Subject item

Current situation and future trends

3. Pregnancy predicting drugs

Lion marketed Cephalon International's product in June 1987. However, there has been absolutely no business activity since that time. There are also currently no new entries and it is assumed that this market is not being formed.

4. Reagents for urine testing

The basic principle is the same as that of those used in hospital testing but the packaging units and test items are smaller. The major test items are glucose, pH and Protein. Sales center on diabetes patients. However, future market expansion is expected as common consumers become aware of health. Nonetheless, this is not mitigated because advertising and publicity are greatly restricted by the Drug Affairs Law, and market development is difficult.

C. Neonatal screening

This item is fixed as testing for congenital metabolic abnormality. This is purely a social burden. This screening is conducted primarily in the urban and rural prefectures and the government centers. However, the market is tending to decrease because the number of births is falling year by year. Among the current subjects, 17-OHP is an item that has been traced since January 1989 and must be conducted in 100% in 1989 in the preliminary stage in both urban and rural prefectures.

D. Mass screening

The mass screenings conducted in Japan are divided into periodic health examinations of workers, mass screening of students and those based on the Geriatric Health Preservation Law. The law concerning health examinations in workers was amended in 1989 and emphasis placed not only the early detection of diseases as in the past, but also on their prevention. Nonetheless, the examination rate is currently tending to drop and one can say that

there is an urgent need to raise the examination rate. Student examinations are not thought to pose a particular problem. Heart examinations have been implemented in response to the increase in heart disease among younger persons in recent years. The examination rate is steadily increasing in the business of health maintenance of the elderly. Countermeasures that place emphasis on the health control of cancer, heart disease and stroke, which are said to he the three major adult diseases, are especially being strengthened.

The outline of diagnostics for circulatory organ disease is mentioned in Appendix 2-16. Major test items are CPK, CK-MB, total cholesterol, triglyceride, HDL cholesterol and Apo-lipo-proteins. The market trends of CPK, CK-MB and fat-related items such as total cholesterol are as follows: