Indicators of Recovery of Neuromuscular Function

To the Editor — It was the American philosopher George Santayana who observed that “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” 1

I draw his words to your attention in response to the report by Kopman et al 2 and the Editorial comments that it stimulated in the March 1997 issue of ANESTHESIOLOGY.

As one will see from the material I enclose, 3 the observation that small doses of nondepolarizing muscle relaxants can have a profound and long-lasting effect on the ocular muscles is by no means new.

Nor do I claim any originality for the observation. Speaking from memory only, I think that interested readers will also find it mentioned in Draper and Whitehead’s classical report. They went much further than did Kopman et al. They submitted each other to total body curarization without sedation.

But as their names are associated with “Diffusion Respiration,” the authors probably overlooked that report in their own search of the literature.

REFERENCES

2. Kopman AF, Yee PS, Neuman GG: Relationship of the train-of-four fade ratio to clinical signs and symptoms of residual paralysis in awake volunteers. ANESTHESIOLOGY 1997; 86:765-71

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