

4 North American Fluoridation "Trials" (Grand Rapids, Evanston, Brantford and Newburgh)

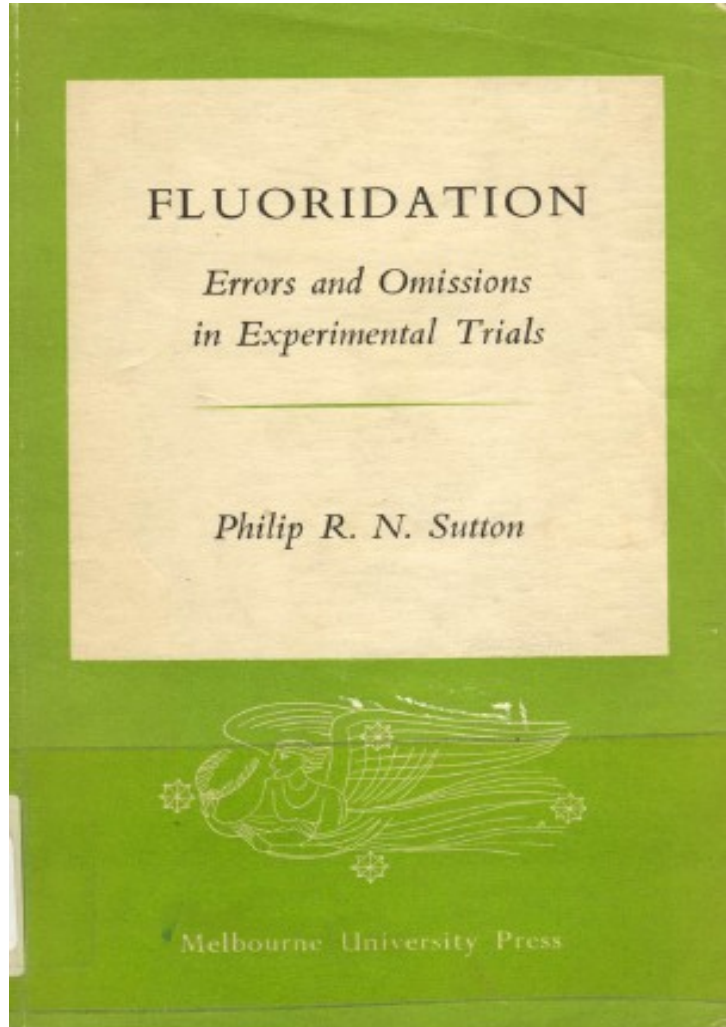
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- Professor Maurice Betz, Dept Head-Mathematical Statistics, University of Melbourne
- Sir Arthur Amies, Dean of Faculty of Dental Science, University of Melbourne

Sound basis on which a public health measure must be assessed is not provided by these crucial trials.

Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council admitted in 1991:

"...the quality of the early intervention trials was generally poor."



- Inappropriate experimental and statistical methods
- Failure to consider random variation, examiner variability, examiner bias
- Omission of relevant data
- Arithmetical errors
- Misleading comments
- Controls were either doubtful or nonexistent

Phillip Sutton analysis 1989 in Chemical and Engineering News

None of the quoted papers had controls

None of the research was conducted "blind"

34 of the "papers" didn't exist

23 "studies" were about something else

51 "studies" were of very poor scientific quality

The 34 "papers" that did not exist:

- 46 of the listed studies actually only amounted to 23, data on deciduous and permanent teeth were listed separately
- 2 studies listing data from more than one town were listed as 6 studies
- 7 case reports from the same study were listed as 14 cases

23 "studies" about something else

- "20 studies listed did not present any data"

51 "studies" were of poor scientific quality

- 16 were short "reports" in dental newsletters and journals
- 14 were short "reports" in state health department's newsletters and bulletins
- 8 were essentially progress reports
- 3 were personal communications
- 2 were anonymous
- 4 were original trials that had been known to be faulty for 25 years
- 3 didn't demonstrate fluoridation as effective
- 1 did not refer to fluoridated water at all