

eral, now associated with the university. I think it is the largest hospital in the United States.

He made the further point that they had a much higher incidence of very serious illness in that hospital than the ordinary hospital had. So they would use more of the drug on the average per patient than most hospitals would.

Anyway, his conclusion was, extrapolating from their usage and the controls they have established over usage, that about 42 million grams, or slightly over, were used in 1967.

Dr. LEY. That is correct.

Senator NELSON. Then it dropped to 17, is that correct?

Dr. LEY. Our figures on certification for systemic forms of therapy—that would be parenteral and oral capsules—are approximately, within a few hundred thousand, 20 million grams certified for last year.

Senator NELSON. Versus 42 million grams for 1967?

Dr. LEY. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. Do you have any statistics that might be in any way comparable to Dr. Wehrle's showing how many grams of chloramphenicol would be indicated if it were confined to its proper use?

Dr. LEY. This is a very difficult question to answer, Senator Nelson. We have put considerable thought on this particular question within the past several weeks. We have certain focal points that we can be reasonably certain of. For example, the fact that there were in 1967, 396 cases of typhoid fever in this country which would be suitable candidates for therapy. There were reported—and this is just a small fraction of the total—18,120 salmonellosis severe enough to warrant the attention of physicians.

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt for just one second?

Dr. LEY. Yes, sir.

Senator NELSON. Dr. Wehrle's extrapolation from that was, assuming that 10 percent of those were reported, you get a figure then of 180,000 cases that might indicate its use. Is that, in your judgment, a reasonable estimate?

Dr. LEY. This would be a rough estimate of the nature of salmonellosis in this country that conceivably could need therapy.

We included in the labeling a strong insistence of the Cystic Fibrosis Association, a specific use of the drug in cystic fibrosis regimens. There are according to the foundation 7,000 such children and young adults who may require continuous antibiotic prophylaxis to prevent serious infection and death in this rather tragic disease.

Senator NELSON. That doesn't mean that chloramphenicol is indicated for all 7,000, does it?

Dr. LEY. Not necessarily, Senator, although the drug is preferred in many of these infants and children because of the problems of giving multiple drugs and because the risk of death due to infection is very high in this group. But if we take these figures, we have a total of 396, 180,000, and 7,000, which would be roughly 190,000, 200,000 patients.

Senator NELSON. And as I recall it, estimates were that in 1967 about 4 million people were administered chloramphenicol, is that about correct?

Dr. LEY. This is based upon the assumption of an average dose per patient and the total certification. The total certification does not nec-