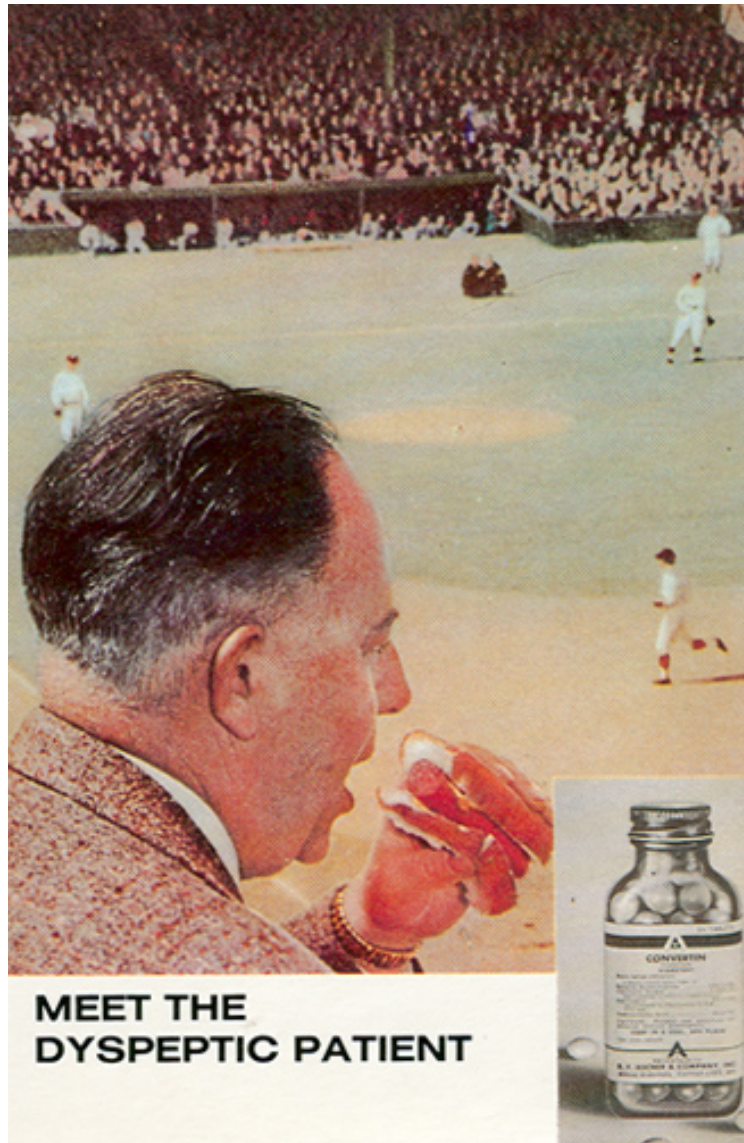


Convertin



It was a sunny Tuesday afternoon in June as the Birmingham Birkenstockings took the field for their game against their arch rival, the Holbrook Hooligans. The crowd cheered and waved their team pennants, some even participated in a clever upside-down-and-backwards version of the wave, but Jack was unable to share in the gaiety. He was on a mission to eat 156 hot dogs in an hour and set a new world's record. He had just forced down his 101st smoked pork cylinder and he felt awful. He glanced at the timer. Forty-eight minutes had passed. How on earth could he eat 55 more hot dogs in only 12 minutes?! His confident attitude was shrinking in direct proportion to his growing gastrointestinal discomfort. Worse, Lars Veneerschnitzl, the current champion, stood nearby, prepared to better his own record by, he said, two dozen! While he waited for Jack to finish, he snacked from a bucket of frozen pirogis. If the tactic was supposed to intimidate Jack, it worked, for the plucky challenger suffered an unpleasant bout of simultaneous bloating, belching, flatulence and other repellent examples of colonic dyspepsia. He was about ready to toss in the proverbial towel when a small tatterdemalion in the crowd slipped him a bottle of Convertin™ brand Anti-Gas Tablets. Jack popped a dozen of 'em and, before he could issue a warning, he cut one so puissant that it leveled the reviewing platform. There were several injuries, including a dislocation of Veneerschnitzl's jaw. Meanwhile, Jack felt much better and, with twenty seconds to spare, he polished off his 157th hot dog, a world's record that would stand for years to come.