

Dr. WEHRLE. If the prescription is written for this drug, the attending physician in charge of that service is expected to approve its use. In the Children's Division, we use it for cases of typhoid, which is seen most frequently among people who visit in Mexico and from Mexicans who develop the disease in Los Angeles County. For severe salmonellosis, we also use it. We rarely use it for other conditions on our service.

Senator NELSON. I am sorry I didn't follow you. You said if it is prescribed by whom, the attending physician must approve?

Dr. WEHRLE. The system that we have in our hospital is very similar to the system in other large teaching hospitals. The attending physician, whether he be a member of the full-time faculty or whether he be a well-qualified physician in practice in the community and our clinical faculty is in charge of his particular service in the hospital. Prescription orders written by the intern or the resident must be done with the approval of the attending physician on that service.

Senator NELSON. Is any record kept in your hospital of the use of chloramphenicol and the indications for which it was used?

Dr. WEHRLE. The Therapeutics Committee did this for a period of time. The usage of chloramphenicol has fallen substantially, and after monitoring it on a very careful individual basis for several years, this practice was delegated to the chief of each service about, I guess, 3 or 4 years ago.

Senator NELSON. Do you have any records which the hospital has kept over the past half dozen years on the use of chloramphenicol?

Dr. WEHRLE. Yes; I have figures that were supplied to me by Mr. Stanley Seibert, our chief pharmacist, on the usage of chloramphenicol. If you would like a copy of these—

Senator NELSON. Yes; I would like to see that.

Dr. WEHRLE. These records, I believe, are of particular interest, and if I may, I would like to call your attention to two things. First I would like to call your attention to two things. First I would call your attention to the fact that 250 milligram capsules are recorded in the first column on the left so that one must divide by four in order to determine the number of grams. Usage for the preparations in the intermediate three columns is negligible. In the column on the far right chloramphenicol for parenteral use is recorded in grams.

Senator NELSON. The far right column is grams?

Dr. WEHRLE. The far right column is grams. The far left is 250 milligrams individual capsules.

The two features these figures show very clearly are, No. 1, the peak usage of this drug was achieved in the 1958 through 1960 period when staphylococcal disease was a major problem and before the time when the semisynthetic penicillins were available to any extent or were well known.

Senator NELSON. Is that Ampicillin?

Dr. WEHRLE. This was Methicillin that came out first.

Senator NELSON. It is Ampicillin that is used now?

Dr. WEHRLE. Ampicillin came out later. I believe that Ampicillin was made available in 1963, I believe. Am I correct? Does anyone know?

I believe it was around 1963, possibly 1964.

The peak usage then was back sometime ago at a time when we didn't have many of the kinds of drugs that we have at the present time.