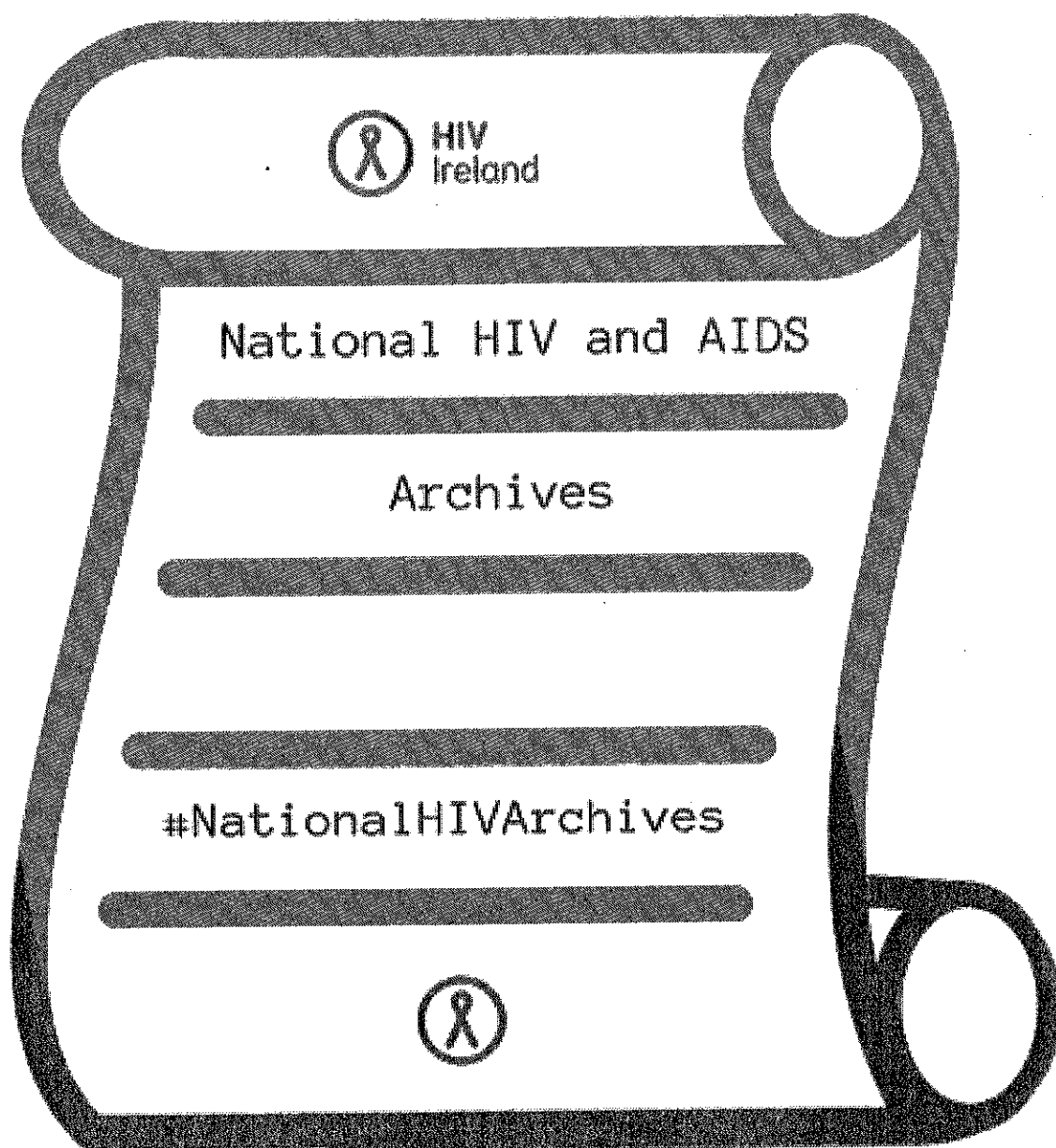


Print Media



1st to 5th March 1987

Sunday Press
1st March 1987

Condom and poster AIDS drive urged

TWO of the country's largest women's organisations yesterday spoke out strongly for positive action against AIDS.

Delegates at the ICTU Women's Conference backed a call for an explicit "condom campaign" aimed at stemming the spread of the disease and the Irish Countrywomen's Association resolved to lobby the Health Education Board to place explicit posters in all second and third-level schools.

The ICTU Women's Conference also unanimously decided to support the "Defend the Clinics" campaign following the recent High Court ruling making it an offence to give information about abortion.

Patricia Redlich, ASTMS, told the ICTU Women's Conference that there has been an abysmal record in getting the AIDS campaign started and she warned of the need to ensure that the incoming Fianna Fáil government carried an explicit condom campaign.

Claire O'Connor, also of a ASTMS, attacked the failure of Irish society to face up to sexual matters. "We have homosexuals, we have married people with lovers, there is no point in putting our heads in the sand and saying this is not happening," she said.

At a national meeting in Carlow, attended by some 700 members from the country's 1,000 ICA guilds, Mrs. Nellie Dillon, from the Kill Guild, proposing the resolution, said that the mothers of Ireland owe it to their young people to make sure they are fully

aware of the "Black Plague" that threatens modern society.

Many people, especially young people, are not receiving information that is vital to their health and future wellbeing because of hang-ups in this country in dealing with the subject of sexual practices and homosexuality, said Mrs. Dillon.

"AIDS is more lethal, more dangerous than food poisoning, smallpox, measles, diphtheria or tuberculosis. Yet these are all notifiable diseases and AIDS is not," she said.

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE, 1 MARCH 1987

Letters To The Editor

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, SUNDAY TRIBUNE, 8-11 BAGGOT STREET, DUBLIN 2.
PLEASE INCLUDE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR VERIFICATION

Biological blunders in Aids vaccine search

SIR — In his article (22 February) Gerry Byrne broached on the medical problems of defective Aids virus testing results and left us with the impression of laboratories being engulfed with the problems of ineffective testing apparatus in their efforts to contain the plague. If that is the best that can be said of their efforts then how much confidence can we have in their assessments of how the virus is transmitted?

Medical scientists have told us that Aids is caused by a virus and that it can be transmitted by sexual intercourse both homo and

hetero. We are aware that the disease can also be transmitted by contaminated blood that has been passed by some defective testing procedures. Even the presence of antibodies in the blood does not mean that a person is infected, nor does it mean that a person is immune to HTLV3 virus infections. And to add to the confusion, some people infected with the virus do not make antibodies.

