

February 15, 1960

Dr. Morris Pollard
Preventive Medicine and Public Health
The University of Texas - Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas

Dear Morris:

I have already had several inquiries regarding the brief news item that the Russians have discovered a drug, Karantonin, which "completely cures the paralysis caused by polio." I have never heard of this drug although last year I was asked to look into another drug - Galanthamine, with presumed highly beneficial use in paralytic polio. This last drug turned out to be an alkaloid with properties similar to prostigmine and according to the best Russian authorities, while it had some use in the symptomatic treatment in the early stages of paralysis, it certainly was not a curative drug. I strongly doubt that Karantonin is in a different category but I have already written to Chumakov about it, and will let you know what I learn as soon as I hear from him.

With best wishes and kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

ABS:meh