Letter from the Publisher

continued from page 13

Quackery Bills: Confusion" and "Canadian Government Bans Garlic Supplementation." Claude Pepper was a representative from Beverly Hills who was seeking to ban quackery and federally discipline physicians practicing quackery. Government agencies were seeking to limit the production of supplements. It was a worrisome time when alternative physicians were being investigated and sanctioned. The vitamin supplement industry was just beginning a boom, but many companies faced investigation for claims.

TOWNSEND LETTER for Doctors

CURRENT STATUS OF PEPPER QUACKERY BILLS: CONFUSION

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT BANS GARLIC SUPPLEMENTATION

Issue #25 – April 1985

Issue #50 continued the focus of the antiquackery stance of the *Townsend Letter for Doctors* with front-page coverage of the activities of Victor Herbert, MD. Alan Gaby, MD, had joined our staff by 1987 initiating his much-beloved "Literature Review and Commentary." Gaby certainly gave the publication its first taste of excellence, with his discerning examination of the medical and nutritional literature. Magnesium was one of his favorite remedies. One review titled "Magnesium and Premenstrual Syndrome" discussed the role of magnesium deficiency in PMS. Gaby commented that in his clinical practice he had injected intravenous magnesium chloride and calcium glycerophosphate with good results for PMS, anxiety, and muscle spasming. This IV injection was advocated repeatedly by Gaby, especially in a more complex form known as the Myers cocktail. Issue #50 also had a well-developed "Letters to the Editor" section, with many physicians contributing short reports and commentary.

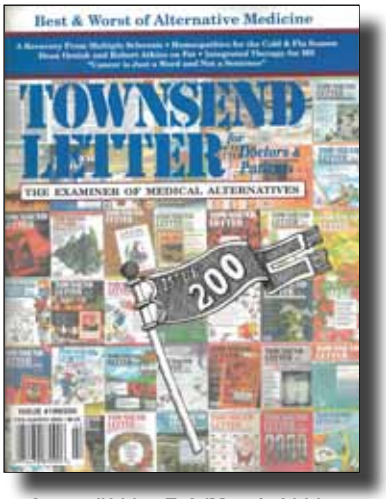
Our 100th issue, published in November 1991, carried the byline "An Informal Newsletter for Doctors Communicating to Doctors." As a 120-plus page magazine, it had outgrown its newsletter status. Much of the 1991 staff continues working for the publication today, including managing editor Barbara Smith, contributing medical editor Alan Gaby, MD, and contributing editor Jule Klotter. Perhaps the most controversial writer of the *Townsend Letter for Doctors* was Morton Walker, DPM, who authored a monthly column, "Medical Journalist Report of Innovative Biologics." Walker reported on treatments, supplements, and diagnostics employed by alternative practitioners. While much of his writing was based on the opinion of clinicians, patients, and manufacturers, Walker supported the anecdotal evidence with published experimental reports. In Issue #100 he considered "Why Shark Cartilage Should Succeed Against Cancer & Other Pathologies."

TOWNSEND LETTER for Doctors

OUR 100th ISSUE!

Issue #100 – November 1991

In 1995 the magazine had morphed to the *Townsend Letter for Doctors & Patients*, and the byline was now "The Examiner of Medical Alternatives." The magazine had regular monthly columnists. Judyth Reichenberg-Ullman, ND, MSW, and Bob Ullman, ND, contributed their "Healing with Homeopathy" column. Anna MacIntosh, PhD, ND, examined the physiologic benefits of exercise. Donald Brown, ND, reviewed the benefits of botanical therapies with his "Phytotherapy Review & Commentary." Tori Hudson, ND, wrote her very well-received "Women's Health Update." Melvyn Werbach, MD, examined the role of orthomolecular medicine in healing with his "Nutritional Influences on Illness." Contributing writers were an important element in issue #149. Harold Forster, PhD, reported on "The Iodine-Selenium Connection in Respiratory Distress and Sudden Infant Death Syndromes." Jeffrey Bland, PhD, wrote about "Food and Nutrient Effects on Detoxification." Bill Sardi reviewed the underlying physiological and biochemical factors in glaucoma.


Best & Worst of Alternative Medicine

TOWNSEND LETTER for Doctors & Patients

THE EXAMINER OF MEDICAL ALTERNATIVES

200

Issue #200 – Feb/March 2000

The letters section was a journal by itself – perhaps through the letters doctors had their best opportunity to share information in short report form.

The Feb/March, 2000 issue #200 examined the "Best & Worst of Alternative Medicine." For those readers who wanted a big read, this issue served their needs well with 172 pages of editorial. A different printer in Seattle gave the magazine a new look, and advertisers now opted to display their products in color. Editor Irene Alleger had an enormous job each month correcting a mammoth amount of copy – and this was in the days when many articles were still typewritten (a few handwritten). Yes, many articles did come in on disk, but electronic transmission of articles and ads was still in its infancy. Jeffrey Bland opined that there were a "Fabulous Five of the 20th Century" who were "Founders of the New Medicine." The five were: Dr. Archibald Garrod for discovering diseases of genetic metabolism; Dr. Linus Pauling for ➤