

Addendum

A. Hoffer, M.D., Ph.D.

In a previous issue of this journal I discussed "a basic flaw in modern medical research," (Volume 14:82-84,1985). In this issue, Dr. H. Turkel, a pioneer in the treatment of Downs syndrome using nutrients and hormones, brings another example to our attention. This is an example of an attempt to "repeat, duplicate and attempt to corroborate" by using a method which does not repeat or duplicate the original protocol. F.C. Bennett, S. McClelland, E. A. Kriegsmann, L. B. Andrus and C. J. Sells (Pediatrics, Vol. 72: 707-713,1983) claim they have repeated Dr. R. Harrell's study, but they did not use any thyroid hormone — they had found thyroid function tests based upon blood analyses were normal. They found no difference between their treated or control group. Their experiment was double blind but they did not present data to prove the study remained double blind. Nevertheless, one can not argue with their conclusion, i.e. that they saw no significant difference. One can agree with their conclusion, but they did not corroborate Harrell's study because they had not duplicated her study. Their study merely showed that this nutrient program without thyroid did not help their series of cases. Now will someone really repeat R. Harrell's study?

Hypothyroidism patients on excellent

nutritional therapy remain ill, for no nutrient can replace thyroid. I would assume that a patient suffering both hypothyroidism and pellagra given Vitamin B-3 will not become normal.

Bennett et al. did not use thyroid because they assumed none was needed as the blood values were normal. Barnes and Galton (1976) and Langer and Scheer (1984) have shown the blood tests are not definitive and that large numbers of people have been benefited by thyroid in spite of normal blood values. I have seen the same type of responses.

It is a pity so much time, money and effort were devoted to a study which has no relevance to the controversy. The addition of thyroid might have helped settle the issue.

References

BARNES, B.D. and GALTON, L.:

Hypothyroidism:

The Unsuspected Illness. Thomas Y. Crowell, Co.,

New York, 1976.

LANGER, S.E. and SCHEER J.F.: *Solved: The Riddle of Illness.* Keats Publishing Inc., New

Canaan, CT,

1984.