

28 May 1962.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 26

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS:

Dear Doctor,

TOXIC REACTIONS TO DRUGS

There is no statutory provision for the notification of drug reactions, even when severe or fatal. It is believed that much valuable information could be obtained if events of this nature were reported to a central agency.

Medical practitioners are therefore invited to supply particulars to the Director, Division of Clinical Services, at the above address, of any untoward reactions attributed to drugs, whether by reason of severity, unusual character, or prolonged toxic effects.

Medical Superintendents have been asked to supply information about cases encountered in hospital practice.

Useful information would include:

- (a) Name, age, sex, and occupation of patient.
- (b) Drug(s) to which reaction attributed:
 - (i) Actual dosage and mode of administration.
 - (ii) Period of administration.
 - (iii) Any previous administration of same drug to this patient.
- (c) Relevant particulars of any other drugs administered.
- (d) Nature and history of complaint for which treatment was employed.
- (e) Relevant factors in personal or family medical history, e.g., allergy.
- (f) Clinical particulars of the drug reaction, subsequent course, and any residual effects.

PHYSIOTHERAPY AND OBSTETRICS

Until recently benefits under the Physiotherapy Act were limited to the use of massage, passive movements, electricity, heat, light, water, etc., "for the purpose of curing any abnormal condition of the body".

P.T.O.

The definition of physiotherapy in the Act has now been amended to include "the use by instruction or application to the human body of remedial exercises", and, amongst its purposes, the alleviation of any obstetrical condition, or the promotion of health and well-being during pregnancy or the puerperium.

The result is a considerable widening of the availability of physiotherapy benefits in obstetric practice.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. S. Thompson

(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,

T. L. Hayes

(T. L. Hayes)
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

CHLORAMPHENICOL

It has been decided, after consultation with the appropriate committee, not to impose any additional restrictions on the use of this drug.

CORRECTIONS

"COMMONLY USED ANTIBACTERIAL AGENTS" (Notes on Prescription Costs No. 14, 26 March 1962)

Nystatin ("Mycostatin"), an antifungal antibiotic with no antibacterial properties, should not have been included in this list.

The suspension, when used for oral moniliasis at the recommended dosage of 1 ml. four times daily, costs 3s. 5d. per diem, and not as stated in the list.

MYCITRACIN EYE OINTMENT

This is still available at the cost of the Fund.

(In Clinical Services Letter No. 25 it should have been bracketed with Neosporin and Polyfax eye ointments.)