

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, may I now refer you to item 242, the general item—departmental administration.

Item 242. Departmental administration ..... \$ 1,641,729

The CHAIRMAN: I would refer you in connection with this item to the general statement made by the minister on March 8th. You had examined the other items, and this was the general item which we decided to leave open for further questioning, if required.

Before proceeding to that, however, may I thank the gentlemen who have appeared before us. We appreciate very much the assistance they have given us.

Then, to deal with this general item, in addition to the minister we have with us Dr. Davidson and Dr. Charron. I believe Dr. Vivian has a question.

Mr. VIVIAN: Mr. Chairman, I hope this question comes properly under this general item. I am referring to page 45 of the 1959 annual report of the Department of National Health and Welfare where, under the main item of epidemiology division, there is a subheading for staphylococcal infections in hospitals.

The information I am seeking is with respect to these in-hospital infections, particularly of its importance in itself, and also because of the new hospitals plan which is coming into wide operation.

There is also reference made on page 48 to this matter under the heading of staphylococcal investigations.

I shall not read these two paragraphs, except to indicate that the in-hospital infections are considered to be of serious importance, and that there has been or that there is a committee operating to investigate on the basis of information from some 85 hospitals across the country.

My questions are as follows: what steps have been taken to have all hospitals report staphylococcal infections as communicable diseases? I understand that most of this lies under provincial control. I would like to know what has been done by the federal department, because of the grants situation, if for no other reason. Certainly these hospitals which come directly under the federal government should be included in this, because in them they have control.

My second question is this: have the mortality figures from such infections in hospitals in Canada been separated out. If so, what are those figures, by year, by location, by age and by sex?

In referring to this committee, which is an associate committee of the National Research Council, which is mentioned at page 45, I would like to know the state of their investigations, and what recommendations have been made to date.

If recommendations have been made, to date, how have these recommendations been applied at the hospital level? And, if recommendations have been made, what method of control is there to see that the hospitals concerned enforce them?

Then, with that, I should like to make mention of a publication by the New York State Department of Health, published for the joint committee on staphylococcal infections. This booklet is entitled Control of Staphylococcal Infections in Hospitals. This has been published as a guide for the hospitals in the state of New York, and I should like to know if any such publication has been produced by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*) I wonder if Dr. Charron might not answer this at the moment.

Dr. K. C. CHARRON (*Director, Health Services Directorate*): Mr. Chairman, the reference to page 45 of the annual report of the Department of National Health and Welfare, where reference is made to staphylococcal infections in