

Senator NELSON. Medical journals in general, you are talking about?

Dr. ALFANO. Yes; because a surgeon would get, say, the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Mr. GORDON. What percentage is that?

Dr. ALFANO. Seven percent. Advertising sent by mail, 4.6 percent. Miscellaneous, 2.5 percent. That first figure, journal article, exactly is 23.4 percent.

Senator NELSON. This was a survey as to where they got their information or began to use a new drug, is that what you are talking about?

Dr. ALFANO. Yes; the factors that influenced them to use a particular preparation, what caused them to use this particular preparation, brand new, the first time they used it.

Mr. GORDON. What percentage did you get for detail men?

Dr. ALFANO. 19.6.

Mr. GORDON. And the percentage of those learning from colleagues?

Dr. ALFANO. 11.5 percent.

Mr. GORDON. It could be, of course, that the colleague could well have secured his information from, say, the detail men or advertising or a journal. We just do not know. That does not mean too much, really.

Dr. ALFANO. No, no, but this is—that is right, the colleague has to get the information originally from some particular spot. I would say it probably follows the same, though it would be a journal article or a presentation at a meeting or a detail man.

Senator NELSON. Please continue.

Dr. ALFANO. I suppose if a smaller listing of prescription drugs was undertaken it would be a duplication of the PDR and would serve no additional purpose but would create the problem of what drugs to list and who would make the selection.

It appears that the American Medical Association's drug evaluations currently being developed would serve the purpose of the medical profession because it would include the 500 most commonly prescribed drugs. It also would give a comparison of drugs within the same class.

Information on the pharmacology of the drugs would be included in the AMA publication much of which is lacking in the package inserts. The proposed compendium would lack the pharmacology necessary to knowing all about a drug since the compendium, as I understand it, would be made up of the package inserts.

Senator NELSON. We have had some testimony on the concept of a compendium. We have introduced legislation, but as to what the nature or makeup of a practical compendium would be, we have not really gone into it in any depth, nor have we received the advice of all the appropriate sources, the medical profession and organizations and the manufacturers and so forth. So I would guess when we have hearings on a compendium, if such a bill were recommended by the committee, it would be one that was developed as a consequence of testimony from a broad number of authoritative sources. As to whether it would be package inserts or something else, I do not know and I would not want to form a firm opinion until I listened to the appropriate experts in the field.

Dr. ALFANO. If it is the intent of the compendium to bring before