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RICHARD C. GILL

P. O. Box 281,
Palo Alto, California.

April 17, 1945.

Dr. Harold R. Griffith,
3445 Northcliffe Avenue,
Montreal, P.Q.
Canada.

Dear Dr. Griffith:

I was more pleased than I can well tell you to receive your exceedingly kind and friendly letter of April 10.

I feel truly upset at bothering you at all about the matter of the statement in your perfectly grand article that the clinically adequate curare (i.e. Intocostrin) is derived from the single plant, *Chondodendron tomentosum*. But, as you can probably appreciate — and I hope sympathize with — all my efforts, and those of my co-workers, for the past decade rest upon the essential fact that the current curare is made solely from material furnished by me and is, indeed, based upon a type of whole curare whose quantitative and qualitative formula I discovered and developed.....and about which, to date, I have made no disclosures to anyone.

Therefore, when my relationship with Messrs. Squibb expired, last November, I took the precaution of obtaining from them a signed statement covering the material employed in Intocostrin, since — through quite a few media — they have endeavored recently to eliminate me from the curare scene in various ways. I have had this particular statement of theirs both notarized and photostated, thus making it acceptable legal evidence.

Knowing that you will treat my sending it to you in confidence, I am herewith attaching to this letter a photostat of the most pertinent excerpts from the Squibb letter to which I have referred. As you will notice, the four questions in it are mine (which I had previously asked them) and the answers are, of course, their direct replies.

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At the present time, since my hands are no longer contractually tied, I have not only completed the development of a whole curare better than that upon which Intocostrin is based, but I have also entered upon negotiations for its final and permanent placement in commercial hands which I believe will be entirely trustworthy and adequate. That is to say, as the culmination of all my "curarized" years, it finally seems that I shall be able to turn over all curare knowledge to some responsible firm in such a way that all phases of the drug (its primary production on through its terminal refination and distribution) will be assured of a sound future. After that, I earnestly hope to be able to drop the curare struggle which has made the recent years seem onerous indeed.

However, the publication of the statement that a clinically adequate preparation comes solely from one well known plant has, with all frankness, caused all negotiations to come to a standstill.

Historically, it has always been a curious fact with curare, as you may be aware, that no fraction of the substance (however arrived at) has ever fulfilled clinical requisites. In the long run (despite much excellent work here and abroad) it has always been necessary to return to using the whole alkaloidal complex (i.e., the whole curare)since no fraction thereof has ever been successful.

This universal experience with curare has been repeated time and time again. Squibb's vain attempt to employ a fraction of the whole complex is only one example.....which, as you can see, they themselves have admitted in their letter.

I wonder therefore, if — on behalf of myself and my associates — I can assume the liberty of asking that you be kind enough to consider the publication of a correction in the Journal. Please believe that I am well aware of (and truly regret) the bother and annoyance contained in all of this for you. I shouldn't dream of asking it, were it not for the fact that it now seems the entire career of curare depends upon itthe more particularly so, since factually, the curare which I developed, and which thus far has been distributed under the name of Intocostrin, bears only little relation to the previous "curares" (at best, just a generic term!) which medicine had unsuccessfully tried to employ.

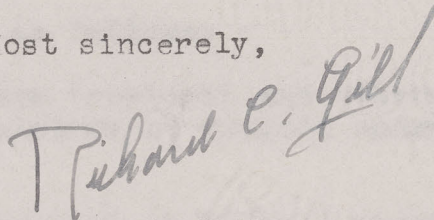
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Consequently, if you will be kind enough to submit such a correction to the Journals involved, it should be done so that publication would be forthcoming at the earliest possible date.....perhaps on some sort of "emergency basis" in order to clear up the matter while there is yet time.

I can only hope that I have not presumed too greatly on your friendliness and cooperation in asking this of you. I can say only that if you will be kind enough, it will be a splendid gesture on your part and one which will very probably influence the entire career of curare. My own gratitude, I hope is obvious.

Most sincerely,



Richard C. Gill

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1 enc.

P.S. Incidentally, the word "Intocostrin" was evolved when I first let Squibb have some curare, and was first published as a trade-mark July 16, 1940. It is (as is legally required) an utterly meaningless term, with no reference whatsoever to *Chondodendron tomentosum*.

In fact, Squibb (whom I didn't know for months after the final expedition of discovery) have even gone so far as to publish the statement that they sponsored the expedition, etc., etc.

E·R·SQUIBB & SONS, NEW YORK
MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION SINCE 1858

SQUIBB BUILDING
745 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 22

November 14, 1944

JAMES C. LEWIS
VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Richard C. Gill
P. O. Box 281
Palo Alto
California

Dear Mr. Gill:-

We have your letter dated October 21, 1944 which is postmarked, on the envelope, "Santa Cruz, Calif. October 25, 1944 Registered". While your letter arrived subsequent to the expiration of our contract with you, we have no objection, in view of the cordial relations which have always existed between us, of answering your questions without prejudice, of course, to our rights to refuse to do so.

Referring to your questions, as follows:

1. What are the present sources (regional and otherwise) of Intocostrin and other curares at present under sponsorship of Squibb?

Ans. Intocostrin and other curares at present under Squibb's sponsorship are made from curare purchased from you.

2. What are the botanical components of the current Intocostrin?

Ans. See answer to Question 1. As you know, we have developed standards and specifications for determining the value of our finished product.

3. Have you produced - or do you now produce - a curare product (Intocostrin or other) which contains as its sole botanical component Chondrodendron Tomentosum R. et P., or the active principle thereof?

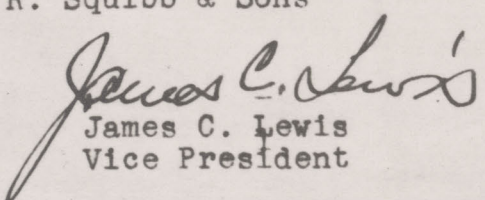
Ans. We have produced upon an experimental scale curare made from botanically identified Chondrodendron Tomentosum but we are not now producing it.

4. Is there any other single botanical ingredient (or active principle thereof) which constitutes Intocostrin and/or any other curare preparation manufactured or used by you for clinical experimentation or actual practice?

Ans. See answer to Question 1. We have tested, however, experimentally, many samples of curare containing or believed to contain botanical ingredients other than Chondrodendron Tomentosum. We are not using any of these materials.

Sincerely yours,

E. R. Squibb & Sons


James C. Lewis
Vice President