A Pleasant Way to Induce Anesthesia in Children

FRITZ BOIGRIS, M.D.*

General anesthesia can be induced in infants and small children pleasantly and easily by using the rebreathing bag (1 or 3 liter) of a Rees system as a “balloon.” A flow of 50 per cent nitrous oxide, 50 per cent oxygen, and two to three volume per cent halothane is employed at a rate sufficient to keep the bag filled like a balloon. The mask end is closed with a thumb, the tail end is open and directed toward the child who is encouraged to “play with the balloon” (fig. 1). As soon as the child is asleep, the assembled system is turned, the mask is placed on the child’s face, the tail of the bag is partially closed and the flow of gases is reduced.

This decoy has worked remarkably well in a large number of children. Invariably, the small child fingers the “balloon” with great interest (fig. 2). In addition to the smooth induction, the set-up is advantageous inasmuch as the system is completely assembled, and anesthesia can be continued without further manipulations.

* Resident in Anesthesiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, New York City.

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2