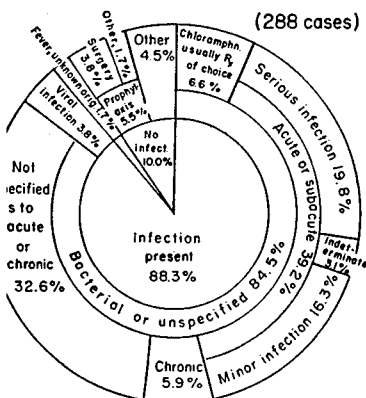


from this table from the previously referred to Council on Drugs report of July 1967, depicting the reasons the drug was given in 288 cases, that the physician has not assumed responsibility to inform himself of modern therapeutic practices or has chosen to disregard these warnings. And as Dr. Best testified to, the common cold is the disease treated in 12 percent of the cases.

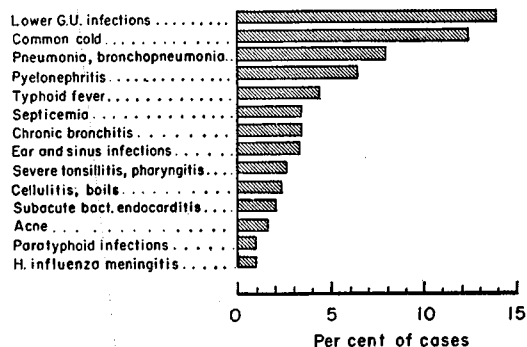
(The table referred to follows:)

Reasons drug was given

(288 cases)



Some specific conditions for which chloramphenicol given



2. Reasons why chloramphenicol given. Left, General nature of indications. Right, Specific conditions; all those accounting for 3% or more of known indications plus selected conditions with lower percentages.

Senator NELSON. Now, it is never indicated for the common cold, is it?

Dr. WESTON. No, sir. In fact, if you look at that circular graph, you will see that most of them fit into the category of minor or unspecified infections in which it also is never indicated. Acne, of course, runs about 2½ percent, which is unbelievable, in university medical practice.

My interest in chloramphenicol and its untoward effects is derived from experience in conducting postmortem examinations on two children who died at intervals of 12 to 36 months following exposure to chloromycetin, prescribed injudiciously for minor respiratory ailments. Numerous similar reports are in the literature. I would say categorically, that if you look at the reports of untoward reactions to chloromycetin, in virtually every instance the drug is not indicated, whereas if you go back and look at your typhoid, and this has been done by several people, look at your typhoid that was treated during the period when it was indicated, you will find conversely no untoward reaction to chloromycetin. I am sure this varies—it is just a matter of chance. I do not see why there would be any reason for this particular person to be sensitive to it and this one not, but in most of the surveys that have to date been made, where it has been indicated there has not been an untoward reaction to it, this is very strange.

Senator NELSON. Well, would one explanation obviously be that it is used in typhoid cases 300 or 400 times a year, whereas it is given to over 3½ million individuals for other cases?

Dr. WESTON. Yes.