Indeed each of us can envision innumerable scenarios that might put us at grave risk of virus infection. Whatever may be said about the theory of

sexually-transmitted Aids the fact is that it is not natural for the virus to be present in blood or semen so the question must be resolved as to where did the virus originate in the first place. Retrospective analysis of case records of Aids patients seen in Europe suggests that Aids has been present in Zaire, in Central Africa, at least since 1976, about two years before the first cases occurred in Haiti or the USA.

It has been known that the Aids virus is indigenous in several species of African monkeys and that vaccines had been produced in

America from the virus-infected livers of African green monkeys. Regarding the possible inter-relation of immunisations to Aids, Dr Robert Gallo, the US National Cancer Institute scientist, renowned as the world's leading Aids researcher, said that vaccines "may trick the immune system into manufacturing antibodies and can be a risk for infected persons." There are medical grounds for believing that western vaccines, introduced since World War 2 into the native African populations, may have catalysed the change of the Aids virus from

latent to active state.

Further proof of the risk involved in common vaccines came from a conference on Hepatitis B Immunisation held on 26 September 1986, in Toronto, Canada. In the course of the discussions, Dr Emilio Emini, Senior Research Scientist, Merck, Sharpe and Dohme, reviewed three steps taken to remove all adventitious agents from the vaccine, ie treatment with urea, pepsin and formalin. These, he claimed, will eliminate any known virus contaminant including Aids virus.

As the vaccine — also used in Ireland — was

produced in 1981, this raises the question as to when did the contaminated vaccine become suspect before steps were taken to remove the deadly virus. As the gay population, being prone to haemophilia, was one of the main target groups for the vaccine, this explains why says figure prominently among the victims of Aids. It is my belief, after over 30 years experience of vaccine research, that Aids may yet turn out to be the greatest biological blunder by medical science in its search for more effective vaccines.

Patrick J Carroll,
79 Priory Lawn,
Waterford.

Cork Examiner
2nd March 1987

ICA member 'out of step on condoms'

B2
2/3/87

THE national vice-president of the Irish Countrywomen's Association last night disassociated herself from the statement made at the end of the RTE television report on Saturday night by the proposer of the emergency resolution on AIDS at a weekend council meeting.

Mrs. Mary Hanley, the vice-president, said that on behalf of the ICA she disassociated herself from the remarks. The resolution was that the health education bureau publish and distribute to all second and third level educational establishments and all public buildings explicit poster warnings of the dangers of AIDS.

There was much discussion and a vote taken was largely in favour of the resolution.

But when the proposer of the resolution, Mrs. Nellie Dillon was interviewed after the discussion, she said that she was in agreement that condoms should be available and used to prevent AIDS.

This statement contravened the tenor of the resolution, said Mrs. Hanley.

54

Irish Press
2nd March 1987

Dentists launch drive on AIDS

By DAMIEN McHUGH

THE Irish Association of Dentists has embarked upon a major programme to educate its members on how to cope with the threat of an AIDS epidemic.

This was decided by the general council of the association, which met in Dublin at the weekend following growing concern that dentists risk being infected by AIDS carriers.

The council will organise a seminar to be held in Dublin shortly which will be addressed by English specialists on AIDS. A number of hospitals will also be associated with the seminar. In addition, the council is publishing a booklet which will be distributed to dentists.

"We are all aware of how serious this is," former president of the association, Dr. Caoimh O Broin said last night. "However, the chances of contracting the disease is quite small."

He added: "This threat has made a lot of dentists sit down and think about the methods of sterilisation that are used, the disposable cups and so on. It's making them have another look at what were regarded as the normal methods of sterilisation."

Also discussed at the weekend meeting was hepatitis and the use of disposable syringes. "Basically, we were planning for the future," Dr. O Broin said.

SV

Irish Press
2nd March 1987

AIDS brain damage link

THOUSANDS of people may suffer brain damage and serious personality changes from exposure to the AIDS virus, a psychiatrist had warned. Dr. Tom Onen, senior registrar at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, said brain damage could occur before people developed full-blown AIDS. One study showed that 10% of people who were antibody positive had signs of dementia. In the case of people with AIDS itself, the proportion was 65%.

SL

AIDS virus 'could harm brain'

THOUSANDS may suffer brain damage and serious personality changes from exposure to the AIDS virus, a psychiatrist has warned.

Dr. Tom Onen, senior registrar at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, said brain damage could occur before people developed full-blown AIDS. One study showed that 10 per cent of people who were antibody positive had signs of dementia. In the case of people with AIDS itself, the proportion was 65 per cent.

Dr. Onen told the Institute of Medical Ethics in London on Saturday that the AIDS virus could attack the brain causing meningitis, dementia, and spinal chord degeneration.

It was not known if any treatment was possible yet because of the difficulties of getting drugs to cross the blood-brain barrier.

Only one in a hundred 18 to 24-year-olds has started to use condoms since the dangers of AIDS became more widely known, according to a poll.

Just seven per cent of people in the same vital age group have given up casual sex, said a Marplan poll. Nearly a quarter of 18 to 24-year-olds have not changed their sexual behaviour at all — though more than half have changed their attitude to sex, it says.

The poll suggests that while most people accept that AIDS is a major threat, many do not believe it could affect them, and the Government's advertising campaign on the disease was not working.

SL

Irish Times
2nd March 1987

AIDS virus may damage brain

THOUSANDS of people may suffer brain damage and serious personality changes from exposure to the AIDS virus, a psychiatrist has warned. Dr Tom Onen, senior registrar at St Thomas's Hospital, London, said one study showed that 10 per cent of people who were antibody positive had signs of dementia. In the case of people with AIDS itself, the proportion was 65 per cent.

Dr Onen told the Institute of Medical Ethics in London on Saturday that the AIDS virus could attack the brain causing meningitis, dementia, and spinal chord degeneration. — (PA)

56

Irish Times
2nd March 1987

AIDS posters need for young-ICA'

EXPLICIT posters warning of the dangers of AIDS should be put on prominent display in all second and third-level schools and on all public buildings, it was urged at the weekend.

"Many people, especially our youth, are not receiving information that is vital to their health and future well-being because of hangups in this country in dealing with sex, sexual practices and homosexuality," Kildare mother Mrs. Nellie Dillon told the annual council meeting of the Irish Countrywomen's Association in Carlow.

Mrs. Dillon, a member of

the Kildare ICA Federation which proposed the resolution on AIDS, said the disease was more lethal and more dangerous than smallpox, measles, diphtheria or tuberculosis, all of which are notifiable diseases, while AIDS is not.

The protection of the public must take precedence over sufferers and carriers, she added.

