

November 11, 1927

Doctor Carlton Simon  
50 E 58th Street  
New York City.

Dear Doctor Simon:

I am pleased with your report on the radio talk and the article you published in the Police Journal. I think that the medical profession should not link itself with prepaganda that apparently has as its object the making of money through the misfortune of others.

As to the Narcosan, I did not have time to tell you before that while in New York I visited the narcotic headquarters, both federal and city, and they seemed very much enamored with it. The city people insisted on my going over to Welfare Island, which I did. Warden Schleth was very courteous and also very emphatic about the virtues of Narcosan. I looked through the wards with Doctor Scheid, but refrained from expressing any opinion to them as to the virtues of this drug. I told Schleth it would not be scientific for me to do so on what I had seen and this made him laugh. He seems to think that all doctors are fools. I, however, complimented Schleth on his management of the place and wrote him a letter when I came home thanking him for his courtesies. It is my opinion that he is treating addicts better now than he did before but this is because the treatment before was abominable. I, however, did not tell him this.

I visited federal headquarters after leaving Schleth and told them that in my opinion Narcosan was just plain "cold turkey" but that Schleth was getting better results than he formerly got because they used to hand out morphine and have a fight in the ward every time a doctor came near.

Whether Schleth will be favorable to me to be on the committee I do not know. He knew that there was a move on foot to appoint the investigating committee. It is my opinion that if such a committee is appointed the matter should be handled as follows:

There should be a reddish drug, the color of Narcosan, and known to be entirely innocuous. The patients that come in should be taken in order, one given this drug and one given narcosan. In all other respects they should be treated exactly the same. Some competent person should make observations on them, and even the nurses in the ward should not know which were getting Narcosan and which were getting the other preparation. It would be entirely futile to treat some patients with Narcosan and some with, say the Towne-Lambert treatment or the hyoscine treatment because it is doubtful what effect these treatments have, and you want to check Narcosan against the "cold turkey" treatment.

Schleth told me that 10% of the narcosan cases had returned for treatment against 70% previously, but he has not taken account of the fact that the 10% covers only a period of about fourteen months whereas the 70% goes back over years.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Kolb,  
Surgeon.

lk-mgl