

used were in inpatients, this would average approximately 140 milligrams per inpatient, that is per patient who was actually admitted to the hospital and remained for some time. Applying these data to the nearly 30 million hospital inpatients in the United States last year, as reported in the August 1968 issue of the *Journal of Hospitals*, published by the American Hospital Association, one would come to a total of approximately 2 million grams, about 1 million parenteral, about 1 million oral, for these 30 million patients admitted to hospitals all over the United States, including ours, providing our yardstick applied to the other hospitals. This figure takes account of the decreasing utilization in our hospital during recent years.

Now, if you further recall that this figure is based on a hospital that cares for more seriously ill, more long-neglected, more difficult to treat and referred patients than the average hospital in the United States, the figure of about 1 million oral and 1 million parenteral grams usage would be in my opinion a high level or a conservative level as far as total usage goes.

Senator NELSON. Do I understand you to be saying that if the same yardstick that is applied for the use of chloramphenicol in your hospital were applied to all hospitals in the United States, that would mean 30 million patients in all hospitals; is that correct?

Dr. WEHRLE. That is correct.

Senator NELSON. 30 million patients in all hospitals, during a single year would receive, would be administered 2 million grams, is that correct?

Dr. WEHRLE. This is correct, about half of which would be oral, about half of which would be parenteral.

Senator NELSON. In 1967, total number of grams used in the country was 42,800,000. In 1968, it dropped to 17,500,000. In 1967 and even in 1968, far and away most of the drug was being prescribed outside the hospital.

Dr. WEHRLE. Yes, sir. I would certainly agree. It looks as though the usage in the profession as a whole around the country is running approximately tenfold, at least tenfold higher than we are currently.

Senator NELSON. You mean in the whole profession?

Dr. WEHRLE. Pardon?

Senator NELSON. Who is using it tenfold higher, that is the average use in medicine in general is tenfold higher —

Dr. WEHRLE. Yes.

Senator NELSON (continuing). And in your hospital?

Dr. WEHRLE. Yes, sir; this is correct. This is what it would appear here. Obviously there are at least 10 times as many grams being marketed in respect to the numbers of patients admitted to other hospitals than to ours.

Senator NELSON. And this is despite the qualitative figure in terms of your patient, that is, that you have a high percentage of seriously ill patients, is that correct?

Dr. WEHRLE. This is correct, yes.

Senator NELSON. Well, thank you very much, Doctor, for your most valuable testimony. We appreciate your taking time to come here and appear before the committee. It has been most helpful to us.

We will recess until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 11:15 a.m., the subcommittee adjourned, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Thursday, February 27, 1969.)