Dr. Mary Hurley, of the Health Education Bureau, told the 700 delegates that the ultimate message was, that to guard against AIDS people should be celibate and engage in monogamous relationships.

London Times
2nd March 1987

Ministers hail TV 'First Aids' show

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Ministers and health experts believe the current series of television programmes on Aids will lead to "safer sex" among teenagers and young adults.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and senior officials at the Department of Health have been encouraged by viewer responses to the first of an all-channel series, which began last Friday night and will continue this week.

They believe that growing awareness of the disease and discussion of condoms on programmes such as *First Aids* will lead many young people to limit their sexual partners and take more precautions.

Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, said yesterday: "I very much welcome this co-ordinated effort by the broadcasting authorities to support the public education on Aids, and in particular to get the message across to young people."

First Aids, which included messages from pop stars and comedy sketches, was shown on ITV on Friday and on Channel 4 on Saturday.

Members of the studio audience were asked if they would use a condom in future and 46 per cent said yes, 37 per cent said no, while 17 per cent were not sure.

More than 500 calls were received by London Weekend Television after the first screening. Only 40 per cent supported the programme, but an LWT spokeswoman saw it as a favourable reaction.

"Usually most people call to criticize what they have seen. Among those who liked it were many parents who felt it had helped inform their children about the risks", she said.

"We are absolutely delighted with the response so far. If we have helped save even one life it has been worthwhile."

Complaints centred on the mixture of comedy and facts, explicit language and on demonstrations of how to use a condom.

Two thousand viewers used a phone-in service to seek more information.

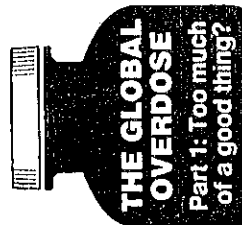
An opinion poll, published yesterday in *Sunday Today*, suggested that many young people have not changed their sexual behaviour

SL

SPECTRUM

From wonder drug to bitter pill

'We may look back on the antibiotic era as a passing phase, an age in which a great natural resource was squandered'



● After saving lives for half a century, the efficiency of antibiotics is under threat.

● New infections capable of beating the "wonder drugs" are creating problems in the hospitals of Britain and the jungles of the Third World.

● Beginning a three-day series, *The Times* examines the causes and effects of a crisis in the making.

The first of a new family of antibiotics, the quinolones, have just appeared on the British market and doctors, struggling to fight diseases in many parts of the world, are impatient to get their hands on them. They represent a vital new weapon against an increasing number of super-resistant bacteria which have drastically reduced the usefulness of some of today's most widely-used antibiotics.

But the quinolones are being welcomed with anxiety as well as hope because so many "wonder drugs" have come forward in the antibiotic field, only to prove a disappointment after a few years. The reason too often has been that they have been used so indiscriminately that bacteria have been able to develop a swift resistance to them.

This tragic waste of drugs whose miraculous efficacy has been known since the 1940s and 1950s was largely due to the fact that the researchers failed to keep up with new cures as fast as the germs came up with new ways to get round them.

"We may look back on the antibiotic era as merely a passing phase in the long history of medicine, an age in which a great natural resource has been squandered," says Dr Ken Harvey, a microbiologist in Australia, a country whose hospitals have suffered some of the worst outbreaks of a particularly intractable form of resistance by the *staphylococcus* bacteria which can prevent surgical wounds healing.

The legacy of abuse is a worldwide problem which threatens the health of millions, says Dr Harvey. It has been inherited by some of the poorest countries as a result of a drive for profits by multinational drug companies, corruption in governments and ignorance by doctors and patients. He warns that although Third World countries suffer most, international travel means that drug-resistant organisms are imported to western nations.

But Dr John Dumble, head of the World Health Organization's

equate doses or unfinished courses help relatively resistant germs thrive by clearing a way for less resistant ones. This can still harbour the germ, as it waits for its chance to strike again — but it can be worse for the patient if it puts a resistant germ into general circulation.

To avoid these dangers, doctors need to aim carefully and hit hard which requires skill, time and expense. Some doctors have become so acutely aware of the dangers that patients may find them uncomfortably reluctant to prescribe the remedy which would guarantee quick relief.

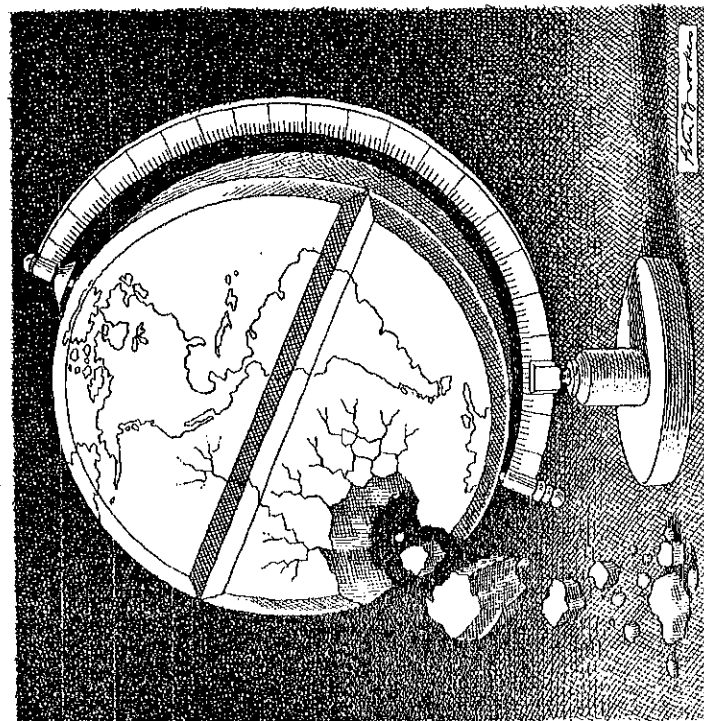
A recent increase in the incidence of mastoiditis may be a consequence of this reluctance, though it may also be because some doctors stick to the antibiotics they are used to, instead of selecting the most effective. Younger doctors tend to take the problem of resistance more seriously than older ones, and hospital doctors tend to be more on their guard than GPs because they are more likely to have seen the harm it can do.

If we could be sure that new drugs would always come along to replace old ones, the problem would not be too alarming. The drug companies continue to devote huge resources to research into new varieties of antibiotic, and have at their command a treasure of technical resources undreamt of 20 years ago.

The advent of the quinolones shows that there are still valuable discoveries to be made. From the manufacturers' point of view, the superseding of older drugs opens the way for newer, more expensive versions with fresher copyrights. But for every drug that goes into production, thousands of substances are tested fruitlessly, and the cost of developing one new drug can easily top £30 million.

