past June 27–28 as its first major undertaking in discharging the responsibilities it has assumed. The expressed purpose of the Conference was to inform the many various scientific and professional societies of the responsibility which all groups share in the area of drug safety.

The activities and responsibilities of many medical and medically-oriented groups were formally presented during the Conference program by an array of distinguished physicians who are active in clinical research, education, government, administration, and industry. In addition, enlightening papers were delivered by nonmedical authorities from government and law.

This writer had the pleasure of attending the Conference as the invited representative from the A.PH.A., and was accompanied by two representatives from the A.PH.A. Scientific Section. As we listened to the program presentations, however, the writer could not help but reflect upon the fact that pharmaceutical scientists were completely absent from the program roster. In view of the fact that the charter of the Commission states that it will exist to "recommend means for expansion of scientific knowledge of the predictability of action of drugs in man," it must be concluded that the Commission does not recognize that the manner in which a specific pharmaceutical dosage form is constructed plays a fundamental role in whether or not the particular drug will be safe and effective when it is administered.

When one considers that the Commission was fathered by an industry which places considerable significance on the variations in safety and effectiveness which may be encountered in finished dosage forms of the same drug substance when manufactured by different firms, then it becomes all the more difficult to understand why this important aspect of drug safety was ignored on an otherwise very comprehensive and enlightening Conference program.

Edward G. Feldmann