

penicillin was found to produce the greatest number and the most severe reactions of all antibiotics presently available.

Mr. GORDON. This was when?

Dr. LUECK. 1957.

Mr. GORDON. And when did Chloromycetin appear on the market?

Dr. LUECK. 1949.

Further, in order of their frequency, the life-threatening reactions to antibiotics are anaphylactoid shock, super-infections, severe skin reactions, blood dyscrasias and angineurotic edema, with respiratory-tract involvement. Please note, Mr. Chairman, that blood dyscrasias—which can be related to chloramphenicol therapy are—next to the last on the list of life-threatening reactions.

These authors further noted that the tetracyclines account for most of the cases of super-infections.

Mr. GORDON. Excuse me, sir. What was the date of that particular report?

Dr. LUECK. The specific date I don't know. It was 1957.

Mr. GORDON. Are you aware of the fact, however, that the risk at that time was considered to be considerably less than it is today? For example, I think the risk at that time was considered to be one in 800,000. A recent report to the California State Assembly and Senate by the California Medical Association and the State Department of Public Health, has revealed that the risk, on the basis of an average dose of 7.5 grams, is 1 in 24,000.

Dr. LUECK. Mr. Gordon, with your permission, I would like to comment on the California report and I will finish my brief review of the 1957 FDA publication in just a moment. Then I would go on to the California report.

Mr. GORDON. But isn't it correct that considerably more is known today about the effects of chloramphenicol than was known, say, 12 or 13 years ago? Is that not correct?

Dr. LUECK. I do not know that we have a higher incidence of side effects now than we had in 1957. I will treat that subject in a moment, Mr. Gordon.

But at any rate, the 1957—

Mr. GORDON. Could you answer my question, Doctor?

Dr. LUECK. I am sorry.

Mr. GORDON. I asked the question: Is it not correct that we know considerably more today about the side effects and dangers of chloramphenicol than we did say 12 or 13 years ago when that particular report was written?

Dr. LUECK. No, sir; I do not believe we do.

Mr. GORDON. You do not believe we know any more today than we did at that time?

Dr. LUECK. I do not believe we know any more. The California report is largely the same as the National Research Council report. The recommendations are largely the same.