"In the constant battle between antibiotics and bacteria, we not only have troops ready to be used, but there is also a constant stream of fresh recruits in training," a spokesman for one of the great drug companies, declares.

But others fear that the repertoire of the antibiotics may one day be exhausted, as Dr Harvey warns. In that case, the speed with which the earlier discoveries, so immeasurably beneficial to mankind, have been allowed to become ineffectual will appear doubly reckless.



ines of the highest standard would cost £500,000 for one hospital alone.

The heart of the dilemma of resistance is that the best policy for the patient as an individual is often not the best policy for patients in general. For every doctor, the tests take time and money; the harassed GP has every incentive to do the easiest thing and prescribe a wide-spectrum antibiotic. The doctor's Hippocratic responsibility is first and foremost to the actual patient, after all. The patient goes away satisfied, soon feels better, and probably abandons the course of treatment halfway.

But every time an antibiotic is used, there is a chance that the bacterium it is aimed at may develop a way of beating it. Indiscriminate use multiplies the germ's opportunities, and inad-

reveal themselves once they come into widespread use — only one antibiotic, vancomycin, has been holding the line against these microbes which were otherwise fully armed against antibiotic attack.

Vancomycin resistance appeared it would be easier, says Professor D.D. Williams of the London Hospital, which has suffered the largest and most recent outbreak in Britain. "Some people say that there is no need to worry about resistance because we are always finding new drugs. The prophets of doom say that we are running right at the edge of disaster. With some vital organisms, and particularly with *staphylococcus aureus*, I think we are running right at the edge."

The effort and cost of keeping hospital infections away are a growing burden on health services. Providing isolation facil-

Ironically, modern medicine's lines of defence have come closest to breaking down completely in the very heart of its bastion, in high-technology district hospitals in the developed world. Hospitals in France, the USA, South Africa and the Middle East as well as in Britain and Australia have suffered persistent outbreaks of a resistant strain of *staphylococcus aureus*, the most common cause of hospital infections and the most feared for patients already debilitated by other conditions. It has been recorded in more than a dozen London hospitals and in Liverpool, Leicester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Cambridge and elsewhere since it first appeared in 1976.

Until the advent of the quinolones — which are costly to use and like all new drugs still carry an uncertainty about whether harmful side-effects may

phoid have caused thousands of deaths in Central America since they first appeared in Mexico in 1975. The bacteria which cause mastoiditis and everyday chest and digestive infections began to be frowned on in the west is Britain to show signs of resistance to the first antibiotics within a couple of years of their introduction in the 1950s.

Bitter recriminations which began then have continued ever since — between doctor and doctor, and doctor and vet for antibiotics are also used on a large scale in agriculture, and some kinds of resistance have been shown to arise there. In some countries, controls on the use of drugs for infection can be bought for a price, and other ill-effects of resistance over the

pharmaceutical division, points out that in many countries which lack the resources of the developed world, the alternative to using antibiotics in ways that would be frowned on in the west is no treatment at all.

"These are life-saving drugs for very widespread diseases; either you use them or the child dies," he says. He believes that intractable resistances are more likely to develop in relatively prosperous parts of the world, where antibiotic use, if not properly controlled, can reach an intensity that developing countries can seldom afford.

The effects of resistance are seen in Third World respiratory diseases and typhoid, in hospital infections, in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, and in food poisoning, gonorrhoea, and other illnesses.

Drug-resistant strains of ty-

Today
2nd March 1987

Praise for our Aids posters

BRITAIN'S leading Aids group praised TODAY's controversial advertising campaign yesterday.

The Terrence Higgins Trust welcomed our hard-hitting poster "Bang Bang You're Dead".

"It's better to have a frightened nation than an infected one," said Trust spokesman John Fitzpatrick.

"Anything that jolts people into thinking about it is better than soft-pedalling."

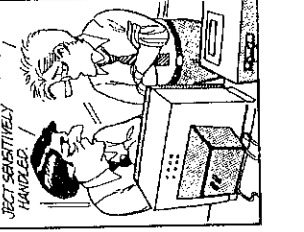
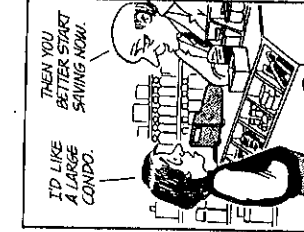
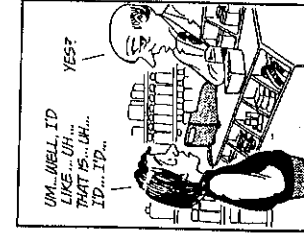
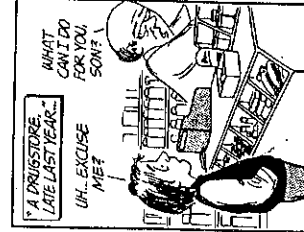
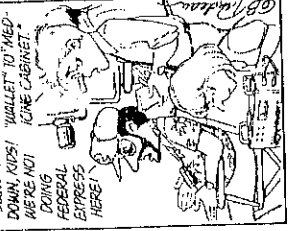
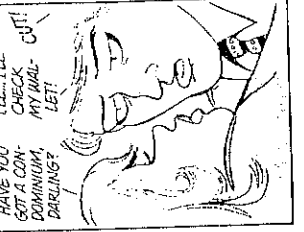
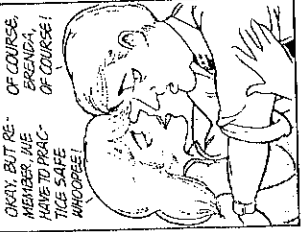
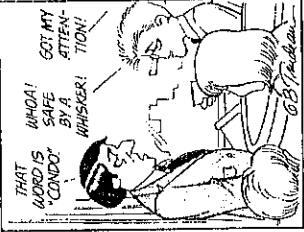
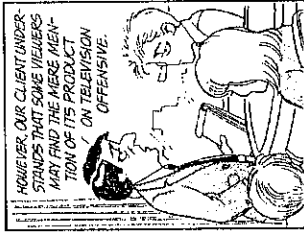
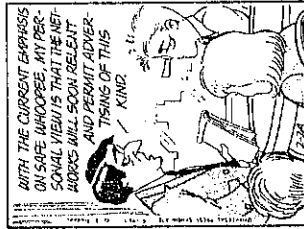
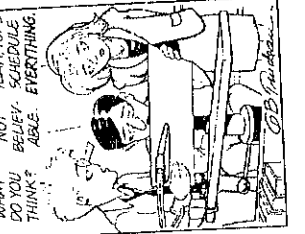
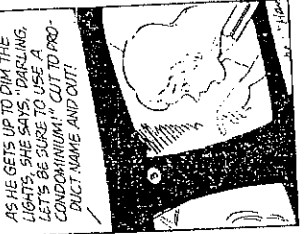
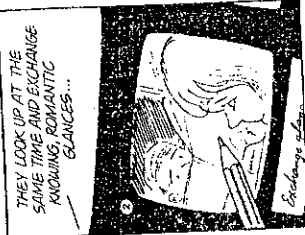
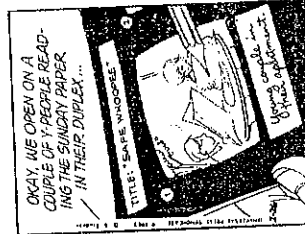
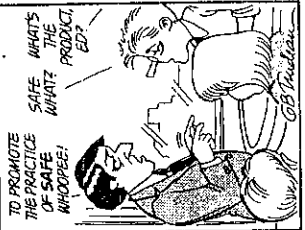
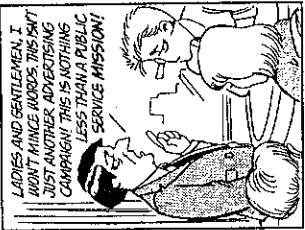
But the poster was condemned from the pulpit in a sermon by vicar Richard Parsons.

