

Holt

November 14, 1927

Doctor John H. Remig
805 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Doctor Remig: (Through the Director)

As agreed upon during our several interviews in Philadelphia recently, I am sending you under separate cover about one hundred and seventy-five copies of a questionnaire for persons with the drug habit.

The idea we had was that you would get the data from medical addicts with whom you come in contact and after they were collected, I would add the data I have and we would then write a joint article dealing especially with the question whether heroin as used formerly in medical practice was a dangerous drug in the sense that it caused addiction of persons who were given it for medical purposes. My idea has been that the use of heroin in medical practice seldom resulted in addiction, although when used in the underworld for dissipation only it doubtless has produced numerous addicts. The other data asked for in the questionnaire are incidental but valuable and will help to round out the article.

The data on the questionnaire are wanted only from addicts who were addicted by the prescribing of an opiate by a physician for a disease, or from addicts who undoubtedly took an opiate for self-medication for a disease and became addicted because of it. Persons who became addicted to opium because of the influence of associates by smoking, for the thrill of it or for other inexcusable reasons (the so-called dissipated underworld addicts) are of no interest for the purpose of this study.

The data must be from addicts who were addicted for medical reasons between 1898 and 1924 because heroin came into use in 1898 and was legislated out of existence in 1924. A person medically addicted in 1925 might be used because there was still a considerable medical supply of heroin during that year. Cases later than 1925 had better be ignored.

Dr. John H. Remig-2

It is necessary to confine the study to the period when heroin was available so that just conclusions may be made as to the danger of using it in medical practice compared with the danger of using other opiates.

Very sincerely yours,

lk-ugl

Lawrence Kolb,
Surgeon.

Respectfully forwarded:

G.W. McCoy,
Director.