

Dr. LEVINE. By 1967, the last year on which we have complete data, the number of new prescriptions for minor tranquilizers filled in U.S. drugstores had risen to 20.4 million. From 1958 to 1965, the 8-year period preceding enforcement of the drug abuse legislation, new prescriptions for minor tranquilizers were advancing at the expense of the sedatives, mainly the barbiturates.

Growth rates for the individual classes of psychotropic drugs were also differential between 1964 and 1967. In terms of new and refill prescriptions, minor tranquilizers have shown the greatest rise, from a total of 45.1 million in 1964 to 59.7 million in 1967. This is shown in chart 4.

(Chart 4 follows:)