The reverend Parsons, vicar of St Mary's, Hendon, north London, has a poster outside his house. He told parishioners: "They are polluting people's minds."

MPs last week attacked a poster showing nooses around party leaders and asking: Would Britain be better off with a hung parliament?

Doonesbury

BY GARY TRUDEAU



EVENING PRESS, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1987

Blood pile not tested for AIDS

Britain has a massive 126-ton stockpile of blood plasma which has not been screened for AIDS — and cannot be checked now.

The plasma would be impossible to screen because it is no longer whole blood and has been deep frozen.

The huge amount could go a long way towards making Britain self-sufficient in blood products, but health experts will have to decide whether the gamble with lives is worth it.

Today
3rd March 1987



MOTHER TO BE: but Heather Knight's baby may have Aids

My fight to have Aids man's baby

DEVOTED Heather Knight told yesterday how she persuaded her boyfriend to risk giving her Aids so she could have his baby.

Boyfriend John Morgan insisted on using condoms when he found out he was infected.

But the couple had been trying for a child for more than a year, and 21-year-old Heather was determined to risk catching the deadly disease.

She said: "We argued about it. I was still desperate to bear John's child, but he was adamant.

"He could not bear the thought of me putting my life at risk and contracting

EXCLUSIVE
by **ANDREW YOUNG**
the disease — let alone the safety of the baby.

"In the end I managed to convince John that I was willing to die for him.

"He realised it was all I was living for, and after two months of anguish he agreed to carry on."

Tests

Two months later, art student Heather became pregnant.

Tests have shown she does not have Aids, but doctors say there is still a 50-50 chance that the unborn baby has the disease.

By the time they know for sure, it will

be too late to have an abortion. Jobless Helen, who lives with former heroin addict John in a Bristol squat, said: "The decision to have the baby was long and hard.

"It was a living hell — my mind was constantly in turmoil. Had I made the right decision?

"I was willing to take the risk, but was it morally right for me to risk the child's health? If the baby does have the disease, I will give it all the love I can.

"It will be brought up in a healthy, loving atmosphere.

"I understand people's horror at what I have done, but my desire for a child outweighed all risks."

54

Evening Herald
4th March 1987

Ignorance—don 't die of AIDS

THOSE of us living on the east coast of this island and benefiting from multi-channel television, along with the pockets of areas countrywide with "piped" tv, will this weekend have witnessed the beginning of AIDS week on BBC, UTV and Channel Four, designed to inform the citizens of the UK, as thoroughly and as frankly as possible, about the killer disease with no known cure.

They are being

educated about how it is spread, what it does to the body and how best to avoid it. These programmes follow hot on the heels of a leaflet campaign which must have reached every outpost of that country.

While in Belfast late last year I was impressed by the huge hoardings declaring "AIDS. Don't die of ignorance."

Belfast is 100 miles from Dublin and the nearest city to Dublin is

Liverpool, on the English mainland. Now I do not believe that AIDS won't cross the sea or even stop short at a border.

We have had nine deaths in the Republic so far. Is there a quota to be reached before something is done about it here?

Sex is a reality, having started with Adam and Eve, and it is here to stay. Drug abuse is not showing any signs of disappearing either. We have the youngest population

in Europe currently being decimated by unemployment. Hopefully we will not lose any of our young citizens (or old) to AIDS because they did not know the facts.

MICHAEL O'GORMAN,
Co. Dublin

54

Independent
4th March 1987

Aids: give the facts without the farce

ROBERT Maxwell's *London Daily News* carried a self-congratulatory letter this week from a woman who described herself as a London prostitute. Her message was that prostitutes were already doing their bit in the fight against Aids.

They had, she said, long adopted the rule, now being advocated generally, that "smart girls always carry condoms". There are reports that some fashionable designers are working on neat little purses in which young women can carry their supplies. Others are supposedly playing with the idea of panties-with-pockets.

Ladies' lavatories in the clubs frequented by the young may soon be equipped with the dispensing machines which once adorned the Gents in the rougher sort of public houses.

There can be little doubt that the message about the use of condoms reducing the chance of infection is getting across. After two pill-conscious decades in which condoms were seen as old-fashioned and furtive, that message was necessary. It is, however, fast becoming redundant, to the point of being offensive. Indeed there must be a suspicion that the broadcasting authorities are using the Aids scare as an excuse to air the sort of jokes and explicit (which really means crudely offensive) language which would not have been tolerated a year ago.

Last week, for example, during one of the endless television Aids marathons, a comedian demonstrated how best to role a condom on to fingers held erect in playful imitation of a penis. Yet there can be precious

few sexually active people who needed such graphic instruction of a basic skill.

A Margaret Thatcher puppet turned to another of Cecil Parkinson and suggested that he was just the sort of chap who ought to know about safe sex. There was, overall, a strong suggestion of the nudge and the snigger about the *First Aids* programme and the BBC's *Aids — The Facts*. There was also an unquestioning assumption that the young were going to sleep around and that the most you could ask is that they might limit the number of casual partners a little and always keep their condoms at the ready.

