The Origination of Common Eponyms Used in Anesthesia

To the Editor:—Many of the items we use everyday in anesthesia bear the name of the person who invented the particular device. It would seem that your readers would find a brief review of some of these “everyday eponyms in anesthesia” of interest.


Berman Airway: Robert A. Berman of Far Rockaway, New York. This is a plastic oropharyngeal airway, described in 1950, similar to the Guedel airway. It has a center bar, rather than a solitary cavity.

Bier Block: Karl Gustav August Bier, 1861–1949. He devised spinal anesthesia in 1899 and intravenous regional anesthesia in 1909, and worked in Kiel and Berlin.

Bizzarri-Guiffria Laryngoscope Blade: Devised by Dante V. Bizzarri and Joseph G. Guiffria, both of New York City. This laryngoscope is a modification of the Macintosh laryngoscope blade. The flange has been removed, making it easier to insert into the mouth past the teeth. It was described in 1958.