

Dr. WEHRLE. Approximately 400 cases each year recently. There were 398 cases during the last year for which figures are available.

Senator NELSON. Is there any estimate on the number of cases of severe salmonellosis?

Dr. WEHRLE. Severe salmonellosis is very difficult to estimate. If one takes another totally different disease, measles, in years past where we had good data on cases reported to health departments and cases actually occurring by sample surveys, the reporting of measles is about ten percent. So that if you assume that salmonellosis is recorded in the same proportion as measles in contrast to the actual extent in the population, this would mean then that with 18,000 approximately reported in 1967, that this might be 181,000 or maybe 200,000.

Senator NELSON. Of severe cases?

Dr. WEHRLE. Well, here again, one has all gradations, and the 18,000 probably represents the most severe portion of what must be a much larger number.

In salmonellosis chloramphenicol may be particularly advantageous in debilitated patients with bacteremia, localized soft tissue or bone infections. It should be noted that even in these conditions other drugs are often effective.

Occasionally, serious diseases due to other organisms which are found to be susceptible in vitro to chloramphenicol but resistant to less toxic drugs may be treated with chloramphenicol. It should be emphasized that this latter situation is an unusual occurrence.

Until recently in pediatrics, chloramphenicol was considered the drug of choice for *Hemophilus influenza* infections, particularly in meningitis due to this organism. During the last few years, reports from our institution and others clearly indicate that Ampicillin, one of the newer penicillins, is at least as effective and is substantially safer. Consequently, we have not used chloramphenicol in the treatment of this condition in our hospital since the completion of our controlled evaluation in 1966.

Senator NELSON. Which hospital are you referring to?

Dr. WEHRLE. This is formerly the Los Angeles County General Hospital. It is now known as the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center.

Senator NELSON. How large a hospital is that?

Dr. WEHRLE. It is a hospital of over 2,000 beds. It cares for approximately close to 200,000 inpatients per year, and the total inpatient and outpatient load is nearly a million patient visits per year.

Senator NELSON. Counting both outpatients and—

Dr. WEHRLE. Counting both outpatients and inpatients. It is in my understanding the largest acute hospital in the world.

Senator NELSON. Do you have any statistics on how many times during the past year or for any recent year chloramphenicol has been prescribed for children within your hospital?

Dr. WEHRLE. The use in children has been reduced substantially during the last 5 years, and at the present time, the use in children is negligible. This drug is used in our hospital most frequently on the obstetrical service and on the surgical services.

Senator NELSON. Are there any rules or practices followed within your hospital in the use of the drug; that is, if a prescription is written for the drug, does it have to be countersigned by anybody?