Some time ago, on a political discussion programme, a respectable and apparently happily married woman offered the opinion that we were, all of us, at risk now. Her view went unchallenged. And yet, assuming, that she and her husband are faithful to each other then they are at no risk whatsoever and neither, one assumes, were many of the audience or the viewers.

The headline grabbing shock and horror and the deliberate bad taste have had their broad impact. If continued for much longer it will merely generate the impression that crude and casual couplings are socially acceptable as long as the appropriate precautions are taken. That cannot be the aim of Norman Fowler and his colleagues. The next stage in the campaign should be sober and focused narrowly upon those groups which are most immediately at risk. There is nothing to be gained by conducting a serious campaign as if it were a revue bar farce.

Irish Times
4th March 1987

AIDS AND THE BISHOPS

Sir, — Father Leahy (letters, January 17th) has not replied to my letter (January 22nd) in which I asked him to explain exactly what is meant by words quoted by him from *Humanae Vitae*. I regret this. He opened by making the statement that "The age old teaching of the Church is that contraception is intrinsically evil and seriously sinful" and he told us that *Humanae Vitae* "restated the age old teaching in carefully chosen words . . ."

Gerard Casey replied to my request that a moral theologian comment on my comments. May one assume he is a moral theologian? He writes in an offensive manner by attributing a series of "Confusions" to me and answering with his "Clarifications" but I will ignore that aspect of his reply (letters, January 30th).

The problem with letters such as his, however, is that many who read it may react by thinking that he has the full fund of knowledge, wisdom and understanding and has put me and my likes down, where we rightly belong. After all, one notes, he has a Ph.D and so must be right. I suggest that he, in fact, highlights exactly the point I was trying to make in my letter.

Mr Casey says that I "insinuate" that translation of Church documents may be slanted "for sinister reasons". This exemplifies my point that a reader of his letter would be misinformed about what I said. I did not use the word "sinister" but it is interesting that he chose to label me as a person of sinister intent.

It is true, unless my friend theologians are deliberate liars, that there are various ways of translating Latin and that the moral implications may therefore be various. All "the ordinary people" of the country get is what they read in the newspapers and on the other media. The media receive their information from the Hierarchy of each country.

The cases in point in my letter were *Humanae Vitae* in its statement about the openness of every marriage act to life and a separate document which referred to masturbation being "always seriously sinful and intrinsically evil."

Following their appearance we did not get from the pulpit, or in the schools or at special meetings for parents or for married couples open straightforward discussions which we could understand. Heavens no!

I seriously doubt that there is anyone who has masturbated and has not had worries and anxieties about it. Mind you I once met a priest — not in Ireland and it was 20 years ago — who told me: "There is no masturbation in my parish."

I have no desire to be flippant about this matter. Quite the contrary. There are parents out there at this moment who are worried sick about the fact that their tiny baby has discovered something he can do which gives him a pleasant feeling and so he does it quite often. There are older children who are making the same discovery and being made to feel dirty and bad by parents who read the papers. There are adults who are either guilt ridden and still members of their Church or have distanced themselves from

the Church because they feel they cannot comply with its demands and strictures and are lost causes. What about the sample of semen a fertility expert may request from an apparently infertile man? Must a practising Catholic refuse it? In other words this single activity is causing great distress to unknown numbers of people and yet it is rarely mentioned where one would feel it ought to be referred to. All we get is the official statement from God's earthly spokesman that it is an intrinsically evil and seriously sinful act. God, the loving, forgiving father of us all has spoken thus and we are expected to accept without question.

We, the ordinary people, are not privy to the original documents nor are we privy, as a rule, to the various exceptions and exclusions included in these documents. With each new document which *appears* to restate, sometimes in even more strict and punitive terms than previous documents, the intrinsic sinfulness of certain behaviours, there are more anxieties and further defections.

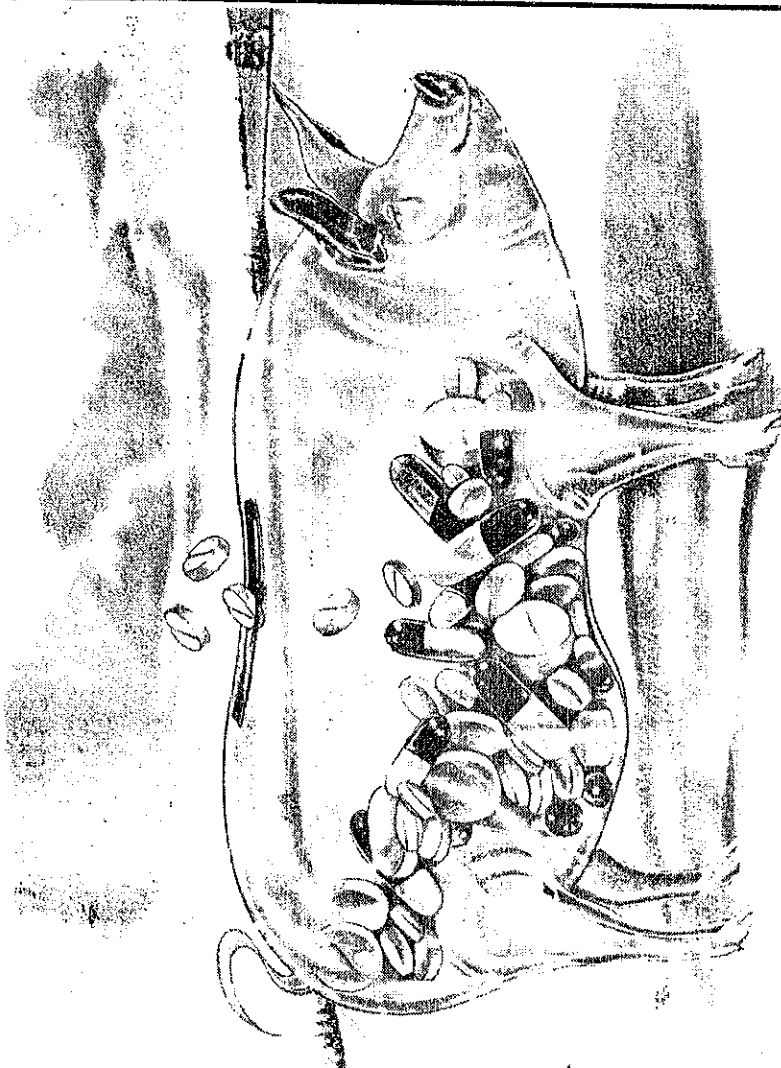
Things are not improving much. Many schools still have no programme of sex instruction, either because the principals have decided against it or because the parents do not want it. The reason most frequently given is that knowledge in this area is dangerous.

