

**Antibiotics in General Practice**

Sir,

While my use of antibiotics in general practice follows broadly the pattern described by Dr Wheatley in the last issue (1960, 3, 285), I do not agree with his restriction of streptomycin to the treatment of tuberculosis since my experience has been that it is also of value in infections of the gall bladder and of the urinary tract.

For acute cholecystitis I have found a 5-day course of penicillin and streptomycin, in the form of crystamycin, very effective and since using this have had much less anxiety over the domiciliary treatment of these patients.

In urinary infections my first choice is a sulphonamide but I regard a failure to show improvement within 48 hours as an indication for bacteriological investigation. In the comparatively few cases where the organisms have been reported insensitive to sulphonamide but sensitive to streptomycin a short course of 0.5 G. daily for 5 to 7 days has proved successful.

Maryport,  
Cumberland.

J. D. H. BIRD.

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***Abstract***

**The Identification of Tablets.** J. D. WHITNEY, M.B., M.R.C.S. *Brit. med. J.*, 1960, 1, 50.

Dr Whitney discusses the various methods available for marking tablets so as to ensure their infallible identification, including a system of marking capsules by coloured bands. He advocates consistency in tablet marking, and thinks that a general index should be produced to enable doctors to determine the nature of drugs which patients have in their possession. The British Standards Institute should be consulted, and the scheme introduced by stages as may be practicable.