I think Aids and the Bishops, if stretched in its meaning, could still be used as the heading under which this letter might be published. — Yours etc.,

MAEVE FITZGERALD,
Chestnut Lane,
Dangan Lower,
Galway.

SPECTRUM

Sally A. Davies



The bitter harvest

Twenty-five years ago the farming community thought it was on to a winner. It found that the tetracycline group of antibiotics when used not just against disease, but also when given in small quantities to healthy animals, made livestock grow faster.

In humans, tetracyclines were useful against a range of chest and other infections. Then rural doctors began to notice that an increasing proportion of their child patients were no longer responding to tetracyclines whereas in cities the drugs were still effective. The resistance was particularly apparent in children whose fathers, as it

THE GLOBAL OVERDOSE
Part 3: Danger on the farm

children. Resistance started at an intensive calf-rearing unit in Dorset and within a matter of months neomycin mixtures had become useless for treating childhood diarrhoea. After these disasters a om-

Intensive factory farming methods have destroyed some of our greatest weapons in the fight against disease.
Concluding our series on the misuse of antibiotics, we look at their use in promoting animal growth and ask: should the restrictions be tightened?

Many voices in the medical world insist that use of drugs on farms still represents a threat to those antibiotics which still retain their efficacy. On the veterinary side, the charge is that many GPs link between the farm and the clinic.

selective in our veterinary use. Since the Swann Report, no antibiotics of real therapeutic value in man have been used in U.K. growth-promotion in the U.K.

It is often claimed that resistance can pass to bacteria handling carcasses and so on. Even if there is a link, it is of minuscule importance compared with the selective pressures exerted by the use of antibiotics in hospitals.

'He failed to realize that people are not machines'

blamed. So an exhibition to mark the centenary of his birth, entitled *Le Corbusier: Architect of the Century*, might be said to be asking for trouble.

"His dream was fundamentally wrong," says Rod Hackney, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. "His housing ideas are the reason for the collapse of the whole modern movement in architecture."

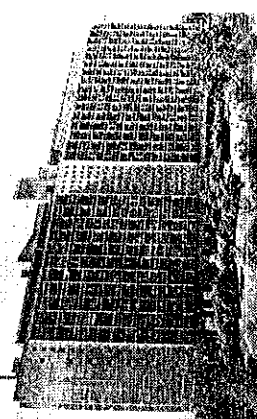
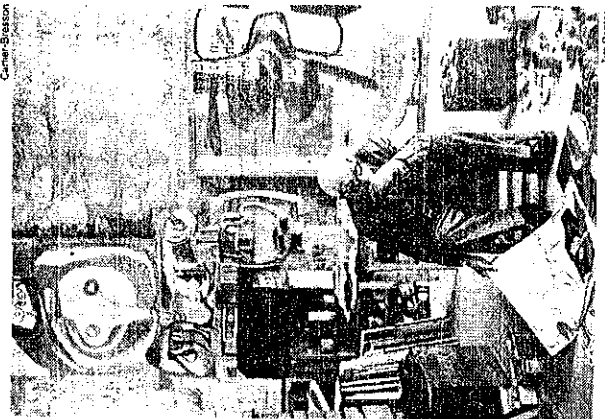
Architect of our sky-high life

Our ugly council tower blocks and buildings on stilts all owe something to Le Corbusier. Was he a genius or an egomaniac?

He was either the most comprehensive and visionary architect since Michelangelo or a master of egomania and inhumanity whose ideas have contributed directly to the post-war destruction of our towns and cities. When it comes to Le Corbusier, it is difficult to find a fence on which to sit.

Britain does not have a single one of his buildings. Yet probably no town in the country has escaped his influence. His legacy is visible in every building raised on stilts, every exterior staircase turned into a geometric, concrete spiral, every strip of horizontal "ribbon" windows and every huge, rectangular block of council flats.

The reputation of aggressively modern architecture has been poor in this country for 20 years. Above all others, Le Corbusier has been



A machine for living was how Le Corbusier (top) saw a house; his vast *Unité d'habitation* (above) houses 1,600 people and the other great figures of the past," says Sir Denys Lasdun, architect of the National Theatre. "But they were really sleeping in the past. Every word he wrote shows a man attempting to come to terms with the problems of the modern world. Many of the problems of

Daily Mail
5th March 1987

Daily Mail

THE WIT AND
WISDOM OF
WATERHOUSE
Page 8

WIN! WIN! WIN!

£100,000

IDEAL HOME
SUPERMATCH GAME

20p

Don't miss your chance to win — start playing on Monday! Only in the Daily Mail

● The sensational new game with thousands of fabulous prizes.
● Get your card with this week's Radio Times or Mail On Sunday — or from your newsagent this weekend

Doctors warn: Government propaganda is counter-productive

AIDS CAMPAIGN STARTS PANIC

By JOHN ILLMAN

DOCTORS fighting the AIDS epidemic accused the Government of spreading needless panic last night.

They said the anti-AIDS campaign should be directed at the people it almost always affects — homosexuals and drug addicts.

And they warned that hysteria among heterosexual men and women could hamper the battle to contain the deadly virus.

Needles

The doctors gave their disturbing evidence to the all-party Commons social services committee. The MPs heard that, in one London hospital alone, the Mid-lessex, 300 people a week are seeking blood tests for AIDS compared with only ten a year ago. Most are heterosexuals who are probably not at risk.

Dr Charles Farthing, of St Stephen's Hospital, West London, said: 'As we point out how serious AIDS is and how everyone must take notice, we must — to avoid panic and hysteria — point out that it is no risk to those not undertaking high risk practices.'

These include unprotected sex and the sharing of drug addicts' contaminated needles.

Dr Farthing added that the epidemic was exacerbated by 'poor public ignorance' among the medical

AIDS panic

Continued from Page One

profession. 'All over the country there are thousands of doctors who do not know how to recognise AIDS or how to treat it.'

The Health Secretary, Norman Fowler, yesterday issued a licence for production of Retrovir, a drug which prolongs the life of AIDS sufferers.

In Australia, a former salesman's claim to have found an AIDS cure was treated with scepticism. Peter Walker, 41, has already made £20 million from a private blood bank. Now he says a drug used on 12 AIDS patients has a 100 per cent. success rate.

A New South Wales politician, Peter Collins, described him as 'a snake oil salesman selling hope to the desperate and dying.' He added: 'Next, no doubt, we can expect a potion for immortality.'

In Japan, tough laws are being prepared which could mean a year's jail for AIDS carriers who have sex. Japan has yet to be hit severely by the virus ... and the government intends to keep it that way.

Independent
5th March 1987

MPs told of stress on Aids doctors

By Andrew Marr
Political Correspondent

DOCTORS TREATING patients with Aids are suffering severe psychological distress and are close to cracking under the strain, senior specialists told MPs yesterday.

"I very much fear for the physical health and the psychological health of many of my colleagues who have been pushed too far for too long", Dr David Miller, a senior clinical psychologist at the Middlesex Hospital, told the Commons Social Services Select Committee.

A recent survey showed evidence of psychological, domestic and professional distress among highly experienced staff. "We cannot flog the donkey for too long without expecting it to drop," he said.

People in the Middlesex were working 12 hours a day, five days a week without a break or the prospect of help in sight, Dr Miller said this was taking a severe personal toll and damaging morale.

Prof Michael Adler, of the academic department of genito-urinary medicine at the Middlesex, said he was most concerned that he could not ask his staff to do more than they were doing already.

The staff were most devoted and, if they carried on, would severely compromise their own health, he added.

The doctors launched a scathing attack on the funds being made available by the Government to help them treat Aids, complaining of a growing shortage of staff and facilities.

North West Thames health area had put in a carefully costed request for more than £8m for Aids but had received only £2.5m, Dr Tony Pinching, senior lecturer in clinical immunity at St Mary's Hospital medical school, told the MPs.

"We are going to have to have more beds because our current beds are full: we are going to have to have new out-patient facilities because our present ones are inadequate," Dr Pinching said.

Existing staff could not be replaced and the few people actually working in the area were facing "burnout". He said: "It is totally appalling and a total failure to meet the implications of this problem."

Prof Adler said his team had been "absolutely devastated" by the allocation of £1.2m to North East Thames by Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services.

One of the six districts, Bloomsbury, had alone made an application for £1.2m. "We have a national crisis and that national crisis requires a national strategy," Prof Adler said.

He was very concerned about the yearly, arbitrary and inadequate basis of present funding.

A strategic programme over five or ten years was required from the Government.

Challenged by Roy Galley, Conservative MP for Halifax, about whether Aids was really yet an epidemic, Prof Adler said the medical profession could in the past have been accused of "shroud-waving".

"But we have a golden opportunity here to get preventative medicine right for once in this country," he said.

5 ✓

Irish Times
5th March 1987

Drug for AIDS approved

3.72.87
6.11.87

THE BRITISH Health Secretary, Mr Norman Fowler, last night announced approval for the distribution and sale of the drug Retrovir, or AZT, which tests have shown may relieve AIDS symptoms and prolong the lives of some victims. It is produced by Wellcome.

But the drug is not a cure, and cannot prevent the spread of AIDS.

The Terrence Higgins Trust, Britain's leading AIDS charity, welcomed the move as "the biggest hope for AIDS victims for a long, long time."

Retrovir has been tested on 3,000 people in America and on about 300 in Europe, including 12 British patients. Those who started taking it a year ago are still alive, according to reports. — (UPI, PA.)

SL

Wall Street Journal
5th March 1987

Wellcome's AIDS Medicine Is Cleared for Sale in U.K.

By RICHARD L. HUDSON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
LONDON — The British government cleared Wellcome PLC to start marketing Retrovir, the U.K. pharmaceutical company's new medicine for treatment of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The U.K. becomes the first country to permit sale of the drug. Previously, U.S. and European regulators had allowed Wellcome only to give away Retrovir in trials. The government clearance will allow wider distribution of the drug in Britain.

The medicine, whose generic name is azidothymidine, or AZT, is the first drug found to be effective in treating certain AIDS patients, although it doesn't cure them. It was developed by Wellcome's U.S. unit, Burroughs-Wellcome & Co.

Speeded Reviews

Regulatory review of the drug was speeded in both Britain and the U.S. last autumn after U.S. clinical trials found that Retrovir significantly improved survival chances for patients with severe AIDS-related complex and with a type of pneumonia common among AIDS sufferers. The company still is awaiting marketing clearance in the U.S.

The U.K. approval, by the Department of Health and Social Services, follows a recommendation Friday from a government advisory panel. Rumors of the drug clearance began spreading among London stockbrokers yesterday afternoon, but government confirmation was delayed until nearly 7 p.m.

The announcement comes at the height of an extensive government publicity campaign warning Britons about AIDS. The incidence of AIDS in the U.K. remains slight compared to the U.S., but the British government has budgeted £20 million (\$31.2 million) to alert the public. It has delivered explicit leaflets about AIDS to every British home and is running television and radio ads several times daily. This week marks the height of the campaign.

AIDS Incidence

A health department spokesman said there have been 686 cases of AIDS diagnosed in Britain, of which 355 so far have been fatal. The government estimates that an additional 30,000 Britons may be infected with the virus and predicts a doubling of cases every 10 months unless preventive action is taken.

The U.K. marketing license, as expected, is limited to prescriptions for patients with "serious manifestations" of AIDS or AIDS-related complex, rather than for all sufferers, the department said. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration is considering placing similar restrictions on Wellcome's marketing application. The limitations stem from the fact that medical authorities think further testing of Retrovir is needed—especially to assess the risks of the drug's side effects, which have included anemia.

Because of the difficulty of making the drug, one of its immediate uses is

herring sperm), it will be very expensive. Wellcome last month announced a planned U.S. wholesale price of \$188 for 100 capsules of 100-milligram strength. For a patient, the drug could cost as much as \$10,000 a year. A Wellcome spokesman said the U.K. price will be a simple translation into pounds of the dollar price on the day marketing begins, probably within a few weeks.

Partly because of the sales limitations, analysts don't expect the drug initially to be a huge money-maker for Wellcome, an old-line British pharmaceutical company that was owned by a charitable trust until it went public last year. Eile Gibson, an analyst in London for New York-based Merrill Lynch & Co., forecast world-wide Retrovir sales in the fiscal year ending Aug. 30 of £20 million, increasing to £100 million in two years.

For fiscal 1986, Wellcome posted net income of £63.9 million on revenue of £1.01 billion.

Sale of Diagnostic Kit Cleared

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

CINCINNATI — Meridian Diagnostics Inc. said it received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market a test to detect evidence of cryptosporidiosis in stool specimens.

Cryptosporidiosis is a complication in patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome that results in life-threatening loss of fluids, Meridian said.

The company, which makes a number of diagnostic test kits, said it expects to begin filling orders March 16. A spokesman said the kits are priced at about \$100 each and it has a backlog of several hundred orders.

54